



May 5, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Rooted in Jewish wisdom and practice, Shoresh's environmental programs respond to contemporary food and ecological issues. Through experiential education and action, Shoresh creates meaningful Jewish life and builds a more sustainable and inspired community.

We are concerned about the TDSB's proposal to install synthetic turf at Central Technical School. Our primary concern involves the health and environmental hazards of this turf, which will impact not just Central Tech students and the community in Harbord Village, but also much of Toronto, as the TDSB is planning other synthetic turf sports fields and playgrounds throughout the city.

Our concern is that a synthetic turf using tire crumb rubber infill can be expected to:

1. Create a mix of toxic gasses and carbon black -- which young players may breathe -- and add heavy metals, tire crumb and plastic shards to storm water run-off.
2. Leach known carcinogens and heavy metals like lead, cadmium, zinc, arsenic, and selenium.
3. Create a higher injury rate for players.
4. Become very hot in the summer and increase players' risk of heat rash, exhaustion, and potentially heat stroke.
5. Increase the Heat Island Effect in downtown Toronto.

We trust that you will take this into consideration and prioritize human health.

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Canadian soil. Jewish roots.