

Bradford, Delana

From: Bev Alexander <smileybev@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:07 PM
To: -- City Council; Parks&Rec
Subject: Public Comment - artificial turf

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---
Dear members of our Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am so surprised that our city is considering covering our playing fields with plastic. It is one of those “solutions” that is only a benefit to the manufacturers.

I am surprised that staff is supporting it over the option to responsibly maintain the playing fields. It is true that a natural solution is not as predictable as an artificial one, but why would we want to “sell our heritage for a mess of pottage?” Plastic will do nothing for the pollinators and microorganisms that are a part of living fields. Why turn these fields into dead zones?

There is plenty of evidence that the use of artificial turf will expose our children to toxic chemicals, including endocrine disruptors. It will also spread those chemicals in our environment, harming many living creatures.

Are we the city that declared a climate emergency and now we are considering something so deleterious to our environment?

Are we the city that banned new gas stations and now we are going to allow some thing so harmful?

There are many articles on the Internet, supporting the use of artificial turf, and, from what I found, they are all posted by turf manufacturers, and installers.

You can also find articles from reputable research institutions that point out that the use of artificial turf is not safe.
<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/discover/why-are-artificial-lawns-bad-for-the-environment>

I hope you will do the right thing and decide not to cover our playing field with plastic, but opt to do the beneficial work of maintaining healthy, natural turf.

Sincerely,
Beverly Alexander
341 Liberty St.
Petaluma
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Beverly Alexander
Protect Wild Petaluma 🌿
ProtectPetaluma.org

peace.
it does not mean to be in a place
where there is no noise, trouble
or hard work. it means to be in

the midst of those things and still
be calm in your heart.