

**From:** Heather [REDACTED]  
**To:** -- City Council  
**Subject:** Turf fields in Petaluma  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 5:13:23 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for serving to keep Petalumens of all ages safe, especially our children.

In 2013 I went to Willson Schools board meetings and brought forth controversial studies and scientific studies that proved artificial turf fields are a class 2B carcinogen, and studies were still under way to definitively determine if these turf fields were indeed a class 1A carcinogen which would outlaw their use in the US and make city's who approved these fields responsible for the removal and proper disposal. After attending numerous board meetings at Willson and presenting both in public comments and as a line item on the Agenda, the board determined that the hazards and potential health risks to the staff, children, and families far outweighed the benefits.

As a block leader for cool Petaluma and long time resident of Petaluma, I urge you to delay the proposal to put artificial turf or any rubber surfaces in our parks. The drought is a real problem for athletic surfaces; however, I'd rather myself or my family and friends scrape their knees on dry grass and dirt than surfaces that are filled with chemicals that will get into the blood system, lungs and pose deadly health risks.

With the addition to these risks, the law of **"physics: Professional football players put extremely high levels of force and rotation onto the playing surface. Grass will eventually give, which often releases the cleat prior to reaching an injurious load. On synthetic surfaces, there is less give, meaning our feet, ankles and knees absorb the force, which makes injury more likely to follow."**

I have many articles that I can share with you from doing my research over the years, but here are a few current ones from the past year:

<https://broncoswire.usatoday.com/lists/nfl-news-players-ask-league-to-ban-turf-for-grass-fields/>

<https://nflpa.com/posts/only-natural-grass-can-level-the-nfls-playing-field>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667010022001767>

Please don't hesitate to ask questions and request research, we are all in this together, and we are all doing what we do for the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heather Gallagher

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