

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# Recycled Tire Recommendations

Community Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC)  
Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)

# HECE June 20, 2016 Directive:

On June 20, 2016, a directive was received from the Health, Environment & Community Engagement (HECE) committee:

- PHAC and CEAC study/make recommendations regarding the use of recycled tires as ground cover in Minneapolis.
  - Report back in February 2017
  - Both committees also studied topic and made recommendations in 2008 (*Attachments A and B*)

# Subcommittee Formed

A sub-committee was formed which included members of CEAC, PHAC, Minneapolis Park & Rec Board (MPRB), and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

- **CEAC:**

- Anna Abruzzese (CEAC chair)
- Andrew Murray (CEAC vice chair)
- Jenna Grove (Clean Water Action)
- Meleah Houseknecht
- Jon Duesman (MPRB staff) sitting in for Adam Arvidson (CEAC - MPRB rep)

- **PHAC:**

- Karen Soderberg (PHAC co-chair & Ward 7 rep);
- Joey Colianni (member at large);
- Craig Hedberg (UMN– School of Public Health); and
- Lee Setter (MPS Environmental Health & Safety) sitting in for the Cindy Hillyer (PHAC - MPS rep)

# Key Meetings / Presenters:

- Play It Safe Minnesota (August 23)
- MPS and MPRB (September 8)
- Panel of experts (October 25):
  - William Toscano, UMN School of Public Health
  - Matt Simcik, UMN School of Public Health
  - Michael Peterson, Sr. Toxicologist with Gradient
- PHAC approved draft recommendations by voice vote with one opposed. (November 29)
- CEAC approved recommendations by PHAC by voice vote with one abstention. (December 8)

# Minneapolis Public Schools

*(Attachment C)*

- 47 of 66 playground areas (71%) with rubber mulch
- Why rubber mulch was installed:
  - Promoted by the EPA and Consumer Product Safety Commission for safety and durability compared to alternatives
- Temporarily on hold with the conversion of additional playgrounds to rubber mulch.
  - Performing routine maintenance on existing engineered rubber mulch playgrounds
- 1 synthetic turf field with crumb rubber infill at Washburn High School.
  - Currently, no plans to add more artificial turf fields

# Minneapolis Park & Rec Board

*(Attachment D)*

- No recycled tire mulch or synthetic turf used on playgrounds
- Artificial turf with crumb rubber infill used in 8 fields
  - Withstands wear-and-tear of lengthy seasonal use and heavy demand
  - MPRB has started allocating rehabilitation funds in its capital plan in 2019-2020 for older artificial turf fields
  - NPP 2020 has some funds that include artificial fields
    - Expansion of Currie Field well into planning process with robust community engagement

# Federal Review headed by EPA

*(Attachment G)*

## Multi-agency, multi-year action plan

- Study chemical composition and use of crumb rubber infill; evaluate and characterize human exposure; and, collect biological specimens from 45 participants
  - Late 2016 phase 1 completed; phase 2 continues in 2017
  - status report released Dec. 30, 2016 does not include research findings
  - Partners involved in action plan:
    - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
    - U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

# California Study

*(Attachment G)*

- Conducted by the CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Results expected by mid-2019
- \$2.9 million to study the health effects of using recycled tire rubber on artificial turf fields and playground mats
  - What chemicals are released from crumb rubber and whether they pose health risks.
  - Effects of ingesting and inhaling the material as well as skin exposure to it in children and adults



# Sub-committee Key Findings

- Everyone wants to ensure the safety and well-being of our children and community.
- The City does not operate any fields / parks...
  - but has political power, influence, and partnerships which could be leveraged
- Tire rubber contains a variety of chemicals that are known to be toxic.
  - The health risk due to exposure to these chemicals on recycled tire surfaces is not determined
- Competing concerns:
  - Increasing playtime throughout Minnesota seasons
  - Safety and injury management (fall attenuation)
  - Costs: installation and ongoing maintenance
  - Field/playground durability

# Municipal Reaction in Minnesota

- MDH Fact sheet (*Attachment F*)
  - suggests waiting for results from EPA and California studies
  - provides simple precautions such as:
    - Wash hands with soap & water
    - Shake out clothing & shoes
    - Cover open food & beverage containers
- Individual municipalities divided on issue & action
  - Duluth School Board voted to replace the rubber mulch used on most district elementary school playgrounds, with plans to have the mulch removed by the start of the 2017 school year.
  - Edina voted to approve synthetic turf with crumb rubber infill (May 2016)
  - Other west suburbs (Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata) use crumb rubber infill

# Recommendations

Both CEAC and PHAC approved these recommendations:

- A moratorium on City financed projects-outside of Neighborhood Park Plan 2020 financing-regarding the use of crumb rubber-rubber tire mulch until 12/31/2019 (the date of completion for the CA study)
- The City convene its partners and stakeholders in planning thoughtful proactive approaches and contingency plans during the time of the moratorium.

# Thank you...

- Meeting materials, recommendations, and supporting attachments are posted on the PHAC website: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/health/phac/index.htm>
- Follow EPA study progress at [www.epa.gov/tirecrumb](http://www.epa.gov/tirecrumb)
- Follow CA Study progress at <https://oehha.ca.gov/risk-assessment>
- We stand for questions...
  - Karen Soderberg, former PHAC co-chair and Ward 7 representative
  - Jenna Grove, CEAC member