

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



Memo

To: John P. Bohenko  
Fr: Peter H. Rice  
Re: Artificial Turf Concerns

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Recent reporting in the *Boston Globe* and *TheIntercept.com* have identified some potential health concerns related to PFAS and artificial turf. Specifically, it is reported that the manufacturing process for artificial turf uses PFAS chemicals in the extrusion process used to create the “blades of grass” in the artificial turf.

City staff and the City’s field design consultant CMA Engineers and their sub-consultant Weston & Sampson are aware of these reports and will ensure the selected field materials are PFAS free. The new athletic fields planned for the former Community Campus site will be specified using suppliers who can provide artificial turf without PFAS.

The project design has completed wetlands permitting, secured approval from the Conservation Commission, completed the Planning Board’s Technical Advisory Committee review and was approved by the Planning Board at their October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The project is anticipated to go out to bid in early 2020.

The Recreation Board with City Council’s concurrence selected artificial turf over grass for the new athletic fields because of its playability, safety, and the ability allow continuous play despite weather conditions.

City Staff along with its design team are committed to ensure safe athletic fields. Staff will continue to monitor the studies now underway and work with our consultants to select a certified PFAS-free artificial turf for the project.