

# Keep Natural Turf on the MVRHS Playing Fields

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Mon 2/1/2021 11:09 AM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: Mimi Davisson <mimi02557@aol.com>;

To Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission;

I am writing to urge that natural turf be kept on the MVRHS playing fields.

My concerns:

- Players will be exposed repetitively to toxic chemicals in the turf, even in small amounts; and those chemicals could leach into the groundwater. I have the same concern about chemicals that will be needed to periodically cleanse, maintain, and replace the turf.
- The periodic need for replacement and disposal of plastic turf will be expensive and disruptive.
- The future high school budget will be increased by adding another specialized tool (plastic turf) that will need attention from specialized professionals. If necessary, volunteers could maintain and replace natural turf on the playing fields but they would not be able to maintain and replace plastic turf.
- I am not aware of what financial commitments private supporters of plastic turf have made. Donations for a specialized gift such as plastic turf should always include a companion endowment to fund the future maintenance, replacement, disposal of the turf. If supporters have not guaranteed such an endowment, plastic turf should not even be considered.

The youth of Martha's Vineyard have shown us that they care about the future of the Island. They've worked hard to ban plastic bags, plastic straws, and balloons. Let's support them by having natural, not plastic, turf on the high school playing fields.

Thanks for listening. Ciao. Mimi Davisson

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