

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Claudia Funke
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 7:20 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Ibarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia; Gao, Beilei
Subject: Agenda Item 11 - against plastic fields

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Dear Mayor and Pasadena City Council Members,

As a voting and tax-paying resident of our city who cares deeply about our local environment and health, I urge you to transition our fields to natural grass.

Already, the level of microplastics in our environment is dangerously high. We need to be moving away from the use of plastic, not embracing continued use. The shedding from plastic fields is a serious environmental threat, and the direct exposure of children to the chemicals in them is unacceptable.

Plastic fields increase heat island effects and they do not contribute to a natural environment and biodiversity. They are absurd for a city that takes pride in its great trees.

I respectfully ask that our city spend its money not on plastic turf but rather on natural grass.

Sincerely
Claudia Funke
Resident, District 7

Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: B Ishida
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 7:47 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Ibarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia
Subject: Agenda Item #11 - Please Invest in Natural Grass Fields

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Dear Council Members and staff,

As a Pasadena resident and elementary teacher teaching in Pasadena, I care about the physical and financial health of our community, I urge you to focus City funding on transitioning to natural grass fields. **As a first grade teacher, I teach life cycles and recently, the difference between living and non-living things. Plastic fields are a death cycle from beginning to end because they are made from fossil fuels, the burning of which and the pollution of which is killing our planet and driving climate change at a faster rate than was ever predicted.**

Natural grass fields, however, are a life-cycle and part of what one would define as living. Not only is the grass part living, but it helps filter water more effectively, provides habitat for insects, bacteria, fungi and more life forms than I have knowledge of. It is also cooler, naturally. Yes, it does need water (part of being a living thing), but in the long run uses less because it doesn't heat up artificially, like plastic grass does and doesn't make the water toxic as it filters through, like plastic grass. In fact, it filters water and makes it cleaner by the time it reaches the water table.

Plastic fields cost more in the long-term than natural grass fields. Durable, drought-tolerant, natural turf does not need to be replaced every 10 years. Grass can be reseeded.

Plastic fields are unusable on hot days, routinely reaching surface temperatures of 140°F or more. These conditions render fields off-limits and place users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to harmful chemicals and heavy metals. Artificial turf fields are generally made from petroleum-based plastics.

Plastic fields shed microplastics, contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater.

Plastic fields worsen the urban heat island effect as Pasadena faces a dangerous rise in extreme heat days. Natural grass would reduce the impact of increasing heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks.

In light of the many downsides of artificial plastic fields, the City should direct field replacement funding on the safer, cooler, and more climate-appropriate option – natural grass turf.

Thank you,

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Item 11

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ann Ervin >
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 8:45 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; lbarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia; Gao, Beilei
Subject: Please Invest in Safer, Cooler, more Affordable Fields: Natural Grass

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Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

As a local constituent who cares about the physical and financial health of our community, I urge you to focus City park funding on natural turf, not plastic, recreational fields.

Plastic fields are more expensive in the long-term than natural turf fields. Durable, drought-tolerant, natural turf does not need to be replaced and landfilled every 10 years. Grass can be reseeded.

Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to harmful chemicals and heavy metals. Artificial turf fields are generally made with crumb rubber infill (from old tires) and petroleum-based plastics. PFAS 'forever' chemicals are regularly detected in plastic fields, with potentially serious, long-term health impacts for regular users.

Plastic fields shed microplastics and pollute our stormwater system and waterways, contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater.

Plastic fields are unusable on hot days, routinely reaching surface temperatures of 140°F or more. These conditions render fields off-limits and place users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Plastic fields worsen local urban heat islands as our region faces a rise in dangerous heat waves and extreme heat days. Natural grass would help reduce the impacts of this increase in heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks.

Plastic fields provide no environmental benefits. They do not support biodiversity. They do not cool the air. They create significant waste when replaced. And they may worsen flooding and undermine our ability to capture stormwater.

In light of the many downsides of artificial plastic fields, the City of Pasadena should direct field replacement funding to the safer, cooler, more affordable and climate-appropriate option – natural grass turf.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Marisela Avila
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 9:25 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Ibarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia
Subject: Agenda Item #11 - Please Invest in Natural Grass Fields

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Dear Council Members and staff, As a Pasadena resident who cares about the physical and financial health of our community, I urge you to focus City funding on transitioning to natural grass fields. Plastic fields cost more in the long-term than natural grass fields. Durable, drought-tolerant, natural turf does not need to be replaced every 10 years. Grass can be reseeded. Plastic fields are unusable on hot days, routinely reaching surface temperatures of 140°F or more. These conditions render fields off-limits and place users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to harmful chemicals and heavy metals. Artificial turf fields are generally made from petroleum-based plastics. Plastic fields shed microplastics, contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater. Plastic fields worsen the urban heat island effect as Pasadena faces a dangerous rise in extreme heat days. Natural grass would reduce the impact of increasing heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks. In light of the many downsides of artificial plastic fields, the City should direct field replacement funding on the safer, cooler, and more climate-appropriate option – natural grass turf. Thank you,

Kindly,

Marisela Avila

10/13/2026
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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Glenn Camhi
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 6:04 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Ibarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia
Subject: Item 11: Staff report downplays hazards & costs of artificial turf, please choose natural grass

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Dear Council Members and staff,

Staff is correct that **some** of the health and (to a lesser degree) environmental hazards of artificial turf have been reduced, depending on the type used. However, these reductions have not been significant enough to warrant further use in the city. Artificial turf still can lead to injuries due to increased resistance to sliding and increased heat retention, and the environmental hazards remain high -- including landfill waste, as these are generally non-recyclable and must be thrown out every 8-10 years.

Staff noted artificial turf would cost almost \$1 million more than natural grass long-term, but they did not even include the massive cost of recycling entire fields of fake turf -- to the limited degree next generation artificial turf can be. So it'd cost the city even more. Or we'd just add to landfill.

It's true that Pasadena would benefit greatly from year-round usable fields. This is a truly important need, with compelling arguments in its favor. Unfortunately, this is a very difficult set of needs to weigh against each other. But we must consider the environmental issues, which will cause greater harm in the long run, even with the latest advances. I feel staff has significantly downplayed these issues.

Best regards,
Glenn Camhi
Pasadena

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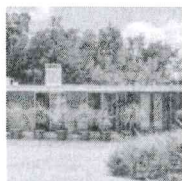


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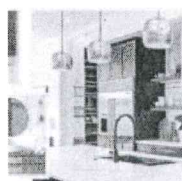
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Guest Opinion | Suzaane York: Pasadena Has Counted the Cost of Grass. But Who Is Counting the Cost of Plastic?

The city's artificial turf analysis leaves important questions about heat, pollution, long-term costs and public health unanswered. Before committing millions more to synthetic playing fields, Pasadena needs to look at the full picture.

BY SUZANNE YORK

Published on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | 5:12 am



Pasadena city staff say artificial turf is the most practical choice for replacing the aging playing fields at Villa Parke and Robinson Park. Their argument is familiar: synthetic turf offers more playing hours, requires less routine maintenance and uses less water than natural grass. Those are legitimate considerations. Our children need places to play, and Pasadena has a shortage of athletic fields. Families who depend on Villa Parke for affordable sports programs deserve to be taken seriously. But the city is making a serious mistake if it treats the cost of maintaining a playing field as the same thing as the cost of that field to our community.

Staff have calculated certain expenses. They have not measured the full cost. According to the city's estimates, maintaining and replacing artificial turf at Villa Parke would cost approximately \$2.43 million over 10 years, compared with \$1.53 million for natural grass. The artificial turf estimate includes replacement in the 10th year. Staff also estimate that synthetic turf would provide 3,120 prime-time playing hours annually, compared with 2,340 for lighted natural grass.

That is a difference of approximately \$900,000 over 10 years in favor of natural grass, based on the city's estimates. Staff argue that artificial turf's greater availability and lower routine maintenance make it the better choice. Those are important considerations, but they don't settle the question. The city has not demonstrated that its comparison fully accounts for the costs of extreme heat, environmental impacts, chemical exposure, plastic disposal and the long-term consequences of replacing living ground cover with synthetic material.



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Where is the accounting for days and evenings when artificial turf becomes too hot for safe play? What does it cost to monitor extreme heat, modify activities, shorten practices or cancel games? What will it cost to remove and dispose of the synthetic materials when the fields wear out? How much of the proposed turf can actually be recycled, and where will that happen? And have we adequately evaluated what professionally constructed and properly

Maintained natural grass fields could provide. These are not minor details.

They are part of the cost of the decision.

Until Pasadena answers these questions, calling artificial turf the most cost-effective solution is premature. More playing hours on paper do not tell the whole story

Staff estimate that artificial turf provides 780 more prime-time playing hours annually than lighted natural grass. That is a significant advantage. But available hours and hours that can safely be used are not necessarily the same thing. Synthetic turf can absorb and retain substantially more heat than natural grass, sometimes reaching temperatures far above the surrounding air. Living grass cools its surroundings through evapotranspiration. Artificial turf does not. Research comparing artificial turf with natural grass has documented substantial differences in surface temperatures during hot weather. That evidence does not mean every synthetic field is unsafe at every temperature, but it does mean that surface conditions deserve serious attention, particularly in a city already confronting extreme heat.



Pasadena's Public Health Department is developing guidelines for outdoor youth recreation in extreme heat. Proposed measures include monitoring environmental conditions, providing hydration breaks and modifying activities. And the city's Planning Department is currently developing the city's Environmental Justice Element as part of its General Plan.

Interestingly, both of its artificial turf fields are in a census tract in Northwest Pasadena that California Senate Bill 1000 considers a "Disadvantaged Community".

I believe the more obvious question is: How many of the additional playing hours counted in the city's analysis will actually be usable during hot weather?

The city should measure surface temperatures and relevant heat stress conditions at Villa Parke and Robinson Park during the hottest parts of the day and evening. It should document heat-related restrictions, shortened practices, cancellations and closures. It should also estimate the costs of monitoring, mitigation and lost recreational opportunities. If some of those additional hours cannot safely be used, the city's comparison should reflect that. We cannot count every available hour as a benefit while leaving the consequences of extreme heat out of the calculation.



Another question that I believe they have not given adequate consideration to is: What about plastic pollution and potential chemical exposure? Artificial turf is not simply a different kind of grass. It is a manufactured product with a life cycle that begins with production and ends with removal, disposal or recycling. Beyond Plastics, an environmental advocacy organization, estimates that an average 80,000-square-foot synthetic athletic field contains approximately 40,000 pounds of synthetic turf carpet, in addition to substantial quantities of infill. The actual amount varies by field design and materials. Over time, synthetic fibers and other materials can wear away and enter the surrounding environment. When a field reaches the end of its

As for me, the city must also contend with the removal and destination of the materials.

California's Department of Toxic Substances Control has investigated chemicals in artificial turf, including PFAS. In February 2026, the department published a technical document addressing artificial turf and PFAS, reflecting continuing attention to product composition and potential exposure. The evidence deserves careful treatment.

Staff propose newer turf systems that proclaim they eliminate PFAS from manufacturing and use natural infill materials. Those may be improvements, if independently verified. But eliminating PFAS from manufacturing does not eliminate the plastic itself, solve the heat problem or answer questions about microplastic release and end-of-life disposal.

Pasadena should require complete product disclosures, independent testing and verification of chemical claims. It should identify the quantities and types of materials proposed for each field, explain how those materials may wear over time, and document where the removed turf and infill will go.

If the city says the new systems are recyclable, it should identify the actual recycling facility, explain which materials can be recovered and provide evidence that the proposed recycling process is available and practical. A product being described as recyclable is not the same as demonstrating that it will be recycled.

We are already struggling with plastic pollution throughout our environment. We cannot keep treating each new plastic product as an isolated decision while ignoring the cumulative burden we leave behind.

Living landscapes matter in a warming city. Pasadena is facing rising temperatures, urban heat islands and the loss of trees and other living landscapes. Against that backdrop, replacing living ground cover with extensive synthetic surfaces deserves a much closer look. Healthy grass cools its surroundings through evapotranspiration. Living soil can absorb and retain water. Natural landscapes can help cool the environment rather than add another heat-retaining surface.

Artificial turf may withstand intensive use better than natural grass, but durability is only one consideration. We should also ask how each option affects the surrounding park and neighborhood. The city should compare the environmental consequences of both surfaces, including heat, water use,

drainage, material production, maintenance and disposal. It should explain which impacts can be quantified, which cannot yet be reliably measured and how those differences were weighed in its recommendation. Some environmental benefits may be difficult to assign a precise dollar value. That doesn't make them any less important.

Have we really given natural grass a fair chance? Staff cite limited maintenance personnel, water requirements and the difficulty of accommodating sports programs during field renovation. These are real challenges. Pasadena operates 22 athletic fields with a three-person sports-field maintenance crew, according to the city's report. The city cannot simply assume that every field can be converted to natural grass without additional resources or changes to how sports are scheduled. But those operational challenges should inform the decision, not end the discussion.

It is understood that poorly constructed or inadequately maintained grass can become compacted, uneven and unsafe. It takes planning, expertise and resources to maintain athletic fields that withstand heavy use. But don't our children deserve the safest choice?

The city should therefore compare realistic options, not idealized grass against a synthetic system designed to maximize availability. What would natural grass require in staffing, equipment, irrigation, drainage, soil management and recovery time? What would it cost to maintain it properly? How much would field rotation and scheduled recovery affect the number of hours available?

Pasadena is proposing a two-year natural-grass trial covering approximately 25,000 square feet at Villa Parke. That is a useful step. But the trial should be part of a serious effort to understand what natural grass can deliver, what it costs and how it performs under local conditions.

The city should explain how the trial's results will inform future decisions and why those results cannot be considered before committing to another generation of synthetic fields. Before approving the replacements, Pasadena should commission an independent, side-by-side evaluation of professionally constructed and maintained natural grass and the proposed artificial turf systems. The evaluation should use consistent assumptions and include realistic staffing and water budgets, drainage, field recovery schedules, usable hours during extreme heat, surface temperatures, environmental impacts, replacement cycles and costs over 20 to 30 years.

It should also examine whether improved scheduling, field rotation, partnerships with other facilities and investments in additional playing spaces could expand access without requiring every heavily used field to be synthetic. We need more playing opportunities for our children. But we should not assume that artificial turf is the only way to provide them.

Before making a long-term commitment, Pasadena should answer seven basic questions:

- What is the full cost? Provide a comparable 20- to 30-year analysis that includes construction, routine maintenance, water, periodic renovation, replacement, removal, disposal and recycling. Clearly identify which expenses are included in the existing estimates and which are not.
- How many hours can safely be used? Document actual heat-related restrictions, shortened practices, cancellations and closures, rather than relying solely on estimated field availability.
- What are the heat conditions? Measure surface temperatures and relevant heat-stress conditions at Villa Parke and Robinson Park during hot weather, and explain what thresholds will trigger restrictions.
- What exactly is being installed? Disclose the proposed products' chemical composition, provide independent test results and verify claims about PFAS-free manufacturing and other material specifications.
- Where will the plastic go? Report the quantities of carpet and infill to be installed, expected replacement schedules, potential material loss and the actual destination of removed products. Document what can be recycled and at what cost.
- What would properly managed natural grass require? Provide realistic estimates for staffing, equipment, irrigation, drainage, soil care, field rotation and recovery periods, informed by the city's natural-grass trial.
- What does the public-health evidence establish? Explain which risks have been evaluated, what the findings do and do not show, where research remains limited, and whether additional local monitoring or assessment is warranted.

These are reasonable requests before spending millions of public dollars on a decision that will affect Pasadena's parks for years to come.

We cannot keep passing the problem to our children. Pasadena staff argue that artificial turf offers greater availability, lower routine maintenance and some water savings. Those benefits deserve consideration. So do the costs of replacing the surface, the consequences of extreme heat, the environmental

...safety of synthetic materials and the possibility that better field management could improve the performance of natural grass.

The city's own figures show that natural grass has lower estimated 10-year costs at Villa Parke. Artificial turf offers more estimated playing hours, but the city should establish how many of those hours remain safe and practical during extreme heat. The public also deserves a clear accounting of long-term replacement and disposal costs and an explanation of how environmental concerns were incorporated into the decision.

Pasadena should look at the experiences of other communities that have restricted or reconsidered artificial turf. It should examine their policies and field-management practices, rather than assuming that synthetic surfaces are inevitable.

Our children deserve plentiful, accessible and safe places to play. They also deserve a city that considers the long-term consequences of the decisions adults make on their behalf. We have an opportunity to invest in living landscapes, professional field management and better recreational planning. We should not treat plastic as the default solution simply because it offers more hours of use under a narrow definition of availability.

We are living with a plastic pollution crisis and a climate emergency. We cannot keep passing these problems on to our children and grandchildren. Let's invest in playing fields that serve our children today without adding to the environmental and public-health challenges they will inherit tomorrow.

Let's do the right thing.

If you would like to express your opinion about this subject, please attend a meeting council mtg on Tuesday, October 13 at 6 p.m. or submit a comment:

https://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/2026%20Agendas/Oct_13_26/Agenda.asp

To read California Dept of Toxic Substances Control about Artificial Turf and PFAS:

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/artificial-turf-containing-pfass/>

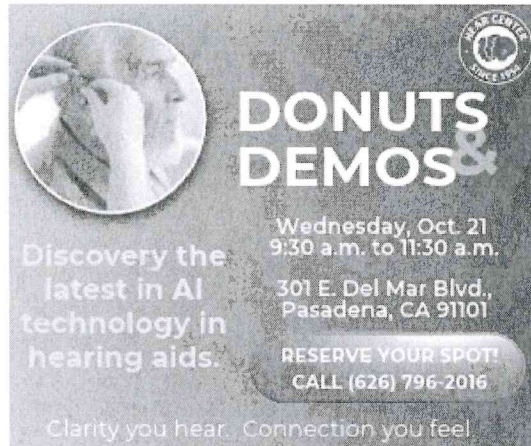
To read the Fact Sheet about artificial turf from Beyond Plastics:

<https://www.beyondplastics.org/fact-sheets/synthetic-turf>

To read the Environmental Protection Agency report about heat islands.

<https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>

Suzanne York is a member of Pasadena's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) , that formally recommended against this turf expenditure, and a retired Pasadena Unified School District teacher. She is stating her own personal position and not speaking for the Commission



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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 8:34 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Reliable Fields Matter to Our Young Athletes

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Please submit this as coorespondence for tonight's council meeting regarding Item 11.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: General Info <info@playcall.org>
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 12:38 AM
Subject: Subject: Reliable Fields Matter to Our Young Athletes
To: <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>, <rcole@cityofpasadena.net>, <justinjones@cityofpasadena.net>, <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>, <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, <jlyon@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: <mhawkesworth@cityofpasadena.net>, <kpanossian@cityofpasadena.net>, <parksandrec@cityofpasadena.net>

Dear Pasadena City Council:

On behalf of West Pasadena Little League and Central Altadena Little League, we are writing to express our support for the City of Pasadena's efforts to install artificial turf on high-traffic athletic fields.

Our leagues are community-based youth sports organizations serving children and families throughout Pasadena, Altadena, and the surrounding communities. We are proud to call Robinson Park home, and we see firsthand how important access to safe, reliable, and well-maintained athletic facilities is to the success of youth sports.

Access to fields is fundamental to our mission. Youth sports provide children with opportunities to develop physical skills, build confidence, learn teamwork, form friendships, and develop a lasting connection to their community. Our leagues also depend on dependable field access to recruit and retain volunteer coaches, organize teams, schedule practices and games, and provide affordable opportunities for families to participate.

When fields become unplayable due to heavy use or weather, the effects extend well beyond a change in schedule. Practices and games are canceled, playing opportunities are reduced, and the burden falls on families and volunteers who have already committed significant time and energy to making these programs possible. For community organizations operating with limited resources, reliable facilities can make a meaningful difference in our ability to serve local children.

We believe artificial turf can be an important part of the solution for athletic fields that experience especially heavy use. When thoughtfully designed and properly maintained, these fields can provide more consistent playing surfaces and help communities get greater use out of their existing recreational facilities. Improved field availability can mean more practices, fewer cancellations, and more opportunities for children to participate in organized sports.

We support reasonable safeguards for every playing surface, natural or artificial. Every field should be properly designed, inspected, maintained, and monitored for safe performance.

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Pasadena can also establish demanding requirements for artificial turf, including product-specific testing, heat protocols, drainage standards, material disclosure, and restrictions on unacceptable materials.

The answer does not need to be an all-or-nothing choice between natural grass and artificial turf.

Use natural grass where it can meet the community's needs. Use artificial turf where additional durability and playing capacity are necessary.

Please keep both options available for Pasadena's children.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of West Pasadena and Central Altadena Little Leagues

--

Best regards,

Jessica Ancona

Government & Community Strategy Advisor

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-ancona

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: humaira
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 8:53 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: City Council item 11 artificial turf

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To the Mayor and City Council,

I urge you to follow the recommendations of the Environmental Advisory Commission and say NO to artificial turf for the City's recreational fields. Please prioritize field users' health (especially children) and environmental considerations. We do not want artificial turf fields putting microplastics in the air and adding to the heat island effect nor do we want to be adding all the toxic waste to the landfill when the fields need to be replaced. There may be some down time for maintenance of natural grass fields, but there will also be many many days when the artificial turf fields are unusable because of excessive heat generated from the fake, artificial, not-real, impostor, plastic "grass".

Humaira
Pasadena District 7 resident

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for Android.

Subject: Preserve Pasadena's Ability to Meet Youth Sports Field Demand

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of Pasadena Soccer League / Adult Sports Management, I urge the City of Pasadena to preserve artificial turf as an option for high-use athletic and recreational fields.

Our organization sees firsthand how important field availability is to children and families. A field's value should not be measured simply by its acreage or surface material. It should also be measured by how many practices, games, physical-education programs, and community activities it can reliably accommodate.

The City's own policy discussion should therefore examine annual permitted hours, actual field usage, rain cancellations, maintenance closures, and the amount of replacement capacity that would be required if artificial turf were prohibited.

The final Pasadena talking points appropriately recognize that natural grass should remain an important part of our parks while artificial turf can be considered where intensive use makes natural grass difficult to keep consistently safe and playable.

We are not asking Pasadena to approve every artificial turf product or use turf everywhere. We support rigorous health, safety, environmental, maintenance, and performance standards.

What we oppose is eliminating an important field option before determining what that decision would mean for Pasadena's children and recreational programs.

Before adopting a ban, please answer a basic question:

Where will the displaced practices, games, teams, and children play?

Please choose standards over a blanket ban.

Respectfully,



Jamon Motes

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2026 OCT 13 AM 9:05
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CITY OF PASADENA

From: Blair Miller
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 9:31 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Grass fields over plastic fields

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Dear Councilmembers,

As a local constituent who cares about the physical and financial health of our community, I urge you to focus City park funding on natural turf fields.

I understand that this may impact the times that fields are available each year, but I believe the downsides of plastic fields outweigh the timing issue.

- 1. Plastic fields are more expensive in the long-term than natural turf fields.** Durable, drought-tolerant, natural turf does not need to be wholesale replaced and landfilled every 10 years. Grass can be reseeded.
- 2. Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to harmful chemicals and heavy metals.** Artificial turf fields are generally made with crumb rubber infill (from old tires) and petroleum-based plastics. PFAS 'forever' chemicals are regularly detected in plastic fields, with potentially serious, long-term health impacts for regular field users.
- 3. Plastic fields shed microplastics and pollute our stormwater system** and waterways, contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater.
- 4. Plastic fields are unusable on hot days, routinely reaching surface temperatures of 140°F or more.** These conditions render fields off-limits and place users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.
- 5. Plastic fields worsen local urban heat islands** as our region faces a rise in dangerous heat waves and extreme heat days. According to UCLA climate researchers, the number of days with such hot temperatures is expected to double in the next two decades. Natural grass would help reduce the impacts of this increase in heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks.
- 6. Plastic fields provide no environmental benefits.** They do not support biodiversity. They do not cool the air. They create significant waste as fields must be replaced every 8–10 years. And they may worsen flooding and undermine our ability to capture stormwater.

In light of the many downsides of artificial plastic fields, the City of Pasadena should direct field replacement funding to the safer, cooler, and more climate-appropriate option – natural grass turf.

Sincerely,

Blair Miller

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Jessica Richards
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 10:21 AM
To: Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; lbarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia
Cc: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item 11 - invest in natural grass- public comment

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Dear City Council and staff,

As a constituent who cares about the health of our community and ecosystem, I urge you to focus funding on natural grass fields for the following reasons: artificial fields are hotter, create microplastics, exposes users to harmful chemicals, does not provide environmental benefits, increases flooding risk, creates long term waste, and has greater injury risk.

Artificial fields are hotter

- Artificial turf can reach 140–180°F on hot days
- These temperatures increase risk of burns and heat-related illnesses, especially for children and athletes.
- Grass fields stay cooler due to evapotranspiration.

Fake fields create microplastic pollution

- Turf fields shed microplastics as fibers and rubber infill breaks down.
- These particles enter stormwater systems, waterways, and eventually the ocean.

Fake fields expose park users to harmful chemicals

- Many turf systems use crumb rubber infill made from recycled tires, which can contain:
 - Heavy metals (e.g., lead, zinc)
 - PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)
- While research is ongoing, there is increasing concern about chronic exposure, especially for young athletes.

Fake fields provide no environmental benefits

- Unlike grass, artificial turf:
 - Does not absorb carbon dioxide
 - Does not produce oxygen
 - Does not support biodiversity
- It replaces living ecosystems with non-recyclable, petroleum-based materials.

Fake fields increase stormwater / flooding risk

- Natural soils absorb and filter water.
- Turf fields are typically installed over compacted layers that reduce infiltration.

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Item 11

- *Lack of water absorption impacts area trees negatively depriving them of water*
- This can increase urban runoff, increasing local flooding risk and pushing pollutants into local waterways.

Fake fields pose long-term waste and environmental problem

- Artificial turf fields typically last 8–10 years.
- Fields are made from non-biodegradable plastics that ends up in landfills.
- Turf is made from fossil fuels and requires energy-intensive manufacturing.
- Replacement cycles mean repeated carbon emissions and material use.

Fake fields pose greater injury risks

- Studies have found higher rates of certain injuries (e.g., ACL tears, turf burns) on artificial surfaces.
- Turf can create more surface friction and stiffness than natural grass.

Real grass is a time-tested, cooler, safer, and healthier option

- Modern grass field management (e.g., improved drainage, drought-tolerant species) can:
- Reduce water use
 -
- Support year-round play
- Support park trees which are needed for shade, cooling, carbon capture and habitat
- Deliver environmental and cooling benefits
- *Better natural grass, better outcomes (not all natural grass is equal!)*

In sum, if the aim is to support continuous park use artificial turf fails to meet that goal and causes other harm. The extreme heat will relegate the park unusable during hot days.

Thank you,

Jessica Richards

President, Bungalow Heaven
Neighborhood Association
UFAC commissioner

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: cheryl auger <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 11:08 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; lbarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia; Gao, Beilei
Cc: felixbreden@gmail.com; Cheryl Auger
Subject: BAN Artificial Turf. Invest in Natural Grass. Invest in our Future.

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Dear Mayor, Pasadena City Council Members and Staff,

As many of you know, I am a local constituent and an anti-plastic activist, and sadly, I know too much about the toxic chemicals in plastic and the unintended impacts on our planet and species. I urge you to ban plastic turf and fund natural turf for our City's recreational fields and all other City properties.

Every species is exposed to inhalation and absorption of toxic chemicals.

Synthetic turf:

- off-gasses methane and ethylene and contains PFAS
- contains 52 chemicals classified as known, presumed or suspected carcinogens by the US EPA and ECHA.
- contains neurotoxins and neurotoxicants including lead, mercury, cadmium, PAHs, VOCs, phthalates, benzene, and toluene

Neurotoxins are toxins that damage nerve tissue. Neurotoxicants are natural or man-made substances that can harm nervous-system structure or function.

A recent study estimates that 13.5% of all global cardiovascular deaths are attributed to phthalate exposure.

Artificial turf is a silent but significant contributor to our climate disaster.

It:

- kills microorganisms and biodiversity below every field of artificial turf
- emits toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains
- creates heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields, exacerbated by the lack of trees and shade plants.
- uses more water in the full lifecycle of the creation, support and disposal of the material without downstream benefits
- isn't useable in our hotter futures - synthetic turf can be 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf.

Even NFL players and their union overwhelmingly favor natural grass and are urging sports venues to replace artificial turf fields.

We need to join others in ending the use of artificial turf in our environment.

Thank you,

Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SLIP (Single Use Plastic)

10/13/2026
Item 11

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Suzanne York
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 12:11 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item 11

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FYI:

Warranty for Shaw Sports turf is EIGHT YEARS (shorter than most), very generic. Warranties protect manufacturer, not owner.

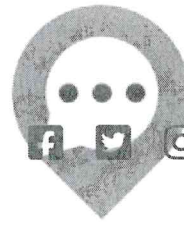
Also, they use a combo of mono and split fiber (blades). Slit fiber is KNOWN for higher injury rates and is what professional players have demanded getting rid of.

AND...they recommend uber toxic QUATERNARY cleaning products (page 2)!!!!

Where does Koko include costs for:

- Irrigation system
- Annual GMax testing- ~\$1,515. More frequently if it fails testing.
- Annual infill replenishment- 1.5 to 5 tons of chosen infill *plant-based infill is generally 4.5 times more expensive than used tire crumb.
- New maintenance equipment.
- Maintenance agreement costs (required by some manufacturers).
- Increased POTABLE water to cool plastic surface to playable temperature.
- Cleaning solvent. *Failure to follow maintenance requirements will nullify warranties.
- Pesticides for weed eruption (Some manufacturers call for glyphosate, Spectracide).
- Removal costs.
- Transportation and disposal costs (potential for disposal in hazardous waste landfills).
- POTABLE Water to clean synthetic fields of bacteria,, secretion of human fluids, waste left by pets and wildlife; often a requirement to maintain warranty. Failure to clean causes build up of bacteria, which is more prevalent in older synthetic surfaces.,
- Increased legal liability

Shaw Sports Warranty
10414_CONTRACT_ATTACHMENT_WARRANTY_INFORMATION_370255_641482.pdf
drive.google.com



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Pasadena has counted the cost of artificial turf

But what about the hidden costs?



by Suzanne York · October 12, 2026 · 4 mins read

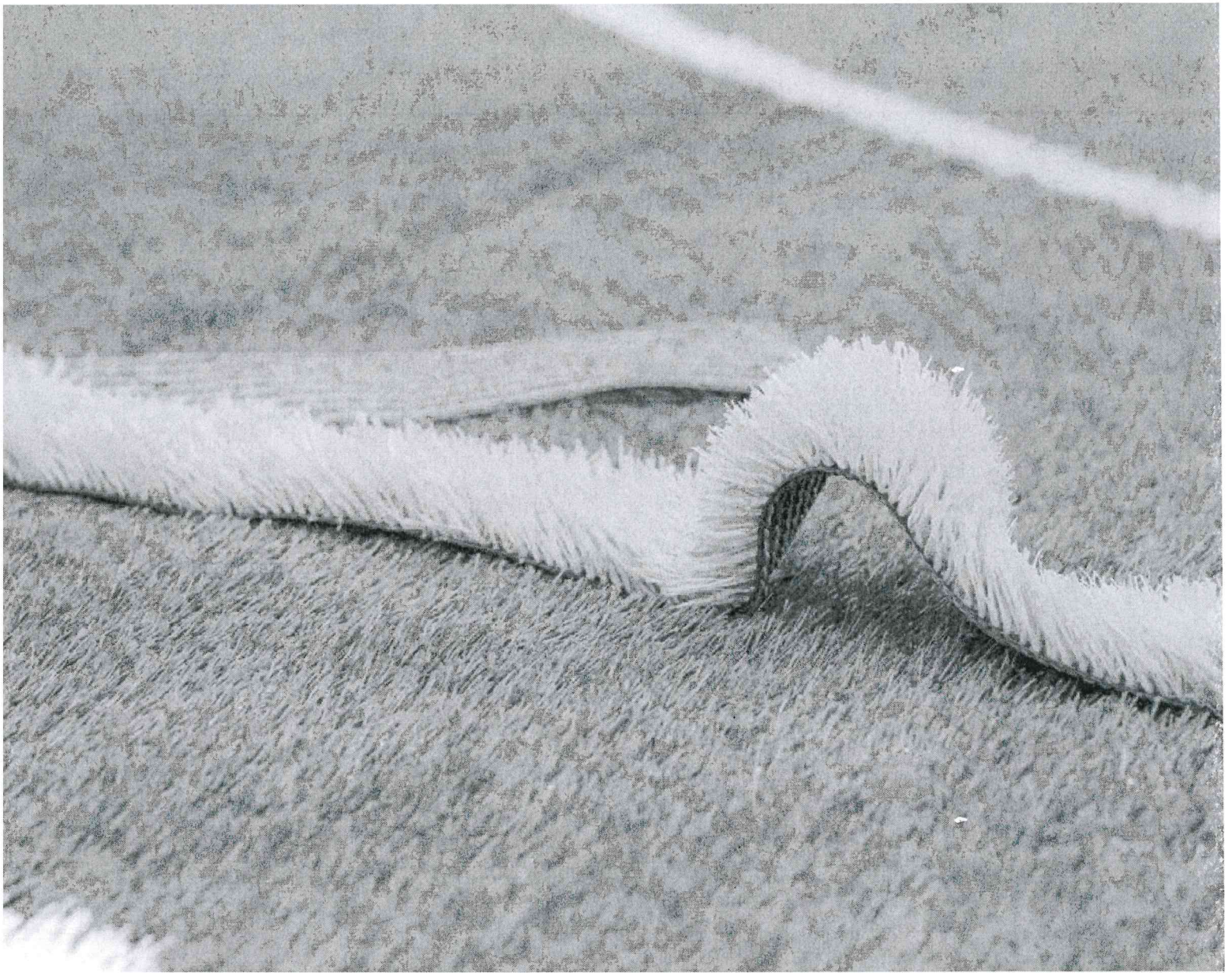


Photo: Adobe

Before spending millions more on synthetic playing fields, the city needs to consider heat, plastic pollution, public health and the true long-term cost.

Pasadena city staff say artificial turf is the most practical choice for replacing the aging playing fields at Villa Parke and Robinson Park. Synthetic turf offers more playing hours, requires less routine maintenance

It uses less water than natural grass. Those are legitimate considerations. Our children need places to play, and families deserve access to safe, affordable sports programs. But the city is making a mistake if it measures the cost of a playing field only by maintenance expenses and estimated hours of use.

According to the city's estimates, maintaining and replacing artificial turf at Villa Parke would cost approximately \$2.43 million over 10 years, compared with \$1.53 million for natural grass. The turf estimate includes replacement in the 10th year. Staff estimate that synthetic turf would provide 3,120 prime-time playing hours annually, compared with 2,340 for lighted natural grass.

Plastic pollution doesn't disappear when a field wears out.

That's \$900,000 more for artificial turf over 10 years, even before accounting for environmental impacts and the possibility that some additional playing hours may be unsafe during extreme heat.

More hours on paper don't necessarily mean more hours of safe play. Artificial turf can become dangerously hot, retaining far more heat than natural grass. Living grass cools its surroundings through

vapotranspiration; synthetic turf does not. In a city increasingly affected by extreme heat, this difference matters. How many of the additional hours in the city's analysis will actually be usable during hot weather? What will it cost to monitor temperatures, modify activities, shorten practices or cancel games?

Pasadena's Public Health Department is developing guidelines for outdoor youth recreation in extreme heat. The city should measure surface temperatures and heat-stress conditions at Villa Parke and Robinson Park, document heat-related restrictions and cancellations, and include those findings in its cost comparison. Both proposed turf fields are also located in a census tract in Northwest Pasadena that is considered a disadvantaged community under California Senate Bill 1000. As Pasadena develops its first Environmental Justice Element, it should consider whether residents already facing environmental burdens will bear additional consequences from these synthetic surfaces.

Plastic pollution doesn't disappear when a field wears out. Artificial turf is a manufactured plastic product, not simply another kind of grass. Beyond Plastics estimates that an average 80,000-square-foot synthetic athletic field contains approximately 40,000 pounds of turf carpet, in addition to substantial quantities of infill. As the material wears, fibers and other particles can escape into the environment. Eventually, the city must remove and dispose of the worn-out materials.

California's Department of Toxic Substances Control has investigated chemicals in artificial turf, including PFAS. Staff propose newer systems advertised as eliminating PFAS from manufacturing and using natural infill.

nose changes may be improvements, but the claims should be independently verified. Even if PFAS concerns are addressed, the plastic remains. So do questions about heat, microplastic pollution and disposal. If the city says its proposed turf is recyclable, residents deserve to know where it will actually be recycled, which materials can be recovered and what the process will cost. Calling a product recyclable is not the same as demonstrating that it will be recycled. These questions belong in any honest accounting of a public investment.

Have we given natural grass a fair chance? Staff cite limited maintenance personnel, water requirements and the challenges of accommodating sports programs during renovations. Pasadena operates 22 athletic fields with a three-person sports-field maintenance crew, according to the city's report. These are real constraints. Poorly constructed or inadequately maintained grass can become compacted, uneven and unsafe.

We cannot keep passing these problems on to our children and grandchildren.

But those challenges should lead to a realistic assessment of what properly constructed and professionally maintained natural-grass fields require, not end the discussion. Pasadena is proposing a two-year natural-grass trial covering approximately 25,000 square feet at Villa Parke. That is a useful

part. The city should explain how the trial will inform future decisions and why its findings cannot be considered before committing to another generation of synthetic fields.

Before approving replacements, Pasadena should commission an independent comparison of professionally maintained natural grass and the proposed turf systems. The analysis should cover realistic staffing and water budgets, drainage, field recovery time, safe playing hours during extreme heat, environmental impacts, replacement cycles and disposal costs over 20 to 30 years. The city should also examine whether better scheduling, field rotation and improved management of existing facilities could expand access without assuming synthetic turf is the answer.

Pasadena needs more opportunities for children to play. But it also needs to make responsible decisions about the parks and public spaces that will serve generations to come. Before spending millions more, the city should answer basic questions: What is the true long-term cost? How many hours can safely be used? What chemicals and materials are in the proposed products? Where will the plastic go when the fields wear out? And what would properly managed natural grass require? The city's estimates provide useful information, but they do not establish the full cost of either option. More playing hours and lower routine maintenance deserve consideration. So do extreme heat, plastic pollution, potential chemical exposure and the long-term consequences of replacing living ground cover with synthetic material.

We are living with a plastic pollution crisis and a climate emergency. We cannot keep passing these problems on to our children and grandchildren.

Our children deserve plentiful, accessible and safe places to play. They also deserve adults willing to look beyond the immediate budget and consider the consequences of today's choices. Pasadena should invest in well-managed playing fields and thoughtful recreational planning- not treat artificial turf as the default simply because it promises more hours on paper.

Let's do the right thing. Residents can weigh in at the Pasadena City Council, Tuesday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. The public can attend in person or submit a public comment.

Resources

- [Pasadena City Council agenda](#)
- [California Department of Toxic Substances Control — Artificial Turf and PFAS](#)
- [Beyond Plastics — Synthetic Turf Fact Sheet](#)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — [Heat Islands](#)

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Michael Rochmes
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 12:50 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Lyon, Jason; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Cole, Rick; Rivas, Jessica
Cc: Ben Stapleton; robyn eason
Subject: Public Comment: Item #11 (10/13/26) - Opposition to Artificial Turf
Attachments: USGBC-CA 2026_Pasadena_Artificial_Turf_Moratorium.pdf

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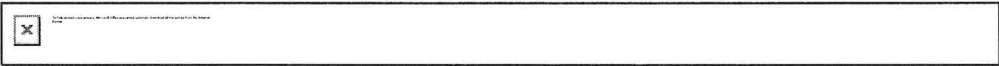
Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council,

Please find, attached, U.S. Green Building Council California's letter expressing our respectful opposition to replacing existing artificial turf fields at Villa Parke and Robinson Park with new artificial turf (item #11 on the October 13 City Council agenda).

Sincerely,
Michael Rochmes

--

Michael Rochmes
Policy & Advocacy Manager, USGBC California
michael@usgbc-ca.org
310-954-7034
525 S Hewitt St., Los Angeles, CA, 90013
usgbc-ca.org



525 S. Hewitt St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013
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Jacob Raykhelson – The Walt Disney Company

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Megan White – Firecrown

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Carrie Hester, Chief Development Officer

Colin Mangham, Chief Experience Officer

October 12, 2026

Pasadena City Council

Pasadena, CA

Sent electronically to: correspondence@cityofpasadena.net

RE: Item #11 – Opposition to Artificial Turf

Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of USGBC California, I am writing to respectfully oppose Item #11, which would approve the replacement of existing artificial turf fields at Villa Parke and Robinson Park with new artificial turf fields. Instead, the City should invest park funding on transitioning to cooler, more affordable, natural gas fields.

USGBC California's deep bench of members are sustainability and green building professionals with a strong commitment to addressing climate change and other local, state, and international environmental issues. Our members are designers, engineers, public agency and utility staff, consultants, product manufacturers, and service providers. Our mission is to transform California through the built environment into a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable place for all. Our goals include advancing environmental justice by developing diverse talent and systemic change based on impactful solutions to address our urgent environmental and social challenges.

Artificial turf has many downsides that make even "enhanced" artificial turf a bad investment for Pasadena:

Artificial turf exposes children and recreational users to micropastics and other harmful chemicals as fibers and rubber infill break down. Artificial turf fields are generally made from petroleum-based plastics and contribute to long-term health impacts and environmental pollution.

Artificial turf fields are dangerous on hot days and contribute to the urban heat island effect. Artificial turf can reach temperatures of 140°F or more on hot days, placing users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Natural grass would reduce the impact of increasing heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks.

525 S. Hewitt St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 689-9707 usgbc-ca.org

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Artificial turf can also cost more in the long term because it needs to be replaced and landfilled every 10 years, whereas natural grass fields can be managed and reseeded more affordably.

We urge you to follow the advice of the Environmental Advisory Commission and establish a citywide moratorium on new artificial turf installations and replacements, including the athletic fields at Villa and Robinson Parks. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ben Stapleton,
Chief Executive Officer

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: alex arciniega
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 12:57 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Barrios, Lisa; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin
Subject: NO PLASTIC TURF

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Hello city council members,

I am a parent, public health researcher and ayso board member. I ask that you reconsider utilization of plastic grass. The microplastics are horrendous. It harbors bacteria and is incredibly good at retaining heat.

Although talking points from manufacturers claim, next generation advancements, we do not have the longevity testing. What we do have is data illustrating the harm it causes to any natural resources including water. These are known endocrine disruptor.

Please do not use plastic grass,

Alex Arciniega

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Nicola Borland
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 1:34 PM
Subject: Item #11 - Please Invest in Natural Grass Fields

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Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

As a Pasadena resident who cares about the health of our community, I urge you to focus limited City funding on natural grass fields for the following reasons:

- Plastic fields cost more in the long-term than natural grass fields. Durable, drought-tolerant, natural turf does not need to be replaced every 10 years. Grass can be reseeded.
- Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to **harmful chemicals and heavy metals**. Artificial turf fields are generally made from petroleum-based plastics.
- Plastic fields **shed microplastics**, contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater.
- Plastic fields are **unusable on hot days, routinely reaching surface temperatures of 140°F** or more. These conditions render fields off-limits and place users at risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.
- Plastic fields worsen local urban heat islands as Pasadena faces a dangerous rise in extreme heat days. Natural grass would reduce the impact of increasing heat by cooling Villa and Robinson Parks.

In light of the many downsides of artificial plastic fields, the City of Pasadena should invest in the safer, cooler, and more climate-appropriate option – natural grass turf. Plus, this creates and keeps more jobs for groundskeepers who maintain our city's beauty.

Thank you,
Nicola Borland

Fake fields pose greater injury risks

Studies have found higher rates of certain injuries (e.g., ACL tears, turf burns) on artificial surfaces.

Turf can create more surface friction and stiffness than natural grass.

Real grass is a time-tested, cooler, safer, and healthier option

Modern grass field management (e.g., improved drainage, drought-tolerant species) can:

Reduce water use

Support year-round play

10/13/2026
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Deliver environmental and cooling benefits

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Nicola Borland

.

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Due to events on the weekends please expect replies to emails on the following business days

From: claudia hathcock
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:00 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item 11—Support Natural Grass Fields

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Dear City Council,

I am writing as a concerned parent, someone who grew up in Pasadena, and someone who continues to work in this community to express my strong opposition to the installation of artificial turf in Pasadena's parks and recreational spaces. Pasadena has always been home to me, and I care deeply about the health, safety, and future of our community. As someone who grew up enjoying the city's parks and green spaces, I want my children and future generations to have those same opportunities in environments that are safe, healthy, and environmentally sustainable.

Pasadena is no stranger to extreme heat, and as temperatures continue to rise, we should be investing in solutions that help keep our community cooler, not hotter. Artificial turf can reach temperatures of 140–180°F on hot days, creating dangerously hot surfaces that increase the risk of burns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, particularly for young children and athletes. Natural grass, on the other hand, helps cool the surrounding environment. At a time when our city should be prioritizing climate resilience and protecting residents from extreme heat, installing plastic fields simply does not make sense.

I am also deeply concerned about the potential health risks associated with artificial turf. These fields shed microplastics as synthetic fibers and infill materials break down over time. Those particles can enter our soil, stormwater systems, and waterways, contributing to a growing environmental problem. Additionally, some artificial turf systems contain recycled tire materials that may expose children to heavy metals and other potentially harmful chemicals. Although research into long-term health impacts is ongoing, I believe we should take a precautionary approach when it comes to spaces where our children spend so much of their time.

Beyond these health concerns, artificial turf is not an environmentally responsible alternative to natural grass. Unlike living grass, synthetic fields do not provide the same cooling benefits, support biodiversity, or contribute to healthy ecosystems. Artificial turf is manufactured using petroleum-based plastics, requires energy-intensive production, and typically needs to be replaced every 8–10 years. Much of this material ultimately ends up in landfills, creating an ongoing cycle of waste and environmental harm.

I am equally concerned about the potential impact on stormwater management. Natural grass and healthy soil help absorb and filter rainwater, while artificial turf installations may limit natural infiltration depending on their underlying construction. In a community that must prepare for both extreme heat and increasingly unpredictable weather, we should be protecting and improving our natural landscapes rather than replacing them with synthetic materials.

As a parent, I also question why we would invest in playing surfaces that may increase the risk of certain injuries. Research has raised concerns about turf burns, surface friction, and some types of sports injuries

associated with artificial playing surfaces. Our children deserve recreational spaces designed with their health and safety as the highest priority.

I recognize that maintaining natural grass fields requires resources, including water, staffing, and ongoing maintenance. However, I strongly believe the City should explore sustainable alternatives, including drought-tolerant grass varieties, improved irrigation systems, better drainage, and modern field management practices. These investments would allow Pasadena to maintain quality recreational spaces while preserving the environmental and public health benefits of natural grass.

Our parks should be places where children can run barefoot, roll around in the grass, play sports, and enjoy nature without worrying about extreme surface temperatures or unnecessary exposure to plastics and chemicals. These are public spaces that should serve generations of Pasadena families, and the decisions we make today will shape the environment our children inherit.

Having grown up in Pasadena and now working in the same community, I have a deep appreciation for the city's parks and the role they play in bringing families together, supporting healthy lifestyles, and creating a sense of belonging. I want to see Pasadena continue to invest in public spaces that reflect our commitment to environmental sustainability and the well-being of our residents.

I urge the Pasadena City Council to reject proposals to install artificial turf in our public parks and instead prioritize investments in safe, sustainable, natural grass fields. I also encourage the City to meaningfully engage parents, residents, environmental advocates, and public health professionals before making decisions that could have lasting consequences for our community.

Our children deserve real grass, healthy parks, and a city that puts their long-term well-being first.

Sincerely,

Claudia Hathcock

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Colin Bogart
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Lyon, Jason; Rivas, Jessica; Masuda, Gene; Jones, Justin; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Bernard, Nicole (Dist1); DerBoghossian, Megheti; Ibarrios@cityofpasadena.net; Morales, Margo; Chapman, Justin; Thyret, Pam; De La Cuba, Vannia
Subject: City Council agenda, Oct. 13, 2026 item #11

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Dear Mayor, City Council Members and Staff,

I'm writing to urge you to vote in favor of grass fields and not artificial turf for our parks. We should be avoiding the use of plastic whenever possible. We all have microplastics in our bodies and that should scare us all. I realize the parks department is doing their best to be fiscally responsible (and they are to be commended for their work), but I don't think artificial grass is worth it, even if it is less expensive than natural turf. The investment in real, natural grass is worth the cost. We need to prioritize the health of our community as well as the health of communities around us that are affected by our choices.

Please vote to use natural grass in our parks and NOT to use artificial turf of any kind.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Colin Bogart

RECEIVED
2026 OCT 13 PM 3:12
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA



October 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item 11—Protecting Children’s Health at Villa Parke and Robinson Park

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

On behalf of the Partnership for Children, Youth & Families (PCYF), we urge you to prioritize children’s health by rejecting the proposed artificial turf replacement at Villa Parke and Robinson Park and investing in well-designed, sustainably maintained natural grass fields.

PCYF brings together community organizations committed to helping children, young people, and families thrive. Our parks are central to that work. They provide places where children develop friendships, build confidence, stay active, and experience the outdoors. Decisions about these spaces should place their health and well-being first.

Increasing heat makes this decision especially consequential. As our region faces more frequent and intense hot days, children need outdoor spaces that offer cooling and support safe, active play. Artificial turf can become substantially hotter than natural grass, adding to heat exposure and potentially limiting field use when families need accessible recreation. We ask the City to treat heat protection as a core requirement of these renovations.

We also encourage a careful, independent review of concerns about microplastic shedding and potential chemical exposure. Improvements to manufacturing and infill deserve scrutiny, but they should not substitute for an assessment of the entire playing surface and its implications for children’s health.

These considerations are also matters of equity. Families who rely on public parks should have access to thoughtfully designed, well-maintained spaces that support their children’s health. Their opportunities for recreation should remain a priority as temperatures rise.

The renovations offer an opportunity to invest in both children and climate resilience. Natural grass, healthy soils, efficient irrigation, and appropriately designed stormwater systems can be evaluated together to create cooler fields while capturing and filtering runoff where site conditions allow. We urge the City to fully explore these benefits rather than miss an opportunity to strengthen our community’s resilience.

We recognize the challenges of heavy field use, maintenance, and water conservation. Please assess natural grass alternatives with realistic maintenance funding and a transparent comparison of lifecycle costs, including replacement, disposal, and environmental impacts.

We respectfully request that the Council pause approval of new artificial turf and direct staff to develop a natural grass alternative informed by public health professionals, field users, families, and stormwater experts. Please include young people in that process—their experiences and health should help guide the future of these parks.

Thank you for your service and for placing children's health at the center of this decision. We hope Pasadena will choose an investment that supports active childhoods, healthy families, and a more resilient community.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christy Zamani', with a stylized, flowing script.

Christy Zamani, Chair
The Partnership for Children, Youth & Families

Organizations in Support

Lisa J. Cavelier, Chief Executive Officer	Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
Christy Zamani, Executive Director	Day One
Patricia Hurley, Managing Director	Light Bringer Project
David Diaz, Executive Director	Active SGV
Michiko Lynch, Executive Director	Green Circle SGV
Unitha L. Muhammad, Executive Director	STARS
Yolanda Trevino, Executive Director	PACTL
Debra Suh, Chief Executive Officer	YWCA of Glendale & Pasadena
Jane Lawton Potelle, Executive Director	EFRU, Eton Fire Residents United