

Commissioner Newman proposed policy language change countering proposal from Commissioner Katz and Hollas:

~~Delete language~~

Add language

## 6.3 Health Department

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

Parks and green space in ~~the~~ 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 ~~establishing~~ *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 Parks and Recreation Commission* 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.* ~~Environmental concerns and implications for public health were the overriding arguments for the Parks and Recreation Commission to vote unanimously in 2014 against the use of artificial turf fields in the City of Stamford. See Section on Conservation 7.3 for details.~~

- ~~The Parks and Recreation Commission feels there needs to be much more supportive information to counter the personal health, environmental and economic questions that presently exist before it can permit the installation of any additional artificial turf in Stamford's Parks. 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 will most certainly may be part of the discussion with regard to any future applications for the use of artificial turf or other artificial surfaces.*