

Article 47

To determine whether the Town will adopt a moratorium on the construction or installation of any synthetic turf (monofilament carpet with infill) and any surface covering of loose fill made from scrap tires on any land, of any size, owned by the Town for a three-year time period starting on April 18, 2016 and ending on April 18, 2019; or take any other action relative thereto.

This moratorium does not include pour-in-place surfaces that are currently in use on running tracks and in children's playgrounds. E.g. The Emerson Playground running track

Town land includes, but is not limited to, that of the Concord Public Schools but does not include that of the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School or private land.

Synthetic Turf before



Synthetic Turf after



Crumb Rubber in Artificial Turf



Reasons For this Moratorium (1)

Crumb rubber, made from used automobile tires and used in synthetic turf, contains known carcinogens and endocrine disrupters. Those found in samples tested by Haley and Aldrich for Concord include:

- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Benzo(b)fluoranthene
- Chrysene
- Indeno(1,32,3-cd)pyrene
- Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate

Reasons for this moratorium (2)

Concerns have been raised regarding the health effects of synthetic turf, especially in young children

- Children are known to be more susceptible to both developmental hormones and carcinogens
- Children are repeatedly and closely in contact with artificial turf and crumb rubber
- Crumb rubber is carried into homes on clothing, in hair, and in shoes



Reasons for this moratorium (3)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) no longer backs the use of crumb rubber in synthetic turf fields

- “EPA supports more comprehensive efforts to identify potential exposures to tire crumbs and better assess risks. As new questions arise, new data and analysis are needed. That’s why, in response to recent concerns, a plan to identify gaps in research was developed and work is now underway.”

<http://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/use-recycled-tire-materials-playgrounds-artificial-turf-fields>

Reasons for this moratorium (4)

- Four US congressmen and two US Senators from the Committee on Energy and Commerce have written letters of inquiry regarding these concerns to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Fred Upton, Frank Pallone Jr, John Shimkus, and Paul Tonko

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/letters/20151023EPA.pdf>

Reasons for this moratorium (5)

The Washington State Department of Public Health and the State of California are currently conducting research studies on the safety of synthetic turf

- Washington State is investigating the anecdotal evidence of cancer in soccer players (especially goalies)
- California has authorized \$2.9 million for a three year research into the health effects of crumb rubber

Reasons for this moratorium (6)

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has not rated synthetic turf or crumb rubber as a child-safe product

- In May 2015, Elliott Kaye, Chairman of the CPSC said in a Congressional hearing:
- “The 2008 [CPSC] release does not reflect my views of the state of play, and I think it's important to note that the 2008 release didn't even reflect...the technical staff's views at the time...there was a political effort at the time at the Commission to say something in the headline news release that may not actually reflect the state of play”
- Chairman Kaye promised the CPSC will work with other agencies to get “this uncertainty resolved”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7crcxR8aYjo.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7crcxR8aYjo)

Reasons for this moratorium (7)

Delegate Marcus Simon is proposing legislation in Virginia's General Assembly calling for a three-year moratorium on the installation of crumb rubber on fields at schools and parks.

Conclusion:

- A moratorium will allow time for the current research on Synthetic Turf to be carried out. From the data gathered, scientists and public health professionals will be better able to assess the risks involved in using Synthetic Turf. We will continue to monitor this research and its conclusions and communicate it to the relevant town boards.

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