



**Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G
Single Member District 02
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***Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass Fields:
A Comparative Look at Design, Construction, Maintenance, Playability, and Cost
Expert Panel and Community Discussion
Tuesday, April 9, 7-9:00 PM
Zoom only – register [here](#)***

In further response to neighbor concerns about artificial turf proposed for playing fields at both [Lafayette Elementary School](#) and the [Episcopal Center for Children](#) (ECC), I am hosting the second of two virtual community meetings for my constituents and other residents in the Chevy Chase community as well as interested citizens elsewhere. This will be a rare opportunity to hear concurrently from both the artificial turf and natural grass industries.

The first meeting – *Is Artificial Turf Safe for Our Kids and Our Environment?* – took place on March 26 and addressed injuries, heat effects, and disposal challenges related to artificial turf as well as emerging concerns over micro-plastic pollution and PFAS “forever chemicals.” An expert panel of representatives from the turf industry and science addressed an online audience of some 150 people. The video recording of the meeting and presentation materials are available at <https://bruceshermanforanc.org>.

The April 9 meeting is the sequel. It will address the relative merits of artificial turf vs natural grass playing fields, including design, construction, maintenance, playability, and cost. On the panel will be representatives from organizations spanning the artificial turf and natural grass industries, including the [Synthetic Turf Council](#), the [Sports Field Management Association](#), [Shaw Sports Turf](#), [FieldTurf](#), the [Maryland Soccerplex Sports Turf Institute](#), [DrainTalent](#), and [Sub-Air](#). [Maret School](#) will participate given its [planned installation](#) of turf at ECC. Also participating will be [Kristen Mello](#), an analytical chemist by profession and member of the City Council in Westfield, MA, where the community is also weighing turf issues. Presentations will run 60-80 minutes followed by Q&A and discussion with the community.

The April 9 meeting will pick up where the March 26 meeting left off. Is artificial turf the answer to reliably playable athletic fields? What is the state-of-the-art in natural grass fields? What maintenance is required of both? How much does each cost initially and over a given 10-year life cycle? Are there significant differences in playability, specifically down time due to weather?

The meeting will take up these questions towards providing the community with fact-based information and diverse perspectives to allow our residents to form their own views on the matters at hand. Please be in touch with any questions or comments.