

Public Comment  
Board of Supervisors. July 18, 2024

Please see the attached document about the dangers of using artificial turf.

The dangers are from exposure to hazardous chemicals leaching from the crumb rubber cushioning fill made of recycled tires, plastic carpet, and other synthetic components. Numerous studies have shown that chemicals identified in artificial turf, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are known carcinogens, neurotoxins, mutagens and endocrine disruptors. Exposure is due to spending time on the turf and the run-off from the turf.

Artificial turf cannot be recycled. Disposed in the landfill with useful life of 15 years. Replacing natural grass with turf will create heat island effect which will need to be watered down to reduce the temperature, thus increasing toxic run-off. Major teams are reconsidering their decisions and re-implementing grass to avoid the impact of hard falls in addition to exposure issues.

Both direct (to athletics) and indirect (environmental contamination) need to be considered before a contract is awarded to design 4 softballs fields with artificial turf. The staff report on this contract does not have any research on artificial turf which means that it was not even considered. Will the City do the same as major teams which is deconstructing the field. The difference is that City does not have as much funds as major teams. Will the City and this Board be liable for any detrimental health issues?

We know that the City does not have any ordinance to protect the health of its residents as we found out when Round-Up was being sprayed at Andersen Development. Let's not create another source of exposure to carcinogenic chemicals especially to the young children to impact their growth or endocrine diseases. Health and safety before adoption of untested materials.

Thank you.  
Betsy Strasburg  
Resident of Carson City