



Seattle

## Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: Use of Synthetic Turf		Number
		Effective
		Supersedes
Approved:	Department: Parks & Recreation	Page 1 of

### 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Use of Synthetic Turf Policy is to outline for staff and the public certain elements to be considered as the future use of synthetic turf is contemplated by the Department.

### 2.0 ORGANIZATIONS/INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED

2.1 Staff who design, construct, and maintain Seattle Parks and Recreation athletic fields.

2.2 Consultants, landscape architects and park designers hired by the Department to design park athletic fields.

2.3 Athletic field users.

### 3.0 POLICY

3.1 Seattle Parks and Recreation aims to provide high quality facilities for a variety of athletic endeavors. Seattle Parks and Recreation recognizes that synthetic turf is a reasonable alternative to natural grass surface on athletic fields. It is important to Seattle Parks and Recreation that the use of synthetic turf is done in such a way as to maintain the highest level of safety for our park users.

### 4.0 DEFINITIONS

### 5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

5.1 Planning and Development division staff are responsible for the planning and design of athletic fields and completing cost benefit analysis of synthetic, ~~versus~~ natural grass fields or other alternative fields surfaces.

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- 5.2 Planning and Development staff is responsible for maintaining documentation, completing water and environmental quality analysis, and keeping up-to-date on the new synthetic turf materials and their safety considerations.
- 5.3 Park Maintenance Division staff is responsible for maintaining synthetic turf fields in a way that is consistent with manufacturer's specifications and industry standards.
- 5.4 City-wide athletics unit staff is responsible for communications with users and user groups about safety and health awareness related to play on athletic fields.

## 6.0 PROCEDURE

- 6.1 The Department will not purchase field products that contain hazardous levels of potentially toxic materials.
- 6.2 The Department will continue to review literature and new studies concerning synthetic fields health effects, injury data, and maintenance and design practices as they become available.
- 6.3 Contingent on funding being available, the Department will include in its annual work plan an element for testing potential water and environmental quality impacts associated with the use of synthetic turf, including testing for the presence of hazardous levels of potentially toxic materials in the turf materials and the migration of hazardous materials from the field surface. Testing at Magnuson Park should align with the required 10-year Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for the fields and habitat improvements completed in 2009. ~~Other testing~~ Testing at other fields should include ~~initial~~ testing soon after installations and follow-up testing ~~only where if~~ warranted.
- 6.4 Athletic Field designers will work with the Parks Division Director, Recreation Division Director, athletic field coordinator(s), maintenance staff and field users to assist with site selection.
- 6.5 As appropriate, the Department should work with Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) to encourage turf manufacturers to initiate and implement end-of-product-life recycling programs and purchase those products with the best end-of-product-recycling option.
- 6.6 The Department should share information about health and safety guidelines with athletic field users and park neighbors.
- 6.7 The Department should periodically request feedback from user groups using new and existing products.

6.8 With all new synthetic turf projects, the Department should provide appropriate landscape and irrigation improvements to all impacted areas surrounding the field.

6.9 Maintenance of synthetic turf fields should be done consistent with the manufacturer's specifications and current best practices.

6.10 When considering the cost of synthetic turf fields a life-cycle cost, including replacement cost and disposal of surface materials will be considered.

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## 7.0 APPENDICES

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