

CRLS ATHLETICS



80

Thomas P. Arria, III
Director of Athletics
Office: 617-349-6691
Cell: 617-599-9970
Email: tarria@cpsd.us

Dear Members of City Council:

I am writing this letter in support of the Danehy Field #3 renovation proposal. As the Athletic Director for Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, this project will further support not only CRLS Athletic Programs, but also other high schools, our middle schools, and youth and recreational programs in our city. In the role of athletic director for 10 years, I have worked on several committees in multiple communities for proposals, and renovations and installations of artificial turf surfaces. The great benefit of artificial turf fields is that they allow for continuous play. The surface remains playable despite, the rain, cold, or snow. The same is not true for natural grass surfaces; the more play on a natural surface requires more money and maintenance to keep it safe and playable. When it rains, the field cannot be used. After the winter season, weather dictates when the field is ready to be utilized. Additionally, a natural surface must remain inactive for at least 1-2 seasons every 3-4 years.

I would urge everyone to look at the purpose of an athletic field. I would imagine that the constituents in our city would agree that is it about providing opportunities for as many groups, organizations, teams and citizens to use the surface whenever possible. An artificial turf field provides such opportunity. The Danehy Field Complex has plenty of natural green space, a dog park, and walking paths; Field #3 is not used outside of athletic contests, practices and pickup games. To ensure safety of those utilizing the field and to allow maximum use of the playing surface itself renovating it as an artificial turf field is essential.

On behalf of the Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, our Athletic Department, Coaches, student athletes and all the athletic programs in the city, I thank you for your time and consideration with the proposed renovation of Danehy Field #3.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Arria, III