

From: Wendy Forest
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Alex Elvin
Subject: Comment on artificial turf

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission
Re: proposed artificial turf for sports

What kind of culture do we want to be? What values will this community teach our youth?

Do we really need to dominate nature (with plastic "grass") for the purpose of training domination over each other (with aggressive sports)? Our cultural inability to coexist in peace with nature and coexist in peace with each other is at the heart of all the troubles in the world. Are we fostering skills to use in war? Are we teaching that nature is expendable for our entertainment?

Why not find a way to limit our activities to that which can be supported by natural grass? Generations of farmers around the world have learned to use natural fields in a sustainable way, by supporting biological life which supports the grass to thrive, by setting reasonable goals, thoughtful monitoring, and rotating use.

Why not put that same land and public funds into a learning center for organic farming? This would offer: physical exercise, collaboration toward a common goal, essential job skills, pride in an essential product, understanding of ecology, creative problem solving, inspire healthy eating, all at the same time as supporting biological life and reducing our negative impact to the environment.

Why not put more resources into creating various other more positive and peaceful opportunities for youth that don't require plastic "grass"? With your leadership, our community can be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Thank you for your consideration,
Wendy Forest