A Review of Benefits and Issues Associated with Natural Grass and Artificial Turf Rectangular Stadium Fields

Prepared by a Staff Work Group from Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Montgomery County Council, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, and Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

September 15, 2011

Final Report

Appendix N

Part 3 of 4

All Comments Received on the Draft Report During the Public Comment Period (April 13, 2011 through June 7, 2011)
Dealing with facilities and fields in my job I would recommend that turf
would be great for cost savings, but most have problems with
the chemicals that maybe used to make the turf. I would like the turf to be
used because of the long term saving, but safety is more important for
our participants. We need the best and safest turf available. Take
care.

Corky McCorkle, Recreation Specialist
Montgomery County Recreation Department
4010 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902
240-777-4987
"Agility Is A Gift That Needs to Be Worked On Every Day"
If you have already replied, thanks men. We need your help ASAP!!!! Read the emails below. Also note the new email addy for Blocher.

---------- Forwarded message ---------­­
From: "Nesmith, Michael W" <Michael_W_Nesmith@mcpsmd.org>
Date: Fri, 20 May 2011 09:04:11 -0400
Subject: NEED YOUR HELP NOW ON THE TURF PROJECT!
To: "Bicknese, Brandon M" <Brandon_M_Bicknese@mcpsmd.org>, "Blackwell, Donyell M." <Donyell_M_Blackwell@mcpsmd.org>, "Brunk, Kevin" <Kevin_Brunk@mcpsmd.org>, Dan Steel <oso5454@aol.com>, John Arnett <jarnett84@gmail.com>, Larry McCrea <hu88md@yahoo.com>, Michael Nesmith <coachknee@yahoo.com>, Mike Burnell <michael.burnell@dc.gov>, Ron Jeffries <coachjeffries32@gmail.com>, "Smith II, Charles" <Charles_Smithll@mcpsmd.org>, "Smith, Richard J." <Richard_J_Smith@mcpsmd.org>, "Walker, Bryan K." <Bryan_K_Walker@mcpsmd.org>

Michael W. Nesmith
ISI Coordinator
Head Varsity Football Coach
Paint Branch High School
W - (301) 989-5628

From: Podosek, Heather A.
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Aumaire, Emily; Belton, Kristen; Blackwell, Donyell M.; Boddie, Fred; Brunk, Kevin; Buhl, Cecilia A.; burns, diane; Chirichella, Carl; Coleman, Rochelle; Coombs, Mary A.; DeCavage, John J.; Dillard, Dessalyn S.; Eagan, Kevin; Eichenlaub, Brian E.; Feher, Daniel; Freeman, Kayla E.; Gafford, Patricia; Gerber, Eric; Gilchrist, Timothy J.; Greene, Leslie A.; Hardin, Daphne E.; Hardy, Walter F.; Holdefer, Cheryl P.; Hutcherson, Anna M.; Jensen, Casey R.; laudwein, kate; Lichter, Melissa B.; Martins, Amanda L.; Mathews, Bill; Nesmith, Michael W.; Newsome, David C.; Powers, Lauren; Powers, Lauren M.; Prietz, Danielle L.; Rey, Thomas; Rothstein, Judy; Rothstein, Judy A.; Sanders, Gwynethe L.; Saunders, Zina; Schiller, Michael J.; Shannon, Shawn; Shannon, Shawn; Shields, Nicole; Smith, Richard J.; Walker, Bryan K.;

http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?rand=fr4gi9h5uf4k7
Wiles, Nathan P

Subject: NEED YOUR HELP NOW ON THE TURF PROJECT!

Okay.... Here is the "reality" of the turf project. We are NOT doing our part! We cannot rely on other schools because they aren't getting turf now so they cont care as much as we do!
There have only been 175 positive responses (county-wide) for getting a turf field. "It is looking dimmer now than ever". Our community wants this!!!! We need to rally NOW! I am asking each one of you to help the cause (even if it doesn't directly affect your sport).
Please respond to the link below. You don't have to write much.... A sentence or 2 would be fine! EMAIL and CALL your parents and Student-athletes and have them do the same!
Get you classes to respond! This is for EVERYONE!!!!!

I would like everyone to Cc me on your email so I can have the facts when it comes to support or non support for the county council fight!

Please send response to TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com

Here is the report in its entirety (98 pages)
Staff Work Group

Heather Podosek
Athletic Director
Paint Branch High School
301-989-5616 (office)
240-316-1009 (cell)
Subject: turf fields
From: Jacobson, Paul E. (Paul_E_Jacobson@mcpsmd.org)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 10:37:17

After seeing and using the turf field at Walter Johnson HS I would definitely like to see them installed at all MCPS HSs. For safety concerns and maintenance expenses I believe they are a great long term solution.

Paul Jacobson
Cross Country coach
Social Studies Teacher
Winston Churchill HS
After speaking with several coaches around the county, it my opinion (and wish) that the “new” Paint Branch would REALLY benefit from having a turf field!

Donyell Blackwell  
Assistant M.S. PE/Health Teacher  
Paint Branch Varsity Football Assist. Coach  
Paint Branch JV Boys Lacrosse Coach
Artificial turf fields compared to existing natural grass high school stadium fields is it provides safer, more consistent, and more competitive surfaces for hundreds of MCPS and community teams and many other benefits.
To Whom This May Concern,

I believe that our school, Paint Branch, should receive a turf field for the following reasons. First it saves the school money every year and the school wouldn't have to spend so much money cuttin grass. Second when it rains, it wouldn't be all muddy when practicing, and third it would make the field look pretty and theirs not a lot of maintance to keep up wit it. On behalf of me and my school, I would highly appreciate it if you took this into consideration.

Thanks you,

Christina Fahnbulleh
To whom it may concern,

Some reasons why PaintBranch high School needs a turf is so that our school athletes need a quality field to play in. Maintenance for the turf wouldn't be a problem, especially for the time. This would make the athlete play in a better place, with no mud and no holes where players would hurt themselves. This would save water for and the field would be easily ready for a game.

Thank you.
To Whom it May Concern,

I am particularly not affected by the turf field due to the fact that it has more positive attributes than negative. It will help us save a lot of money and time since we won't have to worry about mowing the lawn. Most sports can play on a turf field so it's convenient. It also beautifies the school environment by giving it a vibrant and neat look. With all these positive factors, I see no reason why anyone should be affected by us getting a turf field.

Sincerely,
Amaka Nnamani
Dear Turf Report,

As we are under construction of a new Paint Branch High School. We are also getting a new football turf field. And I want to show the positive thing about having this turf field. It will help football players because its patented heavy infill that protects muscles and joints. Also, it could attract other football players to come and play at our school. This is some positive things about having a football turf field.

Sincerely,

Donovan Ovalles
I think we should get a turf field because Paint Branch is one of the best school. Paint Branch deserves a turf field.
To whom it may concern,

I think paint branch should get a new turf field because artificial turf fields are safe both for users and for the environment. It could make paint branch look better and more attractive, also artificial turf fields are a good replacement for natural grass fields because they extend the playing season and lower maintenance costs. Fields are damaged and heavily utilized so getting a turf field in paint branch is the answer to our problems.
To Whom It May Concern

We here at paint branch have had a lot of promises made to us like the new school being complete by 2011, a turf field and so on well we have had to deal with the new building being pushed back for far to long and now might not even get our turf field. This school is moving into the 21st century so why shouldn’t our fields? Because after all sports are critical parts of the Great Spirit and school pride we have cultivated at paint branch. Many schools in the county and state are upgrading to turf even if we postpone and get a real grass field eventually we will have to upgrade ourselves ultimately costing the school and county even more so what better time than right now. This field would not only make a tremendous amount of difference to the athletes of paint branch but to every student and teacher in this building, the school would save approximately $13,000-$14,000 dollars annually on maintenance of a real grass field. That money would be fed back into the school budget and dispensed throughout various classes, departments, clubs, and events.

From, David Corcoran
To whom it may concern regarding the new PBHS it should have a turf field. We need a field to play our games on and have a home field to celebrate our wins on. This field would be a good thing beacuse we wouldnt have to use another school home field to play games on. We should be able to come to our own field and play and win games. It would be a great honor to have our own field to play games on and even pep rallies instead of out gym.

Sincerely,

Shane Wall
I am writing this to support Turf installation at Wootton High School. My daughter has played soccer for all her life including at the national level. Turf improves the level of play and makes the game faster. The students who go on to play at the college level will find a great deal of the fields they play on will be turf.

Turf is easier to maintain and does not get ripped up by multiple sports being played on the field at one time.

I hope you will strongly consider installing turf at Wootton.

Sincerely,

Joyce Maker
Subject: Turf Field
From: Stephie Nolasco (stephie1596@hotmail.com)
To: kevin_brunk@mcpsmd.org; turfreportresponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 09:53:55

To whom this may concern:

I Lidia Nolasco believe that having a turf field is better than having a regular one. If we have a regular field in Paintbranch we have to pay people to come cut the grass when it gross too much. But if we have a Turf Field you wouldn't have to pay to maintain it too much. It wouldn't make the field get muddy when it rains. And is cheaper to replace the turf then maintain it. Thats why i believe its better to have Turf Field.
To whom it may concern:

In my opinion I believe that having a Turf field would be so much better than a regular one, since the new Paint Branch building we should have something new. It would cost less to maintain.
Subject: Wootton HS
From: Edward H. Kim (ekim@sprymethods.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 10:10:21

Needs a turf field very badly. Many of the other schools in the county have turf and it is about time that Wootton gets one.
Wootton High School is in desperate need of a turf field. All of their teams have to practice at a nearby middle school and stagger their times. In addition many practices and games have been canceled due to poor conditions of the current field.

Thank you
Subject: Turf Field at Wootton
From: Nelsonh@gtlaw.com (Nelsonh@gtlaw.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 10:13:19

I am a parent of lacrosse player and support the installation of a turf field at Wootton HS. We need to take advantage of technology that will allow our kids to play with less concern for their safety and weather conditions. Wootton's games are often required to be postponed due to weather conditions when a turf field that drains more efficiently would enable games to be played. The postponement of these games, often after much waiting around, and the resulting need to reschedule, results in a substantial waste of time and resources for the students, coaches, parents, and all persons attending these games. A turf field at Wootton would go a long way toward addressing these problems.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Howard Nelson
DC Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig LLP | 2101 L Street N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20037
Tel 202.331.3163 | Fax 202.261.4762
nelsonh@gtlaw.com | www.gtlaw.com

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To Whom It May Concern,

We here at paint branch have had a lot of promises made to us like the new school being complete by 2011, a turf field being one of them and we’ve had to deal with the new building being pushed back for far too long and now your saying we might not even get our turf field. Paint Branch is moving into the 21st century so why shouldn’t our football field? Because after all sports are a critical part of the school culture we have cultivated at paint branch. Many schools in the county and state are upgrading to turf fields. Postponing and get a grass field will only cost us more in the long run because we will have to upgrade the field eventually so what better time than right now. This field would not only make a tremendous amount of difference to the athletes of paint branch but the real difference is to every student and teacher in this building because the school will save approximately 13,000-14,000 dollars annually on maintenance of a real grass field which would be going directly into the school budget and dispensed throughout various classes, departments, clubs, and events. Do it for the kids.

Sincerely,

Connor Doherty
Subject: Wootton High School
From: grace kim (gkim6801@gmail.com)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 10:16:03

Please consider installing a turf field at Wootton High School. They are the leaders in several supports, such as lacrosse, in the county yet it has one of the worst fields. Wootton desperately needs a turf field!!
Wootton High School really needs an artificial sports Turf field. Please consider them in your future plans. Their field needs updating and it is now a good time to change to Turf.

Thank you.

The Salter family
To whom it may concern:

I am currently a parent of a freshman lacrosse player at Wootton High School. I have been involved with coaching youth lacrosse and helping with the boys lacrosse team at Wootton for 10 years. Each year Wootton High School has managed to send a team into the Maryland State tournament while playing and practicing on athletic fields that are simply dangerous and substandard. The practice fields at Frost Middle School are in terrible shape and are used around the clock giving no opportunity for any grass to grow on 80% of the field. I have seen injuries to kids while playing on these fields that are the direct result of the condition of what is essentially a dirt and rock field. The Wootton game field is generally ruined each season and manages to make a small recovery until the next sport takes the field over and proceeds to destroy the natural turf. An artificial turf field will enable each of the Wootton athletic teams that utilize the Wootton stadium to have effective and safe practices and enable the games to take place even in the most inclement of weather, which currently does not occur. I absolutely support the immediate construction of a turf field at Wootton High School which will serve the students and community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Schoenfeld, MD, FACS
Greetings,

If wealth or quality of extracurricular student life was measured by land ownership and available outside activity free space... Wootton may be the poorest of all the schools...? If the quality measurement was based on available activity space per each enrolled student.... Wootton must most certainly be the poorest in the land.

I believe that baseball and track are the only outdoor sports that can practice on a full size field. (Only because they are able to practice on their game field.) Can you imagine only running plays on one side of the formation in order to have enough space to practice? I personally know a child (Brian O’ Connor) who lost a tooth because he ran into the decking on the portable class rooms because he was concentrating on catching a ball.

A turf field for Wootton that would be used for both practice and games for all outside filed activities and sports would not put Wootton on equal footing with other schools with adequate activity space, but it would at least allow the children a chance to make the best of their situation.

Best Regards,

Iy Stapleton
Wootton Parent
Office & Mobile 301-525-4556
E-mail: Randsta@cdw.com
Subject:[No Subject]
From: Richard Hollins (richard@ccclub.org)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 10:47:00

As a former collegiate and professional football player, I feel it is a necessity that all high schools that have football, lacrosse, and even soccer programs have turf fields. Turf fields provide a better and safer playing surface for athletes while reducing the costly expense of mowing, weeding, draining etc. of grass fields. Also having the turf allows for sporting events to be played out in inclement weather that would usually be cancelled on grass fields which allows for seasons to go uninterrupted due to make up games. Today’s athletes are Bigger, Stronger, Faster and deserve to play on the best surfaces available for them.

Thank You

Richard Hollins
Director of Fitness
Congressional Country Club
(301)469-2017 (w)
(301)767-3771 (v)
(301)469-2036 (f)
richard@ccclub.org

"Make your workout a world unto its own for the time you have to complete it"
To whom it may concern:

As a citizen of Montgomery County, and as a former staff member of Paint Branch, I support the request of the school to have an artificial turf field, It is the cost efficient thing to do.

John A. McKeon
10205 Southmoor Drive
Silver Spring, Md. 20901
Subject: Turf at Wootton
From: debsokobin@yahoo.com (debsokobin@yahoo.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 11:09:50

Please strongly consider placing a turf field at Wootton High School! Our teams work very hard and would really benefit from this!
Thank you,
Debbie Sokobin
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry
Hi, my name is Alex Nazarian and I am emailing in support of Wootton getting a turf field. I think a turf field is ideal as it is easier to maintain and is not as subject to the elements as natural grass. For example, in the winter while natural grass fields may freeze and become as hard as concrete, the turf material will remain indifferent and safe to play on.

Thanks for your consideration.
Wootton High School is in desperate need of turf fields. Not only does Wootton have one of the largest student bodies in MoCo, but our school has not received any major renovation in years due to the one planned in 2008 being scaled back due to the economy. Our field is the same one since 1971, and has many brown patches that could be dangerous for athletes.

Thank You,

Zach Hodes, class of 2012
To whom it may concern:

With regard to Wootton HS getting a turf field, I am 100% in favor of this. I believe that the community needs to show its support of its kids not only on their superior academic achievements but also of their athletic success. I believe that a well rounded student and community includes encouraging and supporting a health mind and body.

A turf field would be a wonderful addition to our school and community. Our lacrosse team has gone won the regional championship for many years...what a great way to award that accomplishment.

Thank you.

Cindy Keppler
ckepper@sdkepppler.com
240-403-0788
Subject: Turf Field
From: Britton, Timothy D. (Timothy_D_Britton@mcpsmd.org)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 12:29:40

Over the past several years, advances have been made to artificial fields. In the past, it was more of a hazard to play/perform on an artificial field. Knees and ankles took a beating. Now, this has drastically changed. As a matter of fact, it is safer for a player to use the type of surface that is being laid down presently. High School fields get overused and bumps, mud, holes and other problems develop. This causes some injuries and maintenance nightmares. (Money)

Although the initial cost is very expensive to install an artificial field, the long term benefits will more than save money and energy. The county and school will no longer spend money on cutting grass, feeding and fertilizing the field. Also, maintenance on the mower that is used will be reduced. Also, renting the field to private, outside groups will be a possibility and this will generate money to keep the field and replace down the road. This needs to get done. It just makes sense.....

http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?rand=9r3dtliaikch4
Hello,

Wootton HS needs turf for our fall and spring sports because the condition of the grass is often too wet too play on after moderate and heavy rains. This causes cancellations and costs the county money paying for security and staff to be available more evenings. We have continued in post season lacrosse play for the last 6 years and will most likely continue to need our home field for both girls and boys lacrosse for over 2 dozen games a season. The wear and tear of the field affects boys and girls teams, Jv and varsity. Sometimes the JV game has to be sacrificed so the Varsity can stay on schedule and be finished with regular season games in time for the play offs. This is not fair to JV teams to have their games cancelled to spare the poor field conditions.

Thanks for your consideration of a turf field at Wootton HS.

Rebecca Cornelius
We need your help in supporting our effort for artificial turf installation at Wootton HS!!

Bruce P. Gilkey
Lockheed Martin IS&GS Civil

Supply Chain Management
9231 Corporate Blvd 4B32
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3245

(301)-640-2228
bruce.gilkey@lmco.com
To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Kohn and I am writing you to discuss an issue that has been flying under the radar and is much more important than many people realize. I am not only writing for myself but on behalf of all the athletes of Thomas S. Wootton High School in addition to all other high school and local sports teams based in or around this general area.

The issue I would like to address is that Thomas S. Wootton high school is one of the many schools in the county without a turf field. Turf has many benefits, it is convenient, safer, and easier to maintain. Currently not having a turf field is forcing our field sports teams to practice on other fields around the school as to not tear up the main game field. I will explain why this is a problem. The field that is used to practice on by girls and boys soccer, lacrosse, and boy’s football is on the property of Robert Frost middle school. Not only is this a hassle for the middle school because we are released from school earlier then they are and often disrupt their classes by being on the fields, but the fields are so run down and used in excess that they are nothing but dirt and rocks with grass nowhere to be found. This makes the appearance of the school deteriorate as well as it is a major safety issue. This rock hard ground has been the cause of hundreds of cuts, lacerations, and other injuries and at least one concussion that I am aware of and the only reason that I am aware of this one incident is because it happened to me. During a football practice I had my first severe grade 2 concussion (on a 1-3 scale) later looking back on film I noticed that neither I nor the opposing player had performed anything less than textbook form and the only thing that my head hit was the ground, with no whiplash or major impact just simply bumping my head on the ground. This rock hard ground had no absorption at all and thus resulted in my concussion even with a “concussion-proof helmet.” On a turf field this would not have happened as the rubber turf would have absorbed the shock and I would still be playing football to this day. It is also much more convenient because when not used by the high school sports teams, this field could easily be rented out and used for the benefit of local youth sports organizations as well. I recently had a conversation with Wootton’s Athletic Director, and he informed me that the school and sports booster clubs had to put in thousands of dollars each year just in maintenance alone. Having a turf field could eliminate these maintenance costs and eventually pay for itself because of these saved costs and teams renting out the field.

My opinion on whether all schools should have turf fields at this point is quite obvious and I think not only is it a necessity but it is a priority. Why is the county so worried about sports safety and concussions when they aren’t even taking the easiest precaution to prevent them? Why should athletes such as myself be forced to practice on fields in which we are much more prone to injury not only now but in the future? On that point think about what these fields that we are currently using are doing to our knees and other joints, we may not see the effects now but I can almost certainly guarantee that we will see problems because of this in the future. What do you think is the reason that we do not have turf fields already?

I am glad to have gotten my opinion out and heard. I sincerely hope you take my opinion as well as the opinion of my peers into consideration and I cannot wait to hear your view on this issue, or even better yet I cannot wait to see the steps you take to achieving this goal that is important to so many.

Sincerely,

Chris Kohn
Subject: artificial turf at Wootton
From: Friend, Tom (Tom.Friend@espn.com)
To: turfr epontresponse@yahoo.com;
Cc: jim .bradley@earthlink.net;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 14:47:32

To: Montgomery County Public Schools,

From: Tom Friend, ESPN and Wootton Class of 1979

As a member of the national sports media for 30 years, I want to voice my support for an artificial turf field at my alma mater, Wootton High School.

I have done TV and print stories all over the country and have seen the good that can come out of having modern athletic facilities. Kids have more of an incentive to play and, subsequently, lead better lives if there is a field they are drawn to. I've seen these kinds of facilities absolutely change the morale of a high school. In fact, I wrote about a school in Portland, Ore., that endured a 0-10 football season just to get a new field. Here's a link to the story I wrote for ESPN.com:


I hope my hometown school district will make a great decision on this.

Thanks for considering.

Best,

Tom Friend
MCPS and the Montgomery County Council –

Turf fields are needed in the county because

- they extend the playing season and lower maintenance costs.
- Reduce impact on the environment by reducing the need burn fossil fuels to mow and eliminating 100s of aerosol paint cans to local landfills.
- Most high schools state competitions are played on turf.

Thank you for your consideration,

Craig McKee
8th Grade US History
SB Team Leader
Social Studies RT
Robert Frost Middle School
Subject: Wootton needs turf!!!!!!
From: weinmom@aol.com (weinmom@aol.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 15:16:48

Please include Wootton high school in your plans for turf fields in Montgomery County. I have a kids playing more than one sport on this field and it means that whenever it rains we need to cancel games and rescheduling becomes a nightmare. Please help our school and give is the turf so our schedules can run normally and our kids can have their sports season!
Thank you
Wootton HS is in desperate need of a turf field! Poor field conditions puts our athletes in greater danger of incurring additional injuries. It is impossible to plan for a sports season and schedule games, when the weather conditions constantly impact the program. When our athletes have to reschedule and reschedule, it has a negative effect on the academic program as well. The scholar athletes arrange their activities around the sports program and continuous changes make it difficult to perform at their peak. In addition, throughout the season the field gets destroyed with normal wear and tear and the rain adds to the problems.

Thank you - Leslie Dobbin
Please take a second to vote in favor of a turf field at Wootton HS as this will be a very valuable investment for the future athletes of our school. It is imperative that our student athletes compete at the same level of competition as other schools in the county. Thank you in advance for your "yes" vote for a turf field.

Rick McGuire

Class President 1977
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of installing a turf field at T.S. Wootton high school in Rockville. I have got to believe that turf requires less maintenance over the long run. I know that it would support our hard-working athletes by providing them a playing surface that would be playable a much greater percent of the time. Our teams often make it to the state championship play-offs, and the championship itself, where they play teams from other counties that have the advantage of practicing on turf. I believe turf would also drain better. My son is a division one college recruit who has sprained both his ankles numerous times on the wet Wootton field.

Watching our teams play all over the county, I have noticed that Wootton’s field is one of the poorest in the county. It is time to do something about it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Brooks
Wootton High School Parent
13513 Hunting Hill Way
North Potomac, MD 20878
(301) 518-0759
I strongly support the installation of a turf field at Wootton HS. I have two sons that play both football and lacrosse for Wootton. The turf field will be better for them, allow more practice time and provide for a better game experience.

Thanks,

Morris
hi - I am responding with comments as a Pro Turf parent:

Please get the Turf Field for Wootton High school. As a lacrosse goalie mom I have spent endless hours watching my son in the mud around the crease (circle in front of the goal) - which can be dangerous (slipping when wet) and bad for health (would love to have all those on the committee spend endless hours both in practice and in games breathing in all the dust from the area in front of the goal as the grass doesn't grow well there when it is dry season).

Wootton high school has had to cancel games due to the status of the field when it is really rainy or very dry (dust bowl) - usually the JV teams have to give up their game so that Varsity can play. Games get either rescheduled (often it is not raining at the time of the scheduled game but the fields are so wrecked that they can't play). THIS IMPACTS EVERYONE. If you are a parent and the game is rescheduled to a different school and or different day (often with a better field and often that field is a turf field) - you have to work around your work schedule short notice; the team coaches can not get buses last minute and kids who are scholar athletes who plan out doing their homework and studying for the week ahead of time based on the SCHEDULE may not get to study or do the homework as needed as their schedules get changed when it necessary. My son is one of those who take trying to balance athletics and academics and doing well at both.

A Turf field for Wootton means the kids get to play according to schedule and there are a lot of teams!!!!!! not just lacrosse which are impacted.

Also, for the reputation of Montgomery County which looks to get kids into upper level colleges ..................Wootton will be more competitive if there is a field that kids can excel on - if you look at their competition and look at the fields they are playing on and compare ..........fields matter. (The Walter Johnson Goalie got into Tufts - turf field!) Turf fields last longer have less upkeep and can be played on through bad weather. You are making a long term investment for Wootton High School.

I realize there are down sides to Turf fields but the positives outweigh the negatives.

Thank you - Laura Riese (mother of Jordan Riese and Marina Riese)
I have three children that play lacrosse throughout the state of Maryland and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, so we've seen many different facilities at schools and community/county parks. Most of the quality facilities have converted at least one, if not several, of their fields to an artificial sports turf surface. Relative to other areas, Montgomery County, and in particular Montgomery County Public Schools, lacks adequate artificial turf facilities. Having an artificial turf field at Wootton would be a smart and practical decision that would benefit the high school athletes and the community as a whole.

I strongly support an artificial turf field being installed at Wootton as soon as possible. Please let me know if there is any additional information that I can provide. Thanks in advance.

Regards,
Craig

Craig B. Cornelius
Accenture
Office: 703.947.2759
Mobile: 240.876.1079
E-mail: craig.b.cornelius@accenture.com
Dear MCPS & Montgomery County Council:
I am writing in support of installing a turf field at T.S. Wootton High School in Rockville, MD. I have seen first hand what the addition of a turf field can do for a community as one was installed several years ago at a local youth sports park near my home in Charlotte, NC and we have access to several others at area high schools and charter schools. The field at the local park transformed the football, lacrosse, and soccer programs providing an excellent venue for games where weather (aside from lightning) becomes a non-issue in the delay of or cancellation of games. It is a true gathering place for our community and a field that is sought after for use from outside organizations. It is as pristine today as when it was installed several years ago and saves the park thousands of dollars as it is virtually maintenance-free.

As a former student-athlete at Wootton I can attest to the continuing need for a reliable field where teams can practice and play games, and teachers can conduct classes. Thank you for considering this most beneficial addition to Wootton's facilities.

Sincerely,
Tammy Schoderbek Shipley
Class of '89
Subject: Turf at Wootton
From: Elizabeth Welch (EWelch@adventisthealthcare.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Wed, 25 May 2011 10:01:27

Yes we NEED a Turf, I don't think it is fair that sometime we can not play games because of the condition of the field.
As an alum of Wootton High I very much support the addition of a turf field to its campus. Since Wootton is a school with comparatively limited grounds, turf would provide much needed flexibility to give more athletes greater access.

Thank you.

Page Croyder
Subject: Turf fields
From: 4cohens (4cohens@comcast.net)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Wed, 25 May 2011 14:48:52

As a parent of a premier soccer player for the last 15 years, I have witnessed first hand the benefits of turf fields. The risk of injury is much less on a turf field. It is a rare occurrence twist an ankle on a turf field due to the much smoother surface. The player's performance and skill level is also greatly enhanced. Turf fields will also be a prime promoter in bringing other teams to want to play on all of our fields, thus acting as a prime marketing and economic tool. Ultimately, I feel as though turf fields will be a great addition to Wootton and Montgomery County schools in general.

Sent from my iPad
I support artificial turf fields

Curtiss Belcher, Jr
Clarksburg HS
Special Education ParaEducator
Boys Lacrosse
1st aid assistant
Good Morning, my name’s Jon and I’m with Pioneer Athletics. Just wanted to contact and see if there was any way I could help. At Pioneer, we are the nation’s largest athletic field marking paint manufacturer. Along with that we manufacture paint for both natural grass and synthetic turf. As I’m sure you’re organization is aware, we carry a specific anti-microbial line specifically for the disinfecting for synthetic turf fields. www.gameplan4sports.com

Wasn’t sure if you had this information already, as I know that you are just in the beginning stages of this process. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that may come up. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Jon Korman
Account Representative
Pioneer Athletics
4529 Industrial Parkway
Cleveland, OH 44135
P. 800.877.1500 ext. 3222
F. 800.877.1511
jkorman@pioneerathletics.com
www.pioneerathletics.com
As a coach the field turf fields are an invaluable resource. They do not need to be lined for every game, which takes away valuable time, this time can be used for instruction with the kids. They are playable in all kinds of weather conditions. Above all they are safe, the grass fields get so much use that they become dangerous over time, the field turf fields will eliminate this problem. There is nothing worse than having to play on a dirt field, that is unsafe. Please do not let a few people with an agenda ruin it for all those hard working folks that actually will be effected by this issue.

Thanks,

Patrick Calvin

"Leave No Doubt"

Patrick Calvin

Gaithersburg High School

Special Education Paraeducator

Assistant Football Coach

MCPS Pole Vault Coach

G
Dear Turf Response,

I support artificial turf installation in Montgomery County!!

Thank you.

Valerie Lufsey
I am in full support of artificial turf and am hopeful that we will have one at Clarksburg High School in the near future. Please advise me about any open meetings are conducted to discuss this topic.

Thank you,

Fred Levy
Germantown MD.
I am in full support of artificial turf and am hopeful that we will have one at Clarksburg in the near future. In addition to offering a safe and consistent playing surface, artificial turf will allow a significant increase in the usage of our fields – benefitting our students and the entire Clarksburg community.

Susan Moylan
I live in Montgomery County and am also a parent of 5 boys that all play sports. I strongly support the installation of turf fields in the Montgomery County high schools.

Donna W. Sheehan, CPA
Sheehan & Leonard, LLC
11809 Morning Star Drive
Germantown, MD 20876
phone (301) 528-8686
fax (301) 528-6646
I would like to offer my support for the installation of artificial turf at all Montgomery County Schools. I believe these fields would be very beneficial to all of our many sports teams as well as our Physical Education students. My personal experience and the experience high school and club players of with the newer generation of turf has been overwhelmingly positive. I have never witnessed nor seen any evidence from any of the perhaps millions of installations worldwide.

My experience as Athletic Director at a school on a very small footprint of land has been one of frustration with the lack of available space for teams to practice. It is so bad that the majority of our teams leave campus in order to practice each day. We spend tens of thousands of dollars each year just to keep out stadium field playable. It barely makes it through the fall season and we are constantly nervous about foul weather. Many times we must postpone games due to poor field conditions which impacts two schools, transportation and support personnel, as well as the kids participating. Other than times of lightening or very severe storms we would never have to postpone stadium events with the use of artificial turf. All of our teams using the stadium could utilize the new field for practices each day. We would still need to use off campus facilities but not to the extent currently. The middle school facilities we use now for soccer, football, and lacrosse would not feel the impact they do each year which may improve their fields as well.

As far as safety I have never personally seen any difference in the number of injuries between natural grass and artificial turf. I have also never heard or read any study indicating that the new generation turf is unsafe in any way. I am aware of studies in California and New York finding no health risks related to turf whatsoever.

Chris Thompson
Athletic Director
Social Studies Teacher
Thomas S. Wootton High School
2100 Wootton Parkway
Rockville, MD 20850
I am in full support of artificial turf and am hopeful that we will have one at Clarksburg in the near future. In addition to offering a safe and consistent playing surface, artificial turf will allow a significant increase in the usage of our fields – benefitting our students and the entire Clarksburg community.

Lisabeth Belman
CHS Athletic Booster Club President
To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Gaithersburg High School community, I am strongly in favor of a turf field for our new stadium field.

The installation of a turf stadium field at Gaithersburg High School will bring great benefits to our students, our school and our community. We will no longer have to send students off campus to practice. A turf field will provide a safe playing environment for athletes and our PE classes. And a turf field will reduce the number of weather cancellations and make-up contests. These are just a few of the benefits a turf field will bring to Gaithersburg.

Jim and Patti Schulte

Parents

Jane 2007

Mary 2008

Theresa 2011
As a member of the Gaithersburg High School community, I am strongly in favor of a turf field for our new stadium field.

The installation of a turf stadium field at Gaithersburg High School will bring great benefits to our students, our school and our community. We will no longer have to send students off campus to practice. A turf field will provide a safe playing environment for athletes and our PE classes. And a turf field will reduce the number of weather cancellations and make-up contests. These are just a few of the benefits a turf field will bring to Gaithersburg.

Deanna Duff
Gaithersburg High School Parent
We are in full support of getting the Turf fields!!
Denise Winterburn
ect:Support for Turf Fields at Gaithersburg HS
From: Cameron M. Lee (cmlee@verizon.net)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Sun, 29 May 2011 10:22:27

As a member of the Gaithersburg High School community, I am strongly in favor of a turf field for our new stadium field.

The installation of a turf stadium field at Gaithersburg High School will bring great benefits to our students, our school and our community. We will no longer have to send students off campus to practice. A turf field will provide a safe playing environment for athletes and our PE classes. And a turf field will reduce the number of weather cancellations and make-up contests. These are just a few of the benefits a turf field will bring to Gaithersburg. I have had three student-athletes at GHS and fully acknowledge the issues with field availability, playability(injury risk) and overall young person safety.

Cameron M. Lee
Parent
～～～～～～～～～～～～
To whom it may concern,

I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Thanks,
Debbie (A Parent at Clarksburg High School)
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."

From: Scott Brenowitz (sbrenowitz@comcast.net)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 30 May 2011 18:47:45

Very much needed at CHS!!!!!!
Subject: Turf fields
From: Carolyn Lass (class9597@verizon.net)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 30 May 2011 18:48:30

I support turf field in Montgomery county. I would love to see one at all high schools

Carolyn Lass
From: Goddard Robinson (gerobinson@gmail.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 30 May 2011 19:07:30

My family has installed and operated a Fieldturf football/soccer/lacrosse/etc field in the Virginia Beach area for over 2 years. This field is better for the children as it provides an even playing surface, drains effectively (no cancellations) and has minimal maintenance required.

Best Regards,
Goddard Robinson
Subject: Support turf in MC!
From: Teri Hamilton (arteri19@msn.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 30 May 2011 19:12:39

I highly support turf fields in MC. If you travel to Bowie and some other counties, you will see that MC is behind.
Art Hamilton
Store Manager
Lowe's of Gaithersburg
As a parent of a child who plays sports in Montgomery County I would like to WHOLE-HEARTEDLY support the installation of turf fields wherever possible throughout the county. This Spring has been a prime example of a case where turf fields would have made a huge difference in our lives. My son had 5 games of his baseball season rained out. It was CRAZY. The result was the we had to scramble our schedules significantly to accommodate all of the schedule changes. The annoying thing was that many of the games that were “rained out” were scheduled to be on days where the sun was shining and the weather was beautiful, but the fields were deemed unplayable from the previous day’s rain. This would not have happened if we had turf fields.

As a mom who works, and tries to juggle all of my responsibilities, being consistent with our sports is critical. This allows us to participate in all of the things I find important for my kids – education, sports, scouts, religious activities, and family time. When one of these things gets out of whack, it effects everything else.

The other case I would make is that I would like to see our public schools be competitive with the private schools in our area. We pay so much in taxes, and yet the facilities at the private schools are SO MUCH better than ours. They have turf fields and can practice more effectively and more often. I just want our kids to have the same opportunities.

Thank you!

Amanda

Amanda A. Adams-Barney
The Seidmet Group
19535 Ranworth Dr.
Germantown, MD 20874-6186
Phone: 301-693-6861

met: n. 1. A primordial Goddess of Power. 2. Part of the single creative force of the Universe. 3. A firm that provides effective, professional conference consulting.

http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?rand=9r3dtliaikch4
Yeah! Adding turf to CHS is TERRIFIC! I am an outfielder for CSA Travel/Select. I can’t stand mushy outfields, it messes me up A LOT.

Thanks so much,

Matthew L.
It's a must have
Subject: This Family in favor of changing to Artificial Turf field
From: spup33@verizon.net (spup33@verizon.net)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Mon, 30 May 2011 20:25:12

As a CSA family, of course we are IN FAVOR of putting down artificial turf. Its common knowledge that many of the programs we compete against are able to practice more than we are able to due to the high number of practice cancellations during the season brought on by rain and bad weather.

We NEED adequate practice and game fields to play on, or we are going to start losing kids to any one of the growing number of competing programs that are able to provide adequate facilities.

LET'S MAKE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER!

SINCERELY,
CONCERNED CSA FAMILY

Sent via DROID on Verizon Wireless
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

From:  Scott Coche (scoche@covellcommunities.com)
To:  Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date:  Mon, 30 May 2011 21:23:51

Scott Coché
Operations Manager

COVELL COMMUNITIES, LLC
16811 Chestnut Street, Suite B
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
301.527.1400 tel.
301.527.8755 fax.
301.466.2880 cell
scoche@covellcommunities.com
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Kevin

301-775-2615

CSAsports.org
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County

Ciao :) 

Sam
I would definitely support a turf field in clarksburg at Clarksburg High School. It is unfortunate that we were built just a year or two before turf fields became the norm with new/updated construction (RM and WJ). As the parent of a current field hockey and soccer player, while it was nice that we were able to play in our stadium (as opposed to the baseball outfield as in other schools) it was still not the optimal place to play due to the usage by the football teams (high school and community) and soccer teams as well as its sloping edges. It is undeniable that field hockey (as well as soccer and football) can be played at a higher quality when played on turf. I believe it also allows the school/county to increase funds as the usage of such a field is in higher demand (local travel teams, etc.).

I vote YES to a turf field in Clarksburg!

Thank you for your consideration
Brenda L. Bertrand
CHS Parent of students in class of 2011, 2013, and 2019
I support the artificial turf fields in Montgomery County!!!!!
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County!!!
Much appreciated,
Jeff Fritz
MCPS Teacher and Coach
I DO NOT support turf fields at our public schools in Montgomery County. With so many budget cuts I do not see how installing turf fields can be considered at this time.

Also, turf fields are harder to play on for our young athletes causing injuries to our children - just look at what is happening in national football.

Keep the natural grass so our players can play without harming their growing bones. Put the money back inside the schools and to our teachers.
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.
Dear Sirs/Madams,

I live in Germantown MD and support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Andy Kostecka
Subject: Montgomery County Artificial Turf
From: Malpass, Kevin (KMalpass@forresterconstruction.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 07:24:52

I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.
As a parent with a daughter who played sports at Clarksburg, and is now going to play in college; a son who is still playing sports at C-Burg, and a younger daughter who will play sports I completely support moving to a turf field for the Clarksburg high School field.

Bill Bertrand

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Curtiss Belcher, Jr
Clarksburg HS
Special Education Paraeducator
Boys Lacrosse
1st aid assistant
I definitely support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.
Good Morning!

I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County Schools.

Thanks,

Liz Martin
Large Business and International ~ Business Systems Planning
Security Program Management Office
202-283-8664
elizabeth.martin@irs.gov
I do support turf fields for Montgomery County sports. I think it would improve our athletic programs as well as save money with maintenance fees and scheduling issues.
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Maura Smith
I think artificial turf would be a GREAT addition to our athletics program but shouldn't we get our kids out of portable trailers first!! I just got an email 2 weeks ago due to huge budget cuts, so why would we want money going to this.

Regards,
Chris Alpert

Sent from my iPhone
Hi everyone,

We are very much in favor of turf fields! Since no one takes care of their fields like Soccerplex, we fully endorse going to turf.

At least then we would have a consistent field to play on for ALL CHS sports.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to ring in!

Kindest regards,

Barbara and James Reimers

(301)916-9577
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

MaryAnn Levy
Supervisor - MC311 Customer Service Center
Office: 240-773-3600
Cell: 240-380-5224

"We A.R.E. MC311 - Accountable, Responsive, Efficient."
Subject: Turf fields
From: Laurie Lane (laurieelane@msn.com)
To: turfr eportresponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 08:58:10

I FULLY support installing turf in as many schools as possible in Montgomery County.

Laurie Lane
I am fully in support of high schools in Montgomery County being allowed to have turf fields. Virginia High Schools and also counties surrounding Montgomery have turf fields in their high school stadiums. Obviously, this is an area that Montgomery County Public Schools has not taken the lead in. I encourage you to allow and encourage the installation of turf fields.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Murphy
13613 Daphney House Court
Rockville, MD 20850
-738-0220
I had the opportunity to read through the Montgomery County report on artificial turf. It was a very interesting read and I am in full support of these fields being installed in our county! Turf fields offer a safe and consistent playing surface for athletes of all ages. I'm a parent of two high school students that attend Clarksburg HS and they have grown up in the county playing many sports. We've been on most fields in the county at one point or another and it's always hit or miss as to the condition due to weather, use, etc. I've also had the pleasure of watching them play in Howard County on the artificial turf fields they have installed and it's a much safer playing surface! While I understand the initial investment is significantly more for artificial fields, the long term gain is well worth it! We have a big issue at Clarksburg HS just trying to get our fields in shape for each season, it's a constant battle. I do participate in the Athletic Booster Club and we've continued to allocate more and more funds to the fields to try to get these in the best possible shape for our athletes as well as our youth program that utilizes the fields. Maintenance has become a joint effort with our youth sports programs but we aren't keeping up. Fields are a constant struggle for the youth programs as the community grows, be it game day or just practice facilities. If we had artificial turf fields, we could significantly increase the usage, benefiting our students at Clarksburg HS and the youth community sports programs. Bottom line, the entire Clarksburg community would benefit! I honestly believe installing artificial turf fields in the county is the right course of action, further enhancing the benefits of living in Montgomery County!

Thank You,
Stephanie de Celis
I do not support the installation of artificial turf. Thank you for asking my opinion.

david bullock
22820 Frederick Rd.
Clarksburg, MD
To Whom It May Concern -
Turf Fields are a necessity in this day and age and, as a long-time volunteer coach at Paint Branch, I certainly hope that our state-of-the-art new school is graced with state-of-the-art turf fields that our athletes deserve. The life-cycle cost of maintenance is much cheaper and turf fields can generate income for the County when rented out.

V/R,
Brian Magid
301-295-2568
We feel an artificial turf field at Clarksburg High School would benefit the school and the entire community. It would offer a great facility for our CSA games and practices.

Hope Joyce
Director of Marketing – Washington Region
AAA Warman Home Care, LLC
888-243-6602
hjoyce@warmanhomecare.com
www.warmanhomecare.com

Check out our Blog! http://www.warmanhomecare.com/blog/
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County
From: Melissa Prather (Melissa.Prather@holton-arms.edu)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 10:38:17

Melissa C. Prather
Director of Leadership Giving
The Holton-Arms School
7303 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
Direct: 301.365.6079
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County schools.
Thank you,
Buffy Wiltz (parent of 3 MCPS school children)
Turf Fields would be great in Montgomery County...as long as the funds do not take away from any educational programs in the Montgomery County Schools. ~Kristine Devine, montgomery county resident, parent of 3 in elementary school and various sports
A turf field at DHS will benefit everyone. This should of been done years ago. I support it.

Jamie Jessee
jessee3@gmail.com
"I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County." As my kids are involved in Varsity sport at Damascus High School.

Dr. Arif Khan

----- Original Message ----- 
From: "Damascus Soccer Club" <webmaster@damascussoccer.org> 
To: akhan18@comcast.net 
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 10:45:24 AM 
Subject: Turf Fields in Damascus

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

Damascus Soccer Club 
May 31, 2011

Dear Arif,

DSC Families,

Montgomery County Public Schools is requesting feedback from residents regarding the installation of artificial turf fields in Montgomery County. As you could appreciate, an artificial turf field at Damascus High School would benefit the school and the entire community. It would offer a great facility for our DSC games and practices. The link below is the Montgomery County report on artificial turf for your reference.

We want to encourage parents and students to review the document and send a note to TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com hopefully supporting the installation of artificial turf in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Responses can be as simple as "I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."

We need everyone to state your opinion!

The deadline for submitting responses is Friday, June 3rd.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Artificial Turf Report

Sincerely,

The Board and Volunteers of 
Damascus Soccer Club
Hello, I am writing to let you know that I support the artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Sincerely,
Katie White
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County. Please proceed.
Subject: [No Subject]
From: Rick Glabach (rglabach@yahoo.com)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 10:56:58

I do not support the use of artificial turf fields. I base my decision on some assumptions made (field use time will increase, etc), changing demographics as well as the unclear environmental impact of artificial turf fields.

CDR Richard Glabach
USPHS
rglabach@yahoo.com
I support the idea.

John Basdeo
Distribution Manager
Office: 301-577-1890 x 4612
Fax: 301-577-1216
Cell: 240-994-6407
jbasdeo@bfr.com
www.bfr.com
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County!
From: Mills, Matt (mmills@wtop.com)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 10:58:17

As the coach of multiple soccer teams and having to play soccer and other sports on crappy grass fields with poor (and often unsafe) conditions, the installation of turf fields at our county high schools makes a ton of sense.

You have my support for Turf fields in Montgomery county.

Matt Mills

FederalNewsRadio.com

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Subject: TURF
From: Rosenthal, Luann (Luann.Rosenthal@montgomerycountymd.gov)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 11:00:55

"I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."

LuAnn Rosenthal
Hello,

I NO NOT support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

I DO support natural grass fields that are well maintained without chemicals. I believe that maintaining good condition fields in Montgomery County is important and can be done at a lower cost than installing and maintaining artificial turf.

Also, artificial turf is found by most professional teams as substandard to natural turf. Artificial turf off-gases and can present a health hazard to the community. If natural turf is maintained without the use of chemicals, then the county wins on two fronts: community health and cost.

Thanks,

Rick Candell
Chesapeake, MD
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Thank you.

Mr. Steven L. Rosenthal

23612 Dixie Ridge Court

Gaithersburg, MD 20882
Damascus High School absolutely needs a turf field because of the heavy use our fields get due to the amount of sporting events that take place in the entire community of Damascus that includes not only the high school but our very large youth sports programs such as football, lacrosse, and soccer that would benefit tremendously.

Cheers;

Dave

David B. Krizman Ph.D.
Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer
Expression Pathology Inc.
9620 Medical Center Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Phone: 301-977-3654
FAX: 301-926-9283
To Whom It May Concern:

I support the installation of artificial turf fields in Montgomery County, including at Montgomery County Public Schools. My daughter plays soccer in Montgomery County and I know the state of many of the fields – not good. It would be very helpful to have fields which could withstand excess rain water in the Spring and Fall. Additionally, more fields would help in scheduling games for the ever-increasing number of soccer players.

Please continue to install artificial turf fields throughout the county, including at the schools (conversion, as well as new turf fields).

Thank you for your consideration,

Courtney Jorgensen
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Eric Timmerman
harrski@hotmail.com
240-668-1112
Darnestown, MD
I'd like to voice my opinion of support for artificial turf fields in Montgomery County Schools.
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

From: Nabeel Hussain (hnabeel@gmail.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 11:27:04
I support Turf Fields in Montgomery Co

Hope Joyce  
Director of Marketing – Washington Region  
AAA Warman Home Care, LLC  
888-243-6602  
hjoyce@warmanhomecare.com  
www.warmanhomecare.com  

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I am a soccer coach with the Damascus Soccer Club and I STRONGLY support the introduction of a turf field at Damascus High School and any other location. Turf fields are low maintenance and prevent injury to youth players!

John Herrmann
22105 Goshen School Road
Laytonsville, MD 20882
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County
From: bgdowdy@dsthealthsolutions.com (bgdowdy@dsthealthsolutions.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 11:49:46

Betty Guzman Dowdy
Support Consultant
DST Health Solutions
30 West Gude Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
717 703 7146 (Direct)
301 251 1078 (Fax)
bgdowdy@dsthealthsolutions.com

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this e-mail or the information contained in this e-mail is strictly prohibited by the sender. If you have received this
transmission in error, please return the material received to the sender and delete all copies from your system.
Personally, with having 4 children in the MCPS system, I can say that I agree with the report in the following aspects. 

1) Games are cancelled far too often due to mild bad weather.

2) When a decision has to be made on who can use the natural field because it needs to have limited use, the soccer team always gives in the football team.

3) I'm one the people having to pay for the gas needed to drive my children to practices off campus, every day. (M-F) I don't like that inexperienced drivers are driving a group of their friends to practice.

4) Watching the quality of play on a synthetic field is great.

Thanks for considering our opinions.
Deb Macklin
I support artificial turf fields for Montgomery County schools.

Sue Goletz
301-696-0001 ext. 240
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County

JOHN ARENSMEYER, VICE PRESIDENT
JAY CLOGG REALTY GROUP, INC.
110 N. WASHINGTON ST.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850-2220
Tel. 301-340-9400
Fax 301-340-8999
Email: John@JayClogg.com
I support Turf Fields in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Thank you!
I want artificial turf field
in Montgomery County.

Have a good day.
Mijung Kim
Sent from phone.
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County
From: Michelle Brickles (michelleb1202@gmail.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 12:26:00

I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County

-- Michelle Brickles
Object: Do not want turf fields in Montgomery County
From: Sean McGuire (sp20316@yahoo.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 12:34:36

Sean McGuire
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.
From: Ming Dong (mdongw@yahoo.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 12:41:25
"I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County." Alicia Gaylord

From: Gaylord, Alicia M (Alicia_M_Gaylord@mcpsmd.org)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 13:01:40
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County
From: Haynes, Sasha (Sasha.Haynes@marriott.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 13:05:52

Thank you,
Sasha Haynes
To whom it may concern:

"I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."

Thank you,

Alicia Gaylord
Subject: "I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."
From: Gaylord, Alicia M (Alicia_M_Gaylord@mcpsmd.org)
To: TurfReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 13:11:19

To Whom It May Concern:

"I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County."

Thank You,

Alicia Gaylord
Yes, I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County!
Subject: I support Turf Field
From: Shilpa Bhandari (shilpab73@gmail.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 13:58:51
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery county.

Thank,

Then Kopp family
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Thank you
To whom it may concern,

I have been a Montgomery County resident for over 35 years and have raised two daughters that both played organized sports on county and MCPS fields.

Many of the Montgomery County public schools have space for multipurpose artificial turf fields, some of which are already available at a few high schools. Many of these artificial turf fields are often not available for general public use and some organized sports. What is needed is more general public use turf fields in the county, especially using Montgomery County Park land. Most organized recreational or select soccer games and practices are held on substandard natural fields that were placed on lands with very little for thought and concern about child safety or playability.

There are some natural and artificial turf fields which are maintained very well and kept at a high usable standards, but these are mostly reserved for tournaments. The Germantown Soccerplex is one such example of this. The Soccerplex requires such high maintenance that rental fees are beyond the affordability of many local sports clubs. The Soccerplex also has a few artificial turf fields that are operated all year round, in either rain, snow, or shine. This is one of the paybacks of an artificial turf.

Local public park space in Montgomery County is available to many sports clubs but these fields are also used by informal teams for unorganized pick up soccer or football. The condition of many of these local park fields from season to season is less that desirable for organized sports. These poor quality local park fields are offered for both organized games and practice and are used because any field is better than none. At the younger ages desirable field conditions is not that important and local park fields are fit for use, but as the skill level and competitiveness of older player’s increase so does the need for better field conditions. A poor field is not an advantage to any sport or team, and leads to an increase probability of serious injury.

Artificial fields should be promoted as a cost effective alternative to natural fields in areas where maintenance is a issue and where the security of the field can be assured. In the areas were artificial fields could be placed, then agreements with local sports clubs or other organizations may protect the security of these fields.

There are several locations in the county where artificial turf fields would add benefit to the local community for year organized game fields, as well as an addition monetary resource to the county as a desired tournament venues.

Existing and future natural turf fields could also benefit from cooperative arrangements with local sports clubs willing

http://us.mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=9r3dtliaikch4

6/1/2011
to share some of the responsibilities of maintenance of their local park fields, such as the OBGC Community Park in Olney, MD. Agreements with many of the local sports clubs could possibly be made to jointly manage the local county park fields to provide extra access to the sponsored club to viable fields.

Persistent efforts should be made to look at alternative methods to support the addition of both natural and artificial turf fields and with the involvement of local community sports clubs.

Sincerely,

Richard Saunders

18464 Stone Hollow Drive

Germantown, MD 20874
Hi, we definitely support artificial turf fields in M.C. especially in Clarksburg! Please see below an May 9th email that was sent out to Mr. Whiting, the principal of Rocky Hill MS on the accident my daughter had on May 3rd. While we know the schools and CSA are not directly correlated, we know and understand the critical aspect of having safer fields for our students across the county.

Good morning,

As some of you may know, my daughter, Rosemary Crumrine, is on the girls soccer team at Rocky Hill. While she very much enjoys being on the team, she shared with us repeatedly her concerns about the condition of the soccer field at the school. She kept saying over and over again that someone would be hurt one day on the field. Last Tuesday afternoon, as Rosemary was playing on the field, she did indeed herself become injured. Her shoe got caught in a small hole on the field and she fell. She was brought to the emergency room, and after a series of tests over the next few days, it is now determined that Rosemary tore her ACL in her left knee. She is out of soccer for the rest of the year, and will require reconstructive surgery and many months of physical therapy.

While we are not 'blaming' the school for this very unfortunate accident, we are very STRONGLY encouraging you to re-evaluate the fields and determine how you can keep it safe for the students. We also know that the fields are shared with the high school next door and it's a challenge to keep it maintained to keep it safe at all times. While we will never know if Rosemary's torn ACL could have been prevented that day, we certainly know that there have been concerns about the fields not only by Rosemary herself, but also from many parents and students as well.

We hope you will consider discussing on how to maintain the fields and how to keep it safe. I know that Mr. Myers is also planning to discuss with the girls on ACL prevention activities this week; and this is a very critical aspect in the girls athletic lives. Knee injuries and ACLs are a growing epidemic across the nation, and we need to educate ourselves and the girls about this.

Thank you for providing Rosemary with ongoing support as we move forth with the recovery process.

Amy Crumrine
Subject: Turf Fields  
From: Aellen Eric and Joanne (ejaellen@yahoo.com)  
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;  
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 14:44:44

I support Turf Fields in Montgomery County Schools, and specifically at Damascus High School.

Joanne Aellen  
301-528-8222  
ejaellen@yahoo.com
I support artificial turf fields for Montgomery County specifically Damascus High School.

Thanks
Laura Zarchin
Subject: I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County
From: Sumathi Kannan (sumathi.kannan1999@gmail.com)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 14:49:32

I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County

Kannan Kunjidhpatham
Germantown.
Hello,

We support the installation of artificial turf at any and all facilities in Damascus. The maintenance of the grass combined with seasonal allergies and weather dependence that grass creates just make artificial turf seem the better choice.

Thank you for your time,

Kathryn and Ashley Groves
Hello,

My niece plays on a U13 team and she has recently seriously sprung and caused a hair line fracture to her ankle because of the bumpy, muddy fields.

I would like to say that do support the artificial turf in Montgomery County for this reason.

Thanks

Manuela Smith
I support artificial turf fields in Montgomery County.

Karen Leicht
Quality Management (473)
Information Systems Engineer
Office: (703) 983-9124
Subject: artificial turf in Montgomery Co
From: The Sherwood Family (sherwood94@verizon.net)
To: Turf ReportResponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 15:11:45

YES we support the installation of artificial turf fields in Montgomery Co schools especially the Damascus region.

Carolyn and Todd Sherwood
Please see the attached letter from the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board concerning the draft "Review of Benefits and Issues Associated with Natural and Artificial Turf Rectangular Stadium Fields" report. Thank you.

Kenneth B. J. Hartman  
Director, Regional Services Center  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase-North Bethesda-Potomac-Rockville  
4805 Edgemoor Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
o: 240-777-8206  
f: 240-777-8211  
kenneth.hartman@montgomerycountymd.gov  
	.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcc
To Whom It May Concern:

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board ("CAB") has studied A Review of Benefits and Issues Associated with Natural and Artificial Turf Rectangular Stadium Fields ("draft report"). We write in follow-up to our September 30, 2010 letter on artificial turf fields, included in the report's appendix. In addition to the CAB's own review of the report and discussion of the issues, we heard from community advocates at our May 16, 2011 meeting.

The CAB's original letter asked that the Montgomery County Council address the following issues:

1. A full life cycle cost analysis of artificial turf field,
2. A rigorous collection and review of existing scientific data on the safety and health of students and athletes using the fields with a particular emphasis on heat and sports-related injuries, and
3. A rigorous collection and review of existing scientific data on the environmental effects, including toxic chemicals in stormwater runoff and toxic particulates in the air.

The CAB appreciates that a significant amount of time and effort went into the draft report and that each of the above issues is at least touched upon. However, the draft report appears to come up a bit short. We are optimistic that the final report will take into account the concerns stated here and by others and provide a complete product.

Full Life Cycle Costs Analysis

The draft report does discuss life cycle costs, but not with the requisite level of detail for the analysis to be considered "full." There is little discussion of the ongoing maintenance of artificial turf fields that will be required such as chemical cleaning and grooming. Appendix C lists the major lifecycle cost assumptions including some maintenance requirements. But it does not list the cost of these individual requirements. Appendices D-1 and D-2 provide cost comparisons for school and park fields, but do not breakdown the actual costs within the maintenance category. The costs also appear to compare a hypothetical perfectly maintained natural grass field with an artificial turf field instead of comparing Montgomery County's actual current practices.
The draft report also makes several recommendations that may affect the life cycle costs but are not accounted for. For example, the draft report discusses heat issues and recommends an advisory policy so athletic personnel can keep users safe and cancel activities as necessary (pg. 40). But cancellations will affect the hours of use which the report does not factor in when calculating revenue from parks fields or when applying annual hours of use to its cost analysis (pg. 27). The draft report also recommends that future artificial turf contracts require the installer recycle the fields without calculating how this might raise the contract installation costs (pgs. 45-46). Certain best practices are also recommended for adoption in the draft report, but there is no explanation as to their effect on costs (pg. 49).

Rigorous Collection and Review on Safety and Health

The draft report’s discussion of safety and health affects is also less than rigorous. The County’s own Department of Health and Human Services said as much, recommending that at a minimum “a meta-analysis of all studies should be completed to ensure a complete literature review in this area” (pg. 30). Similarly, many of the reports cited recommend further study (pages 31-36). Some advocates on this issue have also noted that the report fails to review studies of the health effects of carbon black contained in the infill material.

Rigorous Collection and Review on Environmental Effects

Similarly, the report is less than rigorous in studying the environmental effects on artificial fields. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), our county’s lead environmental agency, had a “limited” role in the report which raises concern (pg. 41). A number of the studies cited in the report raise specific environmental issues including zinc in runoff, the potential of artificial turf to release toxic substances, and even lead in certain fields (pg. 42-43). Although further study would require some investment according to DEP (pg. 43), perhaps it is necessary for the analysis to be truly thorough and rigorous.

The above is by no means a thorough review of each page of the report. It simply represents some observations on the draft as it relates to the CAB’s earlier letter. The CAB hopes that before the final report the working group will consider the above and strengthen the final product.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us should you have any questions or like any additional information.

Sincerely,
Jeff Hearle, Chair

cc: The Honorable Isiah Leggett, County Executive
   The Honorable Valerie Ervin, Council President
   The Honorable Roger Berliner, Councilmember, District 1
   The Honorable Phil Andrews, Councilmember, District 3
Subject: RE: Turf Fields in Damascus
From: Nancy Kelso (collievet@msn.com)
To: turfreportresponse@yahoo.com;
Date: Tue, 31 May 2011 15:37:49

I would like to support turf fields in Damascus. With a child attending the local schools and playing soccer, I understand how greatly this would benefit the community.

Thank you,

Nancy Kelso
9001 Hawkins Creamery Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20882