

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmember Berliner

SUBJECT: Use of Plant-Derived Materials for Infill in Artificial Turf Playing Fields

Background

1. There is a very high demand for use of County playing fields for youth and adult sports and other recreational activities.
2. County agencies began installing artificial turf in some County playing fields to increase the hours of available use for the community and to achieve a more sustainably consistent playing surface on the field.
3. Since County agencies began installing artificial turf fields, the technology of infill materials has expanded and improved. There are now more types of both synthetic and plant-derived materials available in the industry. In particular, use of infill materials made from plant-derived substances resolves some environmental and heat issues related to synthetic infill materials, and may allay some community concerns about the potential unknown risks that could come from contact with synthetic infill materials.
4. Plant-derived infill materials for artificial turf playing fields show great promise to also afford high quality playing surfaces that can sustain significantly higher hours of use than a natural grass playing field, achieving the County's goal of increasing playing field availability for sports and recreation.
5. County residents, businesses, and government all need to be good stewards of the environment. County Government should lead by example with environmental initiatives to affirm the County's commitment to reduce its environmental footprint and to show that viable environmentally-friendly options are available and should be pursued whenever possible.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

The Council plans to approve only the use of plant-derived infill materials for new artificial turf playing fields in projects where the County funds or contracts for the installation of a new artificial turf playing field.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council