



## Martha's Vineyard Youth Lacrosse

The Martha's Vineyard Commission  
33 New York Ave  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
Jan 7th, 2021  
Attn: Alex Elvin

Mr Elvin,

On behalf of The Board of Directors of Martha's Vineyard Youth Lacrosse, we're sending our OVERWHELMING support for the track and synthetic turf field planned at MVRHS!

For as long as our program has been around the fields at MVRHS have been our home and critical to our program's success. Our program serves over 200 island families each season with players ranging in ages from 6 to 14! According to US Lacrosse, our sport is one of the fastest growing sports in the US and our program's increased enrollement, year after year, is proof of that! Lacrosse on MV is VERY big and growing fast!

Lacrosse is a very competitive sport that unfortunately isn't very kind to natural grass. For our most recent season we sent just one of our teams to practice at the grass fields installed and maintained by the Field Fund at the Oak Bluffs School and the damage to the fields is really shocking. To put it simply, a lacrosse program of 8 teams and a couple hundred kids will destroy any grass we play on. That's just a fact.

Undoubtedly the MVC will hear from many "experts" in grass field installation and maintenance. Some of these "experts" are merely self serving parents or individuals with fancy sounding websites but NO real prior knowledge or experience in sports field maintiencce. To say a middle school gym class has the same effect on grass as a competitive sports teams is just plane crazy. I encourage your committee to simply look at the image below to understand the horrific conditions our children are playing in and to FINALLY vote to put our student athletes on a safe & level surface that is cost effective and easy to maintain. With over 2/3rds of the MVRHS student body as athletes of one or more sports, it's time to finally put their safety first. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that sports are a mental health outlet our children desperately need!

Respectfully,

Joe Mikos, President  
Lyra Paciello, Treasurer  
Kim D'Arcy, Secretary  
Kim Averill, Registrar  
Jim Geary, Scheduler  
Jack McGroarty, Boys Program Director  
Rachel Perry, Parent Coordinator

