



City of Vancouver *Planning By-law Administration Bulletins*

Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department

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ARTIFICIAL TURF ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

*Authority - Director of Planning
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The intent of this bulletin is to clarify the use and application of artificial turf in the private realm. The Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and Development Services, Building and Licensing departments will not approve artificial turf installations on private property. The term “artificial turf” shall apply to any synthetic turf product that resembles turf grass. Artificial turf is not permitted on private property as the Director of Planning does not deem artificial turf to have fully permeable characteristics, as per Site Coverage regulations in the Zoning and Development By-law. In addition, artificial turf is not consistent with City of Vancouver plans, by-laws, and strategies aiming to protect and enhance ecosystems while improving access to nature for all. These plans, by-laws and strategies include: the Citywide Integrated Rainwater Management Plan (IRMP), the Protection of Trees By-law 9958, the Urban Forest Strategy, and the Biodiversity Strategy.

It is recognized that artificial turf is chosen over turf grass to address concerns regarding water use, pests, and infestations such as the European Chafer beetle. However, there are other alternatives to turf grass. Please consult the Waterwise Landscape Guidelines for recommendations regarding lawn alternatives, such as drought tolerant and low maintenance plantings.