

Scott McCormick

From: hwbranch@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 6:42 AM
To: Scott McCormick
Subject: Athletic Turf

Regarding proposed use of artificial turf on an athletic field:
 Address: 3327 Yelm Hwy SE, Olympia, WA 98501
 Parcel: 09330008002, 09330005000, 09330005001, 09330006000
 Section/Township/Range: 31/18/1W

Studies beginning in the early 2000s showed that five chemicals, including four polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), were found in samples. One of these compounds, chrysene, was present at levels higher than the standard established by OEHHHA. Chrysene is a known carcinogen, meaning it can increase the risk of a child developing cancer. A later study found 306 chemicals in crumb rubber 52 of which were classified as carcinogens by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They stated that "a vacuum in our knowledge about the carcinogenic properties of many crumb rubber infill. The crumb rubber infill of artificial turf fields contains or emits chemicals that can affect human physiology." Another study confirmed the presence of "hazardous substances in the recycled crumb rubber samples... including PAHs of high and very high concern". The study concluded that different stakeholders "must work on a consensus to protect not only human health but the environment." Another study done last March of Philadelphia Veterans Stadium artificial turf linked per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the turf. Six former Philadelphia Phillies who played at Veterans Stadium, home to the team from 1971 to 2003, have died from glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

There are also studies indicating that artificial turf cannot be linked to cancer risks. Correlations and cause and effect relationships are hard to establish when they exist. Where public health is concerned we should adhere to the precautionary approach.

It's also evident that "crumb rubber hazardous chemicals can reach the environment and affect wildlife" especially migrating salmon. What to do with old tires is a confounding question. They can be burned as fuel, landfilled, chemically reprocessed and ground up for turf underlayment. There's really no good solution other than going back to rail. We'll figure it out eventually. In the meantime we need to protect our children from unnecessary risks.

Harry Branch
 239 Cushing St NW 98502
 360-890-2949

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2016/02/13/government-finally-to-look-into-possible-link-between-artificial-turf-and-cancer/?sh=6e529da06956>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6396308/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969721076208>

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/inq2/astroturf-vet-artificial-turf-pfas-forever-chemicals-glioblastoma-cancer-phillies-1980-20230307.html>