

## Communication from Public

**Name:** christine lenches-hinkel

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2024 02:44 PM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am an environmental and organics management consultant and I strongly urge the Committee to approve of the motion regarding artificial turf grass based on the substantial evidence of its toxicity and harmful nature of the product to humans, animals, plant life, and microbial life in our urban soils. Artificial turf grass is clearly a hazardous material that only contributes to our escalating climate crisis. The replacement of such a product with natural turf grass is the most sustainable and environmentally preferable option. There is growing scientific evidence of the water saving and conserving qualities of natural turf grass with its ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere, capture rainfall, and cool our cities. It is critical that the removal and replacement of existing artificial turf grass occur as quickly as possible and replaced with natural turf grass. Additionally, only through biological inputs and not chemical inputs can the long-term resiliency of this natural resource be protected. Thank you for your consideration of this motion. It will set a precedent for other municipalities to follow.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jim Stewart  
**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:13 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Artificial turf is bad for people, animals, and the environment.  
Ban it!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Beth Elder

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:14 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** ? All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and neurotoxins, as well as dangerous microplastics. ? Children and athletes who play on artificial turf are at increased risk of exposure, and because PFAS chemicals bioaccumulate, it is especially harmful to children who are still developing. ? Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better. ? Artificial turf contains petroleum products. ? Artificial turf outgasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis. ? Artificial turf can become as much as 80 degrees hotter than the air temperature, creating a heat sink. ? We should choose native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. ? Protect our health, the environment and wildlife – get rid of toxic plastic outdoor carpeting that pollutes our air, water and soil, and harms biodiversity. ? Hazardous PFAS “forever” chemicals have been found in LA’s drinking water and wells. All artificial turf contains PFAS and microplastics. It leaches PFAS and other contaminants into our drinking water and groundwater. It sheds microplastics into our environment and aquifer. It is also an impermeable surface, impeding ground water recharge, and increasing the risk of flooding. ? Artificial turf is toxic, not recyclable, and ends up in our landfills. ? Artificial turf is NOT a safe playing surface, does not significantly reduce water usage, and is not a sound investment. Installing artificial turf does not take into account the true cost to our children’s health and the health of our environment. Nature-based solutions are better in every respect – California native plants and drought-tolerant grasses that use less water, thrive in our climate, recharge our groundwater and provide food and habitat for local wildlife. ? When we install artificial turf, we are installing a product with a limited functional lifespan that cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jessica Craven

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:29 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support LA City Agenda Item 2, Motion 24-0602 to transition away from future installations of synthetic grass / artificial turf citywide, and identify incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf / artificial grass, and encourage the transition to California friendly landscaping. With the growing awareness of the climate crisis, cities and agencies are implementing artificial grass as a means to reduce water consumption. While initially it seems like a great way to save water, this solution is actually mired in unintended consequences including: killing microorganisms, wildlife habitats and biodiversity below every artificial turf installation, emitting toxic leachate in runoff to nearby fields and storm drains, creating heat islands as the heat is absorbed by these fields which is exacerbated by the fact that trees and other shade plants don't grow in artificial turf, contributing to warming temperatures, impacting the health of users, and increasing the cost of maintenance. A study conducted at Brigham Young University found that "The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf." Artificial turf is a silent but significant contributor to our climate crisis. Research indicates we need more real turf and have shown reduced global warming in countries where agriculture has intensified. Please, please pass this motion! We need more REAL plants--no fake ones! Thanks!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarajo Frieden

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:29 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** I fully support banning and replacing Artificial Turf in LA City. All artificial turf contains hazardous PFAS chemicals which are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and neurotoxins. Artificial turf contains petroleum products bioaccumulate and are especially harmful for children still developing. We should be using native plants and grasses that take in carbon and provide oxygen, as well as cooler surfaces. Artificial turf cannot be recycled or reused. Every installation eventually becomes a waste product that will be inherited by future generations as the plastic endures for centuries.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Donielle Lemone

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:41 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of LA county with a young child, I'm very concerned about using turf on city properties and parks. I know that it saves water, but the harms do not offset that benefit. Turf gives off unsafe levels of heat and I would not want my child playing on it when it's hot, which it often is. Also, once it's installed, whenever it needs to be retired, or repaired, the broken portions will be placed in landfills, where they will stay for hundreds of years. We need to set a better example with our landscaping choices and choose drought tolerant ground cover options over turf.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Analisa Swan

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:44 AM

**Council File No:** 24-0602

**Comments for Public Posting:** Artificial turf is too hot and too toxic. We need to choose nature-based solutions like natural grass playing fields that are safer and sustainable – our children deserve better.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)  
**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2024 11:50 AM  
**Council File No:** 24-0602  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please accept the attached SUPPORT letter from CLAW. -Tony Tucci, CLAW Chair



CITIZENS FOR  
LOS ANGELES  
WILDLIFE

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June 26, 2024

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair  
Energy and Environment Committee  
LA City Council c/o City Clerk  
200 North Spring St, Room 395  
Los Angeles CA 90012

**RE: Support for Motion to Transition Away from Artificial Turf (CF 24-0602)**

Honorable Councilmember Yaroslavsky and Energy and Environment committee members:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a non-profit environmental organization concerned with the wellbeing of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the City of Los Angeles and beyond. A citizenry of more than 5,000 individuals support our organization's multiple calls for practices and policy to benefit biodiversity in LA City, County, California and the globe. CLAW applauds the current motion to move away from synthetic grass (CF 24-0602), and urges a focus on replacing existing artificial turf with native plants where possible.

While synthetic grass is intended to mimic a natural landscape, it does so only on a superficial level. No animals can survive on a landscape of synthetic grass, which means that from a habitat standpoint, artificial grass is as viable as ground covered with asphalt.

In addition to taking away habitat for wildlife, synthetic turf has the potential for wide-reaching deleterious effects on animals of all kinds. Synthetic turf contains hazardous materials, including PFAS that have been identified as carcinogenic, neurotoxic, and detrimental to fertility rates. Microplastics from the synthetic material may run off into water supplies, and ultimately the ocean, where they can injure marine animals, including seabirds.

In considering replacements for existing artificial turf, we strongly encourage The City to consider plants that are native to Southern California. While many non-native plants are drought tolerant, they may not provide the same habitat opportunities to our native animals as native plants would. Planting California native plants will ensure not only a drought tolerant landscape, but one in which local wildlife, such as native birds, can thrive.

Thank you for considering this meaningful step towards restoring our natural environment.

Sincerely,

Tony Tucci, Chair

*CLAW is a public benefit non-profit 501(c)(3) environmental organization that works to protect and restore the environments of wildlife of Los Angeles and California from dwindling open spaces. Our mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.*