

February 24, 2012

Dear Planning & Development Committee,

My name is Alex Palluzzi, Jr., Director of Parks & Recreation for the town of Branford, Connecticut. Over the past decade we have implemented organic care to all our ball fields, parks, ground and facilities with much success.

I have been in the field for thirty years and am passionate about organic care for the health, safety and welfare of our children and all ages. I serve on the faculty at Southern Connecticut State University and implement these practices into our curriculum development, with our introductory and facilities management courses.

In the beginning, we took a chance with organic care due primarily to the health of our children that was associated with pesticide management. We first developed an all organic soccer field adjacent to an elementary school when the ban first took effect in 2006. This field is the healthiest in town and is also utilized by the school district for physical education classes, recess and field day events.

Our parents as well as our entire school system and athletic community is very supportive of our organic turf care approach as our municipality continues to keep funding in place, even during this tough economic climate.

We now use leaf compost on all our ball fields, parks, grounds & facilities which has made the biggest impact thus far on our turf management. Our turf rating has increased over the past few years from very good to excellent due to our organic turf practices.

In closing, I feel that organic turf care does work effectively if you have patience. It takes a concerted effort of testing, aerating, over seeding, composting, organic product, and proper watering.

Bottom Line . . . Organic Turf Care Is The Right Thing To Do!

Respectfully submitted,

*Alex*

Alex Palluzzi, Jr., *MS*  
Director of Parks & Recreation

APJR/apjr