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Mr. Mayor, Members of the City Council

My name is Sandy Gould and I live at 23R Fairmont St. I am a soccer coach, soccer parent and member of the CYS board of directors. Multiple communities including those in Connecticut, California, and Maryland and organizations, including the EPA and Penn State, have looked into the safety of turf fields with respect to player health and have found that overall, turf is as safe if not safer than grass. This is especially true with respect to concussions and long term injuries. From personal experience, I would argue that turf is much safer for play ~~of many types~~ than a poorly maintained or wet grass field. Unfortunately, most of the fields in Cambridge fall into one of those categories quite frequently, although I would not blame the city works department for that. We live in a climate that is not easy on grass and in a city with many residents who value and use our many parks. Our fields just get so much use that it is very difficult to keep them in good shape. We need fields that can be used as often as possible and in many types of weather – turf is not appropriate for all things, but for team sports like soccer, which approximately 1000 Cambridge children enjoy through our youth soccer program, it is a wonderful alternative. I urge all members of the City Council to support the conversion of Danehy Field 3 to turf.

Thank you for your time.