

Vote YES on Article 18

3-year moratorium allows time to assess:

- Environmental effects of plastic turf (microplastic & PFAS).
- Improvement & cost savings by enhanced maintenance of all Sharon natural grass athletic fields.

PFAS are toxic “forever chemicals”



Health Impacts

- Immunity
 - Hormones
 - Fertility
 - Cholesterol
 - Learning
 - Cancer
 - Celiac Disease
- Accumulate in our bodies and environment.
 - Toxic at low levels of exposure.
 - Scientists think PFAS may have contributed to chronic health problems over 70 years of non-regulated use.

New Strict PFAS Drinking Water Standard

20 ppt PFAS*
(500 times lower than acceptable arsenic level)



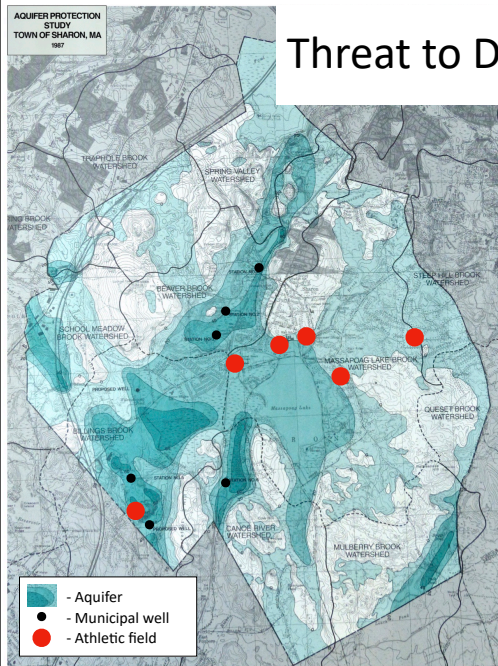
PFAS in turf could travel with rainwater draining off the field.

PFAS released from ONE plastic turf field is enough to contaminate Lake Massapoag up to 8 times with 20 ppt of PFAS.**

* Published by MassDEP on October 2, 2020.

** Based on fluorine levels in Sprinturf & up to 16% releasable PFAS.

Threat to Drinking Water



Our drinking water comes from interconnected underground aquifers (blue-shaded areas).

Our athletic fields (red dots) lie over these aquifers.

If we contaminate our drinking water, we will have to import MWRA water, which would cost millions of dollars.

Plastic turf causes local plastic pollution



A 20-ton plastic field can shed 600 lb of plastic bits / year.

These particles last “forever.”

Wear & tear causes plastic grass blades to break off and scatter. These plastic particles: don’t fully degrade; accumulate in the environment, soil, and water; and enter the food chain.

Threat to Lake Massapoag



The High School football field location is particularly sensitive. A drainage ditch, shown in dark blue, carries runoff 500 ft from the athletic field to the beach. During heavy rain, PFAS and other toxins could be carried to the beach, where young children swim.

Slide 7

Plastic turf is a disposal nightmare

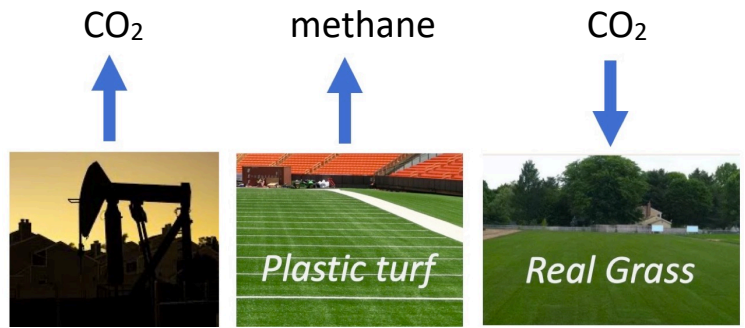


Rolls of discarded plastic turf in PA

Plastic turf is not recyclable. It lasts forever, leaching PFAS and other toxic chemicals into the environment.

Slide 8

Plastic turf aggravates climate change



Sharon adopted a goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Plastic grass is made from oil. Well drilling and plastic manufacturing release carbon dioxide. Sunlight causes plastic grass to release methane, a greenhouse gas that's up to 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Real grass sequesters carbon, so it's part of the solution, not the problem.

Slide 9

Injuries on plastic turf



World Cup soccer players refuse to play on artificial turf, in part due to turf burns.

The NFL Players Association recently requested that all teams convert fields back to natural grass due to increased lower extremity injuries on plastic turf.

Slide 10

Let's upgrade all our fields for less \$

Enhanced maintenance of natural grass at Lincoln Park Field, Somerville:



Enhanced grass maintenance can improve athletic field quality & resilience, allowing more playable hours. Improving all 14 athletic fields would cost less than a single million-dollar plastic field, and benefit all of Sharon's student-athletes.

Slide 11

Emergency PFAS Legislation in MA

- A bill passed by the House (pending in the Senate) would establish an interagency task force to investigate water & ground PFAS contamination.
- We should wait to hear their recommendations before installing artificial turf in Sharon.

Slide 12

Let's take a PAUSE Vote YES on Article 18

