

Article 4 Artificial Turf on Concord Public Lands

Ms Gill-Pazaris and Ms Barr move “That the Town institute a two-year moratorium, effective immediately, on the installation of artificial turf playing fields and playgrounds on publicly owned land within the borders of Concord under the control of any Concord Town or Public School Department, board, or committee, and that during that time, the Board of Selectmen will research the issues and propose regulations governing the materials to be used in athletic fields and playgrounds, and that well-publicized public hearings be held before such regulations are brought to Town Meeting for a vote, and that the Regional School District consider applying such regulations to athletic fields under its control.”

Article 4 Asks For:

- a 2-year moratorium (no longer a ban)
- public hearings
- BOS to draft regulations
- Town Meeting approval

**This article would *NOT* govern
Concord-Carlisle Regional High School**

Does *NOT* affect the CC at Play field plan

**This article applies only to Concord
public lands and public schools K-8**

Article 4

No Longer Calls for a Ban

It Calls for a 2-year
Moratorium

Article 4 Artificial Turf

Let's Think Before We Act



So, What *is* Artificial Turf (AT)?



Artificial turf is 3 times more
expensive than grass



Total Cost Over Ten Years



Natural Grass ...\$ 360K

vs.

Crumb Rubber Artificial Turf ...\$1 million+

No Going Back



Artificial turf is a permanent
commitment and responsibility

A New Modern Convenience?



Just Throw It Out and Buy
a New One Every 10 Years

Waste

By 2017 about 1,000 AT fields will be de-constructed each year nationwide



This represents waste of 80 million sq. ft. of turf, weighing 40 million lbs. Plus 400 million lbs. of infill

Natural Grass Fields Produce Zero Waste



Rideout Field

Climate Impact – CO₂

One AT field creates 55.6 tons of CO₂ every 10 years. Mitigation would require planting 1900 trees



A natural grass field is a carbon sink

Other Advantages of Grass

- filters pollutants from air and water
- new varieties of grass hardier
- Cooler fields-
- less abrasive

The Safest, Most Sustainable Solution!

Concord's Sustainability Principles

- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels, underground metals and minerals
- Reduce dependence on synthetic chemicals and substances
- Reduce encroachment on nature
- Meet human needs fairly and efficiently

Health and Safety Risks

- Heat stress
- Exposure to toxic chemicals



Heat Stress



Temperatures on artificial turf can be 30+ degrees hotter than on grass.



**July 6, 2007
New York City**

Air Temperature: 78°

Natural Grass Field: 85°

Artificial Turf Field: 140°!

Hazardous Waste



Not allowed in landfills!

Chemicals in Crumb Rubber

Carcinogens, endocrine disrupters,
Neurotoxins:

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- Volatile organic compounds
- Heavy metals (zinc, lead, cadmium)
- Phthalates
- Benzothiazole
- Benzene



CDC Recommendations for Players



- Avoid eating and drinking on the field
- Remove clothes as soon as possible
- Keep shoes outside the home
- Wash hands and body aggressively



Crumb Rubber: Where does it go?

Every year, over 3 tons of new crumb rubber infill needs to be added to an AT field



Vote YES on Article 4

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