

Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission

Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks

PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE

May 17, 2023

6.3 Health Department

Environmental Health [P&R C Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision - July 1, 2019 - pg.41]

Parks and green space in cities are key links to ecological balance. They can also help alleviate some of the environmental damage to human health. Parks and green space, including streams and floodplains, act as buffers to pollution, protect hazardous areas from inappropriate development, and mitigate urban heat islands.

Tree canopies in parks and throughout the city absorb carbon dioxide and pollutants and cool the atmosphere.

- The Parks and Recreation Commission is in favor of being part of a task force with the Health Department and other relevant City agencies and departments such as the Environmental Protection Board, and the Harbor Management Commission, to develop policies for sustainability of our environment and public health.

A direct implication of the discussion above is the formation of policy on artificial turf for recreational fields and/or artificial surfaces for any purpose within a city park under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- It is recognized that the statutory authorization to adopt a restriction or prohibition on the use of surfaces such as artificial turf, or on the use of natural grass, lies with the Board of Representatives.
- The discussion of artificial turf, and other artificial surface installation, should occur in as neutral an environment as possible. Products, public opinion, aesthetics, economics all change, and more importantly scientific research as to product safety continues to evolve with new products. A well-informed public and their input at a public hearing may be part of the discussion with regard to any future applications for the use of artificial turf or other artificial surfaces.
- Based upon such discussion, information and education, the Parks and Recreation Commission can make advisory recommendations to the Board of Representatives and the City Administration relative to the surface of athletic fields and playgrounds.