

Lopez, Donna

From: Hilary Hopkins [hopkinsjh@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 11:52 AM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Plastic turf at Danehy

To the City Council members:

We would like to add our voices to others opposed to the plastic "turf" at Danehy Park. We live in the Danehy Park neighborhood and for as long as this lovely park has been in existence we have enjoyed running, walking, picnicking, sky-watching, nature study, and photography there, nearly every week or, often, daily. It is a real jewel.

We are amazed that the drastic action of replacing grass with plastic "turf" is to be taken without any general neighborhood input. This does not seem right; others use the park and the fields beside soccer players.

Fake "turf" requires a lot of maintenance. Noxious things that land on it—spit, sweat, dog and bird droppings, and other things which soccer players might deposit in a time of need but which we will not name (I have also seen tiny children depositing this material when in need, while watching soccer games with parents)—those things which would decay naturally on a natural surface with its abundant natural processes in place, will just sit there on a bed of plastic, until swept away by park workers. We also wonder how long this plastic lasts, when exposed to lots of sunlight and heavy use. How much does it cost to replace it?

Interestingly, a near neighbor of ours put in some plastic "turf" in a tiny yard she had in front of her house. It seemed fine for about three years, but we noticed over time how disgusting it became, and we could actually smell it when walking by on a hot day. Finally she removed it and planted grass. That was about 15 years ago, and the grass is healthy and clean.

Please, please do not replace the real with the fake. Or at least leave some fields undamaged.

Thank you.

John and Hilary Hopkins
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