

# **Turf Field Bonding Proposal**

## **Overview**

April 10, 2023

Board of Selectmen Meeting

## Turf Field Bonding Proposal-Status

- **Proposal**

- *255' x 405' coconut husk infill turf field*
- *Minimal disruption to Allen's Meadow-no asphalt, no additional fencing*

- **Need**

- *A grass fields doesn't equal the number of hours of playing time of a turf field*
- *The two current turf fields are not sufficient to meet resident demand for turf*
  - Demonstrated lack of field availability
  - Youth sports playing/practicing up to 9:00pm on school nights
- *High level of youth sports participants*
  - 750+ Wilton Youth Football and Cheer participants
  - 275+ Wilton Youth Field Hockey participants
  - 600+ Wilton Youth Lacrosse Association participants
  - 1,000+ Wilton Soccer Association participants

## Turf Field Bonding Proposal-Status

- **Lease Status**

- *On April 4<sup>th</sup>, CTDOT advised lease terms were confirmed*
- *Lease to be sent this week*
- *15-year lease with all requested changes to the existing lease*

- **Environmental Review**

- *Reviewed twice by State-original Wilton request and recent appeal by residents and/or environmental group*
- *Turf manufacturer representation of turf materials*
- *PFAS testing of water directly from Lilly and Stadium discharge pipe was non detectible*
- *No liability associated with PFAS per Town Attorney Nick Bamonte*
- *Coconut husk infill does not create heat. Crumb rubber infill creates heat. Wilton doesn't allow crumb rubber infill*

## Turf Field Bonding Proposal-Status

### Environmental Review, cont.

- *CT DPH Website*

The possibility that artificial turf fields may contain PFAS is an area of active research. Concerns were first raised in 2019 after a number of media outlets reported that testing by nonprofit organizations had identified low levels of PFAS in several artificial turf fields located in Massachusetts. However, because the PFAS concentrations detected in the Massachusetts fields are within the range of “background” PFAS concentrations detected in soils (collected from pristine remote areas) and in surface waters (collected near urban areas) as a result of atmospheric deposition, it is impossible to determine whether the PFAS originated from the turf or from other sources such as atmospheric deposition.

PFAS are used in the production of plastic, rubber, and resin, and as processing aids to improve plastic extrusion; many of the components used to manufacture artificial turf fields. Thus, additional investigation is required to determine if PFAS are present in artificial turf fields, and more importantly, if present, are PFAS released from the fields in sufficient quantities to pose a risk to public health or the environment?

To date, research on this topic is limited to a single, peer-reviewed study (Lauria et. al. 2022). Results of this study, conducted by researchers from public health departments and universities in Sweden and Canada, indicate that the fluorinated substances (fluoropolymers) measured in the artificial turf fields appear to be bound to the components of the artificial turf and do not leach into the environment. Further, they are not the type of fluorinated chemicals that transform in the environment into harmful PFAS. For all these reasons, this peer-reviewed study shows that the presence of fluorinated substances in artificial turf fields does not pose an exposure concern to users of the fields.

## Turf Field Bonding Proposal-Status

- Cost and Funding**

		WARF	BOND
Cost of Turf Field-current \$	\$1,822,527		
Cost Escalation-1 yr @6%	\$109,352		
Contingency @ 10%	\$182,253		
	\$2,114,131	\$180,000	\$1,934,131
Possible Seasonal Bubble Infrastructure	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	
		\$500,000	\$1,934,131
<b>Rounded</b>			<b>\$1,950,000</b>

- If the contingency is not required, the Town's bonding will be reduced to as low as \$1.752 million*
- The contribution of at least \$180,000 from WARF towards the turf field is fixed. If the cost of the possible seasonal bubble infrastructure is less than \$320,000 that savings will be allocated to the cost of the turf field and reduce the Town's required bonding.*