

From: Jennifer [REDACTED]
To: -- City Council
Subject: Pause on turf install
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:38:17 AM
Attachments: [eJaxBLo4r9kSPi_ijKRRVSiS-qozCHUuy-3DpqEnGR2Ht0t6vt90Qa45MupI7kxYk-FHGHKcWfwhq=w1200-h630-p.png](#)

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Hello! My good friend alerted me to this situation. I have to say I agree with my friend Lendri (her letter below). Let's please not install more artificial turf in Petaluma.

Thank you!
Jennifer Ostermann

Dear City Council Members,

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

As the President of the nonprofit, Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS; factstoaction.org) I urge you to place a hold on the 2007-crafted plan to install "forever chemical" ("PFAS") plastic sports turf at East Washington and Lucchesi Parks. These projects were initiated some time ago -- but the plastic grass has not yet gone in. Please stop and reevaluate. We need to re-think this old plan given recent science and multi-million-dollar lawsuits being filed due to PFAS serious public health and environmental damages.

Please review this summary of forever chemical artificial turf issues **and state-of-science natural alternatives to turf(!)**, which was custom-produced for the City of Petaluma by FACTS, in partnership with several leading national and local environmental and public health organizations:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ij_PN6Z9fFYs9qrc40gSlv5_EnPYQ-houy082keFYk/edit?usp=sharing

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

SUMMARY
A shift has occurred in what is considered climate-responsible behavior with regard to artificial sports turf and playground surfaces. Emerging science on the human and environmental dangers of synthetic "forever chemicals" (PFAS) have added to long-standing concerns with other toxins and carcinogens used in these products. Further, the presumed 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 state-of-science natural solutions. Natural sports fields are being custom designed per site-specific soil and moisture profiles using rare varieties of grasses that are drought resistant, heat tolerant, and require less maintenance than conventional grass varieties - while, of course, delivering the climate benefits of oxygen, carbon sinking, cooling, preserving biodiversity, supporting soil health, and minimal water usage.

THE PROBLEMS WITH ARTIFICIAL SPORTS TURF
Interest in artificial sports turf and playground surfaces surged in recent years, largely due to a need for water supply protection, lower cost, year-round playing time, and easy maintenance. Industry players, purchasers, maintenance departments, and health and environmental scientists report these marketing promises have proven false.

**Artificial Sports Turf:
A Brief for Municipalities**

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

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