

My name is Carol McLean and I have been a resident of Montgomery County for 37 years. I have been playing soccer in the county since I moved here, and I currently play regularly on the North Potomac Community Center (NPCC) field with multiple groups, including the Montgomery County Recreation 55+ and 70+ pick up and the women's 25+ league.

I strongly support continuing the use of a turf field at the NPCC site when the current field reaches the end of its life, rather than converting it to natural grass. The turf field is heavily used and allows for safe, consistent, year-round play.

For active adults—especially those of us in the 55+ and 70+ programs—the ability to play without long breaks between seasons is critical. That continuity helps us maintain our fitness, mobility, and overall health. Long closures or weather-related shutdowns make it much harder for older players to stay active and safely conditioned.

I have played on many natural grass fields across the county that may start out in good condition but, after rain and repeated use, often develop holes, divots, and uneven surfaces that can be dangerous. A turf field provides a more reliable and safer playing surface under heavy use.

Given the demand for this field and the wide range of ages of the people who depend on it, maintaining a turf surface is the most practical, safe, and community-focused option.

Thank you,

Carol A. McLean