



**From:** BurlingtonGreen

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2013 1:34 PM

**To:** City of Burlington

**Subject:** BurlingtonGreen inquiry and input regarding Artificial Turf Strategy Report

Dear Ms. Beard and Mr. Quan and Members of Burlington Council,

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association came across your report regarding the proposed Artificial Turf Field Strategy report(PR-3-13). We would like to know why no "Environmental Matters" component has been included in the report particularly as when the issue of artificial turf for the New City park was reviewed in March, 2011 , there were a number of key environmental questions identified.

In BurlingtonGreen's letter submitted to the City on March 9, 2011 (available [here](#)), among other environment related concerns we asked the following:

Excerpt from March 9, 2011 letter: *"1. The more current report indicates that: "Additional matters that staff are unable to quantify at this time, include: Environmental transportation cost for product delivery in comparison to a natural field, Implication of disposal and after use after 10-12 year lifecycle (and the) amount of greenhouse gases released with artificial turf verse natural field "*

*This suggests that contrary to the earlier report's assumption, there may not be an opportunity to recycle certain components of the turf at time of renewal. This is an important factor not only for this specific park application but also when we consider potential use of this project in other applications citywide. Where will all the "worn out" artificial turf waste go?"*

The City's response email from Mr. Peachey on March 21, 2011 (available [here](#)) indicated that *"City staff has connected with the Region of Halton's Waste Management department with the purpose of setting up dialogue on alternative solutions to divert artificial turf from landfill at the end of its life cycle"* and thus we would appreciate learning the outcome of this dialogue and what measures are in place to dispose of the large masses of petroleum based artificial turf at the end of their use?

In addition to the various environmental considerations, there remain outstanding questions regarding the impact of artificial turf on human health,

*"There is enough information now concerning the potential health effects from chemicals emanating from rubber tire crumbs to place a moratorium on installing any new fields or playgrounds that use ground-up rubber tires until additional research is undertaken."* as stated in this report:

[http://www.ehhi.org/reports/turf/turf\\_report07.pdf](http://www.ehhi.org/reports/turf/turf_report07.pdf)

Here is what the New York City Parks Department is doing:

*The Parks Department is currently taking the following steps:*

- *Using carpet-style or alternative infill materials on all new fields, rather than crumb rubber infill made from recycled car and truck tires.*
- *Implementing protocols to inspect, test, and replace any existing synthetic turf fields that may age or deteriorate.*
- *Posting public signage at all athletic fields and instructing field staff about potential heat-related risks involving synthetic turf, including overheating and dehydration.*
- *Using strict purchasing protocols to select the best synthetic turf products and requiring suppliers to provide information on chemical content, heating absorbency properties, environmental factors and health and safety factors.*
- *Assessing new technologies as they become available.*

From: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/eode/eode-turf.shtml>

We look forward to your response. Thank you very much,

Amy Schnurr

Executive Director

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association