

**Scott McCormick**

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**From:** Esther Grace Kronenberg <wekrone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 12:50 PM  
**To:** Scott McCormick  
**Cc:** Tye Menser; Carolina Mejia-Barahona; Gary Edwards  
**Subject:** Re: SEPA # 202305983 Thurston County park -additional information



Boston bans artificial turf in parks due to toxic  
 'forever chemicals'  
 theguardian.com

Dear Mr. McCormick,

Please also see the above article about Boston banning artificial turf.

Let's not be the place that endangers its children by allowing the use of dangerous toxic chemicals on playing fields.

If I may be colloquial, let me say "Ugh, shameful, disgusting" to this proposal.

Thanks,

Esther Kronenberg

On Jan 2, 2024, at 9:23 PM, Esther Grace Kronenberg <wekrone@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Mr. McCormick,

I write as an Olympia resident to oppose the use of synthetic turf on the proposed playing fields at 3327 Yelm Highway, Olympia.

Please read

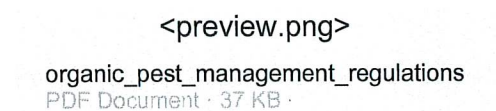
[https://www.turi.org/content/download/13271/203906/file/Factsheet.Artificial\\_Turf.September2020.pdf](https://www.turi.org/content/download/13271/203906/file/Factsheet.Artificial_Turf.September2020.pdf)

Synthetic turf has been proven to pose numerous health and environmental risks and damages. It contains numerous carcinogenic chemicals. This property has already been drenched with chemicals from its decades long use as a strawberry farm. The use of chemicals is contrary to Thurston County's IPM policy which seeks to reduce their use. Our water supply is already at risk, so covering these many acres with more toxic chemicals is not responsible. The presence of plastics in artificial turf that degrades over time also results in shedding millions of microplastic particles that will further threaten our soil and water.

Artificial turf is also known to get much hotter than natural grass. We know hotter days are coming and will be more frequent. Synthetic turf has been documented to reach temperatures over 200 degrees in 98 degree weather. Do we want our children to sustain skin abrasions while playing on these fields? Studies show foot and ankle injuries are also more prevalent on artificial turf than on grass playing fields.

All artificial turf is made with toxic PFAS compounds and some types are still produced with recycled tires that can contain heavy metals, benzene, volatile organic compounds and other carcinogens, and a growing number of US municipalities and states have banned or proposed banning them. Why is this even being considered?

Portland, Maine, Longmont, Colorado, and Springfield and Marblehead Massachusetts use organic turf management strategies that are safe, effective and cost efficient . Please see [www.fieldfundinc.org](http://www.fieldfundinc.org). Grass fields offer the environmental benefits of carbon capture and water filtration. They support pollinator populations, enhance public health and are consonant with our community's values. Organic turf management is systems based and takes a problem solving approach as opposed to treating symptoms. It builds on science, creating a healthy bioactive soil by understanding the soil biology, revising cultural practices and using organic products exclusively. Also see



Finally, synthetic turf is not cost effective. The full life cycle cost of synthetic turf fields is higher than conventional grass fields.

Thurston County prides itself on its beautiful natural environment and environmental sustainability. The use of synthetic turf is antithetical to the character of this County, to the current and future state of the environment and to the health and well-being of our children. What kind of long lasting legacy are chemically-laden microplastic-polluting toxic playing fields? Our children deserve better. This proposal is just wrong on every level.

Please do your research and consult with those cities who successfully use organic turf management to provide their residents with safe, environmentally friendly and sustainable recreational facilities.



Thank you for your consideration.

Esther Kronenberg

Sent from cyberheaven

