



**Natural Sports Turf and Playground Surface Solutions:**  
Healthier, Safer, Lower Cost, Superior Performance, and Climate-Resilient

**SUMMARY**

A shift has occurred in what is considered Climate-responsible behavior with regard to artificial sports turf and playground surfaces. Increasing concern over the human and environmental dangers of synthetic “forever chemicals” (PFAS) have added to long-standing concerns with other toxic and carcinogenic used in these products. Further, the promised water-saving and economic benefits have proven false (e.g., artificial sports turf must be watered).

The total costs of artificial turf and play surfaces are much higher than rate-of-consumption solutions. Natural sports fields are being custom designed per site-specific soil and moisture profiles using one variety of grasses that are tougher, drought resistant, heat tolerant, and require less maintenance than conventional grass varieties – while, at once, delivering the Climate benefits of oxygen, carbon seque, cooling, generating biodiversity, supporting soil health, and minimal water usage.

**THE PROBLEMS WITH ARTIFICIAL SPORTS TURF**

Batteries as artificial sports turf and playground surfacing surfaced in recent years, largely due to a need for water saving protection, lower cost, year-round playing time, and easy maintenance. In reality, players, purchasers, maintenance departments, and health and environmental advocates report three underlying pressures have proven money more than artificial maintenance since their market-life cycle, overall field costs are unacceptably high.

# Artificial Sports Turf: A Brief for Municipalities

## Natural Sports Turf and Playground Surface Solutions: Healthier, Safer, Lower Cost, Superior

[docs.google.com](#)  
Much has changed since 2007. You are likely aware of all the lawsuits that are mounting against both companies and municipalities for compromising public and environmental health with PFAS contamination of our air and water supply. Cities and countries have banned it (Boston, UK), and California has several proposed bills right now to stop installation of synthetic turf. Petalumans want to be environmentally responsible and keep our children safe. Please don't move forward with a plan simply because it was set in motion 15 years ago. We cannot afford it.

Children who play on the turf are at increased health risk, as their systems are still developing: cancer, endocrine system, immune system. Further, plastic turf has increased incidence of knee injuries and concussions.

As leaders for our City, please put our safety and health first and pause this project in order to re-evaluate total costs vs. benefits.

Thank you so much,  
Lendri Purcell