

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
PARKS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017**

PRESENT: John C. Ulfelder, Dranesville District, Chairman
James R. Hart, Commissioner At-Large
Ellen J. Hurley, Braddock District
James T. Migliaccio, Lee District
Earl L. Flanagan, Mount Vernon District

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District
Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Providence District
Peter Murphy, Springfield District
Kimberly Bassarab, Assistant Director, Planning Commission
Inna Kangarloo, Senior Deputy Clerk, Planning Commission
David Bowden, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)
Samantha Hudson, Planning and Development Division, FCPA
Andrea Dorlester, Park Planning Branch, Planning and Development Division, FCPA
Tim Hackman, Dranesville District, Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Walter Alcorn, At-Large, Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Mary Cortina, At-Large, Fairfax County Park Authority Board

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Great Parks, Great Communities, Draft Parks and Recreation System Master Plan, Summary FAQ/Information Sheet
- B. Federal Research on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields

//

Planning Commission Vice Chairman de la Fe constituted the Parks Committee at 7:02 p.m., in the Board Conference Room of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035, pursuant to Section 4-102 of the Commission's *Bylaws & Procedures*.

Commissioner Migliaccio MOVED TO NOMINATE JOHN C. ULFELDER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 2017 PARKS COMMITTEE.

Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 5-0.

//

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ulfelder: First item of business is the approval of minutes. I think we've received those. It's part of the package for this evening. February 27th, 2014 and May 1st, 2014. Do I hear a motion to approve those?

Commissioner Flanagan: So moved.

Chairman Ulfelder: Is there a second?

Commissioner Migliaccio: Second.

Chairman Ulfelder: All in favor, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Ulfelder: Thank you.

The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

//

Andrea Dorlester, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, discussed the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and highlighted the results of the conducted survey.

//

Samantha Hudson, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, provided an update on the Park Authority Agency Master Plan and Strategic Plan efforts.

//

David Bowden, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, indicated that Eleanor C. Lawrence and South Run Field House fields undergo a national study led by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the usage of recycled tire crumb rubber infill on synthetic turf fields. He further noted that the replacement of synthetic turf infill is subject to the results of the EPA analysis.

//

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
John C. Ulfelder, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Planning Commission Office, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Minutes by: Inna Kangarloo

Approved: October 3, 2019

Jacob Caporaletti

Jacob Caporaletti, Clerk
Fairfax County Planning Commission



Teresa Marie Wang

Draft Parks and Recreation System Master Plan - Summary FAQ/Information Sheet



GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES

DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Fairfax County Park Authority

Summary FAQ/Information Sheet

What is the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan (master plan)?

- A 10-year master plan includes goals and recommendations that set the policy framework for all FCPA plans, programs and initiatives.
- The master plan is not a detailed park- or resource-specific plan. Instead, the master plan is big picture and encompasses the entire park system (the first of its kind for the Park Authority!). The master plan is guided by the Parks Count! Needs Assessment findings and provides a long-term vision for the park system.

What does that mean?

- The Park Authority will focus its efforts and resources in alignment with the guiding principles, goals and recommendations included in the master plan.
- This means we'll revisit what we're doing across the park system, including in terms of programming, capital improvements, partnerships, communications, stewardship activities, business operations, and land management, among others.

Why are we creating the master plan?

- Striving for alignment across the Park Authority and with partners.
- Requirement for agency accreditation (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA)).
- New data, information and technology available (including the results of the Parks Count! Needs Assessment).

What does the master plan include?

- Seven (7) guiding principles, six (6) goals and 32 recommendations that set the policy framework for all FCPA plans, programs and initiatives.
- *The seven guiding principles are the Park Authority's core ideals, beliefs and convey the long-term vision for the park system. They are threaded all throughout the master plan. They include: inspire a passion for parks; meet changing recreation needs; advance park system excellence;*

strengthen and foster partnerships; be equitable and inclusive; be great stewards; promote healthy lifestyles.

- *The six goals are the desired results that the Park Authority plans for and commits to achieve.* These provide focus for agency efforts and include: Improve and promote natural resource protection and management; Ensure protection, conservation, preservation and interpretation of cultural resources; Improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles; Enhance and maintain park system quality and condition; Advance as an innovative, responsive and adaptable organization; Provide sustainable financial management to advance the Park Authority mission.
- *The 32 recommendations are the priority activities and actions necessary to achieve the goals.* See **pages 16 – 26** of the master plan for the recommendations identified for each goal.

How can the public provide input and comments?

- The Park Authority will be accepting comments until September 22, 2017. You can submit comments a few different ways: (1) via e-mail at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov; (2) via the comment box on the project website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/fcpa-mp.htm>); and (3) at the public input meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens in the Multi-Purpose Room. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, Virginia.

Where are the details?

- The Park Authority has many, many plans and initiatives underway. Rather than duplicate these other plans, the master plan focuses on setting the direction for the agency. Some of these other plans include the Natural Resources Management Plan, Trails Development Strategy Plan, Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. See **page 4** of the master plan for a complete list.

How will we know if we've accomplished or made progress towards the goals and recommendations?

- The FY2019-FY2023 Park Authority Strategic Plan (strategic plan) will be a key tool for implementing the goals and recommendations of the master plan. As part of the strategic plan, S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Results-Focused, and Time-bound) objectives will be developed along with specific action steps for implementation.
- Annual action plans and annual reporting will be a key part of the strategic plan. These will ensure we're remaining accountable to the goals and recommendations, while also providing flexibility to course-correct as needed.

What is the process for the strategic plan?

- The process for the strategic plan is being developed and will involve staff and community input. It will kick-off this fall and will be completed by the end of the fiscal year (June 2018).

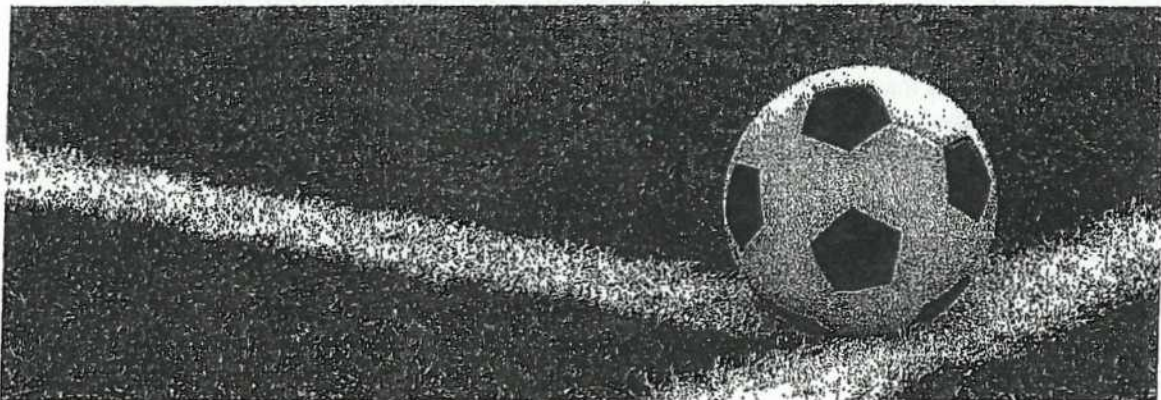
Who do I contact for more information about the master plan and strategic plan?

- For more information contact Samantha Hudson, project manager, at samantha.hudson@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-8726. You can also reach us via e-mail at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

We've made some changes to EPA.gov. If the information you are looking for is not here, you may be able to find it on the EPA Web Archive or the January 19, 2017 Web Snapshot.



Federal Research on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields



Background

Concerns have been raised by the public about the safety of recycled rubber tire crumb used in synthetic turf fields and playgrounds in the United States. We know people are concerned and players and their families want answers. Limited studies have not shown an elevated health risk from playing on fields with tire crumb, but the existing studies do not comprehensively evaluate the concerns about health risks from exposure to tire crumb. We are committed to supporting more comprehensive efforts to assess risks from tire crumb.

That's why on February 12, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched a multi-agency **Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds** to study key environmental and human health questions.

Federal Research

This coordinated *Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds* includes outreach to key stakeholders, such as athletes and parents, and seeks to:

- Fill important data and knowledge gaps.
- Characterize constituents of recycled tire crumb.

- Identify ways in which people may be exposed to tire crumb based on their activities on the fields.

The study has four parts:

- Literature Review/Gap Analysis (EPA and CDC/ATSDR)
- Tire Crumb Characterization (EPA and CDC/ATSDR)
- Exposure Characterization Study (EPA and CDC/ATSDR)
- Playground Study (Consumer Product Safety Commission)

Status

For the tire crumb characterization part of the study, tire crumb samples were gathered from tire crumb manufacturing/recycling plants and from indoor and

outdoor fields across the country. Samples were gathered from nine tire crumb manufacturing/recycling plants and 40 fields. Researchers are currently evaluating the samples to characterize the chemical make-up of tire crumbs.

On August 2, 2017, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the Information Collection Request for the continuation of the Tire Crumb Exposure Characterization Study. With the OMB approval, the exposure characterization is now underway. EPA and CDC/ATSDR are currently visiting a small number of fields to collect exposure information to better characterize people's exposure to tire crumbs. Activity information from field users who elect to participate in the study is being gathered.

On December 30, 2016, the agencies released a status report describing the progress of the research to date. The status report includes the final peer-reviewed Literature Review/Gaps Analysis report and describes the progress to date on other research activities that are part of the effort including: Characterization of the chemicals found in tire crumb; Characterization of the exposure scenarios for those who use turf fields containing tire crumb; Study to better understand how children use playgrounds containing tire crumb and; Outreach to key stakeholders. The status report does not include research findings.

On February 10, 2017, a 60-day Federal Register Notice for the exposure characterization portion of the study as outlined in the Federal Research Action Plan was posted for public comment. An additional requirement of a 30-day Federal Register Notice, along with the Information Collection Request package was published on June 12, 2017. Those can be viewed from the sidebar menu.

While this effort won't provide all the answers about whether synthetic turf fields are safe, it represents the first time that such a large study is being conducted across the U.S. The study will provide a better understanding of potential exposures that athletes and others may experience and will help answer some of the key questions that have been raised. Depending upon the findings, available resources and other considerations, additional research beyond the first year may be conducted.

Timeline

A peer-reviewed report summarizing study results will be published as soon as possible after the exposure characterization part of the study concludes.

Existing Research and Information

Other federal, state, and local government agencies have conducted limited studies on artificial turf fields. For example, from 2009-2011, New York City and the states of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey conducted studies on tire crumb infill and synthetic turf. Also, in 2008 and 2009 the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry evaluated synthetic turf "grass blades" in response to concerns about lead exposure. Their evaluations estimated that any potential releases of toxic chemicals from the grass blades, such as lead, would be below levels of concern. In 2008, EPA conducted a limited Scoping-Level Field Monitoring Study of Synthetic Turf Fields and Playgrounds. The purpose of the limited study was to test a method for measuring possible emissions from using synthetic turf on playgrounds and ball fields, not to determine the potential health risks of recycled tire crumb in playgrounds or in synthetic turf athletic fields.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- [2017 Federal Register Notice: Public Comment and Federal Responses](#)
- [30-day Federal Register Notice: Comment on Information Collection Request for Characterization of Exposure Potential during Activities Conducted on Synthetic Turf with Crumb Rubber Infill - Closed on July 12, 2017](#)
- [60-day Federal Register Notice: Comment on proposed and/or continuing sample collections - Closed April 11, 2017](#)
- [2016 Federal Register Notice: Public Comment and Federal Responses](#)
- [April 2016 Webinar Recording: Overview of the Federal Research Action Plan](#)

Study Documents

- [December 2016 Status Report: Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb](#)
- [Research Protocol and Study Design](#)
- [Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds](#)
- [2008 EPA Limited Scoping-Level Field Monitoring Study of Synthetic Turf Fields and Playgrounds](#)

Related Links

- [Tire Crumb Questions and Answers](#)
- [Government Organization Websites Related to the Use of Tire Crumb on Fields and Playgrounds](#)

LAST UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2017