

From: [Annie Stuart](#)
To: [-- City Council](#); [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Agenda item: Synthetic turf
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 2:57:10 PM

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

Dear City Council Members and Staff,

I am writing on behalf of [350 Petaluma](#). We strongly urge you to discontinue new installations of synthetic turf in Petaluma and to replace existing synthetic turf with solutions that work *with* nature, not against it.

We understand that the synthetic turf at Lucchesi Park needs replacement. Start here with a solution that considers the following:

Synthetic turf:

- Contains plastic, a petrochemical product, and recycled tires or other untested materials
- Releases microplastics and toxic chemicals – many that are known carcinogens – into our soil, water, and air, putting children at greatest risk
- Requires ongoing maintenance costs for sanitation and disinfection
- Has a short “life,” requiring regular replacement and increasing overall costs
- Is not recyclable and is therefore incinerated or landfilled at the end of its “life,” contributing to our climate crisis and putting nearby communities at risk
- Creates heat island effects – an increasing concern, given rising temperatures

This quote from Diana E. Conway, President of [Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc.](#) sums it up: “I like to compare synthetic turf to a bad relationship. . . . It gets dangerously hot, it’s toxic to everyone around me, it’s unsustainable. . . and it’s really hard to get rid of.”

To learn more, go to [Synthetic Turf is HAZARDOUS](#) at the Beyond Plastics website.

With adequate funding for our parks, we can address issues concerning watering and injuries from gopher holes, and successfully maintain natural grass fields.

Thank you for your attention to the health of our children, environment, and climate – and for your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Annie Stuart
350 Petaluma
Steering Committee Member

--

Annie Stuart
Encore Editorial Services
707.242.6171
www.encoreedit.com