

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Pilar Reynaldo
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 10:34 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; Gao, Beilei
Subject: Please Fund Cooler, more Affordable, Natural Grass Fields

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Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

As a garden volunteer who volunteers @ San Rafael Elementary 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 wholesale 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 field 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. 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.

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.

Thank you,

Pilar Reynaldo

10/13/2026
Item 11

From: Wesley Reutimann
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 3:03 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 - Please Invest in Safer, Cooler, more Affordable Grass Fields

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Dear Council Members and staff,

As a Pasadena household with two soccer playing children, I urge you to invest in natural turf fields.

The case against artificial fields is lengthy and growing due to climate change. A partial list includes:

- **Affordability - Plastic fields cost more 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.
- **Heat Risk - 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.
- **Injury Prevention - Plastic fields are harder on the body than grass.**
The **NFL Players Union has formally called on all teams to use natural turf fields for safety reasons:** *"Based on NFL injury data collected from 2012 to 2018, not only was the contact injury rate for lower extremities higher during practices and games held on artificial turf, NFL players consistently experienced a much higher rate of non-contact lower extremity injuries on turf compared to natural surfaces. Specifically, players have a 28% higher rate of non-contact lower extremity injuries when playing on artificial turf. Of those non-contact injuries, players have a 32% higher rate of non-contact knee injuries on turf and a staggering 69% higher rate of non-contact foot/ankle injuries on turf compared to grass."*
- **Chemical Exposure - Plastic fields expose children and recreational users to harmful chemicals and heavy metals** inherent in petroleum-based plastics.
- **Plastic Pollution - Plastic fields shed microplastics,** contributing to long-term health impacts, environmental pollution, and negative fiscal impacts associated with the cost of cleaning polluted groundwater.
- **Urban Heat Impacts - 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.

Our children have participated in multiple local leagues over the past decade, including the Villa Park program. We recognize that demand for field space outstrips local supply. However, the utility of Pasadena's plastic fields at Robinson and Villa parks diminishes every year as extreme heat becomes more prevalent. Children and parents suffer when asked to play on at best uncomfortable, at worst dangerous, conditions on overheated plastic fields.

Rather than lock players and families into another decade of hostile playing conditions on artificial turf, I urge the City to commit to the more climate-appropriate and affordable option - natural grass turf.

Thank you,

The Reutimann Family
Pasadena 91103

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Tom Brady ·
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2026 6:55 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; 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,

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Therese Brummel
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:29 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
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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.

Sincerely,
Therese Brummel
D2 since 1979

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Dave Weeshoff
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 4:35 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: Please Invest in Safer, Cooler, more Affordable Fields: Natural Grass

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October 10, 2026

Re: October 13,2026 City Council meeting Agenda Item #11

Subject: Please Fund Cooler, more Affordable, Natural Grass Fields

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

Pasadena Audubon Society, representing many Pasadena families, urges you to focus City park funding on transitioning to *natural grass fields*, as recommended to you by the Environmental Advisory Committee memorandum of September 13, 2026 titled Recommendations and Background on Artificial Turf in the City of Pasadena.

We have been following this topic for many years in various cities throughout Southern California and consistently appreciate the various opinions on the subject but find that the Pasadena EAC recommendation represents the most thoughtful, concise and persuasive explanation of the environmental, financial and health aspects of the subject as pertains to our local constituency.

Sincerely,

Dave Weeshoff

Vice-President

Pasadena Audubon Society

Pasadena, Calif. 91105

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Laura Fleming
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 8:25 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; De La Cuba, Vannia; Lyon, Jason; Thyret, Pam; Hampton, Tyron; Madison, Steve; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Jones, Justin; Cole, Rick
Subject: 10/13 Item #11 - Vote for fields that cool our City

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members:

Artificial turf is not a responsible choice for Pasadena.

I empathize with the challenges of meeting demand for playing fields. I do not, however, believe that the benefits of a few more playable days outweigh the risks and the high costs of plastic fields.

Unplayable days due to extreme heat now rival unplayable days due to rain. Extreme heat days are projected to double by 2050. The City Council must make decisions with the reality of a hotter climate in mind. It's not in the future; it's here. We've all suffered through unbearable heat this year, but on those extreme heat days (remember last week?), our artificial turf fields weren't 95 degrees or 102 degrees. They were 140 - 170 degrees. Soccer players at Villa Parke reported to the MSC that on hot days it's like playing in an oven.

The City is facing a budget deficit and asking Pasadena residents to pass another tax measure. Is it fiscally responsible to choose field surfaces for two City parks that may cost up to 3 million dollars to replace every 8 years?

Right now the City is creating a plan to address environmental injustice in Pasadena through the EJ Element. Is it responsible to choose sports fields that expose those same communities to more extreme heat and to toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens and hormone disruptors?

The City is also in the process of developing a stronger climate action plan. Is it responsible to choose field surfaces that *heat* our City, *reduce* carbon sequestration, and *increase* greenhouse gas emissions across their life cycle?

Vote for natural fields that cool Pasadena, are healthier for athletes and support the goals of the Environmental Justice Element and Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Laura Fleming
District 7 Resident
Environmental Advisory Commissioner
Polytechnic School Environmental Sustainability Manager

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Myung-Soo Seok <
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 9:09 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Tony Trinidad; Stephanie Von Slomski; Oriel Beltran
Subject: RE: Agenda Item 11 -- supporting staff recommendation

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On behalf of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36, I am writing you about the upcoming City Council vote on the synthetic turf. As the union that represents the workers who professionally install synthetic turf field, we support replacing the fields at Villa Parke and Robinson Park. In addition, we strongly oppose any city policy that will call for any citywide ban on synthetic turf. This vote should be limited to the replacement choice of the above-mentioned parks. We have made this position clearly during City Council and Municipal Services Committee meetings.

We also attended the Culver City Standing Sustainability Subcommittee meeting where this issue was discussed. Culver City invited Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD), to share the district's experience evaluating natural grass and synthetic turf across its school sites.

We found his presentation particularly valuable because SMMUSD has spent considerable time examining this issue in a practical, comprehensive way—looking not simply at individual materials or potential hazards in isolation, but at how different field systems perform when considering safety, usability, maintenance, environmental factors, costs, and the actual needs of students and communities.

As Pasadena City Council continues its consideration of this issue, I would respectfully encourage the Board to hear directly from Carey and learn from the work SMMUSD has already undertaken. I believe their experience could provide valuable context as Pasadena considers how best to provide safe, sustainable, and dependable recreational spaces for its residents.

We have included below the SMMUSD turf study, the district's statement regarding its work, and the Culver City Standing Sustainability Subcommittee meeting where Carey presented.

Santa Monica-Malibu USD Turf Study:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kXRZhCSmM0qNWbJbyv_R29RZWQegVIE_/view

SMMUSD Grass and Turf Study Information:

<https://fip.smmusd.org/school-sites/grass-and-turf-study>

Culver City Standing Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting – August 25, 2026:

<https://culver-city.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1425697&GUID=F19FE998-6121-4EF7-A43F-97B26C7BBA8F&Options=&Search=>

Carey Upton
Chief Operations Officer
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

cupton@smmusd.org

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In closing, we respectfully request your support for our position against any citywide ban on synthetic turf and our support for the staff recommendation for synthetic turf replacement at the above parks.

Please feel free to contact Myung-Soo Seok at (916) 438-1111 or Tony de Trinidad of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 36 at (916) 438-1111.

Thank you again for your attention on this matter.

Best,

Myung-Soo Seok
M2 Strategies

Best,

Myung-Soo Seok
M2 Strategies

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 1:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: 30 Letters of Support from FTBL Academy Families – Oppose Artificial Turf Ban
Attachments: FTBL Academy Parent Letters.pdf; FTBL Academy Letter.pdf

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

On behalf of Playing for Keeps, I am submitting 30 **letters of support from parents of children who participate in FTBL Academy**, urging the City Council to oppose a ban on artificial turf in Pasadena.

These families recognize the importance of maintaining safe, accessible, and reliable athletic fields for youth sports. Artificial turf plays an important role in providing consistent playing opportunities, particularly in communities where field space is already limited and demand continues to grow.

The attached letters reflect the voices of parents who are directly impacted by decisions regarding the future of Pasadena's recreational facilities.

As the City Council prepares to consider this issue on **October 13**, we respectfully ask that these letters be included in the public record and that the perspectives of youth sports families be carefully considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Urteaga
Playing for Keeps Foundation

Subject: Protect Access to Fields for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am asking the City Council not to adopt a blanket ban on artificial turf.

For families like mine, this issue is about whether children have enough safe, dependable places to practice, play, and grow. Youth sports teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership. They also give children a sense of belonging. Those benefits disappear when teams cannot find reliable field space.

When a public field closes because of rain, maintenance, reseeding, recovery time, or heavy use, many families do not have another option. Not every parent can drive to another city or pay for a private facility. A closed field does not provide equal access.

I support strong health and environmental protections. Pasadena can require artificial turf products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, require transparent third-party testing, establish heat-management and maintenance protocols, and require responsible end-of-life plans.

Those protections do not require a blanket ban. Please protect children's playing time and allow Pasadena to choose the right surface for each location.

Standards, not a ban.

Sincerely,

Daniel Romero

Address: _____, Pasadena, Ca 91106

Organization: FTBL Academy

Subject: Protect Access to Fields for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am asking the City Council not to adopt a blanket ban on artificial turf.

For families like mine, this issue is about whether children have enough safe, dependable places to practice, play, and grow. Youth sports teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership. They also give children a sense of belonging. Those benefits disappear when teams cannot find reliable field space.

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Those protections do not require a blanket ban. Please protect children's playing time and allow Pasadena to choose the right surface for each location.

Standards, not a ban.

Sincerely,



Address: _____

Los Angeles Ca, 90042

Organization: FTBL Academy

Subject: Do Not Reduce Field Access for Pasadena Families

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am concerned that a blanket ban on artificial turf could reduce the field space available to our children.

Parents already see practices moved or canceled when a field is wet, worn, being reseeded, or closed for maintenance. Those interruptions affect teams and coaches, but the greatest burden falls on families who cannot travel farther, change schedules at the last minute, or pay for private alternatives.

Children need consistent opportunities to be active. Team sports support their physical health while helping them build confidence, friendships, discipline, and resilience. Public fields are where many of those opportunities begin.

I am not asking Pasadena to approve every artificial-turf proposal. I am asking the City to retain the ability to consider it where appropriate and to adopt strict safeguards. Those should include no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, transparent independent testing, heat-safety rules, proper maintenance, and responsible end-of-life planning.

Please avoid a policy that treats every location the same. Protect both safety and access by using strong standards and site-specific decisions rather than a ban.

Sincerely,

Aniela Rigali

ANIELA RIGALI

Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

PASADENA, CA 91105

Organization: FTBL

Subject: Allow Pasadena to Select the Right Surface for Each Field

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I urge the City Council not to remove artificial turf as an option for every Pasadena field.

Different parks and athletic facilities have different conditions. A neighborhood green space, a heavily scheduled sports complex, and a field with drainage or maintenance challenges may not need the same surface. A blanket rule cannot account for those differences.

As a parent, I want our children to play on surfaces that are safe, well maintained, and appropriate for how each site is used. I also want enough field availability for teams to practice and compete. Closures caused by rain, reseeding, recovery time, or excessive wear can reduce opportunities, particularly for families who depend on public programs and nearby parks.

Pasadena can protect health and the environment through clear requirements: materials made without intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, public disclosure, heat-management procedures, maintenance schedules, and responsible plans for disposal or recycling.

Please set strong standards and review each project on its merits. Let Pasadena choose the right surface for the right location instead of adopting a blanket ban.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____ Pasadena CA 91107

Organization: FTBL Academy

Subject: Choose Strong Turf Standards Instead of a Ban

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a parent in Pasadena, I respectfully ask the City Council to choose strong safety standards instead of a blanket ban on artificial turf.

I understand why residents want careful safeguards. I do too. Any surface used by children should meet high health and environmental standards. Pasadena should require full product disclosure, independent testing, materials made without intentionally added PFAS, alternatives to crumb-rubber infill, heat protocols, regular maintenance, and a clear plan for the product at the end of its useful life.

At the same time, the City must consider how a ban would affect access to youth sports. Natural grass needs maintenance, reseeding, and recovery time and can be unavailable after rain or heavy use. When fields close, practices and games are canceled, and families with fewer transportation or financial options are affected first.

We do not have to choose between safety and access. Thoughtful standards can protect children while allowing the City to decide which surface works best at each park or field.

Please keep that option available and do not adopt a blanket ban.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Maria Amezcua

Address:

Altadena, Ca. 91001

Organization:

FTBL Academy

Subject: Choose Strong Turf Standards Instead of a Ban

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a parent in Pasadena, I respectfully ask the City Council to choose strong safety standards instead of a blanket ban on artificial turf.

I understand why residents want careful safeguards. I do too. Any surface used by children should meet high health and environmental standards. Pasadena should require full product disclosure, independent testing, materials made without intentionally added PFAS, alternatives to crumb-rubber infill, heat protocols, regular maintenance, and a clear plan for the product at the end of its useful life.

At the same time, the City must consider how a ban would affect access to youth sports. Natural grass needs maintenance, reseeding, and recovery time and can be unavailable after rain or heavy use. When fields close, practices and games are canceled, and families with fewer transportation or financial options are affected first.

We do not have to choose between safety and access. Thoughtful standards can protect children while allowing the City to decide which surface works best at each park or field.

Please keep that option available and do not adopt a blanket ban.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: LOS ANGELES

Organization: FTBL ACADEMY

Subject: Preserve Reliable Playing Time for Pasadena Youth

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing as a Pasadena parent to urge you to preserve the City's ability to use artificial turf where it is appropriate rather than imposing a citywide ban.

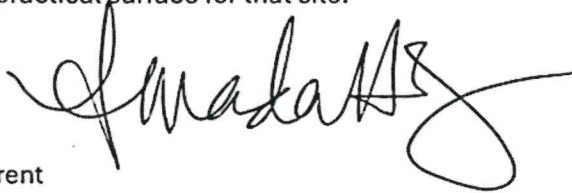
Parents know how difficult it can be to find dependable practice and game space. Fields must serve many teams, leagues, schools, and community programs. When weather, maintenance, or recovery periods make a field unavailable, children lose playing time and families are left scrambling.

Youth sports are not simply recreation. They help children stay active, develop confidence, make friends, and learn how to work through challenges. Reliable fields make those opportunities possible for more children, especially those whose families cannot afford private clubs or travel outside Pasadena.

The City should absolutely protect public health and the environment. It can do that through strict product and performance standards, including no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, heat-safety requirements, ongoing maintenance, and responsible disposal or recycling plans.

Please reject a one-size-fits-all ban. Give Pasadena the flexibility to evaluate each field and select the safest, most practical surface for that site.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____, Pasadena

Organization: FTBL Academy

Subject: Support Safe and Dependable Fields for Young Athletes

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Pasadena families who want children to have safe and dependable places to play.

Youth teams need fields they can count on for practices and games. When fields are unavailable because of weather, maintenance, reseeding, or wear, a canceled session is not always easy to replace. Working parents may have arranged transportation and schedules around that time, and many families cannot afford another facility.

The City Council can address legitimate health and environmental concerns without eliminating artificial turf everywhere. Pasadena should establish strict requirements for materials, testing, installation, temperature monitoring, maintenance, and eventual disposal. Products with intentionally added PFAS and crumb-rubber infill should not be allowed, and independent test results should be transparent.

A standards-based approach gives the City more control, not less. It allows Pasadena to reject products that do not meet its requirements while preserving an option for sites where dependable, high-use field space is needed.

Please do not adopt a blanket ban. Protect young athletes by pairing strong safeguards with thoughtful, site-by-site decisions.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: Los Angeles

Organization: FtBI Academy

Subject: Protect the Community Benefits of Youth Sports

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I ask you to consider what reliable athletic fields mean to children and to our broader community.

Youth sports bring families together. They help children form friendships, learn from coaches, practice teamwork, and gain confidence. They also provide a positive and healthy place for children to spend time after school and on weekends. These programs depend on fields that can accommodate regular use.

When fields close for rain, reseeding, maintenance, or recovery, programs lose valuable hours. Some families can travel or pay for alternatives, but many cannot. A blanket artificial-turf ban could make an existing access problem worse.

Pasadena should maintain high standards for any surface placed in a public park. For artificial turf, those standards should include products made without intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, transparent information, heat-management procedures, consistent maintenance, and responsible end-of-life plans.

Please protect both our children and their opportunities. Adopt rigorous safeguards while allowing the City to determine the best surface for each location.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: South Pasadena

Organization: FTBL Academy

Subject: Use a Balanced Approach to Pasadena Athletic Fields

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I respectfully ask the City Council to take a balanced approach to artificial turf and reject a blanket ban.

Parents want the same basic things from public fields: safety, quality, and reliable access. Health and environmental concerns deserve serious standards and transparent oversight. Field shortages and closures also deserve serious attention because they directly affect children's ability to participate in sports.

Pasadena can address both priorities. The City can require products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, mandate independent testing and public disclosure, adopt heat-safety and maintenance protocols, and require responsible end-of-life plans. It can then evaluate each location based on use, climate, drainage, maintenance needs, and community access.

A blanket ban would prevent that careful review before a specific project is even considered. It could also reduce dependable playing time when grass fields need rain closures, reseeding, maintenance, or recovery from heavy use.

Please preserve local flexibility. Strong standards and site-by-site analysis offer a responsible path that protects children while keeping youth sports accessible.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent



Address: _____

South Pasadena

Organization: _____

FTBL

Subject: Protect Access to Fields for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am asking the City Council not to adopt a blanket ban on artificial turf.

For families like mine, this issue is about whether children have enough safe, dependable places to practice, play, and grow. Youth sports teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership. They also give children a sense of belonging. Those benefits disappear when teams cannot find reliable field space.

When a public field closes because of rain, maintenance, reseeding, recovery time, or heavy use, many families do not have another option. Not every parent can drive to another city or pay for a private facility. A closed field does not provide equal access.

I support strong health and environmental protections. Pasadena can require artificial turf products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, require transparent third-party testing, establish heat-management and maintenance protocols, and require responsible end-of-life plans.

Those protections do not require a blanket ban. Please protect children's playing time and allow Pasadena to choose the right surface for each location.

Standards, not a ban.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. R. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Address: GLENDALE, CA

Organization: FTBL ACADEMY

Subject: Reject a One Size Fits All Ban on Artificial Turf

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am asking the City Council to reject a one-size-fits-all ban on artificial turf and instead adopt the strongest possible standards for any project Pasadena may consider.

Every field serves a different community and faces different demands. Some locations may be best suited for natural grass. At other heavily used sites, the City may need a surface that provides more dependable playing time and avoids extended closures for rain, reseeding, maintenance, or recovery.

As a parent, I care about both safety and access. I want transparent testing, careful oversight, and materials that meet strict health and environmental requirements. I also want public fields to remain available to children whose families cannot afford private facilities or travel outside the city.

Pasadena can require products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, establish heat and maintenance protocols, disclose independent test results, and require responsible end-of-life plans. These are meaningful protections that can be enforced.

Please regulate carefully, evaluate each site openly, and preserve the City's ability to choose the right surface for the right location.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Alvarez

Pasadena Parent

Address: *San Gabriel, CA*

Organization: *FTBI academy*

Subject: Preserve Reliable Playing Time for Pasadena Youth

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing as a Pasadena parent to urge you to preserve the City's ability to use artificial turf where it is appropriate rather than imposing a citywide ban.

Parents know how difficult it can be to find dependable practice and game space. Fields must serve many teams, leagues, schools, and community programs. When weather, maintenance, or recovery periods make a field unavailable, children lose playing time and families are left scrambling.

Youth sports are not simply recreation. They help children stay active, develop confidence, make friends, and learn how to work through challenges. Reliable fields make those opportunities possible for more children, especially those whose families cannot afford private clubs or travel outside Pasadena.

The City should absolutely protect public health and the environment. It can do that through strict product and performance standards, including no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, heat-safety requirements, ongoing maintenance, and responsible disposal or recycling plans.

Please reject a one-size-fits-all ban. Give Pasadena the flexibility to evaluate each field and select the safest, most practical surface for that site.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent



Address: _____

Arroyo - CA .

Organization: _____

N/A .

Subject: Give Pasadena Families a Practical Field Policy

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I urge you to adopt a practical field policy that protects children without imposing a blanket ban on artificial turf.

Families experience field decisions in very concrete ways: a canceled practice, a shortened season, a team without a place to play, or a last-minute trip to another city. Those disruptions are difficult for working parents and can shut children out when families lack transportation or money for alternatives.

The answer should be careful regulation. Pasadena can set strict requirements for what products may be used and how fields must be operated. That includes materials made without intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, public disclosure, heat and maintenance protocols, and responsible plans for replacement and end-of-life management.

With those protections in place, the City can compare natural grass and artificial turf for each proposed location and make a decision based on safety, use, maintenance, and access.

Please do not take that decision-making ability away through a citywide ban. Keep Pasadena's children and families at the center of this policy.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent Yukun Rong

Address: _____, Pasadena, CA 91106

Organization: HBL Academy

Subject: Keep Public Fields Available for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing as a Pasadena parent because public field availability has a direct impact on our children's lives.

For many families, neighborhood fields are the only realistic place for a child to join a team. Private clubs and facilities may be too expensive, and traveling outside the city may not be possible. When public fields are closed or overscheduled, those children have fewer opportunities to participate.

Natural grass can be the right choice in many places, but it also needs periods for maintenance, reseeding, and recovery and can be affected by rain and heavy use. Pasadena should be able to consider these practical realities at each site rather than prohibit one surface throughout the city.

I support firm safeguards for any artificial turf that is considered. Require no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent third-party testing, transparent reporting, heat-management protocols, regular maintenance, and responsible end-of-life plans.

Please keep the City's options open so it can protect safety, manage fields responsibly, and provide dependable playing space for children in every part of Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

Pasadena, CA 91106

Organization: _____

FTBL Academy

Subject: Protect Access to Fields for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am asking the City Council not to adopt a blanket ban on artificial turf.

For families like mine, this issue is about whether children have enough safe, dependable places to practice, play, and grow. Youth sports teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership. They also give children a sense of belonging. Those benefits disappear when teams cannot find reliable field space.

When a public field closes because of rain, maintenance, reseeding, recovery time, or heavy use, many families do not have another option. Not every parent can drive to another city or pay for a private facility. A closed field does not provide equal access.

I support strong health and environmental protections. Pasadena can require artificial turf products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, require transparent third-party testing, establish heat-management and maintenance protocols, and require responsible end-of-life plans.

Those protections do not require a blanket ban. Please protect children's playing time and allow Pasadena to choose the right surface for each location.

Standards, not a ban.

Sincerely,



Address:

Alhambra, CA

Organization:

FTBL Academy

Dear Pasadena City Council:

As someone who coaches and works directly with young athletes, I know how much our players depend on having safe and dependable places to practice and compete.

Our teams plan practices, games, tournaments, and seasons around field availability. When a field cannot be used, the consequences ripple through the entire program. Players lose development time, coaches must change plans, and parents have to rearrange already busy work and family schedules.

More importantly, youth sports give children opportunities that extend far beyond the playing field. They learn teamwork, discipline, perseverance, leadership, communication, and how to handle both success and disappointment. These are lessons they carry with them throughout their lives.

I understand and support the City's responsibility to ensure that athletic fields are safe. Pasadena should require high standards for every playing surface and can adopt strict requirements for artificial turf related to materials, testing, heat, drainage, installation, and ongoing maintenance.

But eliminating artificial turf altogether would remove an option that can be valuable for heavily used fields. There is room for both natural grass and artificial turf in Pasadena's recreational system.

I respectfully ask the Council to focus on strong standards rather than eliminating an entire type of playing surface. Give our community the flexibility to use the right surface for the right field.

Sincerely,

Name: Luis Mejia

Team/Organization: FTBL Academy



Subject: Reject a One Size Fits All Ban on Artificial Turf

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am asking the City Council to reject a one-size-fits-all ban on artificial turf and instead adopt the strongest possible standards for any project Pasadena may consider.

Every field serves a different community and faces different demands. Some locations may be best suited for natural grass. At other heavily used sites, the City may need a surface that provides more dependable playing time and avoids extended closures for rain, reseeding, maintenance, or recovery.

As a parent, I care about both safety and access. I want transparent testing, careful oversight, and materials that meet strict health and environmental requirements. I also want public fields to remain available to children whose families cannot afford private facilities or travel outside the city.

Pasadena can require products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, establish heat and maintenance protocols, disclose independent test results, and require responsible end-of-life plans. These are meaningful protections that can be enforced.

Please regulate carefully, evaluate each site openly, and preserve the City's ability to choose the right surface for the right location.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

Arcadia

Organization: _____

FTBL

Dear Pasadena City Council:

I am a coach, and I am asking you to consider the practical impact that a decision regarding artificial turf could have on Pasadena's youth sports programs.

Our young athletes need reliable places to play. Consistent field access allows coaches to build successful programs and gives players the time they need to develop their skills. When fields are frequently unavailable, teams lose continuity, families face scheduling difficulties, and children lose valuable opportunities to participate.

Youth sports are also about much more than wins and losses. Every practice is an opportunity for children to learn teamwork, communication, discipline, responsibility, leadership, and perseverance. Athletic fields provide a positive environment where young people can stay active, make friends, and feel part of something larger than themselves.

I believe Pasadena can prioritize safety without taking artificial turf completely off the table. The City can establish strong requirements for product testing and disclosure, heat management, drainage, installation, inspection, maintenance, and materials.

There is no single surface that is right for every field. Natural grass should absolutely remain part of Pasadena's park system, but artificial turf should also remain available when additional durability and playing capacity are needed.

I respectfully ask the Council to preserve flexibility and evaluate fields based on their individual needs rather than adopting an all-or-nothing approach.

Sincerely,

Name:

Rafael Jimenez

Team/Organization:

F502 Academy

Dear Pasadena City Council:

As a coach, my biggest concern in the discussion about Pasadena's athletic fields is making sure our children continue to have places where they can consistently practice, play, and grow.

Anyone involved in youth sports knows how difficult it can be when field availability changes. A canceled practice may seem minor, but repeated cancellations mean lost opportunities for young athletes. They also create challenges for coaches and families who have organized their schedules around practices and games.

For many children, being part of a team is an important part of their lives. Sports keep them active, connect them with positive adult mentors and teammates, and teach important skills like cooperation, responsibility, perseverance, and leadership.

Of course, safety must always be a priority. I support appropriate safeguards for both natural grass and artificial turf. If artificial turf is used, Pasadena can require modern products to meet strict standards for materials, testing, heat management, drainage, maintenance, and overall performance.

I encourage the Council not to approach this as a choice where one surface must be accepted and the other eliminated. Different fields have different needs. Natural grass can work well in many locations, while artificial turf can help provide greater availability at heavily used athletic facilities.

Please keep both options available and allow field decisions to be based on safety, usage, location, and the needs of Pasadena's young athletes.

Sincerely,

Name: *Max Martinez*
Team/Organization: *FTBL ACADEMY*



Subject: Give Pasadena Families a Practical Field Policy

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I urge you to adopt a practical field policy that protects children without imposing a blanket ban on artificial turf.

Families experience field decisions in very concrete ways: a canceled practice, a shortened season, a team without a place to play, or a last-minute trip to another city. Those disruptions are difficult for working parents and can shut children out when families lack transportation or money for alternatives.

The answer should be careful regulation. Pasadena can set strict requirements for what products may be used and how fields must be operated. That includes materials made without intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, public disclosure, heat and maintenance protocols, and responsible plans for replacement and end-of-life management.

With those protections in place, the City can compare natural grass and artificial turf for each proposed location and make a decision based on safety, use, maintenance, and access.

Please do not take that decision-making ability away through a citywide ban. Keep Pasadena's children and families at the center of this policy.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Ruth Barrera

Address:

11111 11111 Pasadena CA 91006

Organization: _____

Subject: Choose Strong Turf Standards Instead of a Ban

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a parent in Pasadena, I respectfully ask the City Council to choose strong safety standards instead of a blanket ban on artificial turf.

I understand why residents want careful safeguards. I do too. Any surface used by children should meet high health and environmental standards. Pasadena should require full product disclosure, independent testing, materials made without intentionally added PFAS, alternatives to crumb-rubber infill, heat protocols, regular maintenance, and a clear plan for the product at the end of its useful life.

At the same time, the City must consider how a ban would affect access to youth sports. Natural grass needs maintenance, reseeding, and recovery time and can be unavailable after rain or heavy use. When fields close, practices and games are canceled, and families with fewer transportation or financial options are affected first.

We do not have to choose between safety and access. Thoughtful standards can protect children while allowing the City to decide which surface works best at each park or field.

Please keep that option available and do not adopt a blanket ban.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Mike Baul

Address: _____

Altadena, CA 91001

Organization: _____

FtBL Academy

Subject: Keep Youth Sports Accessible to Every Family

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am a Pasadena parent asking you to consider how a blanket artificial-turf ban could limit youth sports for families across our city.

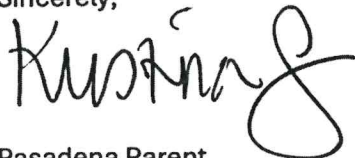
When public fields are unavailable, families with money and transportation may be able to find a private facility or travel to another community. Many others cannot. Their children simply miss practice, lose game time, or leave a program altogether. Field access is therefore an equity issue as well as a parks issue.

Sports give children structure, exercise, friendships, and trusted adults in their lives. They teach responsibility and teamwork. Pasadena should be expanding those opportunities, not adopting a policy that could reduce the number of dependable hours available to youth programs.

I support rigorous protections for every artificial-turf project. The City can prohibit crumb-rubber infill, require products made without intentionally added PFAS, mandate third-party testing and disclosure, enforce heat and maintenance plans, and require responsible end-of-life management.

Please use those tools and evaluate fields individually. A citywide ban would remove an option that may be appropriate for some heavily used locations and could make access less equal for Pasadena children.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Kristina Palmieri

Address: _____

Pasadena, CA 91104

Organization: FTBL

Subject: Do Not Reduce Field Access for Pasadena Families

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a Pasadena parent, I am concerned that a blanket ban on artificial turf could reduce the field space available to our children.

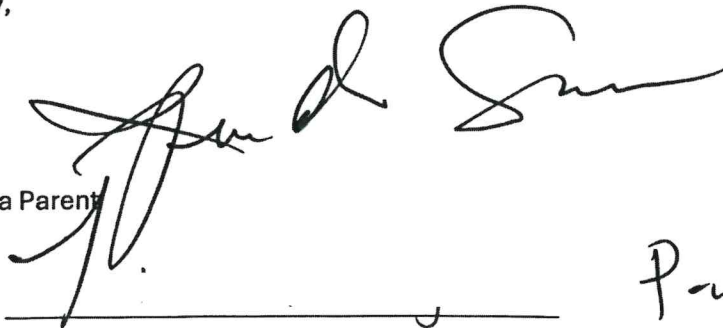
Parents already see practices moved or canceled when a field is wet, worn, being reseeded, or closed for maintenance. Those interruptions affect teams and coaches, but the greatest burden falls on families who cannot travel farther, change schedules at the last minute, or pay for private alternatives.

Children need consistent opportunities to be active. Team sports support their physical health while helping them build confidence, friendships, discipline, and resilience. Public fields are where many of those opportunities begin.

I am not asking Pasadena to approve every artificial-turf proposal. I am asking the City to retain the ability to consider it where appropriate and to adopt strict safeguards. Those should include no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, transparent independent testing, heat-safety rules, proper maintenance, and responsible end-of-life planning.

Please avoid a policy that treats every location the same. Protect both safety and access by using strong standards and site-specific decisions rather than a ban.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

Pasadena CA 91103

Organization: _____

Subject: Preserve Reliable Playing Time for Pasadena Youth

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing as a Pasadena parent to urge you to preserve the City's ability to use artificial turf where it is appropriate rather than imposing a citywide ban.

Parents know how difficult it can be to find dependable practice and game space. Fields must serve many teams, leagues, schools, and community programs. When weather, maintenance, or recovery periods make a field unavailable, children lose playing time and families are left scrambling.

Youth sports are not simply recreation. They help children stay active, develop confidence, make friends, and learn how to work through challenges. Reliable fields make those opportunities possible for more children, especially those whose families cannot afford private clubs or travel outside Pasadena.

The City should absolutely protect public health and the environment. It can do that through strict product and performance standards, including no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, heat-safety requirements, ongoing maintenance, and responsible disposal or recycling plans.

Please reject a one-size-fits-all ban. Give Pasadena the flexibility to evaluate each field and select the safest, most practical surface for that site.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Iman Moshadi

Address: _____

San Man 91108

Organization: _____

Subject: Allow Pasadena to Select the Right Surface for Each Field

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I urge the City Council not to remove artificial turf as an option for every Pasadena field.

Different parks and athletic facilities have different conditions. A neighborhood green space, a heavily scheduled sports complex, and a field with drainage or maintenance challenges may not need the same surface. A blanket rule cannot account for those differences.

As a parent, I want our children to play on surfaces that are safe, well maintained, and appropriate for how each site is used. I also want enough field availability for teams to practice and compete. Closures caused by rain, reseeding, recovery time, or excessive wear can reduce opportunities, particularly for families who depend on public programs and nearby parks.

Pasadena can protect health and the environment through clear requirements: materials made without intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent testing, public disclosure, heat-management procedures, maintenance schedules, and responsible plans for disposal or recycling.

Please set strong standards and review each project on its merits. Let Pasadena choose the right surface for the right location instead of adopting a blanket ban.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

Pasadena CA 91107

Organization: _____

Subject: Support Safe and Dependable Fields for Young Athletes

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Pasadena families who want children to have safe and dependable places to play.

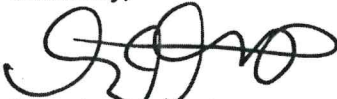
Youth teams need fields they can count on for practices and games. When fields are unavailable because of weather, maintenance, reseeding, or wear, a canceled session is not always easy to replace. Working parents may have arranged transportation and schedules around that time, and many families cannot afford another facility.

The City Council can address legitimate health and environmental concerns without eliminating artificial turf everywhere. Pasadena should establish strict requirements for materials, testing, installation, temperature monitoring, maintenance, and eventual disposal. Products with intentionally added PFAS and crumb-rubber infill should not be allowed, and independent test results should be transparent.

A standards-based approach gives the City more control, not less. It allows Pasadena to reject products that do not meet its requirements while preserving an option for sites where dependable, high-use field space is needed.

Please do not adopt a blanket ban. Protect young athletes by pairing strong safeguards with thoughtful, site-by-site decisions.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____, Pasadena, CA 91107

Organization: _____

Subject: Keep Public Fields Available for Pasadena Children

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am writing as a Pasadena parent because public field availability has a direct impact on our children's lives.

For many families, neighborhood fields are the only realistic place for a child to join a team. Private clubs and facilities may be too expensive, and traveling outside the city may not be possible. When public fields are closed or overscheduled, those children have fewer opportunities to participate.

Natural grass can be the right choice in many places, but it also needs periods for maintenance, reseeding, and recovery and can be affected by rain and heavy use. Pasadena should be able to consider these practical realities at each site rather than prohibit one surface throughout the city.

I support firm safeguards for any artificial turf that is considered. Require no intentionally added PFAS, no crumb-rubber infill, independent third-party testing, transparent reporting, heat-management protocols, regular maintenance, and responsible end-of-life plans.

Please keep the City's options open so it can protect safety, manage fields responsibly, and provide dependable playing space for children in every part of Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

Los Angeles

Organization: _____

FTBL

Yaron Bart



McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 1:22 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support from West Pasadena Little League – Artificial Turf
Attachments: WPLL Turf Feedback.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Gordo and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

On behalf of Playing for Keeps, I am submitting the attached letter from **Paul McGee, President of West Pasadena Little League**, regarding the proposed ban on artificial turf.

West Pasadena Little League serves hundreds of young athletes and their families and relies on Robinson Park and other Pasadena athletic fields for practices and games throughout the year.

In his letter, Mr. McGee urges the City Council to pursue strong safety and environmental standards rather than an outright ban. He emphasizes the importance of maintaining adequate field access while addressing concerns related to heat, PFAS, and environmental impacts through appropriate safeguards.

As the Council prepares to consider this issue on October 13, we respectfully request that this letter be included in the public record and that the perspectives of organizations directly serving Pasadena's youth be carefully considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Robert Urteaga
Playing for Keeps

Dear Pasadena City Council:

West Pasadena Little League works with hundreds of young players and their families, and nothing matters more to us than their safety. We take the concerns about artificial turf seriously, including PFAS, extreme heat, and runoff, and we ask the Council to answer them with strong standards instead of a ban.

Safety cuts both ways. Our league plays and practices at Robinson Park throughout our spring and fall seasons, and our teams use Pasadena fields about 5-6 days each week. Field time is already scarce. When fields disappear, practices are canceled, schedules double up, and children lose a safe, supervised place to be active. A ban would make that problem worse for the kids who can least afford it.

We are already working on heat. We are partnering with the City on shade for the Robinson Park bleachers, and our coaches adjust practices when temperatures climb. The City can go further by requiring heat protocols for every artificial field, including temperature thresholds for play, shade and hydration access, and cooling measures.

On chemicals and runoff, we ask the Council to set a standard that every turf product must meet. That standard should include PFAS-free certification backed by independent testing, full material disclosure, no crumb rubber infill, drainage and runoff requirements, and a plan for maintenance and end-of-life disposal. A product that fails should not be installed, and a field that fails testing should be repaired or replaced. We also support directing Parks and Recreation to study the health impacts, so that the City decides with evidence.

The answer does not need to be all-or-nothing. Use natural grass where it can meet the community's needs. Use artificial turf where added durability and playing capacity are necessary, and hold it to the highest standard. In the case of Robinson field, artificial turf is the proper remedy for all of our needs.

Please keep both options available for Pasadena's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul McGee". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Paul" and last name "McGee" clearly distinguishable.

Paul McGee
President
West Pasadena Little League

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 1:25 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Please Preserve the Synthetic Turf Soccer Field at Villa Parke

Some people who received this message don't often get email from playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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From: **Chris Medina**

September 10, 2026

Pasadena City Council

City of Pasadena

100 North Garfield Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

My name is Chris Medina, and I am a youth soccer coach at Villa Parke. I am writing to respectfully ask the City Council to reconsider any proposal to replace the existing synthetic turf soccer field at Villa Parke with natural grass.

This decision is about much more than choosing between two playing surfaces. **It is about access, equity, responsible use of our resources, and preserving a reliable recreational facility for the children and families who depend on Villa Parke.**

For many of the children we coach, Villa Parke is their soccer club. Their families may not have the financial resources to spend thousands of dollars each year on private competitive soccer clubs such as Surf and similar organizations. They may not be able to afford expensive registration fees, specialized training, tournaments, travel, and other costs associated with private club soccer. At Villa Parke, however, these children still have the opportunity to practice and compete on a quality turf soccer field. They take tremendous pride in it, and **our kids genuinely look forward to playing on the turf.**

Water conservation should also be a major consideration. Southern California continually faces drought conditions, limited water supplies, and the need for long-term water conservation. Converting a functioning synthetic turf field into natural grass would create a significant and ongoing need for irrigation simply to keep the field healthy and playable. At a time when residents and communities throughout Southern California are being encouraged to conserve water and become more drought-resilient, replacing a surface that requires no irrigation for growth with one that requires regular watering seems counterproductive. **Every gallon of water used to maintain an athletic field is water that must become part of Pasadena's long-term water planning and expense.**

Cost should likewise be evaluated over the **entire life of the field**, not simply at installation. Synthetic turf can have a higher upfront replacement cost, but natural grass creates recurring expenses for irrigation, mowing, fertilization, aeration, reseeding, field repair, equipment, and maintenance labor. Heavy soccer use also

10/13/2026

Item 11

damages natural grass—particularly around goals and other high-traffic areas—requiring additional repairs and periods when the field may need to rest or close. Turf, by contrast, can accommodate substantially more continuous play without requiring the same recovery periods.

That distinction is especially important at Villa Parke because this is a heavily used community facility. The field serves practices, games, multiple teams, different age groups, coaches, families, and community recreation. When a field becomes unavailable because of maintenance or damaged grass, the families with the fewest alternatives are often affected the most.

Before making such an important and potentially irreversible decision, I respectfully encourage the City to conduct a transparent comparison of the **total long-term cost, water consumption, annual maintenance expense, expected field closures, and total usable recreational hours** associated with natural grass versus modern synthetic turf.

Villa Parke represents something special in our community. Soccer gives children a place to exercise, build friendships, develop confidence, learn teamwork and discipline, and become part of something positive. A child's opportunity to experience a quality soccer environment should not depend upon whether their family can afford an expensive private club.

Villa Parke helps level that playing field—literally.

If there are concerns regarding the existing turf—including its age, condition, heat, maintenance, or safety—I encourage the City to work with Villa Parke staff, coaches, parents, and the community to explore modern replacement-turf options rather than eliminating the turf field altogether.

On behalf of the children and families we serve, I respectfully ask the City Council to **keep Villa Parke's soccer field as a synthetic turf field**—preserving an accessible community resource while avoiding unnecessary water consumption and the recurring maintenance demands of natural grass.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to the children and families of Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Chris Medina

Youth Soccer Coach
Rose City Strikers FC
Villa Parke, Pasadena

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Yael Pardess ·
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 1:30 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,
Yael Pardess
Sent from my iPhone

10/13/2026
Item 11

Preserve Pasadena's Ability to Meet Youth Sports Field Demand

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of SoCal Youth Sports Solutions, provider of Pasadena Youth Soccer League, 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,

Matthew Bambrick
CEO
SoCal Youth Sports

RECEIVED
2026 OCT 12 PM 3:11
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Hawkesworth, Matthew; Panossian, Koko; parksandrec
Subject: Public Comment – Item 11 – October 13, 2026 – Support for Artificial Turf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

Attached, please find a letter in support of artificial turf submitted on behalf of **Daniel Robinson, Head Coach of Legacy FC – Villa Parke 3rd Division**.

This letter is submitted in connection with **Item 11 on the October 13, 2026, City Council agenda**.

Please include the attached letter in the official public record for this agenda item and distribute it to the Mayor and City Councilmembers for their consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Robert Urteaga
Playing for Keeps

10/13/2026
Item 11

RECEIVED

2026 OCT 13 AM 8:12

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Subject: Reliable Fields Matter to Our Young Athletes

Dear Pasadena City Council:

As a coach who works directly with young people, I encourage the Council to consider the artificial turf issue from the perspective of the children actually using our fields.

Consistency matters.

When practices and games are repeatedly canceled because a field is unavailable, the impact goes beyond a schedule change. Coaches lose valuable instructional time, parents have to rearrange transportation and work schedules, teams lose continuity, and young athletes lose opportunities to develop.

Sports teach young people cooperation, communication, perseverance, leadership, responsibility, and conflict resolution. Reliable neighborhood fields also give children a positive place to spend their time, be physically active, form friendships, and develop a sense of belonging.

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

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,

DANIEL ROBINSON
HEAD COACH, LEGACY FC VILLA PARKE 3RD DIVISION (Boys U14)

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Playing For Keeps Pasadena <playingforkeepspasadena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 2:05 PM
To: Gordo, Victor; Hampton, Tyron; Cole, Rick; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Lyon, Jason; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Hawkesworth, Matthew; Panossian, Koko; parksandrec
Subject: Public Comment – Item 11 – October 13, 2026 – Villa Parke Soccer Letters of Support
Attachments: Villa Parke Soccer Parent 1.pdf; Villa Parke Soccer Parent 2.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

Attached, please find two letters in support of artificial turf submitted on behalf of members of the Villa Parke soccer community.

These letters are submitted in connection with **Item 11 on the October 13, 2026, City Council agenda** and express support for maintaining access to artificial turf fields for youth and community sports programs.

Please include both letters in the official public record and distribute them to the Mayor and City Councilmembers for their consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Jessica Ancona
Playing for Keeps

10/13/2026
Item 11

Subject: Reject a One Size Fits All Ban on Artificial Turf

Dear Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am asking the City Council to reject a one-size-fits-all ban on artificial turf and instead adopt the strongest possible standards for any project Pasadena may consider.

Every field serves a different community and faces different demands. Some locations may be best suited for natural grass. At other heavily used sites, the City may need a surface that provides more dependable playing time and avoids extended closures for rain, reseeding, maintenance, or recovery.

As a parent, I care about both safety and access. I want transparent testing, careful oversight, and materials that meet strict health and environmental requirements. I also want public fields to remain available to children whose families cannot afford private facilities or travel outside the city.

Pasadena can require products made without intentionally added PFAS, prohibit crumb-rubber infill, establish heat and maintenance protocols, disclose independent test results, and require responsible end-of-life plans. These are meaningful protections that can be enforced.

Please regulate carefully, evaluate each site openly, and preserve the City's ability to choose the right surface for the right location.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parent

Paulo Allitt

Address: _____

- Pasadena, CA 91101

Organization: _____

*Villa Park Soccer Parent
- Hypnotic Design LLC*

Subject: Reject a One Size Fits All Ban on Artificial Turf

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Please regulate carefully, evaluate each site openly, and preserve the City's ability to choose the right surface for the right location.

Sincerely,



Pasadena Parent

Address: _____

South Pasadena CA 91030

Organization: _____

Villa Park Organization



October 12, 2026

175 n. euclid ave.
pasadena, ca 91101

p 626.529.4470 f 626.765.6239
www.goDayOne.org

board of directors

tom coston
president
light bringer project

ricky biel
principal advisor
favor wealth

seema satourian
Medical Social Worker
Cedars-Sinai

natalie salazar
executive director
crime stoppers

delano yarbough
community advocate
retired PUSD principal

lead staff

christy zamani
executive director

jazmin jimenez
director of operations

claudia hathcock
director, environmental prevention

jennifer jimenez
director, community prevention

alisha lopez
director, tobacco prevention

ashley mercado
director, special projects

james cortes
director, watershed projects

colin bogart
director, active transportation

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council and staff,

As a Pasadena constituent and Executive Director of Day One, I urge you to reject the proposed artificial turf replacement at Villa Parke and Robinson Park and prioritize investment in well-designed, sustainably maintained natural grass fields.

Our parks are essential public health infrastructure. As our region faces more frequent and intense hot days, we need public spaces that help cool our neighborhoods and remain welcoming places to play. This decision should protect children and athletes, strengthen climate resilience, and account for the full costs our community will bear over time.

Public health and increasing heat: Artificial turf can become substantially hotter than natural grass, creating concerns about heat exposure and limiting comfortable use during hot weather. With increasing hot days, these concerns become even more pressing—particularly for children, athletes, and families who depend on our parks. Questions about microplastic shedding and chemical exposure also deserve careful consideration. Proposed improvements to infill and manufacturing do not resolve every concern associated with plastic playing surfaces.

Long-term financial and environmental costs: Please evaluate the complete lifecycle cost—including maintenance, periodic replacement, removal, disposal, and verified recycling options—alongside natural grass alternatives. Our limited public dollars should support lasting community benefits, with public health and environmental impacts included in that calculation.

Stormwater capture and climate resilience: These renovations offer an opportunity to pair natural grass with healthy soils, improved drainage, and stormwater capture. Where site conditions allow, thoughtfully designed green infrastructure can help absorb and filter runoff and support groundwater recharge. We should fully explore the opportunity to capture water while creating cooler recreational spaces before committing to another generation of synthetic fields.

I recognize the importance of reliable, accessible fields and the challenges of heavy use and water conservation. Those needs deserve a serious assessment of drought-tolerant grass, efficient irrigation, soil restoration, and adequate maintenance funding.

Please pause approval of new artificial turf and direct staff to develop a natural grass alternative that integrates stormwater capture and a transparent lifecycle cost comparison. Involve residents, field users, public health professionals, and water-management experts in that process.

Thank you for your service and for considering an investment that supports recreation, community health, and a more resilient Pasadena.

Christy Zamani
Executive Director, Day One

RECEIVED
2026 OCT 12 PM 3:11
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Vanessa Alexander <
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 3:06 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
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,

Vanessa Alexander

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Laura Solomon
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 3:30 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Lyon, Jason; Thyret, Pam
Subject: Artificial turf in Pasadena parks

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To the Pasadena City Council

My name is Laura Solomon, and I am a resident of Pasadena and a former chair of the Environmental Advisory Commission. It has come to my attention that the City of Pasadena is considering replacing artificial turf with more artificial turf. Frankly, I am shocked that the City would even consider this, because the environmental problems with artificial turf are well known. Surely we can do better.

I urge the city to replace artificial turf with grass or native plants, depending on the use and situation.

Artificial turf is plastic, which degrades and then harms anyone who has regular contact with it, like children playing soccer. It causes horrific damage to the environment. I could write a book on the harm that degraded plastic is doing to our planet.

Artificial turf gets hot, which is the last thing we need here in Pasadena, where we just broke multiple records with our recent heatwave. How much water will the City have to use to cool down this plastic grass? The amount will only rise as our climate gets hotter and drier. Given how frequently we face drought, it seems remarkably foolish to have to use precious water to cool down plastic turf just so it doesn't cause burns.

Artificial turf cannot be recycled. Does the City really want to be responsible for adding tons of decaying plastic to our landfills?

And plastic is made from oil. The current war with Iran shows us how important it is for us to move away from petroleum-based products as much as we can.

Conversely, grass and plants provide multiple benefits. They create a cooling effect. They provide oxygen. When they die, they can be composted and returned to the soil. They provide habitat for all kinds of animals, including birds and insects.

Please do what's best for all of our residents, including children, trees, birds, and other wildlife. Replace artificial turf with native plants and/or grass. Can we really call ourselves a Green City if the "green" is made of plastic?

Thank you for your time.

Laura Solomon

Pasadena, CA 91106

10/13/2026
Item 11

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Anne Laforti
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 3:52 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,

I am asking you to make a simple choice: invest in living landscapes, not plastic ones.

As a Pasadena resident, I want our parks and athletic fields to be places that are safe, cool, healthy, and welcoming for the people who use them. Artificial turf falls short on every measure.

Plastic fields are expensive to replace, dangerously hot during summer weather, and made from petroleum-based materials that shed microplastics into our environment. They contribute to the very heat challenges our community is already struggling to address.

Natural grass is a living system. It cools the air, absorbs stormwater, supports healthier parks, and can be repaired and renewed without sending tons of plastic to a landfill every decade.

This decision is about more than a playing surface. It is about what kind of city we want to build and what we choose to leave behind for future generations.

Please direct field replacement funding toward natural grass fields and invest in solutions that strengthen Pasadena's long-term health, resilience, and quality of life.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Anne LaForti
Biomimic - That Soil Nerd

Pasadena Resident

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Hanah Leona Cota
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 4:06 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
Subject: Agenda Item #11 - Our Kids Want Natural Grass Fields

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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,

Hanah Cota
Pasadena Resident, PUSD Parent, SRE PTA President