

The Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Ave.
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

November 19, 2020

First off, I'm surprised that this is still a conversation that we are having here on Martha's Vineyard. We have been taking steps to reduce the amount of plastic on the island for years now; taking steps to eliminate single use plastic bags, banning the release of balloons, and so many people are now carrying their own metal straws, So why would we all of a sudden want to put 2 acres of plastic grass in the middle of the island for kids to play on? This doesn't make sense from an ecological or health stand point.

The artificial field, no matter what synthetic material it's made from, doesn't breakdown into useful components that are readily used by the surrounding nature, like a traditional field does. It's plastic and it only breaks down to smaller plastic particles, that will get washed by rain or when the field gets scrubbed (because you have to now sterilize it, to prevent bacterial and virus') into our watersheds. From the watersheds these micro-plastics and other harsh chemicals make into the ponds, and into the bellies of the clams and bivalves that filter this water. Gross!

There are so many other reasons why synthetic turf is terrible, but I can't think of one reason why it's even a good idea. Protect our land, protect our water, protect the future. Martha's Vineyard deserves better.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ewart
Tisbury Resident