

Opposed to new synthetic turf fields in Glastonbury

Glastonbury, CT Webmaster <webmaster@glastonbury-ct.gov>

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To: Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@glastonbury-ct.gov>;

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Message submitted from the <Glastonbury, CT> website.

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Case Western Reserve University-grass is better-likelihood of 58% more athletes to sustain injuries on artificial turf.

<https://www.uhhospitals.org/for-clinicians/articles-and-news/articles/2019/08/artificial-turf-versus-natural-grass>. Not just increase of injuries on synthetics but consider the severity of the injuries. Other issues are excessive heat while playing on synthetic, turf burns, players not putting hands in mouth while playing on it until hands are cleaned. Maybe synthetic is safe but be careful of it.

From the Synthetic Turf Council <https://www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/page/Research>. The conclusion, from research 2011-2016, is studies found no significant differences exist between team & player performance, and in injuries, on synthetic turf & natural grass; also there are environmental non-risks versus grass. Why spend \$3M if there is no recognized player performance?

CT DPH does not endorse Artificial Turf with issues outlined. <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/Environmental-Health/Environmental-and-Occupational-Health-Assessment/Artificial-Turf-Fields>

Cost of newest material vs older synthetic? GHS athletes have been highly competitive without synthetic turf fields.

ongoing costs of maintaining synthetic fields. Detailed BE costs of natural grass vs synthetic should be understood. Say it costs \$6K/year for synthetic maint and in 12-15 yrs there will be either 40-50% major overall or new synthetic fields required. Is Glast willing to commit a further exp of \$300K, \$500K or \$1M at that time?

Capital must be prioritized. Synthetic fields, appear to be a want and not a need, vs weight room vs BOE addressing the 5th grade's issues of over crowding In schools space crunches.

Do not rush to a decision with approx \$3M being spent, injuries and health risk issues until you are absolutely sure which is the right decision.

Jim Miselis

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