

Testimony in opposition to the replacement of the NPCC artificial turf with natural grass.

I would like to add my voice in support of replacing the artificial turn at the NPCC facility as opposed to removing the existing turf and replacing with natural grass. I am a long time soccer player in the Montgomery County recreational system and know how fortunate we are to have enough fields and facilities to support playing the sport we love well into our 70s. Artificial turf has several advantages to natural turf:

- Most importantly, games will not be called because of light rain and the field will not suffer damage due to playing on it in wet conditions due to the improved drainage capability of artificial turf.
- Artificial turf, while a higher investment in the beginning, has significantly less (approaching zero) operational and recurring costs particularly with respect to watering to maintain optimal conditions. Artificial turf is always ready.
- Regardless of the projections of annual costs of natural turf (mowing, water, fertilizer, insecticides, etc) including labor and machinery costs, they will be higher in the future than current estimations will indicate.
- The surface is uniform and maintains uniformity reducing potential injuries.

I would also like to note that the field at NPCC has allowed us to develop an over 75 team composed of local players that recently participated in a soccer tournament in Florida. We were able to play and train prior to the tournament and, and they say, provided a good accounting of ourselves representing in some ways the upsides of the Montgomery County programs. Replacing the artificial turf with natural turf would deny us the ability to train prior to tournaments.

Please replace the existing turf and not waste future money on recurring costs that can be avoided now.

Thank you
Dennis McCallam