

Bradford, Delana

From: Liz Carrasco <casacarrasco@sonic.net>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 12:14 PM
To: ParksRec
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT — LUCCHESI TURF FIELD

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

To whom it may concern:

I am an east side Petaluma resident, raised in Petaluma and now raising two awesome kids here. **I'm writing to express my support and recommendation to replace the existing turf athletic field at Lucchesi Park with high quality all-weather synthetic turf.** Your stated goals are to make "improvements to...Safety, Quality, [and] Access." From my perspective, replacing the turf field with turf is the only way to achieve that.

Our children have played for PYSL teams since 2017 (with some extra training and classes through KinderKickz). I played PYSL as a child. And my husband has played and coached soccer all over the county (and beyond). Over the past two seasons, I have volunteered to coach my youngest child's PYSL team. During these two most recent seasons in particular, we have played on more dirt fields than grass fields. The ground was dry and ridden with holes — making injuries much more likely. Additionally, our youngest also participated in the Spring Soccer league Petaluma City Schools organized. Several weeks of practiced were rained out, shortening the season significantly. Though even when team practices were rained out, KinderKickz classes were able to move forward since those occurred at the Lucchesi all-weather field.

It is my belief that reverting the Lucchesi field to a grass field would make: more work for the city (do we have the capacity for that?) and provided less accessibility (rained out games/practices, dry fields due to water conservation, seasonal availability vs. year-round). Therefore, **I believe the choice is clear. A turf field replacement will prioritize safety, quality, and access** with an even playing surface, striped at all times, usable in any weather, AND accessible to varying ages and forms of mobility (much like the nearby Miracle League field and playground). Let's move forward with the best option for our community.

I appreciate you reading my concerns and bearing them in mind as you approach a final decision. Please help to restore and retain this vital Petaluma gathering place to grow, build, and celebrate local and visiting athletes for years to come!

Thank you,

Liz Carrasco
94954