

To the Newton City Council:

In accordance with Article 10, Section 10-2 of the Newton Charter, we ask the Council for consideration of our proposal that the City of Newton postpone any immediate action for new or replacement artificial turf anywhere in Newton pending the completion, public presentation, and public hearing of each of the following:

1. A comprehensive study of the demand for playing fields by school sports, youth sports, camps, and the general public and the adequacy of the field scheduling system;
2. The incorporation into the definition of playability health and medical guidelines for physical activity on artificial turf to avoid heat stroke, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, chemical exposure, and other harm, including specifically the greater health impacts on young children.
3. The development of a sustainable and organic management and maintenance plan for existing and future natural grass playing fields, using such proven methods as those of Osborne Organics (<https://osborneorganics.com/method/>);
4. A comparative analysis by independent researchers of the total costs of natural grass fields versus artificial turf, including
 - a. disposal of current turf fields (meeting legal requirements for hazardous waste and unrecyclable materials);
 - b. preparation and installation of new fields;
 - c. annual and routine maintenance chemicals and supplies, operations, and repairs;
 - d. measuring and monitoring environmental contamination from run-off for PFAS, microplastics, and other hazardous materials;
 - e. repairing fields after extreme heat and extreme storm events;
 - f. potential liability for hazardous material contamination (PFAS) at greater than 20 parts per trillion (PFAS Interagency Task Force Report, Massachusetts, April 2022, p. 60).

