

RESOLUTION

By Gordon

Prohibiting the use of City funds for the installation or replacement of any facilities or amenities using waste tires and encouraging others to discontinue the use of waste tire materials as ground cover and infill in Minneapolis.

Whereas, the use of waste tire mulch on playgrounds and as infill on playing fields can result in regular, long-term exposure to potentially hazardous substances through inhalation, ingestion, and absorption through the skin; and

Whereas, synthetic turf and waste tire crumb rubber has been documented to become significantly hotter than natural grass and even asphalt because it absorbs solar radiation and can reach temperatures as high as 170 degrees Fahrenheit, which puts children at greater risk for dehydration, heat stress, heat stroke, and burns; and

Whereas, waste tires contain hazardous substances, including heavy metals such as zinc, cadmium, and lead that leach from the material as they degrade, contaminating the soil, plants, and aquatic systems and harming aquatic life such as algae and fish; and

Whereas, as tire mulch and crumb heats up, it releases potential toxic gases and chemicals such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and

Whereas, parents have reported children putting pieces of tire mulch in their mouths, and tire dust on children's clothes, skin, and inside their nostrils after playing on these surfaces, and

Whereas, on June 10, 2015, a study by the Environment and Human Health, an organization of physicians and public health professionals, found 96 chemicals in the rubber tire infill used in synthetic turf and rubber tire mulch used as surfacing in playgrounds; and

Whereas, of the 96 chemicals detected, a little under a half have had no toxicity assessments done on them for their health effects and the other half have had some toxicity testing done on them, but even many of those chemicals had incomplete toxicity testing and therefore all health effects are not fully known; and

Whereas, of the half of those chemicals that have had toxicity assessments, 20% are known to be probable carcinogens; 40% were found to be irritants; 24% are respiratory irritants, some of which are known to cause asthma symptoms; 37% are skin irritants; and 27% are eye irritants; and

Whereas, the City's current legislative policy includes support of a health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber; and

Whereas, the October 2015 *Scrap Tire Mulch on Duluth Public Schools' Playgrounds* report indicated that 12 of the 13 chemicals found in a tested sample of waste tire playground mulch are listed by the Minnesota Department of Health as "chemicals of high concern," and included barium, chromium, lead, zinc, anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, chrysene, fluoranthene, phenanthrene, pyrene and methyl isobutyl ketone; and

Whereas, in May 2016, in a memo on the hazards to children’s health of using recycled tires in athletic fields, the Dean of Global Health of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and author of the textbook *Children’s Environmental Health*, Philip J. Landrigan concluded that, “the use of recycled waste tires for playground mulch and crumb rubber athletic field infill potentially puts the health of children and athletics at risk;” and

Whereas, in May of 2016, the Edina Energy and Environment Commission voted to condemn the use of crumb rubber in Edina, and

Whereas, in June 2016, the Duluth School Board voted unanimously to replace the waste tire mulch used on most district elementary school playgrounds by the start of the 2017-2018 school year; and

Whereas, two bills, House File 3496 (HF3496) and Senate File 3108 (SF3108), have been introduced in the Minnesota State Legislature to establish a moratorium on the use of waste tire mulch and crumb rubber on any new construction of public parks and school playgrounds until 2019, and requiring signage on public parks and school playgrounds already utilizing the material to educate users on ways to reduce exposure; and

Whereas, in both 2008 and 2016 the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Committee, at the request of the City Council, studied the use of waste tires; and

Whereas, on April 12, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board approved a resolution (ID # 3505) “Committing Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to Several Actions Related to Waste Tire Products, Including Consideration of Alternative Materials in New and Rehabilitated Synthetic Turf Fields; Reporting to the Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee of the City of Minneapolis During Athletic Field Project Scoping; Researching Alternatives to Poured-In-Place Playground Surfacing; and Installation of Signs at Synthetic Turf Athletic Fields;” and

Whereas, a citizen-led group called Play it Safe Minnesota is organizing Minneapolis parents and residents on the hazards of waste tire mulch; and

Whereas, the public has a right to a healthful environment and to be free of the health and environmental hazards posed by the chemical exposures and other dangers from recycled waste tire mulch and crumb;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis prohibits the use of City funds, (not including city funds transferred to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board under the 20 Year Neighborhood Park Plan agreement), in the form of grants or direct appropriations to city- or community-led projects, for the installation or replacement of any facilities or amenities using waste tires, including the use of waste tire crumb rubber and waste tire mulch.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis encourages our government and institutional partners, including the Minneapolis Public School Board, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board,

the University of Minnesota and other colleges, universities, schools, and child development facilities, to discontinue the use of waste tire materials as ground cover and infill in Minneapolis and develop contingency plans and budgets for changing or removing the waste tire rubber mulch and crumb that is now in use to less toxic options.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis supports other government agencies and partners operating in the City in their efforts to address community concerns related to waste tire materials and their efforts to find funding for alternative materials.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis directs the Minneapolis Health Department to:

1. Consider and make recommendations about conducting an inventory of all fields and playgrounds in the City that use waste tires including those located at places of worship, private schools, day care centers, etc. in Minneapolis. This should include partnering with other organizations that may be undertaking this work. The inventory should include location, approximate square footage, and estimated usage.
2. Make recommendations regarding the precautions people should take who may use or play on these fields and playgrounds considering water contamination, exposure to toxins, and exposure to intense heat. Consider:
 - a. Requirements that facility operators and/or owners post health and safety information and/or provide health and safety education materials to field and playground users.
 - b. A public awareness effort for users and property owners about the best safety precautions that can be taken as to limit or prevent exposure to and ingestion of toxins as well as health concerns related to the heat effects.