

Paul Foley

From: Saskia Vanderhoop [saskiav@icloud.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:05 PM
To: Paul Foley
Subject: dirt vs turf

Hello,

I am unsure who to send this to, and kindly send along to the right person. Thank you.

By request of the MVEEA, herewith the letter on behalf of myself and Sassafras Earth Education, that was placed in the MV Times, on the topic of turf versus dirt.

I support the stance that dirt has worked great for us for many years, and it would be a safe choice for the future to stick to the natural paradigm. It has proven to stand the test of time with a gold star, anything artificial really hasn't.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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We live in very important times.

Have you ever stopped to think how awkward the conversation would be between, lets say, your great-granddaughter and your great-great-grandson? "Mom why does the world in old pictures look so beautiful, spacious and clean?" "Well, that's because your great grandparents and the ones before them, thought that convenience was more important than our well-being."

Really? Think about it, and you may find some truth.

In "our" world where connection mostly refers to an electronic signal, having plastic turf makes total sense. For convenience sake, we keep our children indoors, transport them in cars, playing on, and with artificial surfaces, maxing out all we can manage.

That's not how we came to be the amazing, flexible, problem solving, creative beings we are today. That's because we lived out there; in dirt, weather, seasons, challenges, victories, and all that made us who we are today. Maybe we can think about that for a moment and come to realize that we are not here just for ourselves either. Just like our grandparents, sooner than later, we will leave a legacy behind. What would you like yours to be? Convenience?

Why do humans play sports in the first place? Okay, we all know its the challenge that gets us going, plus we all crave belonging like water, so we take one for the team. But below that, there is healing in play, getting grounded, down and dirty, a primal warrior-ess energy that is being met. Its about getting real with yourself, meeting your essence; a grounded, natural and wild human being.

Why not stick with what worked for probably a million years or so: Come home after a game with dirt on your knees and give mom and dad something to talk about. Do we really want to continue on the path of disconnecting with what's real, till we totally max out all our resources? Or would you prefer seeing your grandkids come home with dirt on their knees?**Saskia**