



December 6, 2016

Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)
350 S. 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)
350 S. 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear PHAC and CEAC members,

The Recycled Rubber Council, The Safe Fields Alliance, and the Synthetic Turf Council are industry bodies that together represent the leading members of the recycled rubber and synthetic turf industries. We find the possible recommendation of a moratorium being placed on new synthetic turf field projects in Minneapolis to be unfortunate and misplaced, and we would like to take the opportunity to rebut media reports that have chosen to sensationalize and politicize an issue involving the safety of our children.

The members within each of these industry bodies have over the years, individually and collectively, spent significant resources ensuring these fields are safe. This includes providing our cooperation to the EPA, CPSC, and ATSDR on their ongoing multi-agency study of recycled rubber, in addition to past collaboration on similar research.

Below we have included some useful information we would ask you to consider in your discussions over recycled rubber.

1. Synthetic turf fields with recycled rubber infill are safe to play on. Recycled rubber infill brings significant advantages from cost and safety perspectives. These fields also support expanded use that increases youth athletics participation in minority communities, and enables playability during all seasons despite Minnesota's climate challenges. Both the Park Board and the School Board have taken a full examination of this issue that we believe should be followed.
2. The Council should also fully understand that natural grass turf poses health concerns of its own due to chemicals found in natural soils (including lead and arsenic) as well as the pesticides and insecticides used for maintenance.
3. The EPA's existing review deems recycled rubber infill safe, and to implement a moratorium would be premature given approval from federal authorities and other government entities. The aforementioned federal multi-agency study has yet to offer its findings, but should do so shortly. To not wait would also set a dangerous precedent for the rest of Minnesota. Additionally, the public approval votes of other entities who have examined this issue—Minnesota Park Board and Minnesota Schools) should also be considered in addition to the 90 reports, peer-reviewed academic studies, and federal and state government analyses that have not indicated any health concerns.

Finally, we want to remind you that artificial turf fields increase play time by a factor of four or five while eliminating harmful pesticides and insecticides. One artificial turf field will typically save 100,000 gallons of water while recycling approximately 20,000 tires from a landfill.

Thank you for considering the facts and science we have included.

Sincerely,

Steve Bigelow,
President
Recycled Rubber Council

Rom Reddy,
Managing Partner
SprinTurf

Dan Bond,
President
Synthetic Turf Council