

# **YOUTH ISSUES**

**From:** [Aberash Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Jessica Pearson](#); [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Affordable housing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:32:38 AM

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Dear Kittery Town Councils,

I am pleased to speak with every one of you today. I am a student at Traip Academy and am so thankful for all the work you guys are doing in your positions and it's not gone unnoticed. I am here today to share with you my concerns about affordable housing in Kittery Maine. I know this has been a recurring issue that has been brought up multiple times through the years. I want to express my concern coming from a young resident who cares about her town and community and the state of things. I have found and researched that, in our town that we have made some sort of framework to solve this never-ending problem that is affecting so many incoming new residents who want to be a part of the town. My real question is since we have a form of framework to lower the impact of affordable housing to fix the problem, when are we going to start and are we waiting for a certain year to begin the process, that so many people in the town voiced their opinions on? Do we have to keep watching the numbers of new families withdrawing from the town and school systems, because they don't have the money or their family can't just live in one size rental space? Even our superintendent Eric Wadal has expressed how much weight this problem is causing on the decline in numbers of new families leaving the schools, due to not being able to find a suitable home, especially for a family of four and even more. The downside of so many families having to leave the school system is that we have low numbers in our school systems, mainly in the younger grade levels. The overall fact is that new families coming from other areas increase our diversity and cultural perspective which is good for a small town, so the lack of new families takes away that goal that we want in this community. I also understand that there's no simple solution to this problem but I wonder when we will start to make a little bit bigger steps from the framework that was made. In our town for example a non-profit company named Fair Tide has done lots of great work and made an impact on affordable housing and helping homeless residents be able to hold a home through all the donations they get. I'm wondering if we can find a way to make that big of an impact like the local store. It doesn't have to be related to retail, just maybe an action. And I'm not saying we're not trying to fix this affordable house issue for newcomers, I know this topic has repeatedly been brought up to the table and spoken about, and I'm thinking whether we can take action from all the things we need to do for this issues, instead of gathering and decision upon it, and I know how effective it is to plan things out and talk about, but then some sort of action needs to be taken. I also truly understand this can't be done that simply. Also Is there a way we can get money for the town besides housing and rentals that people buy, so housing isn't the highest profit for our town? I'm strongly voicing my opinion on this local problem because I'm speaking about this problem for young residents like me who someday may want to own or live in a home here, but might not get that dream because of house prices being a problem. Even though this

issue doesn't affect everyone in the town who already live here, it affects possible future residents of this town. Therefore in a small town like ours, actions do tremendously have so much power over them. Thank Town Council members for all the work you have done and thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

sincerely,  
Aberash Robinson

**From:** [Ava Anzelmo](#)  
**To:** [Jessica Pearson](#); [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment about Affordable Housing  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:54:39 AM

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Dear Town Council Members,

My name is Ava Anzelmo and I'm a junior at Traip Academy and I have been a Kittery resident since 2012. I'm writing this letter to you to discuss an issue that has personally affected me, Affordable Housing. I have heard this issue talked about among your meetings and most of you advocated for more affordable housing when you were running for your position in the council, but I haven't seen much that has been done about the issue. One of the only things being done, which is still in the process of being built, is more apartment buildings which will create more affordable housing. But the apartments are usually only 1-2 bedrooms which doesn't encourage families to move here, which can cause problems down the road for the town. This can impose a big problem for our schools and the people who work in the school district because some will lose their jobs due to the lack of students that need to be taught. This can also make less opportunities for students in the school district and make school less fun for some students which can have a negative effect on the graduation rates and students mental health. I understand that it's hard to build more apartment buildings due to the fact that most of the kittery is dedicated to historical sites or are wetlands so that makes it hard to expand the town. But there are other ways to do this. One idea that I thought of is the fact that there is a marijuana store on every corner in this town. Are more going to be built? Instead of having all of these stores for the same thing, why not condense it to just one store. The outlets are another thing. Many stores in the outlets barely make it by so why not condense all the stores to one spot and make more housing there? Something else that has caught my attention is the bias against people that get help from the state to pay their rent in the form of section-eight. I have seen countless ads on websites of homes for rent, but it clearly specifies that no one with section-eight can rent there. Personally I feel there should be laws and ordinances in place to make it so there isn't a disadvantage for those who get help from the state to pay rent. I also talked to people who live around me in Woodland Commons and there are some that have a section-eight and they're rent is \$2,715 and those who don't have a section-eight only pay \$1,700. This set off a red flag to me in the sense that the difference in the rent is over \$1,000. I am well aware of the fact that Kittery is becoming more expensive due to the fact that we are a tourist town and are right next to the shipyard but there should be more things being done to protect people who are just trying to make a living and support their families. I feel the town should have more resources for those who need it like more programs for people to be a part of to get more financial assistance and vouchers because the prices keep going up but people's incomes are not. This can cause families to move

out of their homes and pull their children from the school system which can cause negative effects on the children. So to sum this all up, I believe that you, the town council who are there to take action to support your citizens, should be passing more ordinances to protect those whose voices aren't as loud as yours.

Thank you for taking your time to read my letter,

Sincerely,

Ava Anzelmo

**From:** [Phinian Fifield](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Encouraging Youth Involvement  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 1:47:54 PM

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Dear Kittery Town Council,

My name is Phin Fifield. I am a 16 year old junior at Traip Academy. Recently, some peers of mine, Angelina Murdock and Riley Nadeau, attended a Town Council meeting and spoke during public comment. They were concerned about the Town Council not providing the youth of Kittery with enough resources to become involved with Town Council meetings and with community issues as a whole. I am reaching out to you to suggest some ways the Town Council can help the youth be more aware of Town Council meetings and the issues discussed and become more involved.

The first course of action I would suggest is to create an Instagram account for the Town Council. Instagram is an extremely popular social media app amongst teenagers, and many kids use the platform to keep up with community events and issues. For example, Traip Academy has an instagram account that many students follow to stay updated on school events. Whenever there is an upcoming school event such as a basketball game, a dance, or a play, Traip will post all of the details of the event as well as the date and time of the event multiple days in advance. It would be very beneficial to encouraging youth involvement if the Town Council created an Instagram account and posted dates and times of the meetings a week or so in advance.

Another course of action I would suggest is to pay a visit to both the high school and middle school at the beginning of each school year, and host an assembly educating the student body about the Town Council as a whole and how youth involvement is important. This would encourage many students to look more into community events and issues and become more involved. The main problem is not that students are not concerned about community issues, it is that they don't know enough about them or how they can get involved with these issues. Directly speaking to the student body and encouraging youth involvement in Town Council meetings will help educate many young people and help the community to continue striving for generations to come.

The final thing I would suggest is to elect a student representative to the Town Council. As you may already know, the School Committee has an elected student representative, Camden Wiles. Camden is very well-known at the school, and has a positive relationship with many teachers and students. Camden has mentioned School Board meetings and the issues they discuss on multiple occasions to me and to others. As a result, I found that, before doing more research on the Town Council, I was much more educated on the School Board than I was on the Town Council. That

being said, I think electing a student representative to the Council will inspire many more students to become more educated and involved.

Youth involvement in Town Council meetings is very important to the future of the community. It is to my understanding that the Town Council meeting dates and logs are accessible online if specifically searched for, but the majority of the youth do not know how to go about finding this information or how it will benefit them and the rest of the community. The courses of action suggested above will help welcome and encourage youth involvement. I hope you all consider my suggestions.

Sincerely, Phin Fifield

# **MEMORIAL FIELD**



**From:** [Retta Fitch](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Synthetic turf  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:27:22 PM

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I do not support the installation of synthetic turf as proposed for rec center.  
Seems like it has been researched by "the powers that be" for many years and has been deemed not healthy for the environment nor an individual.

Retta Fitch  
5 sunset drive  
Kittery

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Ryan Bailey](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** No to a Turf Field for Memorial Field  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:25:50 PM

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Hi,

I am a big supporter of the work of the Kittery Athletics & Field Committee, and am supportive of the broader effort to improve recreation in Kittery, but I am heavily against the installation of a turf field at Memorial Field.

This goes against where we are headed in Kittery and will end up being a liability for the Town, both for its environment and for the taxpayers. Please reconsider this element of the Kittery Recreation Plan.

Thanks  
Ryan Bailey  
16 Charles Hill Road  
Kittery Point, ME 03905

Town Council members, thank you for your time and continued leadership in Kittery.

I am disheartened to learn that the proposed revitalization plan includes the installation of a synthetic turf field at Memorial Park.

As a member and leader of Kittery Climate Action Now, a grassroots organization focused on making our community more sustainable and resilient to climate change, I worked alongside the Climate Adaptation Committee to promote the adoption of the Climate Action Plan strategies. Now, as I review the plan for Memorial Field, I feel as if all this hard work to bring our community together to create a more resilient Kittery has been in vain – a synthetic turf field goes against the goals laid out in the “Land Use and Natural Environment” and “Health, Safety, and Well-Being” strategies.

Research shows that crumb rubber, the infill material used in synthetic turf fields contain a large number of chemicals, many of which are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment.<sup>1</sup> “Natural” alternatives to crumb rubber used in the manufacturing of synthetic turf also contain carcinogens and neurotoxins.<sup>2</sup>

Further, a recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (also known as PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease, in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water<sup>3</sup>. Recent actions by the US EPA highlight increasing recognition that there is no safe level of PFAS exposure.<sup>4</sup>

A study by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection identified concerns related to a number of chemicals in stormwater runoff from artificial turf fields that are of particular concern to aquatic organisms.<sup>5</sup>

Artificial turf needs to be replaced every 8 to 10 years, at which point it ends up in a landfill and will never break down. Not only that, when the full life cycle cost of artificial turf is taken into consideration, it is more expensive than a natural grass field.

All artificial turf surfaces examined have been shown to have higher surface temperature and air temperature at head height compared with natural grass; on a warm summer day, vigorous play in these conditions conveys a very real risk of burns, dehydration, heat stress, or heat stroke.

I sympathize with the desire to increase the number of uses Memorial Field can withstand and am supportive of the revitalization plan, but I do not believe that this should be considered without regard to all other costs. Are we teaching our children that we can make decisions without any responsibility or accountability to the environmental and social impacts of our actions? I certainly hope not. Please consider my comment and refuse the installation of synthetic turf in the town of Kittery.

Jaime Silverstein  
16 Charles Hill Road, Kittery Point

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<sup>1</sup> TURI (Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell), [“Athletic Playing Fields and Artificial Turf: Considerations for Municipalities and Institutions.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> TURI (Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell), [“Athletic Playing Fields and Artificial Turf: Considerations for Municipalities and Institutions;”](#) Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, [“Position Statement on the Use of Artificial Turf Surfaces.”](#)

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Working Group, “New Studies Show PFAS in Artificial Grass Blades and Backing;” Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, [“Position Statement on the Use of Artificial Turf Surfaces.”](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, [“Position Statement on the Use of Artificial Turf Surfaces.”](#)

<sup>5</sup> TURI (Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell), [“Athletic Playing Fields and Artificial Turf: Considerations for Municipalities and Institutions.”](#)

**From:** [Joanna Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Turf vs. grass  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:01:00 PM

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Hello,

Thank you for your time. I wanted to reach out in support of real grass instead of turf for the memorial field project. One of the charms of Maine and our climate is that our weather and land can sustain real grass. It adds value to our town and maintains its authentic, small town feel. Thank you for considering amending the project.

Best,

Joanna Higgins

**From:** [Kittery Climate Action Now](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 3/25/24 on Memorial Field Synthetic Turf  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:58:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [SAY NO TO SYNTHETIC TURF.pdf](#)  
[Names for Memorial Field Commen.pdf](#)

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Dear Town Council Members,

Please find a public comment by Kittery Climate Action Now, endorsed by the attached Kittery citizens. I've attached a pdf of our statement, as well as copied the text below.

Thank you,  
Kittery Climate Action Now

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We disagree with the [proposed plan for Memorial Park](#) to turn a soil-based field into synthetic turf.

Kittery has invested in a climate action plan that prioritizes “land use and the natural environment” and “health” as two major strategies, but has disregarded these values when trying to find a solution to improve the functionality of Memorial Field.

For the following reasons, synthetic turf is harmful to the climate, environment, and human health.

**Impacts on the climate and environment:**

- Environmental concerns include **loss of wildlife habitat, migration of synthetic particles into the environment, and contaminated stormwater runoff.** ([TURI](#))
- Artificial turf lasts for 8 to 10 years, after which it is typically disposed of in a landfill. ([GBA](#))
- Loss of the potential to **capture carbon** in a healthy soil ecosystem ([GBA](#))

**Impacts on human health:**

- The Mount Sinai Children’s Environmental Health Center recommends against the installation of artificial turf playing surfaces and fields due to the **uncertainties surrounding the safety of these products and the potential for dangerous heat and chemical exposures.** ([Mount Sinai](#))
- Undisclosed chemicals of concern are present in plastic grass blades and turf

pads and matting. A recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including **cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease** in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water." ([Mount Sinai](#), [EWG](#))

**Impacts on cost:**

- In analyzing the costs of artificial vs. natural grass systems, it is important to consider full life-cycle costs, including installation, maintenance, and disposal/replacement. ([TURI](#))
- In general, **the full life cycle cost of an artificial turf field is higher than the cost of a natural grass field.** ([TURI](#))



## SAY NO TO SYNTHETIC TURF

We disagree with the [proposed plan for Memorial Park](#) to turn a soil-based field into synthetic turf.

Kittery has invested in a climate action plan that prioritizes “land use and the natural environment” and “health” as two major strategies, but has disregarded these values when trying to find a solution to improve the functionality of Memorial Field.

For the following reasons, synthetic turf is harmful to the climate, environment, and human health.

### Impacts on the climate and environment:

- Environmental concerns include **loss of wildlife habitat, migration of synthetic particles into the environment, and contaminated stormwater runoff.** ([TURI](#))
- Artificial turf lasts for 8 to 10 years, after which it is typically disposed of in a landfill. ([GBA](#))
- Loss of the potential to **capture carbon** in a healthy soil ecosystem ([GBA](#))

### Impacts on human health:

- The Mount Sinai Children’s Environmental Health Center recommends against the installation of artificial turf playing surfaces and fields due to the **uncertainties surrounding the safety of these products and the potential for dangerous heat and chemical exposures.** ([Mount Sinai](#))
- Undisclosed chemicals of concern are present in plastic grass blades and turf pads and matting. A recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including **cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease** in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water." ([Mount Sinai](#), [EWG](#))

### Impacts on cost:

- In analyzing the costs of artificial vs. natural grass systems, it is important to consider full life-cycle costs, including installation, maintenance, and disposal/replacement. ([TURI](#))
- In general, **the full life cycle cost of an artificial turf field is higher than the cost of a natural grass field.** ([TURI](#))





**From:** [Catrina Barb](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Turf fields  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:33:44 PM

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Please do not include turf fields in the new proposed plan to Memorial Fields!  
It is bad for the health of our children, our environment, and will cost more than a natural grass over the lifetime of upkeep.

I hope you reconsider the turf option!  
Thank you for your time,  
Catrina Muolo  
Resident of Kittery and parent of 2

**From:** [Christina White](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Artificial turf proposal for Memorial Field  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 5:39:25 AM

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Dear Town Councilors and Town Manager Amaral,

I am in agreement with Kittery CAN's position regarding the consideration of use of synthetic turf on KCC's Memorial Field.

My concerns include the health of those using a synthetic turf surface, the environment, and the full cost of such a decision.

Please remove synthetic turf from further consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christina A. White  
19 Whipple Rd

**From:** [Betty Olivolo](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for March 25th Town Meeting--against synthetic turf in Kittery  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 9:08:48 PM

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Dear Town Council members,

Thank you for your time and continued leadership in Kittery. This is an issue that is very important to me, and I am sorry not to be able to deliver this in person.

I am very upset to learn that the Memorial Field proposed revitalization plan includes the installation of a synthetic turf field. As a member Kittery Climate Action Now, a grassroots organization focused on making our community more sustainable and resilient to climate change, we have worked alongside the Climate Adaptation Committee to promote the adoption of the Climate Action Plan strategies. Now, as I review the plan for Memorial Field, I feel as if all this hard work to bring our community together to create a more resilient Kittery has been in vain – a synthetic turf field goes against the goals laid out in the “Land Use and Natural Environment” and “Health, Safety, and Well-Being” strategies.

Research shows that crumb rubber, the infill material used in synthetic turf fields contain a large number of chemicals, many of which are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment. “Natural” alternatives to crumb rubber used in the manufacturing of synthetic turf also contain carcinogens and neurotoxins. Further, a recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (also known as PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease, in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water. Recent actions by the US EPA highlight increasing recognition that there is no safe level of PFAS exposure.

And did you know that a study by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection identified concerns related to several chemicals in stormwater runoff from artificial turf fields that are of particular concern to aquatic organisms? Plus artificial turf needs to be replaced every 8 to 10 years, at which point it ends up in a landfill and will never break down. Not only that, when the full life cycle cost of artificial turf is taken into consideration, it is more expensive than a natural grass field.

In addition, all artificial turf surfaces examined have been shown to have higher surface temperature and air temperature at head height compared with natural grass; on a warm summer day, vigorous play in these conditions conveys a very real risk of burns, dehydration, heat stress, or heat stroke.

I understand the desire to increase the number of uses Memorial Field can withstand and am supportive of the revitalization plan, but I do not believe that this should be considered without regard to all other costs. Are we teaching our children that we can make decisions without any responsibility or accountability for the environmental and social impacts of our actions? I certainly hope not. Please consider this, and refuse the installation of synthetic turf in the town of Kittery.

Thank you,

Betty Olivolo

5 Philbrick Lane, #3

Kittery, ME 03904

603-686-1954

**From:** [Melissa Paly](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Memorial Field Revitalization Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:02:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [SAY NO TO SYNTHETIC TURF.pdf](#)  
[Public Comment on Synthetic Turf Proposal for Memorial Field\\_Silverstein.pdf](#)

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To the members of the Kittery Town Council,

I am pleased to see the evolving plans for renovation and revitalization at the Kittery Community Center and Memorial Field and support many elements of the conceptual plans. The one element I do not support is the installation of synthetic turf fields.

I recognize how difficult this issue is, with the lure that artificial turf allows for an extended season and more hours of play per day with less maintenance. Yet I agree with the many points enumerated by Jaime Silverstein and Kittery Climate Action Now (attached) that artificial turf presents risks to human health and the environment that can be avoided by using natural grass and organic turf management techniques that have proven effective in other communities.

I urge you to reject using artificial turf at Memorial Field and opt instead for a playing surface that is healthier for our children, more protective of water quality, and that will avoid use of petroleum-based plastic that must be landfilled at the end of its useful life. We can - and must - do better for our community.

Respectfully,

Melissa Paly  
8 Old Cart Path  
Kittery Point

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[Melissa Paly](#)  
[mpaly01@gmail.com](mailto:mpaly01@gmail.com)  
603-502-0798

**From:** [Kim Paskalis](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Memorial Field Project  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:36:31 PM

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Hello Ladies and Gentleman of the Kittery Town Council,

I am writing to submit a public comment to the proposed Memorial Field Project. I strongly object to the use of synthetic turf and asphalt parking for this project for the concerns listed below and because the use of these materials is counter to Kittery's commitment to mitigating the impacts of climate change in our community.

- Synthetic turf and paved parking create 'heat island' effects- According to Penn State's Center for Sports Surface Research, generally, synthetic turf is 35 to 55 ' F hotter than natural grass.
- The manufacturing, installation, and disposal of synthetic turf (typically needs replacement every 8 to 10 years) is dependent on fossil fuels and generates CO2.
- Synthetic turf increases our carbon footprint. Natural grass surfaces reduce CO2.

In addition to these negative climate impacts, please consider the many health concerns of using synthetic turf including:

- The out gassing of hazardous chemicals that are used in the manufacture of synthetic turf, and the exposure to hazardous chemicals used in the maintenance of synthetic turf i.e. disinfectants, anti-static treatments, solvents for repairs. Also, the tire rubber used in most synthetic turf products can contain lead and /or other harmful metal.
- Run off from synthetic turf degrades water quality with contaminants.
- There is research that showing an increased risk of orthopedic, concussion and heat related injuries on synthetic turf.

Many communities and organizations are rethinking their use of synthetic turf including the NFL Players Association who recently said they prefer to play on high quality grass rather than synthetic turf. They noted that playing on turf can decrease a players career by 2 - 3 years.

There are alternative systems and products that can provide a high quality athletic facility that are more in line with our climate action goals. Thank you this opportunity to comment, for your time and careful consideration of this project.

Sincerely,  
Kim Paskalis  
(Kittery Resident)

**From:** [ARILDA DENSCH](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Concern over the use of artificial turf on Kittery athletic fields  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 9:00:00 PM

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Today I'm writing with concerns over the proposed use of artificial turf at Memorial Field and the KCC playing field as part of the Recreation for All improvements.

I've read through the all the proposed improvements to the KCC as part of the Campus Master Plan, and also through the Revitalized Master Plan for Memorial Field. There are many wonderful improvements listed. Many thanks go to the town committees for all of their hard work on this.

But I am very concerned about the use of artificial turf on any of Kittery's playing fields. I've read about artificial turf and spoken with others who have first hand experience with it. Not only does natural turf seem a superior playing surface that would be less expensive in the long run, it is also a choice more consistent with Kittery's strong commitment to environmentally sustainable practices. With artificial turf after an expensive installation and 8 -10 years of potentially expensive maintenance, artificial turf ends up in a landfill after leaching microplastics and hazardous materials / chemicals into our kids play environment and our local waterways. Kittery's Climate Action Planning Committee has worked so hard on a Master Plan for Kittery to address Climate Change and Environmental concerns. I hear Dover is working successfully with natural turf fields. I hope Kittery can find a way to do this as well.

Thank you for your hard work for Kittery,  
Arilda Densch, KCAN member  
9 Adams Lane #2, Kittery

**From:** [Kai Stapelfeldt](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Just say no to plastic turf at Memorial Field  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 11:25:04 AM

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To The Town Council,  
Please do not expose our children and our environment to yet more plastics.  
Karen Stapelfeldt  
33 Picott Road



**From:** [Judy Quinby](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Memorial Field a natural turf field  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 5:35:56 AM

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Dear Athletics and Field Committee,

I strongly oppose the use of synthetic turf on Memorial Field. This is not healthy for the environment nor the people using the field. We need to share the space with birds and worms and bugs, and not play upon an ecological desert. It sends a bad message at this time of our awakening understanding of the disastrous effects of plastics in the environment to wrap a whole playing field in plastic.

Please use real grass. I would be embarrassed and ashamed of Kittery to move forward with this ill-advised plan of astro-turfing Memorial Field.

With kind regards,  
Judy Quinby  
16 Otis Avenue  
Kittery, Maine

**From:** [Debbie](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Memorial Field  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 10:24:02 AM

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Dear Kittery Town Council,

Please do not use synthetic turf.

Thank you,

Debbie Driscoll  
(207)439-0449 h  
(207)451-4021 c

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

**From:** [Ryan Bailey](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** No to a Turf Field for Memorial Field  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:25:50 PM

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Hi,

I am a big supporter of the work of the Kittery Athletics & Field Committee, and am supportive of the broader effort to improve recreation in Kittery, but I am heavily against the installation of a turf field at Memorial Field.

This goes against where we are headed in Kittery and will end up being a liability for the Town, both for its environment and for the taxpayers. Please reconsider this element of the Kittery Recreation Plan.

Thanks  
Ryan Bailey  
16 Charles Hill Road  
Kittery Point, ME 03905

**From:** [Kj Hallowell](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** No to Turf on Memorial Field.  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 7:42:41 PM

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To the Town Council members.

As a member of Kittery Climate Action Now in addition to having been a player/coach of many youth sports I am disappointed to hear that the town is looking to turn a soil-based field into synthetic turf.

Please take into consideration not only the cost of materials and maintenance, but more importantly;

- the entirety of a materials lifecycle
- the cost to the environment with chemical leaching into the land /water
- the amount of heat that is trapped on these surfaces - also potential safety issue
- increases chance for sport (lower limb) injuries compared to natural grass
- the overall cost to the local health (human and flora/fauna) of our community by moving to fake surfaces.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

KCAN Member

**From:** [Jaime Silverstein](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 3/25/24  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:14:38 PM

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Dear Town Council Members,

Please see my public comment below on the proposed plans for Memorial Field. I also plan to attend the meeting via zoom.

Thank you,  
Jaime Silverstein  
16 Charles Hill Rd, Kittery Point

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Town Council members, thank you for your time and continued leadership in Kittery.

I am disheartened to learn that the proposed revitalization plan includes the installation of a synthetic turf field at Memorial Park.

As a member and leader of Kittery Climate Action Now, a grassroots organization focused on making our community more sustainable and resilient to climate change, I worked alongside the Climate Adaptation Committee to promote the adoption of the Climate Action Plan strategies. Now, as I review the plan for Memorial Field, I feel as if all this hard work to bring our community together to create a more resilient Kittery has been in vain – a synthetic turf field goes against the goals laid out in the “Land Use and Natural Environment” and “Health, Safety, and Well-Being” strategies.

Research shows that crumb rubber, the infill material used in synthetic turf fields contain a large number of chemicals, many of which are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment. “Natural” alternatives to crumb rubber used in the manufacturing of synthetic turf also contain carcinogens and neurotoxins.

Further, a recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (also known as PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease, in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water. Recent actions by the US EPA highlight increasing recognition that there is no safe level of PFAS exposure.

A study by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection identified concerns related to a number of chemicals in stormwater runoff from artificial turf fields that are of particular concern to aquatic organisms.

Artificial turf needs to be replaced every 8 to 10 years, at which point it ends up in a landfill and will never break down. Not only that, when the full life cycle cost of artificial turf is taken into consideration, it is more expensive than a natural grass field.

All artificial turf surfaces examined have been shown to have higher surface temperature and air temperature at head height compared with natural grass; on a warm summer day, vigorous play in these conditions conveys a very real risk of burns, dehydration, heat stress, or heat stroke.

I sympathize with the desire to increase the number of uses Memorial Field can withstand and am supportive of the

revitalization plan, but I do not believe that this should be considered without regard to all other costs. Are we teaching our children that we can make decisions without any responsibility or accountability to the environmental and social impacts of our actions? I certainly hope not. Please consider my comment and refuse the installation of synthetic turf in the town of Kittery.

Town Council members, thank you for your time and continued leadership in Kittery.

I am disheartened to learn that the proposed revitalization plan includes the installation of a synthetic turf field at Memorial Park.

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Jaime Silverstein  
16 Charles Hill Road, Kittery Point

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**From:** [Jaime Silverstein](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment for 3/25/24  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:18:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment on Synthetic Turf Proposal for Memorial Field\\_Silverstein \(1\).pdf](#)

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Please see the pdf attached with footnotes and sources.

On Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 4:14 PM Jaime Silverstein <[jaimelynne.silverstein@gmail.com](mailto:jaimelynne.silverstein@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Town Council Members,

Please see my public comment below on the proposed plans for Memorial Field. I also plan to attend the meeting via zoom.

Thank you,  
Jaime Silverstein  
16 Charles Hill Rd, Kittery Point

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## SAY NO TO SYNTHETIC TURF

We disagree with the [proposed plan for Memorial Park](#) to turn a soil-based field into synthetic turf.

Kittery has invested in a climate action plan that prioritizes “land use and the natural environment” and “health” as two major strategies, but has disregarded these values when trying to find a solution to improve the functionality of Memorial Field.

For the following reasons, synthetic turf is harmful to the climate, environment, and human health.

### Impacts on the climate and environment:

- Environmental concerns include **loss of wildlife habitat, migration of synthetic particles into the environment, and contaminated stormwater runoff.** ([TURI](#))
- Artificial turf lasts for 8 to 10 years, after which it is typically disposed of in a landfill. ([GBA](#))
- Loss of the potential to **capture carbon** in a healthy soil ecosystem ([GBA](#))

### Impacts on human health:

- The Mount Sinai Children’s Environmental Health Center recommends against the installation of artificial turf playing surfaces and fields due to the **uncertainties surrounding the safety of these products and the potential for dangerous heat and chemical exposures.** ([Mount Sinai](#))
- Undisclosed chemicals of concern are present in plastic grass blades and turf pads and matting. A recent study identified per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of more than 5000 chemicals linked to numerous health problems including **cancer, nervous system toxicity, immune dysfunction, thyroid, and cardiovascular disease** in the plastic grass blades and backing used on artificial turf fields and in adjacent bodies of water." ([Mount Sinai](#), [EWG](#))

### Impacts on cost:

- In analyzing the costs of artificial vs. natural grass systems, it is important to consider full life-cycle costs, including installation, maintenance, and disposal/replacement. ([TURI](#))
- In general, **the full life cycle cost of an artificial turf field is higher than the cost of a natural grass field.** ([TURI](#))

**From:** [S.Sayer](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** synthetic Turf  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:14:04 PM

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Dear Town Council Members

I do the utmost I can to avoid plastic, nylon, synthetic food containers. plastic bags etc. and I find it an insult to propose to put in Synthetic Turf into any Kittery facility.

I pay taxes and the transfer station tries its best to get rid of plastic and synthetics, but it will never be able to get rid of the synthetic turf when it meets its demise.

I am 100% against synthetic turf.

Suzanne sayer, Phd  
1 Prince ave.  
Kittery

**From:** [rte](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Synthetic turf  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 11:59:44 AM

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It's a bad idea to add more plastics to our environment with synthetic turf. I suspect the installation would result in increased runoff as well. Not great for adaptation to sea level rise due to climate disruption. Please do not do it!

Thank you,  
Bob Eckert

**From:** [michael thompson](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Synthetic turf proposal  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 9:24:59 AM

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I would like to voice my opposition to the installation of synthetic turf at Memorial Field in Kittery. As you must know, it is dangerous ( see the assessment of the NFL), expensive in the long run, toxic to wildlife, and, most condemning of all, is a form of plastic - the very last thing we should be installing at a time of climate change ( natural turf would sequester carbon rather than release it by its production) and increasing global toxicity and species decline. Please don't do this!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Retta Fitch](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Synthetic turf  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:27:22 PM

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I do not support the installation of synthetic turf as proposed for rec center.  
Seems like it has been researched by "the powers that be" for many years and has been deemed not healthy for the environment nor an individual.

Retta Fitch  
5 sunset drive  
Kittery

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Candace DeLisio](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Turf and Memorial Field  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 11:54:09 AM

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To all concerned,

I must, as a long standing citizen of Kittery, give voice against the proposal to use synthetic turf at Memorial Field.

I have been proud of many of our town's actions as we look ahead to a future to benefit our citizens, particularly children, in providing a healthy environment. In everything I have studied, particularly with my graduate degree in Public Health from BU, synthetic turf is harmful for our environment and all who live within it. PLEASE DO NOT use this material. I advocate working with those who favor a natural and healthy approach to alternatives.

Thank you.

Candace DeLisio

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Catrina Barb](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Turf fields  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:33:44 PM

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Please do not include turf fields in the new proposed plan to Memorial Fields!  
It is bad for the health of our children, our environment, and will cost more than a natural grass over the lifetime of upkeep.

I hope you reconsider the turf option!  
Thank you for your time,  
Catrina Muolo  
Resident of Kittery and parent of 2

**From:** [Joanna Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Town Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Turf vs. grass  
**Date:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:01:00 PM

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Hello,

Thank you for your time. I wanted to reach out in support of real grass instead of turf for the memorial field project. One of the charms of Maine and our climate is that our weather and land can sustain real grass. It adds value to our town and maintains its authentic, small town feel. Thank you for considering amending the project.

Best,

Joanna Higgins