

Karen Bockoven

From: Delia Kaye
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Ed Nardi; Greg Higgins (ghiggins@barrettsir.com); Judy Zaunbrecher (judy.nrc@gmail.com); Nick Pappas (nickgpappas2020@gmail.com); Sarah Grimwood (sarahgrimwoodnrc@gmail.com)
Cc: Colleen Puzas; Karen Bockoven
Subject: FW: Questions and comments re: Middlesex artificial turf fields project

FYI

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Delia Kaye | Natural Resources Director  
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**From:** sharon\_mcg@comcast.net [mailto:sharon\_mcg@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:37 PM  
**To:** Delia Kaye  
**Subject:** Questions and comments re: Middlesex artificial turf fields project

Hi Delia,  
I submit the following questions, and brief testimony, for the NRC hearing tonight on the Middlesex School fields projects.

Questions:

1. How many cubic yards of soil will be removed during excavation of these fields?
2. How many truck trips to move the soil to new location?
3. Are there plans to use the excavated soil on-site or off-site?
4. If onsite, will soil horizons be preserved and the soils translocated to preserve the original soil structure and biological composition?

From a climate, biodiversity and ecosystem health standpoint, it is pure folly to excavate such huge volumes of soil and truck it off-site for use or sale. With even one field (for this project, three fields proposed), tons of carbon will be released through this operation, from the soils excavation and also the tremendous number of truck trips to and from the site. If the soil is reused on-site, you still have the massive release of stored carbon. This flies in the face of town efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

In the end, Concord's carbon emissions reductions count only if they are not cancelled out by carbon releases through land conversion.

With the excavation of these soils, we will also lose precious water retention on the landscape and attendant local climate cooling from this water retention. In addition to carbon cycle and water cycle impacts, we will lose the nutrient cycling and energy cycling benefits of this landscape.

Given the artificial field material is still plastic, these fields will become significant heat islands, reflecting heat onto players and into the atmosphere.

The thousands of artificial turf fields already constructed in the U.S. and around the world create enormous amounts of heat trapped by anthropogenic greenhouse gasses. Towns like Concord, and indeed every jurisdiction – from municipal to state to country and continent -- should reduce heat islands, not create them.

Please consider how greatly construction of these and other artificial turf fields in Concord contradict and undermine our community's climate and biodiversity/ecosystem goals, including reduced carbon emissions to zero as quickly as possible (from fossil fuel combustion, land conversion, plastics use, etc.) and increased carbon drawdown in nature. If we are vigilant about reducing carbon emissions, eliminating (and certainly not creating) heat islands, and increasing nature-based carbon drawdown, Concord can achieve what must be a local, state, regional, country-level and continental goal: ***Net Carbon Sink*** status.

I am interested to learn more tonight about wetlands impacts from this project, also of concern.

With these considerations, even "environmentally friendly" artificial turf projects like these make zero sense from the standpoint of climate and biodiversity/ecology.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
*Sharon McGregor*

70 Williams Road  
Concord, MA