INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

December 18, 2025

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager

SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

From		Action Taken
1. Palisadian comments regarding the New Rec Center Turf Fields	#9982-453 to 520	Referred to General Manager
2. Klaus Havelund comments regarding Spring Street Park	#10008	Referred to General Manager
3. Richard Stenlund comments regarding Spring Street Park	#10008a	Referred to General Manager
4. Nick Leathers comments regarding Spring Street Park	#10008b	Referred to General Manager
5. Cassy Horton comments regarding Spring Street Park	#10008c	Referred to General Manager
6. O. Hernan Bogado comments regarding Spring Street Park	#10008d	Referred to General Manager
7. Andrew Remley comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009	Referred to General Manager
8. Ruchira Garg comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009a	Referred to General Manager
9. Ying Jura comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009b	Referred to General Manager
10. Jimmy Medeiros comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009c	Referred to General Manager

11. John Gonzalez comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009d	Referred to General Manager
12. Jennifer Sternberg comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009e	Referred to General Manager
13. Hunter McArn comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009f	Referred to General Manager
14. Nora Tu-Willis comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009g	Referred to General Manager
15. Fe Cervoni comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009h	Referred to General Manager
16. Sven Harder comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009i	Referred to General Manager
17. Gabriel Devlin comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009j	Referred to General Manager
18. Janice Eisenberg comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009k	Referred to General Manager
19. Gabe Brison-Trezise comments regarding Westwood Pickleball Courts	#10009l	Referred to General Manager
20. Dianne Woelke comments regarding synthetic turf at the baseball fields in Palisades Park	#10010	Referred to General Manager
21. Steven Kaplan comments regarding the Venice Flying Carousel	#10011	Referred to General Manager
22. Anonymous comments regarding vehicles with expired license plates parked on public streets	#10012	Referred to General Manager
23. Tim Rudnick comments regarding the Venice Oceanarium	#10013	Referred to General Manager
24. Kari Weaver comments regarding the Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board Meeting	#10014	Referred to General Manager

25. Jordan Sisson comments regarding the AltaMed Chicano & Mexican Art Museum Project	#10015	Referred to General Manager
26. Ron Bitzer comments regarding a Public Comment Submission	#10016	Referred to General Manager
27. Michael Howard comments regarding Safety Concern at Poinsettia Park	#10017	Referred to General Manager
28. Mario Gomez comments regarding All-Star Team at Sylmar Park	#10018	Referred to General Manager
29. Cameron Flanagan comments regarding Bridge Home Shelter	#10019	Referred to General Manager
30. Tricia Gillikin comments regarding Chatsworth Park	#10020	Referred to General Manager
31. Yael Pardess comments regarding Water Reuse Project	#10021	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Palisadians In Support of the New Rec Center Turf Fields

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:31 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

On Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 10:16 AM Samantha Lenz wrote:

> Commissioners of the Rec and Parks,
>
> Councilwoman Traci Park, Commissioner Renata Simril, Commissioner Luis Sanchez, Commissioner Marie Lloyd, Commissioner Tafarai Bayne, Commissioner Benny Tran,
>
> I am writing to ask for your support in approving the proposed new turf sports complex. These fields represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of our community by providing our children and families with the safe, reliable space we desperately need. This project is not just about sports; it is about investing in the future of the Palisades.
>
> Our community is facing a severe shortage of space that can accommodate our community's needs. For too long, we have had to watch our children compete for scarce practice times, face cancelled games due to weather, or travel long distances simply to play. Our kids deserve to play at home, on fields that reflect the pride and strength of our community.
>
> The new complex will directly address our current challenges. Unlike natural grass, they will allow for consistent play in nearly all weather conditions, dramatically reducing downtime and cancellations. The new design maximizes every square foot, allowing for the simultaneous hosting of multiple teams, sports, and activities. This efficiency ensures that more Palisadians can participate in the programs that keep our children active and connected.
>
> These fields are also both a safer and more sustainable choice than grass. This generation of turf technology has proven to be as safe as well maintained grass fields and safer than overused grass facilities. The completely recyclable turf is also PFAS-free, designed with cooling technology, and requires no constant watering, mowing, reseeding, or fertilizing. This complex will reduce costs year after year and save our community millions of gallons of precious water. Those savings will be reinvested where they belong -- back into programs for our kids.
>
> Beyond youth sports, this complex will become a proper gathering place for the entire community. From school events to fitness programs to local celebrations, it will be a space where

neighbors connect and the spirit of the Palisades shines. Neighboring towns with similar facilities are already thriving; we should expect no less for our own families.

This project will:
Provide a safe and reliable space for our children to play, grow, and thrive.
Expand opportunities for all sports, activities, and community events.
Conserve water and reduce costs for our community.
Strengthen the Palisades by giving families a place to gather and connect.

I believe these fields offer an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy, ensuring that our children, and their children after them, have the home fields they deserve. I respectfully ask that you utilize your positions of leadership to help bring this vision to reality.

With gratitude and hope,
Samantha Lenz
Pacific Palisades resident, parent and was a coach so understand the desperate need for this to be turf

Samantha Lenz

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City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Palisadians In Support of the New Rec Center Turf Fields

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 7:09 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 9:24 PM Jenna Furnari wrote:

> Commissioners of the Rec and Parks,
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> Councilwoman Traci Park, Commissioner Renata Simril, Commissioner Luis Sanchez, Commissioner Marie Lloyd, Commissioner Tafarai Bayne, Commissioner Benny Tran,
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> I am writing to ask for your support in approving the proposed new turf sports complex. These fields represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of our community by providing our children and families with the safe, reliable space we desperately need. This project is not just about sports; it is about investing in the future of the Palisades.
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Jenna Furnari

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:50 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 8:25 AM Valeria Serna-Rodarte wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
>
> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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> Our primary concerns are as follows:
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> Protect Shared Green Space: Replacing our natural grass fields with plastic artificial turf threatens the vibrant green spaces that serve as vital gathering places for our community. These areas are more than athletic fields; they foster connections among families and friends. Whether it's children playing sports, neighbors enjoying picnics, or hosting community events like Summer Movies in the Park, preserving real grass is essential for maintaining our community spirit.
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> Injury and Environmental Risks: Artificial turf consists of synthetic materials that may contain toxic chemicals, such as PFAS, known as “forever chemicals.” Moreover, injury rates for athletes on artificial turf are significantly higher, leading to increased risks of lower extremity injuries, concussions, and abrasions, compared to natural grass surfaces.
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> Heat and Water Conservation Concerns: Artificial turf absorbs and retains heat, reaching temperatures between 160°F and 200°F, resulting in hazardous conditions for athletes during peak heat. Despite claims of being a water-saving solution, artificial turf requires considerable potable water for maintenance, often surpassing the needs of drought-tolerant natural grass. Natural grass, on the other hand, cools the surrounding area and supports our neighborhood's climate resilience, which is crucial as we face extreme weather conditions.

Honoring the Spirit of Our Community: The Palisades Recreation Center and Field of Dreams are beloved community assets that should reflect our values of health, sustainability, and stewardship. An organically managed natural grass field is a perfect representation of the future we aspire to create for the next generation.

Join Us in Advocating for a Natural Solution: The choices we make now will have lasting impacts on the health of our children and the character of our park. We invite your organization to sign this letter in support of organically managed natural grass at the Field of Dreams. Please include your name, title, organization, and a copy of your logo to signify your support. Together, we can provide unified backing for a healthy and sustainable Pacific Palisades.

A Safe and Affordable Alternative: Natural grass fields offer numerous benefits—they are cooler, support biodiversity, absorb carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen. These fields can be maintained without toxic chemicals and provide a safer, more inviting environment for everyone, regardless of age or activity, including organized sports, family outings, or community events. Organic and drought-tolerant options are both available and cost-competitive when considering maintenance and water usage.

Resilient Palisades has a proposal for a modern Natural Grass alternative, which includes remediation of the soil, installing a new irrigation system, installation of a modern, hybrid Bermuda grass that is designed for heavy use playing fields, and ongoing sustainable, organic maintenance that will be funded by private funds.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Valeria Serna-Rodarte

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:50 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 9:13 AM Tracey Alexander wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Tracey Alexander

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Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:51 AM
To: Kari Weaver

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 10:26 AM Resilient Palisades wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
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Resilient Palisades

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:07 AM Nora Hazi wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Nora
California

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:12 AM John Friar wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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John
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:55 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:13 AM Elizabeth Preminger wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Resilient Palisades has a proposal for a modern Natural Grass alternative, which includes remediation of the soil, installing a new irrigation system, installation of a modern, hybrid Bermuda grass that is designed for heavy use playing fields, and ongoing sustainable, organic maintenance that will be funded by private funds.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Elizabeth
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:55 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:20 AM Billy Crystal wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Billy
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:56 AM
To:

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:35 AM Billy Crystal wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Billy
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:56 AM
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Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:40 AM Lindsay Miller wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Lindsay
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:57 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:49 AM Jane Langley wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Jane
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:57 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:59 AM Carole White wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Carole
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 12:44 PM Sara Buss wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Sara
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 12:46 PM Kathleen McGoff wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> Dear Traci Park,
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Kathleen
California

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Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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A Safe and Affordable Alternative: Natural grass fields offer numerous benefits—they are cooler, support biodiversity, absorb carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen. These fields can be maintained without toxic chemicals and provide a safer, more inviting environment for everyone, regardless of age or activity, including organized sports, family outings, or community events. Organic and drought-tolerant options are both available and cost-competitive when considering maintenance and water usage.

Resilient Palisades has a proposal for a modern Natural Grass alternative, which includes remediation of the soil, installing a new irrigation system, installation of a modern, hybrid Bermuda grass that is designed for heavy use playing fields, and ongoing sustainable, organic maintenance that will be funded by private funds.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Peggy
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:04 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 12:51 PM Meredith Milton wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Meredith
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:04 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 1:52 PM wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:05 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 2:12 PM Roxana Jamshidi wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Roxana
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:05 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 2:35 PM Madeline Allnatt wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Madeline

Madeline
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:05 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 4:10 PM Leslie Campbell wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Leslie
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:07 AM
To:

Good morning,

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 4:49 PM Diana Gould wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Diana
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

Good morning,

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On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 8:46 PM eric appleman wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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eric
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 8:51 PM Laura Diamond wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> I was born in Pacific Palisades and raised my children there. My father Roger Diamond, brought my sister and me to play catch on the grass field as kids, and I watched my sons grow up on the Field of Dreams. We know that grass is better than turf from our own lived experiences playing on it there in the Palisades.
>
> As one of the engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, I am writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Laura
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:11 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 10:20 PM Oliver Allnatt wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Oliver
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:12 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 2:48 AM Lisa Boyle wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Lisa
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:12 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 7:59 AM Ellen Levitt wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Ellen
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 9:32 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:38 AM Harry Levitt wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Harry
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 10:40 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 10:05 AM Kelly McNeill wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Kelly
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 1:50 PM
To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 1:01 PM Nina Moench wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Nina
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please - Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 2:32 PM
To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 2:30 PM Janelle Friedman wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> Please. As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Janelle
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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Kelly
California

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 8:33 AM
To

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 5:40 PM Joe Doherty wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> I write to urge you to reject the replacement of natural grass and dirt on the fields at Palisades Rec Center with artificial turf.
>
> I grew up on those fields in the 1960s and 70s. I played baseball in the PPB(B)A from 1968 to 1975, and flag football and softball while a student at Corpus Christi. We also played any other game we could arrange when a few kids got together. The Park was wide open at all hours of the day, and the smell of the dirt and the grass, the locations of the sprinkler heads, the occasionally soggy center field, and the fog rolling up the canyon in the afternoon are all core memories. I know that I am not the only one who feels that way. In 1999 I co-organized (with Joe Martini, the son of Dr. Martini) a PPBA Oldtimers Game that was attended by more than 50 people. It was/is the place where we connected with nature through play.
>
> I have since moved away (my local park is Mar Vista), and I only just stopped playing baseball. From 1968 at the Park to 2023 in Santa Clarita, I could be found on a baseball field every summer Sunday. I played on grass and on turf fields, from Rec fields to pro diamonds around the Southwest. I found turf fields to be depressing and sterile facsimiles of nature. They are the equivalent of the plastic-draped furniture in my grandmother's living room. The message of turf is, finish your visit and then leave. This is not a place for memories.
>
> On a drizzly day in October 2018 I visited the farm in Iowa where the movie Field of Dreams was made. There was no fencing around the baseball field except for the backstop. Standing water surrounded home plate, and the infield was muddy. But the grass was open and green all the way to the cornfield, with foul lines extending to infinity. It felt like I was standing on Diamond 4 on an April afternoon. It felt like I was returning to childhood.
>
> The key line from that film resonates here. If you turf it, they will not come back.
>
> Very truly yours,
> Joe Doherty
>
> Joe
> California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

Good morning,

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On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:49 PM Janet Walther wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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> We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Janet
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 3:42 PM
To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 3:18 PM Oliver Powell wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Oliver
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 3:43 PM
To:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 3:26 PM Reece Robinov wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Reece
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 7:44 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 4:16 PM Shiloh Krause wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Shiloh
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 4:46 PM Larayne Chiovarou wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Larayne
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 7:26 PM Alison Bihari wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Alison
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 7:51 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 5:56 PM Kate Aranha < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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California

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1 message

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> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Ps are you all crazy ???? How can you vote for fake grass? I am shocked ! I am hurt ! I am so downhearted 😩

Paige
California

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1 message

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Larry
California

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Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Fatima
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 7:55 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 8:20 PM Mark Gordon < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As a 30 year resident of the Pacific Palisades community, I am writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
>
> I express my strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, I advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, I ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.
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Mark
California

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On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 8:29 PM Cynthia Ogle < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Cynthia
California

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On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 8:32 PM Victoria von Szeliski < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 10:21 PM Lisa McAndrews < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Lisa
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Richard
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
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Cathy
California

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Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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sharon
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Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

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Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

stewart
California

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 8:01 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 10:40 PM Erica Fishkin < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
> As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.
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Erica
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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1 message

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Adam
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 11:11 PM David Howard < > wrote:

> RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,
>
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David
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Susan Spira <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 11:14 PM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

Please rebuild our parks with Narural grass!

As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

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Susan
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Ellen Levitt <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 2:56 AM

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Ellen
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Sarah Mahoney <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 6:55 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Sarah
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Daren O'Neill <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 6:55 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Daren
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Scot Norred <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 6:58 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Scot
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Pam Finck <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 7:00 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

I won't allow my children and grandchildren to play on astroturf just like I won't allow them to eat sugary cereal. Your fake grass spaces are going to sit empty. And what about the endangered species like the California Tiger Salandar or the three winged owl fly? As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

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Protect Shared Green Space: Replacing our natural grass fields with plastic artificial turf threatens the vibrant green spaces that serve as vital gathering places for our community. These areas are more than athletic fields; they foster connections among families and friends. Whether it's children playing sports, neighbors enjoying picnics, or hosting community events like Summer Movies in the Park, preserving real grass is essential for maintaining our community spirit.

Injury and Environmental Risks: Artificial turf consists of synthetic materials that may contain toxic chemicals, such as PFAS, known as "forever chemicals." Moreover, injury rates for athletes on artificial turf are significantly higher, leading to increased risks of lower extremity injuries, concussions, and abrasions, compared to natural grass surfaces.

Heat and Water Conservation Concerns: Artificial turf absorbs and retains heat, reaching temperatures between 160°F and 200°F, resulting in hazardous conditions for athletes during peak heat. Despite claims of being a water-saving solution, artificial turf requires considerable potable water for maintenance, often surpassing the needs of drought-tolerant natural grass. Natural grass, on the other hand, cools the surrounding area and supports our neighborhood's climate resilience, which is crucial as we face extreme weather conditions.

Honoring the Spirit of Our Community: The Palisades Recreation Center and Field of Dreams are beloved community assets that should reflect our values of health, sustainability, and

stewardship. An organically managed natural grass field is a perfect representation of the future we aspire to create for the next generation.

Join Us in Advocating for a Natural Solution: The choices we make now will have lasting impacts on the health of our children and the character of our park. We invite your organization to sign this letter in support of organically managed natural grass at the Field of Dreams. Please include your name, title, organization, and a copy of your logo to signify your support. Together, we can provide unified backing for a healthy and sustainable Pacific Palisades.

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Resilient Palisades has a proposal for a modern Natural Grass alternative, which includes remediation of the soil, installing a new irrigation system, installation of a modern, hybrid Bermuda grass that is designed for heavy use playing fields, and ongoing sustainable, organic maintenance that will be funded by private funds.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Pam
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Gabriel Beugelmans <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 7:27 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

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Gabriel
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

kris wong <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 8:02 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

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kris

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Andrea Koepke <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 8:31 AM
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

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Andrea
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Doris Hollander <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Reply-To:
To: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 10:05 AM

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Doris
California

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Spring Street Park (and Spring Street) is going down

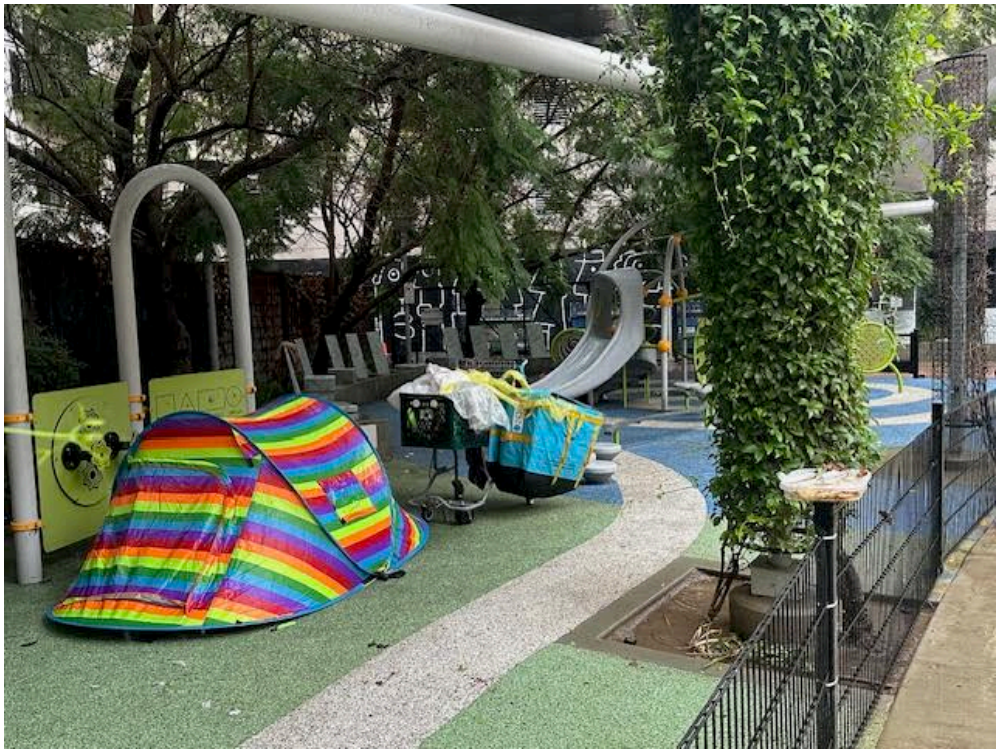
1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 7:55 AM
To: Klaus Havelund

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 10:39 AM Klaus Havelund wrote:

> By the way, this morning I saw our first tent encampment in the park, in the children's playground. See photo attached. I have reported it to 311.
>
> 
>
> Klaus

On Thu, Nov 13, 2025 at 7:50 AM Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> wrote:

> Good morning,
>
> Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.
>
> You may also visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at:
> https://myla311.lacity.gov/s/

On Tue, Nov 11, 2025 at 6:38 AM Klaus Havelund wrote:

> Wrt. Spring Street Park,
>
> I am writing concerning **Spring Street Park**. It is currently **not being closed at night** after the El Dorado HOA board took the decision to no longer ask its security (CHASE) to close the gates, which includes first moving people out of the park. This was done due to hostile episodes where homeless and drug users refused to leave the park.
>
> We really need to see the park closed at night. At this point homeless people hang out in the park at night. There is a constant glow of crack pipes in the darkness. There was a fire in the park the other day. I observed a what I believe was a drug dealer in early morning parking in a high end car outside the park, walking into the park, and coming out 5 minutes later, and leaving (I have a photo of the car, including number plate, but I did not see any drug dealing, one can just guess what that was about).
>
> It has to stop. The situation is overflowing to the surroundings, including the half circles outside the park, a man exposing himself to a homeowner in the Harlem alley next to the park. What before was occurring on 5th street has come to Spring between 4th and 5th, which before was a stronghold in the battle about downtown. It of course did not help that the Le Petit Paris restaurant closed, in part due to the rough neighborhood, and likely triggered by the shooting on October 6 where the bad guy was caught right in front of the El Dorado and the restaurant.
>
> Volunteers have offered to close the park for the city, but I assume that involves insurance issues and all kinds of problems. My thought is that this is really something the city should do. But we are willing to do it if it is possible.
>
> It is not just a park, it is a whole section of DTLA that is going down due to this park not being closed at night.
>
> The other issue is **security in the park during the day**. Funds for this have already been approved, the money "just" need to be channeled into deployment of a security guard during day time. At this point when something happens in the park, there is no-one to call. The security guards from the surrounding buildings cannot go in. The BID cannot go in (for a reason I do not understand). The police only come if someone dies (and I love! the police, don't get me wrong, it just requires a very grave situation before they can afford to send a car). What does one do? Nothing at this point. We can just watch the neighborhood go down.
>
> Best regards,
> and looking to a bright future of DTLA,
> but it takes action.
>
> Klaus Havelund

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Spring Street Park safety, sanitation, and activation plan led by local licensed childcare providers and residents

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 7:00 AM
To: Richard Stenlund
Cc: "Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org" <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, "RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org" <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, Maria Aguilar Rowan Management

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:50 PM Richard Stenlund wrote:

> Dear neighbors, DLANC members, Rowan and El Dorado representatives, CD14, and Recreation and Parks leadership,
>
> Thank you for the wonderful discussion at today's meeting. I am following up on the meeting itself, as well as the email I sent on October 24, 2025, as several of the issues outlined in that message were raised during tonight's meeting.
>
> As a licensed childcare provider caring for autistic and developmentally delayed children directly across from Spring Street Park, we see the conditions of the park constantly. Those conditions now meet the legal definition of a dangerous condition of public property. Under LAMC 63.44, the Department of Recreation and Parks has full authority and responsibility to temporarily close a park when conditions pose a risk to public health or safety. At this point, the hazards are numerous: biohazard waste on the playground, repeated drug overdoses including one fatality witnessed by children, nighttime criminal activity inside the park, the absence of functioning lighting, and the presence of exposed and structurally unsafe fountain basins. These are not minor issues. They are legally recognized threats and tonight it was made clear that LAPD does not have the manpower to keep the park safe and any suggestions for improvement end up in a lengthy quorum where little gets done in a timely manner.
>
> The City cannot allow a park to remain open when it is unable to keep the environment safe. **The law requires intervention**.
>
> Because Spring Street Park affects the daily lives of families, children, residents, and local businesses, I have copied several members of the press who regularly report on urban issues, community safety, and Downtown revitalization. Their presence allows for broader awareness of what the community is experiencing and helps ensure that our efforts to improve the park receive the attention and support they deserve. I would also like to extend a sincere invitation for any member of the media to visit our childcare program, meet the children we serve, and understand how deeply park conditions affect families in this neighborhood. Children bring light and

reassurance to an area, and their presence makes our neighborhood look less "scary". Their safety should be a visible priority.

A Dangerous Condition of Public Property

The conditions at Spring Street Park now meet the legal definition of a dangerous condition of public property. Under LAMC 63.44, Recreation and Parks has the authority and responsibility to temporarily close a park when conditions endanger public health or safety. The hazards are well established: biohazard waste on the playground, repeated overdoses including one fatality witnessed by children, nighttime criminal activity, non-functioning lighting, and drained fountain basins with uneven surfaces and drop-offs. LAPD confirmed tonight that they cannot provide frequent patrols or timely response in this area.

The City cannot leave a park open when it cannot ensure a safe environment. The law requires immediate action.

The empty fountain basins are an urgent priority. Once illuminated and filled, they now sit drained and hazardous, with exposed edges that a small child can easily fall into. If a child is injured after repeated warnings about these dangers, the consequences would be serious and preventable. Likewise, the playground contains used needles, crack pipes, and human waste. I strongly encourage those members of the press to witness firsthand what has been allowed to remain.

LAPD Staffing Reality and Required City Response

LAPD made it clear tonight that they do not have the staffing required to patrol Spring Street Park or respond to calls in a timely manner. This is not a place where frequent police intervention is feasible. Given this reality, the law leaves only two options:

- Enforce predictable safety measures using existing City authority and funding from Council File 24-1366

- Temporarily close the park until those measures are in place. This is allowable on an emergency basis under municipal code 63.44. This temporary closure could be employed in order to properly clean the park of drug paraphernalia, bio-waste, and fill the empty pools, at a bare minimum.

Doing nothing is not a viable option, because the park now constitutes a foreseeable risk and this email serves as documentation of the conditions.

However, I have a number of ideas for park improvement that would provide a source of pride for local residents and consistently replenish allocated park funds:

CPTED Principles and Corrective Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (https://www.cpted.net/ https://rems.ed.gov/docs/mobile_docs/cpted-guidebook.pdf) offers a clear explanation for what is happening. Darkness, concealment, and inactivity draw illegal activity. The missing lighting creates large areas of darkness. The sidewalk seating has become a gathering point for drug activity, as well as the large amount of seating off to one side. These physical conditions create the exact problems we are now dealing with.

Transforming the Park Through Activation

Pershing Square improves whenever activation is increased, in the form of ice skating, concerts, etc. Grand Park is relatively safe because it is consistently programmed with people, light, and activity. Crime decreases not because police flood these parks, but because the environment no longer supports criminal behavior. This reminds me of one of Aesop's better known fables, The North Wind and the Sun (https://read.gov/aesop/143.html).

Spring Street Park can easily host SPCA adoption events, food vendors, yoga classes, acoustic musicians, children's storytime, and sensory-friendly mornings for autistic children. A simple raised platform over the dirt mound - which was once a great lawn - would allow for performances, community events, and structured programming.

These activities are already allowed through Recreation and Parks permitting. They require little infrastructure, and they align directly with the purpose of Council File 24-1366, which exists to stabilize parks facing urgent safety challenges.

Criminal behavior relies on darkness and seclusion. If we introduce light, music, families, residents, and legal commerce, they will not remain. This is a predictable and documented outcome in urban public space management.

Private Rentals and Security During Events

Another point raised tonight involved private security. While private security officers have limited authority under ordinary conditions, the situation changes entirely during a permitted private event. Recreation and Parks already allows individuals, HOAs, and community organizations to rent entire parks or park sections for scheduled functions. There is nothing preventing the Rowan or El Dorado from reserving the park regularly and employing private security.

During a permitted private event, the permitted party may hire security with the authority to control access to the event area. This is not theoretical - it is standard procedure. Under a permitted use, security can legally restrict entry to those participating in the event, maintain the perimeter, and keep the environment safe. This would give residents a lawful, effective tool to stabilize the space, discourage illegal activity, and establish a meaningful presence within the park.

My Ongoing Offer to Support Rehabilitation

I remain willing to help. I am prepared to sanitize the playground twice per week if the City provides access to equipment and a water source. I am a credentialed child development teacher and am willing to run sensory-friendly programming, assist with organizing events, and help coordinate volunteers. I am good at this and all of this remains possible if the environment is made safe enough for programs to operate.

Next Steps and an Invitation to the Press

After emergency temporary closure (and I do not see a reality where this is not a necessary step), a coordinated walkthrough should be scheduled with Recreation and Parks, CD14, LAPD Central Area, DLANC, and building representatives. Seeing the dangers firsthand will allow the City to plan lighting repairs, enforce gate closures, secure hazardous areas, and launch activation efforts.

With UCLA's extension opening on this block, there is also real potential for academic partnerships, student involvement, and regular community programming that would uplift the entire Historic Core.

I again invite members of the press copied here to visit our childcare program. We care for children with autism and developmental challenges, and their presence brings life, stability, and hope to a neighborhood that often struggles with safety concerns. The story of Spring Street Park is not only about danger; it is about what happens when families, residents, businesses, and city leaders work together to transform a small urban space into something safe and meaningful.

If the park remains in its current state and someone is harmed, the responsibility will fall upon those who had the authority to intervene beforehand. As my mother always used to tell me: "The time to act is now".

I thank you all sincerely for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Richard Lawrence Stenlund

From: Richard Stenlund
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>
Cc: RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>; RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@lacity.org>, Maria Aguilar, Rowan Management
Subject: Spring Street Park safety, sanitation, and activation plan led by local licensed childcare providers and residents

Dear Councilmember Jurado,

My name is Richard Lawrence Stenlund. I live with my wife and our two special needs children at . I am a Child Development teacher, caregiver, and a child advocate, but more importantly, I am a loving father. My wife and I operate a licensed family childcare home, and provide ASD-supported childcare, ABA-informed supports, music therapy experiences, and 1 to 1 services for children with autism and developmental delays.

I am writing about Spring Street Park. I want to help fix it, starting now, with a resident-led plan that CD14 and the Department of Recreation and Parks can authorize and support.

What we see daily

• Dogs are frequently taken onto the playground surfacing and equipment to relieve themselves, which leaves fecal residue on the same structures where children climb and put their hands and faces. This is never cleaned, creating a vector for parasites and disease, and an overall unsanitary appearance.
• We have personally witnessed overdoses on or next to the playground and at least one dead body, witnessed by a half dozen small children.
• The lawn in the main area has disappeared, replaced by compacted dirt that smells strongly of urine. When the wind picks up you can taste ammonia in the air.
• The atmosphere is chaotic and frightening for children. We have personally thwarted four attempted child abductions in the last year.

• After hours, gates remain open, and the park is not secured at night, despite City authority to designate and enforce closing hours.

This is unsafe for children, unsanitary for everyone, and unfair to the Historic Core. It is also fully solvable, quickly, and at modest cost.

Clean, welcoming neighborhood parks increase family use and improve perceived safety. Cities that pair basic maintenance with positive programming see higher usage, stronger community ties, and better health and learning outcomes for kids. High quality parks, when safety is addressed, are associated with higher nearby property values, which strengthens the tax base and supports local businesses. A kid friendly park supports a family friendly downtown. Families who choose to put down roots downtown **tend to vote at higher rates**, bring weekday foot traffic, contribute volunteer hours, and increase civic participation. That benefits residents, businesses, and every level of government.

A resident led plan that CD14 can greenlight

Playground sanitizing twice per week.
I will personally pressure wash and sanitize the play structures and safety surfacing two mornings per week at no cost for labor. I request a one time stipend to purchase a commercial electric pressure washer, a surface cleaner attachment, non toxic cleaners, PPE, signage, and storage, plus authorized access to water. I will coordinate with RAP staff for safe products, water access, and timing, and I will keep simple cleaning logs that I can share monthly.

Nightly closure and predictable hours.
Please direct RAP to reaffirm posted closing hours under LAMC 63.44 and include Spring Street Park in the Park Gate Closure Program. I volunteer as a Community Gate Captain, with background check, training, and a written agreement, so a small team of building residents can lock gates at closing and unlock them in the morning in coordination with RAP Park Rangers and maintenance.

Enforcement and design for the existing dog rules.
Signs already instruct owners to keep dogs off the play area. The problem is enforcement and design. I propose the following, which are low cost and practical:

• Paint a bold contrasting edge line and stencil the rule at each entrance. Add two additional posts with waste bag dispensers outside the playground entrances to reduce excuses.
• Post the specific code reference on the signs and state the fine amount. Pair this with periodic Park Ranger or LAPD visits during peak hours so there are visible warnings and, when needed, citations.
• Add a QR code on the sign that opens a pre filled report form for RAP or 311 so residents can report repeated violations without confrontation.

Targeted security and response.
Use the funds identified in Council File 24 1366 to establish an interim, predictable presence by Park Rangers or LAPD Security Services during peak problem hours, and publish the schedule so behavior changes.
https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-1366

Family friendly activation beginning next month

Family programming.
Monthly Movies in the Park, yoga, karaoke, and live acoustic sets. Once the grounds have been cleaned and rehabilitated, we can bring in a portable inflatable screen, a small projector, and a modest PA periodically for community nights. I can organize these with resident volunteers and local businesses.

Sensory Days.
Twice monthly sensory friendly mornings for children with autism and sensory processing differences. I will host storytime, music and rhythm play, sensory bins, and visual schedules. We will keep noise low, add shade where

possible, and provide a quiet corner. We will coordinate with speech and ABA therapists to align activities with therapy goals.

Park hotline and volunteer corps.
A simple voicemail and text line routed to a small resident team (which I volunteer to helm) for non-emergency issues at posted hours, plus monthly cleanups with local partners and the DTLA Alliance Clean and Safe teams.

Reestablish the great lawn.
Use the funds identified in Council File 24 1366 to restore a clean family lawn on half of the central area using soil amendments and drought tolerant turf or a suitable native lawn alternative. Protect it with scheduled rest and temporary fencing during re-establishment.

Create a formal dog relief zone.
Dedicate the other half as a dog relief area with better drainage, resilient surfacing, dog waste stations, and a low decorative barrier to keep dogs out of the playground and lawn. Clear separation reduces conflict and contamination.

Furniture at the frontage.
Remove the current seating at the sidewalk edge that invites camping and public drug use. Relocate moveable café style seating inside the park during staffed hours only.

Lighting and visibility.
Replace or repair inoperable fixtures. Maintain clear sightlines from the street and neighboring buildings.

Budgets, permits, and partners

• Equipment starter budget. Commercial electric pressure washer, surface cleaner, hoses, non toxic disinfectants, PPE, signage, and storage can be accomplished for roughly 1,200 to 2,500 dollars, depending on durability. Inflatable movie screen, projector, and a small PA can be done for 1,200 to 2,000 dollars.
• Materials for turf rehabilitation and dog zone. Soil remediation, turf or native alternative, edging, waste stations, and irrigation repairs can be scoped with RAP landscape staff and a vendor walk.
• Permitting. Program reservations and small special events can be coordinated through RAP's Metro Region team. I will complete the required paperwork and insurance riders if needed.
• Partners. DTLA Alliance can align Clean and Safe crews on activation days. DLANC's Livability Committee can recruit volunteers. Local restaurants can table low cost family snacks at events, keeping money in the neighborhood.

A friendly benchmark race we can win!

Other cities show that small parks turn around quickly when cleanliness, predictable hours, enforcement, and positive programming line up. Philadelphia's Rebuild modernized dozens of neighborhood play spaces in high need areas. San Francisco's Let'sPlaySF renovated aging playgrounds through a public private partnership. New York's Parks Without Borders opened edges and sightlines to make small parks feel safer. Seattle's Park Activation program uses daily programming and ambassadors to create a welcoming presence in downtown parks. Spring Street Park is smaller than most of those sites, which makes implementation faster and cheaper here. It also gives CD14 a chance to set a new citywide standard for family friendly downtown spaces and attract families who intend to put down roots rather than churn through short term rentals. That is good for schools, local businesses, voter participation, and public safety.

Community fundraising and stewardship.

To extend and replenish the $100,000 allocation identified in Council File 24-1366, we can organize a family-friendly fundraising event in Spring Street Park itself, after a good cleaning. The event could feature food tables hosted by

local restaurants, live acoustic performances, a silent auction of local art, and a “sponsor a square” program that allows individuals and businesses to contribute directly toward cleaning equipment, turf restoration, or movie-night programming. Entry donations could be modest at five to ten dollars per family, keeping it inclusive while creating a tangible sense of ownership among residents and businesses. This model has worked in other cities for small-scale park revitalizations, and all proceeds could be deposited into a dedicated RAP sub-account or DLANC trust fund earmarked solely for Spring Street Park improvements. Beyond generating revenue, such an event would publicize the City’s investment, attract media coverage, and showcase collaboration between residents, the City, and the private sector.

What I am asking CD14 and RAP to do

• Approve a small resident led cleaning pilot for the playground with a City supplied stipend for equipment, product guidance, and water access. I will happily volunteer my time for this.
• Direct RAP to ensure nightly gate closure at posted hours and to formalize a Community Gate Captain pilot in coordination with Park Rangers and LAPD Central Area.
• Deploy Council File 24 1366 funds for a predictable on site presence by Park Rangers or LAPD Security Services.
• Relocate benches at the Spring Street frontage, complete lighting repairs, and trim vegetation to restore sightlines.
• Greenlight family programming beginning next month, including Sensory Days, with expedited RAP permits.
• Convene a short kickoff with RAP Metro Region, DTLA Alliance, DLANC Livability, LAPD Central Area Community Relations, and our HOA to set the ninety day calendar and responsibilities.

I am ready to start immediately, and I am happy to meet on site this week with your field staff. Spring Street Park can move from liability to a small downtown jewel that your office can be proud of. It is a win for children, families, businesses, and public safety, and a visible win for CD14 leadership.

Thank you for your time and for any help moving this forward.

Respectfully,

Richard Lawrence Stenlund

P. S. Our building HOA President, Miste Holloway, is copied here. I can also loop in the El Dorado HOA leadership upon request.

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Request: Reinstate Nighttime Closure at Spring Street Park

1 message

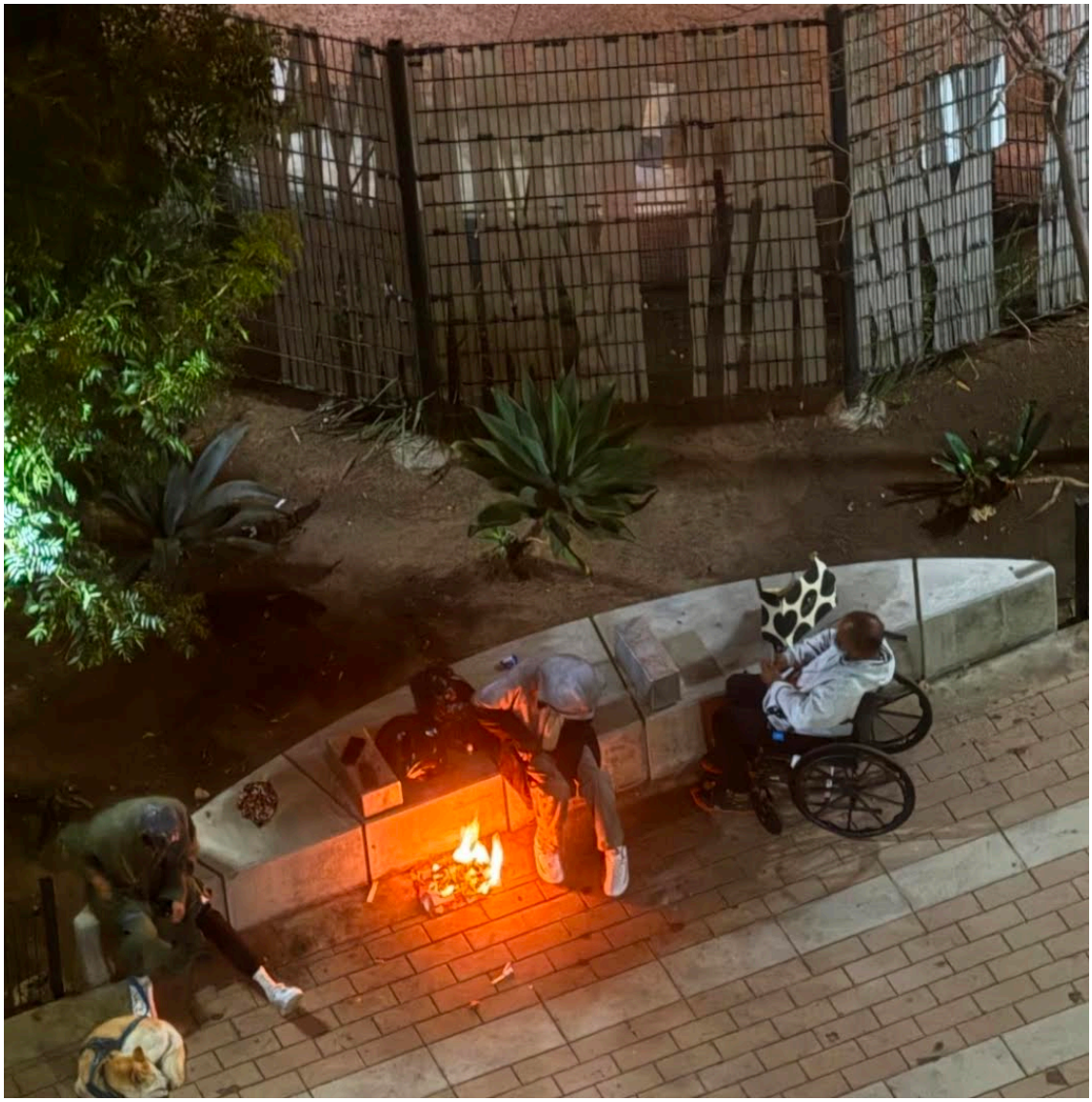
Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> M
To: Nick Leathers
Cc: Councilmember Jurado <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, Dominique Sanchez <dominique.sanchez@lacity.org>, Dylan Stickland <dylan.stickland@lacity.org>, Kelli Lloyd <kelli.lloyd@lacity.org>, Jens Midthun , GORDON HELPER , Deon Joseph, Leslie Cassy DTLA RA , "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "jacqueline.hamilton@lacity.org" <jacqueline.hamilton@lacity.org>, "tiffany.chum@lacity.org" <tiffany.chum@lacity.org>, Cassy Horton, chris.thompson@lacity.org, kelli.bernard@lacity.org, Randall Winston <randall.winston@lacity.org>, Chinyere Stoneham <chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org>, Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, RAP City Ranger <rap.cityranger@lacity.org>, Historic Core DTLA, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Cathie Santo Domingo <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, "noel.williams@lacity.org" <noel.williams@lacity.org>, deon.joseph@lacity.org, lapd.central@lapd.online, centralarea@lapd.online, "brenda.aguirre@lacity.org" <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, Karren Lane <karren.lane@lacity.org>, Maribel Flores, RAP PublicInfo <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Good morning,

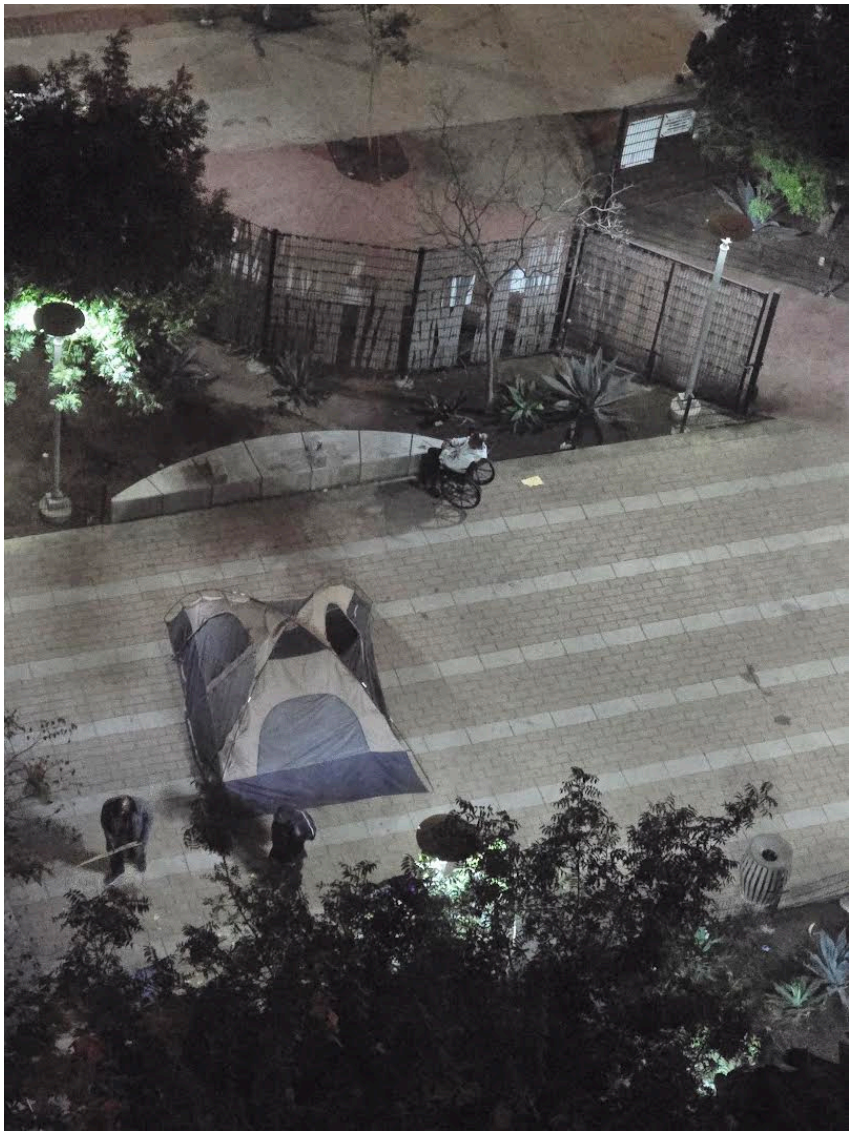
Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 7:20 PM Nick Leathers wrote:

> Dear Mayor's Office, Council District Office 14, Recreation and Parks, and LAPD,
>
> We are urgently requesting the City reinstate nighttime closure at Spring Street Park and ensure that RAP/Park Rangers lock the gates each evening. We are not asking for a new park master plan or a long term redesign. We are simply asking for the basic enforcement of posted park hours and for the gates to be closed at night. This is the most immediate and reasonable measure needed to stabilize conditions and restore safety.
>
> My neighbors and I have reported this issue repeatedly to 311, Council District 14, Recreation and Parks, and the Mayor’s Office since early October, yet the park remains unlocked 24/7 in violation of posted hours.
>
> Spring Street Park is located at 428 S. Spring Street (see aerial image below). Since the gates were left open around the clock, conditions have deteriorated quickly. These conditions pose an ongoing public safety risk and a clear liability for the City, including open flames inside the park and other after hours activity occurring while the gates remain unlocked. We are now seeing nightly encampments, loitering, open drug use, and incidents of public nudity. These issues occur throughout the day and night, and despite multiple reports from residents and the Neighborhood Council, we have not received a plan or timeline to simply close the park at night.
>
> Do residents need to file daily LAPD reports? Does the Council Office need to submit a new motion? (The previous Council Office submitted a motion for $100,000 in security funding that was never effectuated.) The Neighborhood Council and the DTLA Residents Association have also submitted motions and letters of support, yet nothing has gained traction.
>
> As everyday residents, we need to know what more is expected of us, and we will continue reaching out until this issue is resolved.Below are photos documenting the current conditions:
>
> Open flame/fire inside the park at night. This presents an immediate safety and liability concern for the City and surrounding residents.



Overnight tent encampment inside Spring Street Park. The park continues to remain open 24/7 despite posted closure rules.



Thank you for your attention. We respectfully request immediate action to reinstate nighttime closure at Spring Street Park and restore basic safety.

Sincerely,
Nick Leathers
DTLA Historic Core Resident

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Request: Reinstate Nighttime Closure at Spring Street Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:11 AM
To: Cassy Horton

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM Cassy Horton wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> We understand that this is on everyone's radar but the situation is acute and needs to be addressed. Is there a short term fix at least that can be implemented immediately?
>
> We will be supporting resident efforts to continue to escalate the request for support on this major community priority issue.
>
> I'm hoping something can be done before the holidays at a minimum as a bridge to whatever needs to be done long-term.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Cassy
>
> On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 9:20 PM Nick Leathers wrote:
>
> > Dear Mayor's Office, Council District Office 14, Recreation and Parks, and LAPD,
> >
> > We are urgently requesting the City reinstate nighttime closure at Spring Street Park and ensure that RAP/Park Rangers lock the gates each evening. We are not asking for a new park master plan or a long term redesign. We are simply asking for the basic enforcement of posted park hours and for the gates to be closed at night. This is the most immediate and reasonable measure needed to stabilize conditions and restore safety.
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> > My neighbors and I have reported this issue repeatedly to 311, Council District 14, Recreation and Parks, and the Mayor's Office since early October, yet the park remains unlocked 24/7 in violation of posted hours.
> >
> > Spring Street Park is located at 428 S. Spring Street (see aerial image below). Since the gates were left open around the clock, conditions have deteriorated quickly. These conditions pose an ongoing public safety risk and a clear liability for the City, including open flames inside the park and other after hours activity occurring while the gates remain unlocked. We are now seeing nightly encampments, loitering, open drug use, and incidents of public nudity. These issues occur throughout the day and night, and despite multiple reports from residents and the Neighborhood Council, we have not received a plan or timeline to simply close the park at night.
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> > Do residents need to file daily LAPD reports? Does the Council Office need to submit a new motion? (The previous Council Office submitted a motion for $100,000 in security funding that was never effectuated.) The Neighborhood Council and the DTLA Residents Association have also submitted motions and letters of support, yet nothing has gained traction.
> >
> > As everyday residents, we need to know what more is expected of us, and we will continue reaching out until this issue is resolved.Below are photos documenting the current conditions:
> >
> > Open flame/fire inside the park at night. This presents an immediate safety and liability concern for the City and surrounding residents.

Overnight tent encampment inside Spring Street Park. The park continues to remain open 24/7 despite posted closure rules.

Thank you for your attention. We respectfully request immediate action to reinstate nighttime closure at Spring Street Park and restore basic safety.

Sincerely,

Nick Leathers

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: URGENT: Spring Street Park Public Safety and Health Crisis – Immediate Enforcement & Action Required (460 S. Spring St)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 1:49 PM
To: "O. Hernan Bogado"

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 11:18 AM O. Hernan Bogado wrote:

> To the City Council, RAP Leadership, LAPD Representatives, and Concerned Stakeholders:
>
> I am a resident of the **Rowan Lofts** and am writing regarding the urgent need for immediate intervention concerning the catastrophic and rapidly deteriorating conditions at Spring Street Park.
>
> The park has become a public health and safety hazard, directly impacting the quality of life and safety of the surrounding residential community.
>
> The current situation is one of crisis, characterized by a complete failure to enforce existing park rules and hours. The park is left open and unmonitored overnight, creating an environment that is actively dangerous and profoundly unsanitary.
>
> The documented issues now include:
>
> - **Public Safety:** Late-night fights, noise disruptions, and repeated incidents of public sex.
> - **Public Health:** A severe **rat infestation**, widespread trash accumulation, and the use of the area as a public bathroom (defecation and urination).
> - **Illegal Activity:** Pervasive **open drug use**, including illegal activity taking place directly in the designated children's play area.
> - **Functionality & Economic Impact:** This park anchors a neighborhood of residents and vital institutions like **UCLA Downtown** and **The Last Bookstore**, yet its decay has already mirrored the permanent closure of neighbors like **Le Petit Paris**. Currently, the space is unusable. It has become a biohazard filled with rats, broken glass, and drug paraphernalia, making it unsafe for children and dangerous for residents attempting to walk their dogs.
>
> **Immediate Action is Needed**
>
> I write this with respect for the complexity of city governance, but the continued deterioration has persisted far too long to be acceptable. Residents are past the point of bureaucratic delay. I am looking for leadership with the authority to step up and finally enforce City rules to solve this crisis.
>
> I urgently request the following immediate actions:
>
> 1. **Enforce Park Hours:** Immediately restore the enforcement of existing park hours by having staff or security **close and lock the gates at 6:00 PM daily**, as is explicitly required by park rules.
> 2. **Increased Sanitation and Pest Control:** Deploy a dedicated sanitation and pest control team to address the rat infestation and biohazardous waste left from overnight use.
> 3. **Rule Enforcement:** Immediately increase patrols to enforce rules against illegal activity and **unleashed dogs** within the park.

The failure to maintain basic safety standards is not only unacceptable but also constitutes an economic threat to one of DTLA's core residential neighborhoods.

If the City cannot manage the park, I urge you to accept the proposal from the **DTLA Community Forum** to manage the space as a private park as an immediate, interim solution. I urge the City to engage with these community partners immediately.

If you are not the appropriate contact for this matter, please assist by directing me to the correct office or forwarding this email immediately to the individual authorized to take action.

I request a direct response with a plan of action and timeline for resolution.

Sincerely,

--

ORLANDO HERNÁN BOGADO – *CREATIVE DIRECTOR*

--

City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickleball - Westwood Rec Center

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:08 AM
To: Andrew Remley

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

Please also see response from staff:

"Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members."

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 4:21 PM Andrew Remley wrote:

> Hi,
> It has recently come to my attention that the Westwood Rec Center pickleball courts may be privatized, or rented for profit by TNT / LA Tennis Center.
> I - along with a community of over 100 others - play every Saturday and Sunday with Westwood Pickleball, organized by Pong Nim.
>
> Please do not privatize the courts. Our parks are meant for the community, not profit.
> We voluntarily donate $5 to play with Pong's group (for as long as we like)… It's almost free… Just enough to keep us supplied with nets, balls, spare paddles, etc.
> Trust me, Pong is not in this to make money. He welcomes newcomers, will teach the rules, help us learn the drills and skills… All for the love of the game and making friends.
>
> This is the most welcoming sports community I've known, and it is *by far* the cheapest and easiest way to play the game in LA.
> If you have any doubts, please come out one of these weekends to see for yourselves. Ask the players what we think.
>
> Please do not allow any private entity to take over running/booking the pickleball courts.
> Or at least, please consider allowing our community to continue operating with our current schedule: Saturdays 9am-3pm, Sundays 3pm-9pm.
>
> Thank you,
> Andrew Remley

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood pickleball

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:08 AM
To: Ruchira Garg

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

Please also see response from staff:

"Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members."

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 5:55 PM Ruchira Garg wrote:

> Hi,
> It has recently come to my attention that the Westwood Rec Center pickleball courts may be privatized, or rented for profit by TNT / LA Tennis Center.
> I - along with a community of over 100 others - play every Saturday and Sunday with Westwood Pickleball, organized by Pong Nim.
>
> Please do not privatize the courts. Our parks are meant for the community, not profit.
> We voluntarily donate $5 to play with Pong's group (for as long as we like)… It's almost free… Just enough to keep us supplied with nets, balls, spare paddles, etc.
> Trust me, Pong is not in this to make money. He welcomes newcomers, will teach the rules, help us learn the drills and skills… All for the love of the game and making friends.
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> This is the most welcoming sports community I've known, and it is by far the cheapest and easiest way to play the game in LA.
> If you have any doubts, please come out one of these weekends to see for yourselves. Ask the players what we think.
>
> Please do not allow any private entity to take over running/booking the pickleball courts.
> Or at least, please consider allowing our community to continue operating with our current schedule: Saturdays 9am-3pm, Sundays 3pm-9pm.
>
> Thank you
> Ruchi

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickleball

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:14 AM
To: Ying Jura

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

Please also see response from staff:

"Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members."

On Sat, Nov 15, 2025 at 7:39 PM Ying Jura wrote:

> Hi,
> It has recently come to my attention that the Westwood Rec Center pickleball courts may be privatized, or rented for profit by TNT / LA Tennis Center.
> I - along with a community of over 100 others - play every Saturday and Sunday with Westwood Pickleball, organized by Pong Nim.
>
> Please do not privatize the courts. Our parks are meant for the community, not profit.
> We voluntarily donate $5 to play with Pong's group (for as long as we like)… It's almost free… Just enough to keep us supplied with nets, balls, spare paddles, etc.
> Trust me, Pong is not in this to make money. He welcomes newcomers, will teach the rules, help us learn the drills and skills… All for the love of the game and making friends.
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> This is the most welcoming sports community I've known, and it is by far the cheapest and easiest way to play the game in LA.
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>
> Please do not allow any private entity to take over running/booking the pickleball courts.
> Or at least, please consider allowing our community to continue operating with our current schedule: Saturdays 9am-3pm, Sundays 3pm-9pm.
>
> Thank you,
> Ying Jura

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickle Community

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM
To: Jimmy Medeiros
Cc: jimmy.kim@lacity.org, anthony.gallo@lacity.org, Jason.Liss@lacity.org, westwood.recreationcenter@lacity.org, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members.

On Sun, Nov 16, 2025 at 1:26 PM Jimmy Medeiros wrote:

> To Whom It May Concern,
>
> I am a resident of Westwood and a member of the Westwood Pickleball Community. I wanted to throw my full support behind continuing this outstanding organization led selflessly by Pong Nim. I play at least once or twice on the weekends for a nominal $5. Though not required, I'm happy to donate $5 for 6 hours of court time - unheard of value!. This trivial donation allows Pong to maintain all the nets, paddles, balls and ancillary supplies necessary for anyone to just show and play.
>
> I would encourage you to come by and check out a weekend to see the live action and fellowship. Let's use common sense and support the Westwood Pickleball Community.
>
> Let me know if you have any questions.
>
> Cheers,
> James (Jimmy) Medeiros
>
> Below is just for context.
>
> I am a member of the Westwood Pickleball community. We as a group of over 100 people play pickleball for 6-7 hours every Saturday and Sunday. We as a group are a community of players and gladly allow newcomers to come and join us. We have been doing this for several years under the organizational guidance of Mr Pong Nim. He books all the courts, sets up all the nets and arranges all the free play so people can flexibly come and go according to their schedules. People meet new people every week and just have a good time. This is a non profit venture! Each person who comes pays $5 to play as long as he wants for each 6 hr time slot. This pays for court setup and for booking the time slots. I plead with you not to allow any private entity to take over running the pickleball booking and only booking one group at a time at a greater cost to each individual. I assume that the purpose of the Dept of Parks and Rec is to allow as many citizens as possible at a reasonable fee to enjoy to enjoy public facilities. I assure you that this a nonprofit entity. The money collected is simply pooled resources to allow us all equal access to the courts. Would you allow Westwood Pickball Community to take over the management of the pickleball courts? We will assure open access to all who want to play. Thank you, Respectfully, Bobby Ko

--

Sonya Young Jimenez

I am a member of the Westwood Pickleball community. We as a group of over 100 people play pickleball for 6-7 hours every Saturday and Sunday. We as a group are a community of players and gladly allow newcomers to come and join us. We have been doing this for several years under the organizational guidance of Mr Pong Nim. He books all the courts, sets up all the nets and arranges all the free play so people can flexibly come and go according to their schedules. People meet new people every week and just have a good time. This is a non profit venture! Each person who comes pays $5 to play as long as he wants for each 6 hr time slot. This pays for court setup and for booking the time slots. I plead with you not to allow any private entity to take over running the pickleball booking and only booking one group at a time at a greater cost to each individual. I assume that the purpose of the Dept of Parks and Rec is to allow as many citizens as possible at a reasonable fee to enjoy to enjoy public facilities. I assure you that this a nonprofit entity. The money collected is simply pooled resources to allow us all equal access to the courts. Would you allow Westwood Pickball Community to take over the management of the pickleball courts? We will assure open access to all who want to play. Thank you, Respectfully, Bobby Ko

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Support for Westwood Pickleball Community

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 11:31 AM
To: John Gonzalez
Cc: anthony.gallo@lacity.org, Jason.Liss@lacity.org, westwood.recreationcenter@lacity.org, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members.

On Sun, Nov 16, 2025 at 1:41 PM John Gonzalez wrote:

> To Whom It May Concern,
>
> I am a resident of Sawtelle and a member of the Westwood Pickleball Community. I wanted to throw my full support behind continuing this outstanding organization led selflessly by Pong Nim. I play at least once or twice on the weekends for a nominal $5. Though not required, I'm happy to donate $5 for 6 hours of court time - unheard of value!. This trivial donation allows Pong to maintain all the nets, paddles, balls and ancillary supplies necessary for anyone to just show and play.
>
> I would encourage you to come by and check out a weekend to see the live action and fellowship. Let's use common sense and support the Westwood Pickleball Community.
>
> Let me know if you have any questions.
>
> Best,
> John Gonzalez

--

Sonya Young Jimenez
Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
2459 Motor Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Cell: (213) 312-7966
Website: laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Rec Center/Pickleball

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org> Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 11:31 AM
To: JENNIFER STERNBERG
Cc: jimmy.kim@lacity.org, anthony.gallo@lacity.org, Jason.Liss@lacity.org, westwood.recreationcenter@lacity.org, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members.

On Sun, Nov 16, 2025 at 1:56 PM JENNIFER STERNBERG wrote:

> Hi,
>
> It has recently come to my attention that the Westwood Rec Center pickleball courts may be privatized, or rented for profit by TNT / LA Tennis Center.
> I - along with a community of over 100 others - play every Saturday and Sunday with Westwood Pickleball, organized by Pong Nim.
>
> Please do not privatize the courts. Our parks are meant for the community, not profit.
> We voluntarily donate $5 to play with Pong's group (to play for as long as we like)… It's almost free… Just enough to keep us supplied with nets, balls, spare paddles, etc.
> Trust me, Pong is not in this to make money. He welcomes newcomers, will teach the rules, help us learn the drills and skills… All for the love of the game and making friends.
>
> This is the most welcoming sports community I've known, and it is by far the cheapest and easiest way to play the game in LA.
> If you have any doubts, please come out one of these weekends to see for yourselves. Ask the players what we think.
>
> Please do not allow any private entity to take over running/booking the pickleball courts.
> Or at least, please consider allowing our community to continue operating with our current schedule: Saturdays 9am-3pm, Sundays 3pm-9pm.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Jennifer Sternberg
> Sent from my iPhone

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please help Pong continue WPC!!!

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:24 AM
To: Hunter McArn

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

Please also see response from staff:

"Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members."

On Sun, Nov 16, 2025 at 2:11 PM Hunter McArn wrote:

> Hello,
>
> As a resident of Santa Monica and a member of the Westwood Pickleball Community, I write to support the continuation of this wonderful organization, which is led selflessly by Pong Nim. I enjoy playing pickleball at least once or twice on the weekends, and the nominal $5 fee for 6 hours of court time is an incredible value. Though it's not mandatory, I'm more than happy to contribute this small donation to help Pong maintain the necessary equipment, such as nets, paddles, balls, and other supplies, ensuring that anyone can just show up and play.
>
> I encourage you to visit on a weekend to witness the live action and camaraderie for yourself. It is so much fun! Please do what you can to keep this good thing going, and support the Westwood Pickleball Community.
>
> If you have any questions or need further information, please let me know.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> Hunter McArn

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickleball Community

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 8:26 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office. We have received your email.

Please also see response from staff:

"Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the pickleball courts at Westwood Recreation Center. We truly appreciate hearing from our community, and we understand how important this space is for the players who gather every weekend.

We want to assure you that community feedback is valued and welcomed. At this time, the contract-related matters for the pickleball courts are being handled by our Park Services Division in coordination with our Concessions Unit. Your comments—and those of others who have written in—are being shared with the appropriate teams as they continue their review.

We also recognize the positive impact that Pong Nim and the Westwood Pickleball community have had in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and affordable environment. Community-built programs like yours are an important part of what makes our parks special.

Thank you again for taking the time to reach out. Please feel free to continue sharing your thoughts with us—we are always happy to hear from community members."

On Sun, Nov 16, 2025 at 5:50 PM wrote:

> To Whom It May Concern:
>
> I am a Westwood resident and a member of the Westwood Pickleball community under the organizational guidance of Mr. Pong Nim. Pong (with the help of other friends or family members) reserves courts 1 & 2 every week for approximately 6 hours on Saturday and 6 hours on Sunday. He also brings pickleball nets and balls to the courts every week. He only asks for a $5 contribution to reimburse him for the reservations and other out-of-pocket costs. All are welcome to just show up and play for as long as they want when they want.
>
> There is a rumor circulating that LA Tennis Center aka TNT and LA Dept of Rec & Park (LARAP) want to take over the pickleball reservation system at Westwood, allowing only individual or small group bookings of the courts for shorter limited time periods at a greater cost to each participant. This will drastically reduce the number of people who are able to use the courts and play pickleball every week.
>
> I therefore strongly urge that the current reservation system for courts 1 & 2, at least with respect to Saturday and Sunday if not the entire week, be kept in place so that the maximum number of people will be able enjoy the courts and continue to play pickleball at Westwood as they have for the last two years. I would also like to add that the current reservation fees are the same fees that apply to the use of the other courts at Westwood for tennis. Why should pickleballers pay more than tennis players? Thank you for your consideration.

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Do Not Repeat Palisades: Preserve Westwood Pickleball Access

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 8:24 AM
To: Fe Cervoni

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Fri, Nov 21, 2025 at 4:05 PM Fe Cervoni wrote:

> To Whom It May Concern,
>
> My husband and I are nearby residents and active members of the Westwood Pickleball Community. We come to Westwood specifically because of the welcoming, inclusive environment Pong Nim has built—an environment that draws hundreds of players of all ages each weekend. The program he has built is **affordable, inclusive, and self-sustaining**, with a small voluntary fee covering equipment so anyone can participate. It provides a safe, supportive space that cannot be replicated by a profit-driven system.
>
> We are very concerned about reports that TNT / LA Tennis Center may take over the Westwood courts. TNT has already privatized Palisades Rec. Center, forcing members to find a new home—which many did at Westwood. Now, these same members face the same threat again. Privatization would dramatically reduce access because of the **increased fees**, disrupt a thriving community, and put the current reservation system for **courts 1 & 2** on Saturdays and Sundays at risk.
>
> We respectfully request clear answers in writing from the City of LA / Pay Tennis (LAPT) about exactly what they are planning to do with the reservation system once the Westwood pickleball courts are permanently converted. We urge you to act before history repeats itself and to preserve the existing program and reservation system. Please visit the courts on a weekend to see firsthand the positive impact this community has on Westwood and nearby residents alike.
>
> Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration.
>
> Marco and Fe Cervoni

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickleball Courts - Personal Perspective

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 8:25 AM
To: SVEN HARDER

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 8:26 AM SVEN HARDER wrote:

> To whom it may concern...
>
> By now, you must have heard a lot from the group that plays pickleball on the Westwood courts on Saturday and Sunday. Probably most of the mails were copy-paste, so I wanted to offer a more original/individual perspective on it.
>
> I am an international PhD student at UCLA and have been playing pickleball there for approximately a year now. I think the pickleball community in Westwood is a very important part of social life for many participating in it. To me, it was the first time, I experienced a closely knit community away from work and I have heard the same experience from many other international students/people that go there.
>
> Another important point, that I have yet to see somewhere else, is the strong interaction of senior citizens with younger people. There are people in their 70s and 80s showing up to pickleball every week, because this is the place where they have social connections. People they can chat to, people that care about them, that ask them how their day is, things that go away normally as one grows old and one's children have their own lives. Many of them also pointed out to me that during Covid, they spent entire weeks alone at home, without having anybody to talk to.
> I think in a time, where the entire country (probably even world) is swept by loneliness, because more and more people spend more time in front of their screens instead of going out into the world to interact with new people, this is an absolute treasure.
>
> I might have a misconception of how parks are used in the US, but my naive understanding is that they are a place, where locals should be able to hang out, socialize, do sports in the beautiful weather that Los Angeles has to offer.
>
> It would be a great pity and loss for hundreds of people that show up every week to play Pickleball, if you would take this (for some people their only community) away from them.
>
> Thank you in advance for your consideration,
> Sven Harder

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City of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Concerns regarding privatization of courts

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 8:40 AM
To: Gabriel Devlin

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Nov 25, 2025 at 4:22 PM Gabriel Devlin wrote:

> Dear LA Pay Tennis,
>
> I am a Westwood resident. I wanted to express my concerns regarding plans to privatize or rent out tennis courts #1 and #2 at the Westwood Recreation Center.
>
> I moved to LA 3 years ago - although I initially felt very isolated, the Westwood Pickleball Community has been an incredible way to meet and connect with neighbors. I think Pong's has created an incredibly accessible and community-centered group. Pong volunteers free pickleball lessons for beginners and creates an inclusive environment. The people who come to play are a diverse group of players, bringing together everyone from college students to retirees, and folks from all cultural backgrounds and parts of the world. I have serious concerns that privatizing these courts will raise the costs of playing pickleball there, making pickleball less accessible and affecting the diversity of our community of players, as well as losing the kinship that has organically grown over the last years within Westwood Pickleball.
>
> All the best,
> Gabriel Devlin

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Westwood Pickleball

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 7:14 AM
To: Janice Eisenberg

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 12:04 PM Janice Eisenberg wrote:

> To Whom it May Concern
> Please note that Pong has done an amazing thing by creating a Pickleball Community in Westwood. It would be a big mistake to terminate something that has been so successful in bringing the community and so many people together in Westwood. Therefore we implore you to not make changes to something that is working so well and has made so many people able to enjoy and afford the sport of pickleball.
> Sincerely,
> --
> **Janice Eisenberg**

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Please preserve Westwood Pickleball Community

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 8:40 AM
To: Gabe Brison-Trezise

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 12:01 AM Gabe Brison-Trezise wrote:

> Hello,
>
> My name is Gabe. I'm a Westside LA resident, taxpayer, voter — and weekend pickleball player at the Westwood Recreation Center. My physical health benefits from the exercise, and my social health benefits from the camaraderie.
>
> The Westwood Pickleball Community is just that: a community. One in which everybody knows your name, like the bar in the TV show *Cheers*. Participants greet one another with hugs, asking about family and travel and work. A mutual caring accompanies the spirited competition. What began as a small group has blossomed into a collective of hundreds because of the social ties it fosters, plus the convenience and fun. It forges bonds across race and class, age and gender, language and nationality. It embraces newcomers to LA and newcomers to pickleball (I know, because I'm both), and does so at a nominal cost of $5, keeping what can otherwise be a pricey sport accessible to all.
>
> I'm writing you out of concern for the future of this social good, and to urge you to use your wisdom and power to preserve it. Raising the price to reserve pickleball courts at the Westwood Rec Center or contracting out their operation, actions that I understand are under consideration, could sever connections between neighbors and increase barriers to participation. I keep returning because I know I can show up at a set place and time each week, that all the equipment I need will be there, and that dozens of other eager players will be too. A more expensive or atomized system would drive away residents like me.
>
> As a remote worker, I've experienced the value of the Westwood Pickleball Community as an antidote to the twin epidemics of loneliness and physical inactivity. But social organizations can be fragile, and the benefits they bring can't necessarily sustain them without support. So, as LARAP decides how to improve the pickleball courts at the Westwood Rec Center (one idea: more bathrooms), I urge you to nurture what's already working.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Gabe Brison

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Forwarding letter re: Pacific Palisades PAB 18 Nov 2025. FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Nov 21, 2025 at 7:46 AM
To: D Woelke < >

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Nov 20, 2025 at 4:03 PM D Woelke < > wrote:

> Good afternoon, LA RAP Commissioners:
>
> It was brought to my attention that this letter should be forwarded to you to ensure your greater awareness of the myriad issues regarding the plans to place synthetic turf at the baseball fields in Palisades Park.
>
> I was at the park on Tuesday with the intent to speak at the PAB meeting, which was canceled in the late afternoon due to a violation of the Brown Act. The PAB had sent emails to a select group of individuals only, without notifying the general public of the planned meeting and vote on synthetic turf for this park. There has been a clear intent to prevent public input and engage in open dialogue beyond the supporters of plastic turf.
>
> Tuesday afternoon, children and families were able to play on the natural grass fields, precisely because they are not fake plastic grass carpets. The baseball fields sit in a bowl. Children were able to play on them because they aren't covered in toxic, impermeable plastic. With plastic, they become a toxic, cancer-causing swimming pool, until they drain down the storm drain to the beach where they wreck further environmental damage.
>
> LA has had 4.88 inches of rain since Nov 1…for every acre of plastic turf, 27,000 gallons of toxic runoff rushes from the fields for every inch of rain.
>
> Palisades Park escaped the devastation of the Jan Fire precisely because it is NATURAL grass, which is what the community needs more than ever for mental health and healing. Plastic turf is not flame or ember resistant and releases its toxic payload when it combusts.
>
> LA had 432 extra deaths in the first 2 months after the fire. Those numbers will continue to rise as cancer clusters form due to the toxic fall

out, largely due to living in what has been dubbed a plastic city.

Also on Tuesday, LAUSD , the 2nd largest school district in the country and largest in the state unanimously resolved to transition away from plastic turf, including in high schools, with 5 projects immediately impacted. Commissioner Melvoin is a co-signer to this resolution.

Stop paying homage to the petrochemical plastic turf industry. Stop harming our kids and communities with this plastic waste that is now in our bodies, the air we breathe and the food we eat.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Woelke MSN, Board Member
Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.
https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org
SHPFI is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501-c-3

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Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc.

www.safehealthyplayingfields.org

Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board

18 November, 2025, Item #4c

OPPOSE SYNTHETIC TURF INSTALLATION

Members McGeagh, Zar, Anderson, Card, Weber, Benton, Skinner, Tomas, Laffer, Kamdar, Hemmat, Cacciapaglia, and Starrels:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on synthetic turf. Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc. (SHFPI) is an all-volunteer 501-c-3 nonprofit organization. We are committed to educating communities, policymakers and elected officials about the health, safety and financial realities of plastic fields versus grass fields and other synthetic surfaces for their parks and schools. Our constituency ranges from concerned individuals to community and civic organizations, legal, healthcare and science professionals, municipal leaders and state legislators.

SHPFI is in support of a full ban of synthetic turf- enough is known from studies in other locations, and from independent peer-reviewed research to know the hazards to human and environmental health to ban this product.

SYNTHETIC TURF IS A FOSSIL FUEL-BASED PETROCHEMICAL PLASTIC

Synthetic turf is primarily made from polyethylene, though sometimes polypropylene or nylon may be incorporated. Synthetic turf:

- Contributes to climate change, loss of biodiversity, and massive amounts of plastic, micro- and nanoplastic pollution, and toxic runoff.
- Creates heat islands that impact the surrounding area.
- Is not ember or flame resistant and is combustible; poses significant risk in both Wildland-Urban-Interface and urban wildfires. Palisades Park is in a Very High Fire Severity Hazard zone.
- Contains myriad toxic chemicals that contribute to non-communicable diseases and cancers.

Further, synthetic turf:

- Is not PFAS-free.[1]

[1] Zero Waste Ithaca (Nov 2025). *Independent PFAS Testing of Cornell Synthetic Turf: Greenfields (Tencate) TX Pro.* https://zerowasteithaca.org/independent-pfas-testing-of-cornell-synthetic-turf/

- Is currently in the process of regulation by the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).[2]
- CA DTSC has announced its intent to regulate microplastics as a chemical of concern.[3]
- Banning synthetic turf is also consistent with the Ocean Protection Council's microplastics[4] and Nature Based Solutions strategies,[5] and is supported by the Natural Resources Agency,[6] and the Department of Insurance.[7]
- Increases risk of heat related illness, heat stroke, death and injuries.
- Releases massive amounts of microplastics and toxic runoff.
- Is not recyclable.
- Is a linear, unsustainable product.
- Is an impermeable surface per the US EPA, State of California, and the City of Los Angeles Landscape and Site Design Ordinance of October 2024.[8]

Recreation and Parks ongoing support for synthetic turf over more cost effective, safer, nature based solutions is also in conflict with the Los Angeles Olympics Committee plans for *"supporting local businesses, expanding youth sports and implementing sustainable solutions."*[9]

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[2] CA DTSC, Safer Consumer Products Program (27 Aug 2027). Chemicals of Concern in Artificial Turf. https://calsafer.dtsc.ca.gov/cms/commentpackage/?rid=12775

[3] Safer Consumer Product Program (2023). *"Proposed Addition to the Candidate Chemicals List: Microplastics."* California Department of Toxic Substances Control. CA EPA. https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/candidate-chemical-list_microplastics/

[4] Ocean Protection Council (Feb 2022). *"Landmark Statewide Microplastics Strategy Recommends Early Actions and Research Priorities to Reduce Microplastic Pollution"* https://www.opc.ca.gov/2022/02/landmark-statewide-microplastics-strategy-recommends-early-actions-and-research-priorities-to-reduce-microplastic-pollution/

[5] Ocean Protection Council (17 Dec 2024). *"Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order to Conserve Biodiversity, Combat Climate Change, and Build Climate Resilience Through Nature-Based Solutions."* https://opc.ca.gov/2020/10/governor-newsom-signs-executive-order-to-conserve-biodiversity-combat-climate-change-and-build-climate-resilience-through-nature-based-solutions/

[6] Natural Resources Agency (22 Apr 2022). *"Nature Based Solutions: Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy."* State of California. https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions/CNRA-Report-2022---Final_Accessible_Compressed.pdf

[7] Department of Insurance, Climate Insurance Working Group, (22 Jul 2021).*"Protecting Communities, Preserving Nature,and Building Resiliency: How First-of-Its-Kind Climate Insurance Will Help Combat the Costs of Wildfires, Extreme Heat, and Floods."* State of California. https://www.insurance.ca.gov/cci/CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCECLIMATE INSURANCE WORKING GROUdocs/climate-insurance-report.pdf

[8] City of Los Angeles (Oct 2024).Initial Study / Negative Declaration Landscape and Site Design Ordinance: Environmental Case Number: ENV-2022-4857-ND https://files.ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/307789-1/attachment/qpWua3HFu7gibvXSBlLv7pHSA7YuBntpJo8jqQ5KjG2F5zSrBKiwnY6rTnYZ0rKBYl0Ru1or1KMZRUXh0

[9] LA28 (25 Aug 2025). "*LA28 Releases Impact and Sustainability Plan for 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games."*

> *"Here in Los Angeles, we are leading the way toward a greener, more sustainable future for all Angelenos and the Impact and Sustainability Plan is another way that LA will benefit from the Games."* Los Angeles Mayor, Karen Bass

As part of Los Angeles' sustainability plans, the Resilient by Nature Initiative was launched.[10] The initiative will focus on:

- Wildfire resilience, restoration of nature
- Ocean protection
- Cooling solutions

Los Angeles is also a signatory to the Sports for Nature Framework and has announced its commitment to *"..**restore nature** in the Los Angeles region"* through sports.[11]

RAP and the Pacific Palisades PAB is acting to force synthetic turf into Palisades Park, acting in disregard of the results of the Parks Need Assessment, the strong community opposition, evidenced by the 18-paged petition submitted to RAP on 6 November, 2025,[12] and in total disregard of the independent peer-reviewed science.

Further, RAP has:

- Failed to conduct open community engagement.
- Not conducted an EIR.
- Not filed required documents at CEQA.net portal, something RAP has done for projects involving synthetic turf over many years.[13,14,15,16,17] (the only project filed is for renovation of the park restrooms)

LA28 Sustainability Report .

[10] City News Service (25 Aug 2025). "*LA28 unveils Impact and Sustainability Plan for Summer Olympics."* https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/la28-impact-sustainability-plan/3769753/

[11] Sports for Nature (Dec 2022). Sports for Nature framework. IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/-s4n-framework-en-15dec-no-embargo_final.pdf

[12] Blumenfield, B (30 Oct 2025). Letter to Kim, J, Manager LA RAP re: reopening RFP https://www.laparks.org/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2025/nov06/items-received-constituents.pdf

[13] Lanark Recreation Center – Synthetic Field Replacement

[14] Gilbert Lindsay Recreation Center - Synthetic Field Renovation

[15] Seoul International Park - Synthetic field replacement

[16] Belvedere Park Synthetic Fields

[17] Fred Roberts Recreation Center - Synthetic Field Renovation

- Committed to conducting a vote regarding installation of plastic turf for the park at the PAB meeting on 18 Nov 2025, despite lack of open community engagement, in disregard of strong community opposition, and an open RFP for an artificial turf study.
- Not considered a potential conflict with the Local Coastal Permit ordinance nor the California Coastal Commission (dual permit jurisdiction area of the Coastal Zone; currently being investigated).[18]
- Not engaged relevant agencies required under CEQA, including tribal authority.

Major health care organizations and researchers are taking a stand on transitioning away from plastics and synthetic turf with development of policies and resolutions:

- The California Medical Association[19]
- Santa Clara County Medical Association[20]
- Children's Environmental Health Center, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York City[21]
- Physicians for Social Responsibility[22]
- Climate Code Blue (Physician activists)[23]
- The Consortium for Children's Environmental Health[24]
- The Silent Spring Institute[25]
- Univ. of Mass., Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, [26]

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[18] 851 N Alma Real Dr., Los Angeles, Parcel Profile

[19] California Medical Association. (16 Aug 2024). Resolution 101-24: Removing Artificial Turf in Schools, Parks and Public Spaces.
CMA Resolution 101-24

[20] Santa Clara County Medical Association (24 Jun 2024). *"Policy Recommendation on the Use of Artificial Turf on Landscapes, Schools and Playing Fields."*
Santa Clara County Medical Assoc. Policy on synthetic turf

[21] Evans, SF, Harari, H (25 May 2025). *"Position Statement on the Use of Artificial Turf Surfaces.* The Children's Environmental Health Center, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, New York.
https://mountsinaiexposomics.org/position-statement-on-the-use-of-artificial-turf-surfaces/

[22] Physicians for Social Responsibility
https://psr.org/rally-to-ban-artificial-turf-with-toxic-pfas-in-philadelphia-city-properties/

[23] Landrigan, P, Lundburg, B (2024). *"The term 'turf' is misleading. The material is basically a scrap chemical product."* Climate Code Blue; Physician Activists.
https://commonwealthbeacon.org/opinion/the-term-turf-is-misleading/

[24] The Consortium for Children's Environmental Health (8 Jan 2025). *"Manufactured Chemicals and Children's Health The Need for New Law."* New England Journal of Medicine;392(3), 299-305.
https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2409092

[25] Silent Spring Institute (Sep 2024). Public comment letter submitted to DTSC, Candidate Chemicals in Synthetic Turf, document id 9644.
https://calsafer.dtsc.ca.gov/workflows/Comment/15588/?from=search

[26] Pollard, L, Massey, R (Aug 2024). *"Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Artificial Turf: Academic, municipal, and other testing efforts."* Lowell Center for Sustainability, University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

"The scientific and medical evidence is overwhelming: plastic kills. It poisons our oceans, our soils, and ultimately, it contaminates our bodies,"[27]

Agnès Pannier-Runacher, France's Minister of Ecological Transition, France

"...we have to get out of the mindset that plastic is essential for human life because that is fundamentally manipulation of the message. In fact, plastic is only essential for certain people's profit and plastic is [an] essential piece of the unraveling of our human existence."[28]

Dr. Leo Trasande, Director, Division of Environmental Pediatrics; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Pediatrics, NYU School of Medicine; faculty, NYU Wagner School of Public Service, and NYU College of Global Public Health.

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https://www.uml.edu/docs/PFAS%20in%20Artificial%20Turf%20-%20Academic%20Municipal%20%26%20Other%20Tests%20Aug%202024_tcm18-386957.pdf

[27] Johnson, J (15 Aug 2025). *"Plastics Treaty Talks End in 'Abject Failure' as US, Other Big Oil Allies Sabotage Progress."* Common Dreams. https://www.commondreams.org/news/plastics-treaty-talks-fail?utm_source=Common+Dreams&utm_campaign=e37127bd8b-News+Alert+%7C+%27Abject+Failure%27+of+Plastics&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-35ede9c646-601378863

[28] Hagens, N, Trasande, L, Birnbaum, L, Dixon, C (21 Jan 2025). *"The Plastic Crisis: A Health and Environmental Emergency."* The Great Simplification Podcast. https://www.thegreatsimplification.com/episode/reality-roundtable-15

SYNTHETIC TURF IS HARMFUL TO HUMAN HEALTH

Research is now turning toward the actual synthetic turf carpet and its effect on human health, leaving much to be concerned about. Published in 2023, researchers found an age- related risk for cancer from playing on synthetic turf.

"…there are cancer risks probability occurs as a result of chemical exposure from artificial turf. Cancer risk probability for different age categories was in the order: 7–15 years > 3–6 years >19–22 years >16–18 years >23–55 years >56–70 years."[29]

In 2023, a pilot study of young soccer players in San Diego, CA, PFOS (one of over 16,000 PFAS chemicals) was found on their hands after playing on synthetic turf. The US EPA has declared there is no safe level of PFOS.[30] Research has also shown that PFAS can be absorbed through the skin, posing increased risk for the multiple non-communicable diseases and cancers known to be associated with PFAS.[31] The study has been replicated with larger numbers of players, more playing fields, and a wider age range by the Kassotis Laboratory, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (publication pending).[32]

Also conducted by the Kassotis Laboratory, research using milled new and old artificial turf exposed to human cell lines revealed that the chemicals in carpets caused both disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system, and cardiometabolic harm.[33,34]

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[29] Mohammed, AMF, Saleh, IA, Abdel-Latif, NM (29 Mar 2023). *"Hazard assessment study on organic compounds and heavy metals."* Heliyon: (9), 4, e14928
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e14928

[30] US EPA (9 Apr 2024). Fact Sheet: *"PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation."*
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_general_4.9.24v1.pdf

[31] Ragnarsdóttir, O, Abdallah, MAE, Harrad, S (June 2024). *"Dermal bioavailability of perfluoroalkyl substances using in vitro 3D human skin equivalent models."* Environment International; (188), 108722.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412024003581#ak005

[32] Amenabar, T (Mar 2024). *"Study eyes safety of turf fields for kids: Scientists team up with San Diego Surf soccer club to discover if 'forever chemicals' pose risk."* San Diego Union Tribune, originally published in the Washington Post.
https://enewspaper.sandiegouniontribune.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=7f93edcb-cd5b-4f9d-b8e4-ed57343daefc&share=true

[33] Siegela, KR, Murraya, BR, Gearhart, J, Kassotis, CD (2024). *"In vitro endocrine and cardiometabolic toxicity associated with artificial turf materials."* Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology; (111), 104562.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.etap.2024.104562

[34] Kassotis, C (23 Sep 2024). *"Endocrine and cardiometabolic toxicity of artificial turf associated materials."* Video of presentation at NYU Langone Health symposium on plastics research.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8MDXyQKnFA

Phthalates and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), both found in synthetic turf, are endocrine disruptors. Phthalates are also neurotoxic. PFAS are but one of 15 categories of chemicals found in plastics. One hundred percent of synthetic turf tested to date by independent third-party laboratories, academic institutions and nonprofit agencies without a financial interest in synthetic turf, and using appropriate methods, techniques, and testing parameters, have found PFAS in synthetic turf products by all major manufacturers.[35.36]

The need to stop further PFAS exposure cannot be overstated. PFAS can cause multiple reproductive disorders[37] (including a 40% decrease in female fertility; a decrease of 62.3% total sperm count in males)[38]; Crohn's disease[39]; breast[40], testicular, kidney[41], prostate[42] and liver

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[35] Whitehead, H. D. (2023). *"Development of Analytical Methods for Highly Selective and Sensitive Analytical Analysis of Compounds Relevant to Human Health and the Environment."* Version 1. University of Notre Dame.
https://doi.org/10.7274/bg257d30j3m

[36] Pollard, L, Massey, R (Aug 2024). *"Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Artificial Turf: Academic, municipal, and other testing efforts."* Lowell Center for Sustainability, University of Massachusetts, Lowell.
https://www.uml.edu/docs/PFAS%20in%20Artificial%20Turf%20-%20Academic%20Municipal%20%26%20Other%20Tests%20Aug%202024_tcm18-386957.pdf

[37] Rickard, BP, Rizvi, I, Fentond, SE (2022). *"Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Female Reproductive Outcomes: PFAS Elimination, Endocrine-Mediated Effects, and Disease."* Toxicology; 465,153031.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8743032/

[38] Levine, H., Jørgensen,N., Martino-Andrade, A., et al. 2023. *"Temporal Trends in Sperm Count: A Systematic Review and Meta-Regression Analysis of Samples Collected Globally in the 20th and 21st Centuries."* Human Reproduction Update: 29 (2); 157–176.
https://academic.oup.com/humupd/article/29/2/157/6824414?login=false

[39] Xu, Y., Li, Y., Scott, K., et al 2019. *"Ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease and other inflammatory bowel disease in a population with high exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances through drinking water."* Abstracts from the 2019 Annual Conference of the International Society of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, August 25-28 2019, Utrecht, the Netherlands: Oct 2019; 3; 449. PFAS, Ulcerative Colits, Crohn's Disease

[40] Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (Last updated 24 Jun 2020). *"PFAS Forever Chemicals (also PFOA, PFOS)."*
https://www.bcpp.org/resource/pfas-forever-chemicals-pfoa-pfos/

[41] Steenland, K., Windquist, A.. 2021. *"Review article: PFAS and cancer, a scoping review of the epidemiologic evidence."* Environmental Research; 194: 110690.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935120315899

[42] Messmer, MF, Salloway, J, Traviss, N (Feb 2022). *"Risk of Cancer in a Community Exposed to Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances."* Environmental Health Insights; 16.
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/11786302221076707

cancers.[43,44] They cross the blood-brain barrier, and are related to Autism Spectrum Disorder[45], Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder[46], increased deaths from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases[47]; decreased immune response[48]; increased serum cholesterol[49]; effects on infant birth weights[50]; impaired glucose metabolism, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia and adiposity (obesity) in children and adolescents[51]; thyroid hormone disruption (including neonatal)[52] and thyroid cancer.[53] Because they are bioaccumulative, PFAS exposure can impact multiple generations.

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[43] Zhang, X, McGlynn, K, Sun, Q (ongoing research). "*Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) and Liver Cancer Risk in the United States; The Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial.*" National Institutes for Health, National Cancer Institute. Accessed 25 Oct 2023. https://cdas.cancer.gov/approved-projects/2555/

[44] Keck School of Medicine of USC (10 Sep 2025). *"Newsroom: USC study shows how PFAS disrupt healthy function in human liver cells."* https://keck.usc.edu/news/usc-study-shows-how-pfas-disrupt-healthy-function-in-human-liver-cells/

[45] Oh, J., Bennett, D.H., Calafat, A.M.. 2023. *"Prenatal exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in association with autism spectrum disorder in the MARBLES study."* Environ Int Journal: 171:107662. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33387879/

[46] Kim, J.I., Kim, Lee, Y.A., et al. 2023. *"Association Between Early-Childhood Exposure to Perfluoroalkyl Substances and ADHD symptoms: A Prospective Cohort Study."* Science of The Total Environment: 879; 163081. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004896972301700X

[47] Brown-Leung, J.M., Cannon, J.R.. 2022. *"Neurotransmission Targets of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Neurotoxicity: Mechanisms and Potential Implications for Adverse Neurological Outcomes.* Chem Res Toxicol; 35(8):1312-1333. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35921496/

[48] Collaborative for Health and Environment Adverse (2 Dec 2020). *"Effects of PFAS on Immune System Health: Complicating recovery during the COVID-19 Pandemic."* https://www.healthandenvironment.org/webinars/96552

[49] Li,Y., Barregard, L., Xu, L., et al.. 2020. *"Associations between perfluoroalkyl substances and serum lipids in a Swedish adult population with contaminated drinking water."* Environmental Health: 19(33). https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7071576/

[50] Gao, Y., Luo, J., Zhang, Y., et al. 2022. *"Prenatal Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Child Growth Trajectories in the First Two Years."* Environmental Health Perspectives; 130(3). https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP9875

[51] Goodrich, J.A., Walker, D.I., He, J.. 2023. *"Metabolic Signatures of Youth Exposure to Mixtures of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: A Multi-Cohort Study."* Environmental Health Perspectives;131(2). https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP11372

[52] Coperchini, F, Croce, L, Ricci, G, et al. 2021. *"Thyroid Disrupting Effects of Old and New Generation PFAS."* Front Endocrinol (Lausanne); 11: 612320. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7851056/

[53] Messmer, M, Salloway, J, Traviss, N (11 Feb 2022). *Risk of Cancer in a Community Exposed to Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances.* Environmental Health Insights. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/11786302221076707

PFAS interacts synergistically with microplastics to cause cancer.[54] Adolescents, like younger children, have developmental windows that put them at risk of non-communicable diseases and cancers from environmental factors, such as chemical exposure to plastics/synthetic surfacing.[55] Children who play on synthetic playground surfacing have a 10 times greater risk of developing cancer.[56] Exposures to chemicals in the environment can have long latency periods. Childhood cancers rose by 50% from 1975 to 2015,[57] 35% in the past 45 years, and continue to rise at up to 1% per year.[58] Babies are being born pre-polluted with PFAS[59] and microplastics.[60] Prevention, not treatment, must become our highest priority.

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[54] Sands, M, Sachdeva, A, Bukavina, Irudayara, J (1 Dec 2025). *"Synergistic toxicity of PFAS and microplastic mixtures across five human cell lines."* Environmental Pollution; (386)127256. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749125016306

[55] Brown, M (10 Feb 2025). *"Adolescents' unique vulnerabilities to environmental hazards."* United Nations Children's Fund. https://ceh.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/250210_Fragile_Beginnings_Adolescents.pdf

[56]Tarafdar, A, Oh, MJ, Nguyen-Phuong, Q et al (2020). *"Profiling and Potential Cancer Risk Assessment on Children Exposed to PAHs in Playground Dust/Soil: A Comparative Study on Poured Rubber Surfaced and Classical Soil Playgrounds in Seoul."* Environ Geochem Health 42, 1691–1704 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10653-019-00334-2

[57] The Reasons Why Us. "*Prevention is The Cure For Child/Teen Cancer."* https://thereasonswhy.us/

[58] The Consortium for Children's Environmental Health (8 Jan 2025). *Manufactured Chemicals and Children's Health — The Need for New Law."* N Engl J Med;392:299-305 https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2409092

[59] Society of Toxicology. 2021. "*Understanding Developmental Immunotoxicology and the Effects of PFAS."* SOT TV Interview with Jamie DeWitt, PhD. https://vimeo.com/563823549

[60] Savchuk, K (29 Jan 2025). *"Microplastics and our health: What the science says."* Stanford Medicine News Center. https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2025/01/microplastics-in-body-polluted-tiny-plastic-fragments.html

PFAS and micro- and nanoplastics have been found in sea spray,[61,62] and are negatively impacting the cardiac health of those living in the coastal region.[63]

Even if the plastic grass industry were able to truly make their product PFAS free one day, there are additional chemicals of concern that will continue to make this product toxic and cause non-communicable diseases and cancers:

Too ***TOXIC!!***

- PFAS
- Phthalates
- Latex
- Polyvinyl chloride
- Naptha
- Siloxanes
- Talc
- Di/Isocyanates
- Formaldehyde
- Fungicides
- Coal fly ash
- Flame retardants
- 1,2-cyclohexane dicarbonic acid
- Dibutyltin
- Ethylene glycol
- Triclosan
- Colorants
- UV stabilizers
- Anti-static treatments

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[61] Bø, S, Johansson, JH, Tunved, P et al (15 Dec 2021). *"Sea spray aerosol (SSA) as a source of perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) to the atmosphere: Field evidence from long-term air monitoring."* Environmental Science & Technology: (56), 1: 228-238. https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.1c04277

[62] Lambert, S, Vercauteren, M, Catarino, AI et al (15 June 2024). "*Aerosolization of micro- and nanoplastics via sea spray: Investigating the role of polymer type, size, and concentration, and potential implications for human exposure."* Environmental Pollution; (351), 124105 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749124008194

[63] Makawana, B, Khadke, S, Kumar, A et al (18 Jun 2025). *"Marine Microplastic Levels and the Prevalence of Cardiometabolic Diseases in US Coastline Counties."* Journal of the American Heart Association;14(13). https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.124.039891

SYNTHETIC TURF CREATES MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF PLASTIC, MICRO- AND NANOPLASTIC WASTE

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control has already begun the process to regulate microplastics as chemicals of concern.[64] Regulation will also likely impact synthetic running tracks and playground surfacing materials, and, as with synthetic turf, may impact where these toxic surfaces can be disposed of. Taxpayers and future generations should not have to bear the burden tomorrow for bad decisions made today.

See microplastic blades shedding from sports fields **HERE**, **HERE**, and **HERE**.

A regulation sized playing field is approximately 40,000 pounds of plastic carpet and over 400,000 pounds of microplastic infill poured on top of the carpet.[65] For no-infill synthetic turf, the carpet weight is approximately 1.5 to 2 times heavier. The microplastics that result from the breakdown of the plastic grass carpet, backing, and shockpads are secondary microplastics.

A 2017 study found that a single synthetic turf field loses 0.5 to 0.8% of its blades annually. This equates to 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of microplastic blade loss per year per field.[66,67] The newest generation of synthetic turf does not require infill poured on top of the synthetic carpet. They are more densely woven, have 16 times more plastic blades, may have double backing,[68] and have the potential for significantly greater loss of microplastic blades and backing, as well as from the shock pad.

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[64] Safer Consumer Product Program (2023). *"Proposed Addition to the Candidate Chemicals List: Microplastics."* California Department of Toxic Substances Control. CA EPA. https://dtsc.ca.gov/scp/candidate-chemical-list_microplastics/

[65] The Synthetic Turf Council (2017). *"A Guideline to Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose and Remove Synthetic Turf Systems."* https://www.ttiionline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/STC-Guideline-for-Recycle-Reuse_2017.pdf

[66] Hann, S et al (2018). *"Investigating Options for Reducing Releases in the Aquatic Environment of Microplastics Emitted by (but not Intentionally Added in) Products."* Eunomia, United Kingdom. https://www.eunomia.co.uk/case_study/measuring-impacts-of-microplastics/

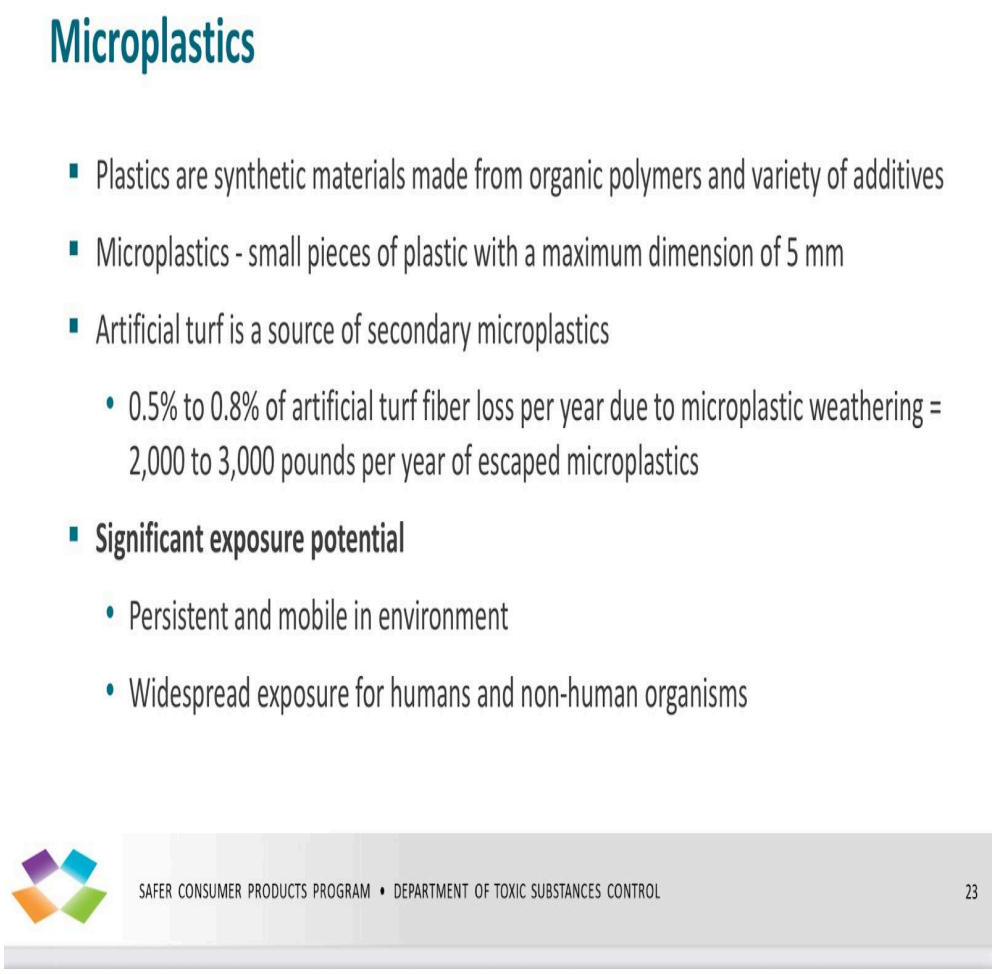
[67] CA DTSC (27 Aug 2024). Slide deck, presentation on Candidate Chemicals in Artificial Turf. CA EPA. https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2024/09/Artificial-Turf-Workshop-Slides_DTSC_Accessible.pdf

[68] TenCate Pivot (2024). Face weight of 120 ounces per yard^2, double backing, total weight 147.5 ounces per yard^2. https://geosurfaces.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PIVOT_1.5_Spec-1.pdf

Lost to air, water and soil **per year from each playing field**:

- 1.5 to 5 tons of microplastic used tire crumb[69] or other synthetic infill
- 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of microplastic plastic blades[70]
- 439 pounds of microplastic carpet backing[71]

Microplastics lost from infills poured on top of the synthetic field are primary microplastics. Synthetic turf used in landscapes, made by the same manufacturers that make plastic sports fields, also shed microplastics.



[69] Kimo International (2021) https://kimointernational.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/KIMO_Resolution_18_01.pdf

[70] DTSC (27 Aug 2024). Presentation Slides

[71] Kole, PJ, Van Belleghem, F, Stoorvogel, JJ, et al (10 Dec 2023). *"Tire granulate on the loose: How much escapes turf? A systematic literature review."* Science of The Total Environment; (903)166221. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.166221

Microplastic synthetic turf blades constitute between 12 to 15% of microplastics in waterways and oceans around the globe, and over 50% of microplastics in near surface waters.[72,73,74,75,76]

Microplastics have been found in virtually every bodily organ and fluid.

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[72] Mylius, K (11 July 2024). "*Keep the Fake Plants and Turf Out of the Surf: A call to action to reduce the use of artificial grass and plants in our cities, preserving natural greenery and its benefits, and cleaning the Ocean."* SeaBin Foundation, Australia.
https://seabinfoundation.org/keep-the-fake-plants-and-turf-out-of-the-surf/

[73] De Haan, WP, Quintana, R, Vilas, C, Cózar, A et al (1 Oct 2023).*"The dark side of artificial greening: Plastic turfs as widespread pollutants of aquatic environments."* Environmental Pollution; 334, 122094.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965?via%3Dihub

[74] Awonaike, B, Lei, YD, Parajulee, A, Wania, F (1 Dec 2021). *"Phase partitioning, transport and sources of Benzotriazole Ultraviolet Stabilizers during a runoff event."* Water Research X; (13),100115
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589914721000281#:~:text=High%20levels%20of%20UV328%20and%20UV234%20were,a%20sink%20than%20a%20source%20of%20BT%2DUVs

[75] Schultz, Madison (2022). *"UC Davis Environmental Research Center fundamental at Lake Tahoe."* Sierra Sun. Accessed 26 Oct 2023.
https://www.sierrasun.com/news/uc-davis-environmental-research-center-fundamental-at-lake-tahoe/

[76] Spencer, C (2023). *"Lake Tahoe has higher concentration of microplastics than ocean trash heap."* LA Times.
https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-07-14/lake-tahoe-troubling-concentration-microplastics

The California Coastal Commission conditioned a permit for University of California, Santa Barbara's baseball stadium for natural grass only, reporting the installation of synthetic turf:

"*…cannot be considered the environmentally superior alternative…"* and cited microplastics as a primary concern. The Coastal Commission also noted that *"Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of CEQA prohibits the Commission from approving a proposed development if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect which the activity may have on the environment."*[77] This same CEQA requirement holds true for all proposed synthetic turf projects in the state.

SYNTHETIC TURF PRESENTS A WILDFIRE RISK

The Governor, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Insurance Commission, and the California Ocean Protection Council all call for nature-based solutions to climate change, pollution, and wildfire risk. If urgent action is not taken to reduce risks, there will be continued loss of life, decimation of the environment, and increased economic and insurance liabilities to all Californians.[78,79,80]

Testing has shown synthetic turf to be easily flammable.[81] Research from Australia reports:

> *"Glowing embers, as are commonly blown in front of an advancing bushfire, have a temperature of around 700-800°C, and the flame of a burning leaf has a temperature of around 700°C. Strips of polyethylene can be ignited with the flame of a match which has a temperature of around 700°C."*[82]

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[77] California Coastal Commission (13 Dec 2023). *"Notice of Impending Development UCS-NOID-0002-23 (Baseball Stadium Turf)."* https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/12/W13.1a/W13.1a-12-2023-report.pdf

[78] Natural Resources Agency (22 Apr 2022). *"Nature Based Solutions: Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy."* State of California. https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/Expanding-Nature-Based-Solutions/CNRA-Report-2022---Final_Accessible_Compressed.pdf

[79] Department of Insurance, Climate Insurance Working Group, (22 Jul 2021).*"Protecting Communities, Preserving Nature, and Building Resiliency: How First-of-Its-Kind Climate Insurance Will Help Combat the Costs of Wildfires, Extreme Heat, and Floods."* State of California. https://www.insurance.ca.gov/cci/CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCECLIMATE INSURANCE WORKING GROUdocs/climate-insurance-report.pdf

[80] Green, A (Mar 2024). *"In Florida, Skyrocketing Insurance Rates Test Resolve of Homeowners in Risky Areas: Research shows the soaring costs hint at widespread, unpriced risk as the global climate warms, with states like California, Florida and Louisiana hit hardest.* Inside Climate News. https://insideclimatenews.org/news/06032024/florida-skyrocketing-insurance-rates/

[81] Kukfisz, B (2018). *"The Degree of Flammability for an Artificial Grass Surface System."* The Main School of Fire Service, Faculty of Fire Safety Engineering, Warsaw, Poland. https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/20184500038

[82] Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Apr 2020). *"Living Turf Fire Benefits Study - Literature review."* GHD Australia.

There are no international testing standards, including ASTM International, that subject materials to the temperature or wind extremes that occur in wildfire events.

> *"Over the past two decades, we saw a 250 percent increase in fire speed across the West that I don't see slowing down anytime soon."* Fire ecologist, Jennifer Balch.[83]

Antimony, hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS), and benzotriazoles are examples of chemical additives utilized by the synthetic turf industry to make their products less flammable. These additives have significant long-term ramifications for human and environmental health, long after the flames are put out.

Pacific Palisades 2025 ⬆️ Concord, CA 2025 ⬆️ Altadena 2025 ⬆️

Los Angeles has been dubbed a "Plastic City."[84]The effects of the burnt city will continue to last for decades through increased particulate matter, contaminated soil and water, and increasing non-communicable diseases and cancers amongst the general population and firefighters alike. We are unable to harden our homes and protect our communities with fossil fuel-based petrochemical plastic.

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https://www.horticulture.com.au/globalassets/hort-innovation/resource-assets/tu17008-literature-review-living-turf-fire-benefits-study.pdf

[83] Deng, J (11 Jan 2025). *"The Dichotomy of a Deadly Paradise—How Urban Sprawl and Climate Change Fuel LA's Fires."* Inside Climate News. https://insideclimatenews.org/news/11012025/los-angeles-wildfires-in-altadena-and-pacific-palisades/

[84] Schlanger, Z (15 Jan 2025). *"What Happens When a Plastic City Burns."* The Atlantic. https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2025/01/los-angeles-fire-smoke-plastic-toxic/681318/

The Atlantic

Sign In Su

SCIENCE

What Happens When a Plastic City Burns

Most modern couches are basically blocks of gasoline.

By Zoë Schlanger

HIGHER INCIDENCE OF INJURIES ON SYNTHETIC TURF

COMPARED TO NATURAL GRASS

- ~9,000 student athletes are treated for exertional heat illness each year.[85,86]
- Synthetic turf readily reaches temperatures of 160-180ºF, regardless of infill type; at a temperature of 140°F, 1st degree burns occur in 3 seconds, and 3rd degree (full thickness) burns in 5 seconds.[87,88]

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[85] Kerr, ZY, Casas, DJ, Marshall, SW, Comstock, RD (Jan 2013). *"Epidemiology of exertional heat illness among U.S. high school athletes."* J. Preventive Medicine. pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23253644/

[86] UpToDate. *"Heat Stroke in Children: Pathophysiology."* https://www.uptodate.com/contents/heat-stroke-in-children?search=Heat%20stroke%20in%20children&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1%7E51&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H4

[87] Moritz AR, Henriques FC Jr (1947). Original source. *"Studies of thermal injury II: The relative importance of time and surface temperature in the causation of cutaneous burns."* Am J Pathol.; 23: 915-941. http://www.antiscald.com/index.php?route=information/information&information_id=15

[88] Abraham, J (1 Apr 2019). *"Heat risks associated with synthetic athletic fields."* International Journal of Hyperthermia; (1), 515-516. https://doi.org/10.1080/02656736.2019.1605096

- An increasing number of athletes are dying from heat stroke. Athletes of color are most affected.[89]
- Turf burns, due to friction on plastic, increases the risk for bacterial infections, including potentially life-threatening methicillin resistant staphylococcus aurea (MRSA).[90]
- There are multiple different bacteria found on plastic fields.[91]
- There is a higher incidence of high school sports injuries on synthetic turf than natural grass across all sports: 61% vs. 39%.[92]
- 315,000 to 850,000 concussions every year occur among high school athletes. Higher risk on synthetic turf.[93]
- Concussions occur in high school football players when head impacts approach 95 g; lower g force for younger children.[94]
- Repetitive brain trauma and concussions are associated with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). CTE has been found in 17-year-olds.[95]
- 41.4% of athletes under age 30 show signs of CTE.[96]

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[89] Wertheim, Jon (Oct 2022). *"With Hotter Temperatures Come More Football Deaths. And Black high school players are disproportionately affected."* Sports Illustrated, The Athletic.
https://www.si.com/high-school/2022/10/07/football-climate-change-daily-cover

[90] Presentation: U.S. Federal Research Action Plan (FRAP) on Recycled Tire Crumb Rubber Used on SyntheticTurf Playing Fields and Playgrounds (6 Aug 2019). Slide deck; slide #20
https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-08/documents/tc_public_webinar_-_august_6_2019.pdf

[91] Valeriani, F, Margarucci, LM, Gianfraneschi, G et al (28 Aug 2019). *Artificial-turf surfaces for sport and recreational activities: microbiota analysis and 16S sequencing signature of synthetic vs natural soccer fields.* Heliyon: Heliyon 5 (2019) e02334.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e02334

[92] Paliobeis, A, Sivasundaran, L, Knapik, D et al (Jul/Aug 2021). *"Injury incidence is higher on artificial turf compared with natural grass in high school athletes: a retrospective cohort study."* Current Orthopaedic Practice; 32(4):p 355-360,
https://journals.lww.com/c-orthopaedicpractice/Abstract/2021/07000/Injury_incidence_is_higher_on_artificial_turf.6.aspx

[93] The Concussion Legacy Foundation (Nov 2015). *"White Paper: The Role of Synthetic Turf in Concussion."*
Concussion Legacy Foundation, White Paper

[94] Villanueva, N, Chun, I, Fujiwara, A et al (Jan 2024). "*Impact Deceleration Differences on Natural Grass Versus Synthetic Turf High School Football Fields*." Hawaii Journal of Health; 82 (1) 4-10.
http://hawaiijournalhealth.org/past_issues/HJHSW_Jan24.pdf

[95] McKee, AC, Mez, J, Abdolmohammadi, B (28 Aug 2024). *"Neuropathologic and Clinical Findings in Young Contact Sport Athletes Exposed to Repetitive Head Impacts."* Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA Neurology;80;(10):1037-1050.
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurology/fullarticle/2808952

[96] Ober, M (28 Aug 2023). *41% of Young Athletes Show Signs of CTE.* Neuroscience News.
https://neurosciencenews.com/cte-young-athletes-23847/

PLASTICS HARM BIODIVERSITY

With virtually all plastic ever made still in existence, the impact on the environment, ecosystems and biodiversity loss from the chemical leachate from plastics and the resulting microplastics is immense, as well as habitat and food source loss.

Synthetic turf and microplastics have caused a decrease in bird populations, accumulation of microplastics on bees, and negatively impacts ocean habitats and biodiversity both above and below ground. Research from 2021 estimated that >1500 species have ingested microplastics.[97] Found from the peak of Mount Everest, to the depths of the Mariana trench, microplastics have now recently been found in high levels in air exhaled by dolphins via their blowholes, [98] Artificial turf in urban parks was found to reduce house sparrow populations by 60%.[99,100] Microplastics have been found in birds' lungs,[101] and in remote islands in high enough volumes in the abdomens of fledgling puffins to cause death.[102]

Pollinators are responsible for every third bite of food we eat. Healthy soil is necessary for existence on earth.

It is estimated that roughly one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans. In its 2024 Report, the World Wildlife Fund reports a loss of 73% of wildlife populations in the period from 1970 to 2020.[103]

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[97] Santos, RG, Machovsky-Capuska, GE, Andrades, R (2021). *"Plastic Ingestion as an Evolutionary Trap: Toward a Holistic Understanding."* Science: 373, 56–60.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34210877/

[98] Dziobak, MK, Fahlman, A, Wells, RS (16 Oct 2024). *"First evidence of microplastic inhalation among free-ranging small cetaceans."* PlosOne.
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0309377

[99] Ponce-Bernat, E, Gil-Delgado, JA, López, GM (20 Feb 2020). *"Sharp decrease in sparrows caused by use of artificial grass in city parks."* Phys.org
https://phys.org/news/2020-02-sharp-decrease-sparrows-artificial-grass.pdf

[100] Sánchez-Sotomayor, D, Martín-Higuera, A, Gil-Delgado, JA (2023). *"Artificial grass in parks as a potential new threat for urban bird communities."* Bird Conservation International;33, e16, 1–8.
https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270922000119

[101] Tokunaga, Y, Okochi, H, Tani, Y et al (Apr 2023). *"Airborne microplastics detected in the lungs of wild birds in Japan."* Chemosphere; 321,138032.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0045653523002990

[102] Lavers, J, Bond, AL, Hutton, I (Apr 2024). *"Plastic ingestion by Flesh-footed Shearwaters (Puffinus carneipes): Implications for fledgling body condition and the accumulation of plastic-derived chemicals."* Environmental Pollution;(187)124-129.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749113006532

[103] World Wildlife Federation (2024). *"Living Planet Report: 2024. Nature is Disappearing: The Average Size of Wildlife Populations Has Fallen By a Staggering 73%."*
https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-US/

Synthetic turf causes plantings to die due to toxic runoff and impeding water flow to the roots.

HEAT

An estimated 9,000 student athletes are treated for exertional heat illness each year.[104] The heat from synthetic surfaces, even at reasonable ambient temperatures, can contribute to injuries due to an athlete's diminished functional level. Children are not small adults. They are more readily impacted by heat illness due to:

- Heat production – Children have higher metabolic rates than adults which causes them to produce more heat.
- Body surface area – Younger children absorb more heat because they have a greater body area to body mass ratio. For older children and teens, increased body fat and low fitness levels can be/may be contributing factors.
- Blood circulation – Children are less able to cool their body temperature by shunting their blood from their body core to their body surface due to lower cardiac output and smaller blood volume.
- Sweat production – Children produce less sweat per gland and sweat at higher body temperatures than adults, reducing their body's ability to cool itself.
- Fluid replenishment – Children are less likely to self-regulate hydration if inadequately supervised.

Children experiencing heat illness are most likely to present with significant neurological symptoms - from delirium, hallucinations, poor muscle control, unsteady gait, difficulty with speaking or unclear speech, to seizures or coma. These symptoms may be readily confused with head trauma, epilepsy, or drug overdose. Mortality is high, and if a child survives heat stroke, their risk for recurrence of heat illness is increased.[105] As the body heats, it is susceptible to absorbing more chemicals. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever" chemicals and one of 15 classes of chemicals found in plastics, are absorbed via the skin.[106]

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[104] Kerr, ZY, Casas, DJ, Marshall, SW, Comstock, RD (Jan 2013). *"Epidemiology of exertional heat illness among U.S. high school athletes."* J. Preventive Medicine. pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23253644/

[105] UpToDate (2023). *"Heat Stroke in Children."* Online subscription-based reference for health care providers. https://www.uptodate.com/contents/heat-stroke-in-children

[106] Ragnarsdóttir, O, Abou-Elwafa Abdallah, M, Harrad, S (June 2024). *"Dermal bioavailability of perfluoroalkyl substances using in vitro 3D human skin equivalent models."* Environment International; 188; 108772.b https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412024003581?via=ihub

Deaths among high school football players from heat stroke doubled from 2015 to 2017 when compared to the 5 preceding years.[107] Football players are eleven times more likely to suffer a heat related illness. Playing on synthetic turf is a contributing factor. Despite industry claims or infill type, synthetic turf readily reaches temperatures of 160-180ºF and can reach over 220ºF.

Plastic playing fields and playground surfacing (Pour-in-Place, PVC tiles) put children and all who are in contact with them at high risk for acute thermal burns. At a surface temperature of 118°F, a first-degree thermal burn occurs in 15 minutes, becoming a 3rd degree burn (full skin-thickness) in 20 minutes; at a temperature of 140°F, 1st degree burns occur in 3 seconds, Children have required admission to burn and intensive care units due to contact with plastic surfaces.

HEAT ISLANDS

The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory released a report in April 2024 finding that the greenhouse emissions from plastics is four times those emitted by the aviation industry.[108]

Synthetic turf creates heat islands so large they extend into surrounding areas and are visible from satellites in space. Synthetic turf off gasses methane and ethylene in ever increasing amounts[109]:

- Methane traps 90% more heat than carbon dioxide.[110]
- Methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Land based plastics produce 2 times more methane and 76 times more ethylene than plastics in waterways and oceans.[41]
- Each standard-size plastic field produces GHG emissions- 527 tons of CO2e per ten-year use period.[111]

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[107] Wertheim, J (Oct 2022). *"With Hotter Temperatures Come More Football Deaths. And Black high school players are disproportionately affected."* Sports Illustrated. https://www.si.com/high-school/2022/10/07/football-climate-change-daily-cover

[108] Karali, N, Khanna, N, Shah, N (12 Apr 2024). *"Climate Impact of Primary Plastic Production."* Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Publications. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/12s624vf

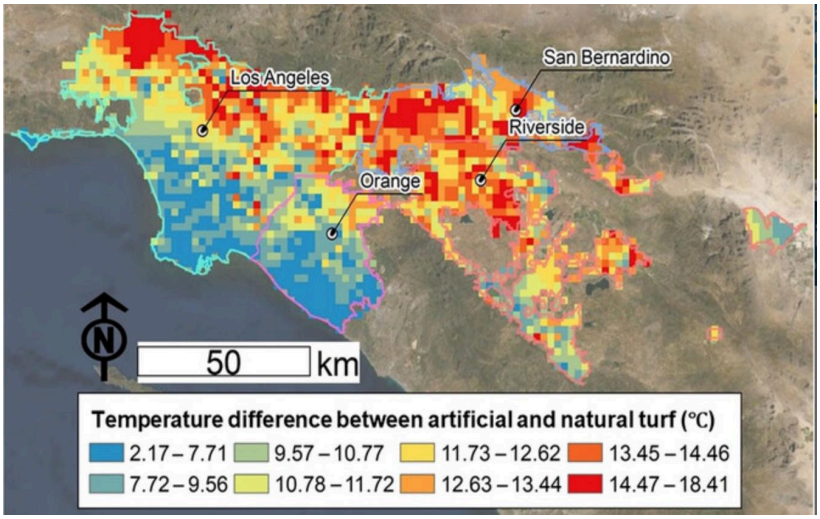
[109] Royer, SJ, Ferrón, S, Wilson, ST, Karl, DM (2018). "*Production of Methane and Ethylene from Plastic in the Environment."* PlosOne 13(8): e0200574. https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0200574&type=printable

[110] Climate Reality Project (2020). *"REPOWER AMERICA®: Methane Stinks: Why Natural Gas is Bad News For The Planet."* https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/methane-stinks-why-natural-gas-bad-news-planet?_ga=2.52526049.897177029.1647384251-251106713.1647384251

[111] Magnusson, S, Mácsik, J (July 2017). "*Analysis of Energy Use and Emissions of Greenhouse Gases, Metals and Organic Substances from Construction Materials Used for Artificial Turf."* Resources, Conservation and Recycling: (122), Pages 362-372. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2017.03.

- Heat islands extend beyond the footprint of the plastic carpet, impacting the surrounding community.

Research presented in Japan in July 2025 on synthetic turf's impact on climate in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties revealed temperatures on synthetic turf lawns were consistently higher when compared to xeriscaping and natural grass.[112]



Temperatures were taken using high altitude aircraft of 210 lawns, and 200 artificial turf sports fields where there was a natural grass field within 0.5 kilometers of the synthetic field. Synthetic turf was found to be consistently hotter.

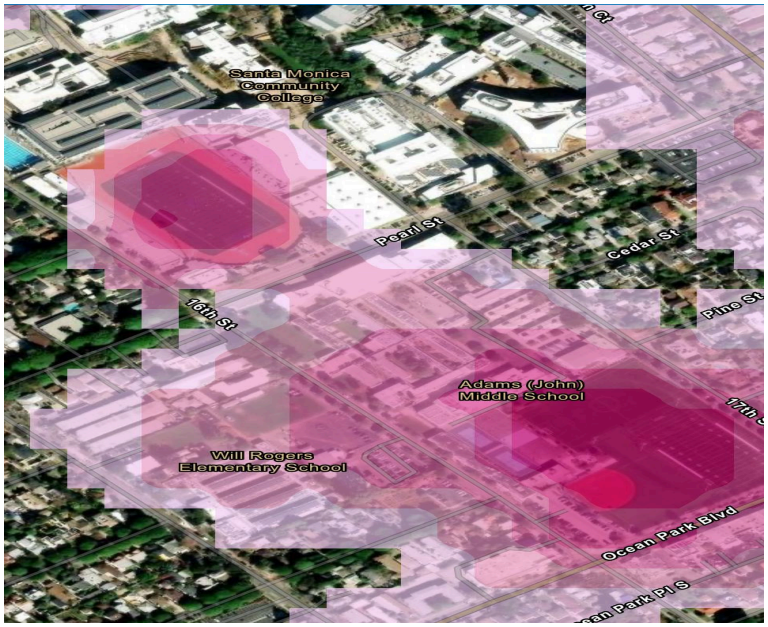
Synthetic turf contributes to climate change by off gassing methane and ethylene, creating heat islands that extend into surrounding areas.

[112] Schiavon, M, Shiflett, S, Baird, JH et al (Nov 2024). *"Southern California land surface temperature differences under different landscape composition."* Agronomy Journal; 116 (6), 2641-3382. https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/agj2.21687

Beverly Hills High School

Calabasas High School

Corsair Stadium + Adams Middle School
Santa Monica



The resulting impact on climate change from plastics, microplastics[113] and synthetic turf are contributing factors to increased flood risk and toxic runoff[114]; toxic exposures during wildfires,[115,116] and escalating insurance costs.[117,118,119]

So called “newer technology,” aimed at making the plastic turf carpet, shockpads, and infill more resilient to UV degradation, color loss, and more resistant to bacteria, mold and mildew mean more toxic chemicals have been added, or the shape of plastic blades have been altered. None of these have proven efficacy, though the effects of the toxic and cancer-causing chemicals are being exposed through research.

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[113] Sunil, S, Bhagwat, G, Vincent, SGT, Palanisami, T (10 Oct 2024). *“Microplastics and climate change: the global impacts of a tiny driver.”* Science of The Total Environment; (946),174160. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969724043080

[114] Simpson, TJ, Francis, RA (Aug 2021). *“Artificial lawns exhibit increased runoff and decreased water retention compared to living lawns following controlled rainfall experiments.”* Urban Forestry & Urban Greening; (63), 127232 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866721002570

[115] Schlanger, Z (15 Jan 2025). *“What Happens When a Plastic City Burns.”* The Atlantic. https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2025/01/los-angeles-fire-smoke-plastic-toxic/681318/

[116] Staff writer (17 Jan 2025). *“Plastic Chemicals in Wildfire Smoke and How to Protect Yourself.”* Plastic Soup Coalition. https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2025/1/17/plastic-chemicals-in-wildfire-smoke-and-how-to-protect-yourself

[117] Mandel, A, Battiston, S, Monasterolo, I. (5 Feb 2025). *“Mapping global financial risks under climate change.* Nature, Climate Change. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-025-02244-x

[118] Sherriff, L (18 Mar 2024). *“Climate change is fuelling the US insurance problem.”* British Broadcasting Corp. https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240311-why-climate-change-is-making-the-us-uninsurable

[119] Capani, C (7 May 2024). “*Aviva issues flood risk warning as residents turn to artificial lawns.”* Insurance Times; United Kingdom. https://www.insurancetimes.co.uk/news/aviva-issues-flood-risk-warning-as-residents-turn-to-artificial-lawns/1451833.article

SYNTHETIC TURF DOES NOT SAVE WATER

Approximately 989 gallons of water are required to produce 1 square meter of plastic turf, estimated to be the equivalent of watering a square meter of natural grass for 18 years.[120]

Potable water is required to clean plastic turf to avoid the color bleaching that occurs with the higher salt and mineral contents of reclaimed water, and which may contain additional PFAS and other contaminants. Additionally, cleaning of synthetic turf requires the use of toxic chemicals,[121,122] which will be added to the toxic run-off that leaches from the plastic to soil, air

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[120] Waterwise UK. *"How to save water: Artificial Grass's Footprint."* https://www.waterwise.org.uk/save-water/

[121] Product label: RoundUp https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/ppls/071995-00029-20220406.pdf

[122] Safety Data Sheet: Spectracide https://s7cdn.spectrumbrands.com/~/media/HomeAndGarden/Spectracide/Files/SDS/SpectracideWeedGrassKillerConcentrate296882658845SDSJun23.pdf

and water. Antimicrobials added to synthetic turf are toxic and cancer causing. PFAS is found on the surface of synthetic turf and can be absorbed through the skin. Cleaning solvents are toxic.

Large amounts of potable water are required (per warranties and mandatory maintenance guidelines) to cool the surface temperature of synthetic turf to a safe level for recreation. The recommendation is generally for 2,200 gallons every one to two hours for an average sized playing field.[123] The effects of cooling the surface last approximately 20 minutes. Use of water for cleaning and cooling synthetic turf playing fields and landscaping applications impacts both the available water supply and the cost of that water, which, one way or another, becomes an ever-increasing taxpayer burden.

Plant-based infills require still more use of potable water. Some plant-based infill requires 3,200 gallons of (potable) water every 3 to 4 days to maintain hydration,[124] while others require 6,500 to 8,000 gallons per 80,000 feet^2 of synthetic turf every 3 to 4 weeks based on humidity.[125] It should be noted that the amount of water required to cool the surface temperature of synthetic turf is greater than the amount of water required to maintain drought tolerant Bermuda grass varieties.[126]

SYNTHETIC TURF IS AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE

Synthetic turf is an **impervious surface,** despite what the industry tells you. The US EPA and the State of California are clear on this issue:[127]

> "*...areas such as gravel roads...that will be compacted through design or use to reduce their impermeability."* It further has defined impervious surfaces as*…[a]ny surface that prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of water into the underlying soil. This can include but is not limited to: roads, driveways, parking areas and other areas created using nonporous material; buildings, rooftops, structures,* ***artificial turf*** *and compacted gravel or soil."*

Compaction, as well as the impervious plastic surface, result in increased runoff. The synthetic turf industry has made extreme claims regarding rain infiltration. Laboratory testing is not the

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[123] TenCate Pivot 2024

[124] Shaw Sports Turf infill

[125] FieldTurf 2021

[126] Kanaan, A, Sevostianova, E, Leinauer, B, Sevotianov, I (2020). *"Water Requirements for Cooling Artificial Turf."*
Up loaded copy: https://doi.org/10.1061/(ASCE)IR.1943-4774.0001506

[127] US EPA, MS4 General Permit Appendix A, Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms, https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/2016fpd/appendix-a-2016-ma-sms4-gp.pdf

same as reality.[128] Synthetic turf is unable to handle the amount of rain that comes with an atmospheric river or bomb cyclone. With increasing frequency of these weather events, consideration of synthetic turf is antithetical to environmental responsibility and an even poorer choice for a product that must be replaced every 8 to 10 years on average.

> *"Pollutants from aerial and terrestrial sources accumulate on impervious surfaces until runoff from a precipitation event carries sediment, nutrients, metals, and pesticides into stormwater drains and directly to local waterbodies. As impervious surfaces increase, stormwater runoff increases in quantity, speed, temperature, and pollutant load. When impervious surfaces reach 10–20% of local watershed area, surface runoff doubles and continues to increase until, at 100% impervious surface coverage, runoff is five times that of a forested watershed. Excessive stormwater runoff also increases the potential for flooding."*[129]

Dr. Graham Peaslee, Professor Emeritus, University of Notre Dame, the foremost researcher on PFAS in consumer products globally, spoke to the toxic runoff from synthetic turf fields at the Department of Toxic Substances Control on 27 August 2024.[130] Irvine is contributing an excessive amount of PFAS runoff into soil, ground water, waterways and the ocean.

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[128] Simpson, TJ, Francis, RA (Aug 2021). *"Artificial lawns exhibit increased runoff and decreased water retention compared to living lawns following controlled rainfall experiments."* Urban Forestry & Urban Greening; (63), 127232
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866721002570

[129] US EPA (2020). *"EnviroAtlas: Fact Sheet, Percent Impervious Area."*
https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/DataFactSheets/pdf/ESN/PercentImperviousArea.pdf

[130] Peaslee, GF (27 Aug 2024), Slide deck presentation at DTSC: *"Chemicals of Concern in Syntheit Turf."*
Peaslee, GF, CA DTSC Aug 2024

Sample back-of-the-envelope calculation of PFAS contamination of turf grass runoff:

From this work, we assume the average concentration of identified non-polymeric PFAS extracted from turfgrass is about 5 ng/g.

From the internet, an average face weight for synthetic turf grass is around 50 ounces/square yard (https://artificialturfbyfenix.com/why-synthetic-turf-face-weight-matters/). There are also approximately 7140 m^2 of turf grass per standard soccer field (https://www.footballhistory.org/field.html). Some unit conversions yield a typical mass of blades on a synthetic turf soccer field to be around 12000 kg.

This means that an extraction similar to the one in this work would yield about 60 mg of PFAS from an entire soccer field. Since rainwater, sunlight and oxygen from the environment would not extract as efficiently as a QuEChERs extraction in the laboratory, we can estimate that this extraction would be the equivalent of five years of environmental exposure. This would indicate that approximately 12 mg of PFAS would be released each year, while the bulk of the polymeric PFAS and the plastic turf itself would remain intact.

Given 12 mg/field entering run-off water from each field and an EPA regulatory limit of around 4 ng/kg for PFOA and PFOS, this yields about 800,000 gallons of water contaminated by each artificial turf grass field annually. For reference, the United States currently has over 12,000 turf grass fields, and is installing new ones at a rate of more than 1,200 per year. (https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/may/synthetic-sports-fields-and-the-heat-island-effect/)

This is intended as only a rough approximation of PFAS load a community might face from a single field to point out the environmental impact of fPPAs in extruded plastic blades, and more thorough estimates can be calculated by the reader.

gpeaslee@nd.edu

Installation of synthetic turf at Palisades Park may constitute a violation of Los Angeles National Pollution Discharge Permit, allegedly a $10,000/day fine. The fields drain at the lower end of the park, and the stormwater drainage system leads directly to the ocean,

”The Clean Water Act prohibits anybody from discharging "pollutants" through a "point source" into a "water of the United States.”

SYNTHETIC TURF IS NEITHER RECYLABLE NOR MADE FROM RECYCLED PLASTIC

Less than 6% of plastic is recycled in the U.S. Industry claims of recyclability are completely unfounded. The two options for synthetic turf are mechanical "recycling" or incineration - known as “advanced chemical recycling,” which is illegal in CA.[131] There are synthetic turf industry claims that mechanical recycling allows for downcycling into other plastic products, such as nailer boards for synthetic turf playing fields. These claims have been investigated and found to be without merit. If they were true, how many downcycled products, which themselves are not recycleable, are needed? We cannot recycle our way out of the plastics crisis. Only the petrochemical and plastics industries benefit from such claims by keeping you on the hook for yet more plastic playing fields, landscaping, and plastic patio furniture. Additionally, if recycled plastic turf fields were a reality, they would be significantly more toxic than those made of virgin plastic.[132,133,134] Los Angeles RAP is contributing a large amount of plastic waste, micro- and nanoplastics to the environment.

SYNTHETIC TURF IS NOT A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT

Synthetic turf is a linear, unsustainable product.

The United Nations defines sustainable development as *“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*[135]

The UCLA Sustainability Committee notes: “*In simplest terms, sustainability is about our children and our grandchildren, and the world we will leave them”.*[136]

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[131] Senate Bill No. 54; CHAPTER 75: An act to amend Section 41821.5 of, to add Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 42040) to Part 3 of Division 30 of, and to repeal Section 42064 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to solid waste.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB54

[132] Staff writer (23 Jun 2025). *“Recycled plastic is a toxic cocktail: Over 80 chemicals found in a single pellet.”* Sourced from Univ. of Gothenburg, Science Daily.
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2025/06/250623072802.htm

[133] Sheriff, SS, Yusuf, AA, Akiyode, OO et al (Sep 2025). *“A comprehensive review on exposure to toxins and health risks from plastic waste: Challenges, mitigation measures, and policy interventions.”* Waste Management Bulletin; 3(3),100204.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949750725000331

[134] Carmona, E, Rojo-Nieto, E, Rummel, CD et al (Dec 2023). *“A dataset of organic pollutants identified and quantified in recycled polyethylene pellets.”* Data in Brief; 51, 109740.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352340923008090?via%3Dihub

[135] United Nations (2024). *“Sustainable Development Agenda: What is sustainable development?”*
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/#1b1981a30bdd8fde2

[136] UCLA Sustainability Committee, quoting UN World Commission on Environment and Development

The Rutgers Center for Sustainable Materials definition:

> *"Sustainable materials are materials used throughout our consumer and industrial economy that can be produced in required volumes without depleting non-renewable resources and without disrupting the established steady-state equilibrium of the environment and key natural resource systems."*[137]

The Philadelphia Inquirer

NEWS

Gift Share

Recycle company's bankruptcy leaves tons of discarded artificial turf across the state

The turf, laden with forever chemicals, now faces an uncertain future.

Almost 6,000 rolls of artificial turf sit on the farm of the late Benedict Diaz in Nicholson, Pa. Re-Match, a now-bankrupt recycling firm, has left them here. Now the state's Department of Environmental Protection has to figure out h ... **Read more**

Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

by Barbara Laker and David Gambacorta

Published Sept. 30, 2025, 5:00 a.m. ET

138

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https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/what-is-sustainability/

[137] Rutgers University. *"What are Sustainable Materials?"* Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Center for Sustainable Materials. Accessed 16 Sep 2025. https://mse.rutgers.edu/center-sustainable-materials

[138] Laker, B, Gambacorta, D (30 Sep 2025). *"Recycle company's bankruptcy leaves tons of discarded artificial turf across the state."* New York Times. https://share.inquirer.com/3Nq60k

Top row: Riverside County, CA; Santa Clara County, CA; San Bernardino County, CA; Oregon; Bottom row: Sacramento, CA; (lower L) Louisiana; San Diego County, CA; New Jersey (3 fields from 3 states)

California is becoming the new dumping ground for old plastic fields that are past their "best by" dates. Los Angeles RAP is a major contributor to toxic plastic waste.

THE TRUE COSTS OF SYNTHETIC TURF

Studies repeatedly show synthetic turf presents a significantly higher fiscal burden than natural grass playing fields. A 2017 Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) revealed that over a 25-year period, artificial turf costs more than double that of natural grass,[139] while a 2021 study from New Jersey reported 67% higher costs for an artificial turf project v. natural grass.[140] A 2023 analysis showed that a 2 acre synthetic turf field required 350 hours of maintenance, costing $6,000 plus the expense of specialized maintenance equipment, while the same 2 acres constructed of natural grass would require 250 hours of maintenance and an annual cost of $4,000. It was noted that even with excellent maintenance of synthetic turf, it would still require [2 to 3] replacement[s] over a 25 year period, and would "*require another $3 million allocation before the current first graders reach high school, plus the high cost of disposing of the old field…"*[141]

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[139] Headland Preservation Group (5 Feb 2017). Reporting on Western Australia Department of Sport and Recreation Report.
https://www.hpg.org.au/blog/2018/synthetic-costs-double-natural-grass#:~:text=Synthetic%20Turf%20Surfaces%20Study%20Final,%241%2C622%2C167%3B%20synthetic%20turf%20%2D%20%244%2C090%2C000

[140] Fitchenbaum, H (Dec 2021). *"The Princeton Environmental Commission's Artificial Turf - Not A SoundFinancial, Environmental, or Just Investment."* The Municipality of Princeton, NJ.
https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9205/Princeton-Environmental-Commission-Artificial-Turf-Report-Dec-2021-PDF-

[141] Megan Wolff, PhD MPH, former Health Policy Director, Beyond Plastics.
Letter to New Paltz, NY Board of Education

A July 2025 report revealed that for a 25-year period, artificial turf is more expensive than natural grass in the long term. The study included the expense for an organic land manager, stormwater management, and transport and disposal expenses.[142] What was not incorporated was more recent research on water usage and drought tolerant hybrid grasses, which would likely widen the gap in cost differences.

Some manufacturers require maintenance contracts and require maintenance by their company or providers trained and approved by them. Warranties also call for strict adherence to maintenance guidelines along with documentation. Some call for use of toxic chemicals for weed, mold and mildew abatement. Warranties generally call for strict criteria regarding color and microplastic fiber loss- these claims are determined to be valid or not by the manufacturer. Maintenance contracts run approximately $10,000 to $12,000 per year per playing field and generally provide a single visit per year.

Hardness testing of fields (known as GMax testing) costs approximately $1,500 per field per year. It does not include replenishment of infill if the testing fails, nor repeat testing to ensure hardness testing standards are met after additional infill is added.

HOURS OF PLAY SKEWED

Comparisons related to number of hours of play may be skewed significantly as they are most often based on the number of hours reserved for a given playing field, and not on the actual hours of play.

> *"Hours of play as reported is based on permits, not actual on the ground play time. This is critical because synt*[thetic]*turf is fenced, locked and often not used even during permitted time blocks, and not outside of those times. The [natural] grass fields, in contrast, see almost constant play during, and outside of permitted time, because they are typically NOT fenced and locked. So, if a team cancels practice or a game during permitted time on grass, others will certainly see it is empty and play on it anyway."*
> Dr. Kathy Michaels, NIH researcher, ret., Board Member, Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc; public testimony, Montgomery County, Maryland, 2025.

This was also prominently elucidated as early as a 2014 article in a Forbes Magazine, revealing how proponents of artificial turf manipulate information.[143] This dynamic was most recently

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[142] Cumberbatch, I, Richardson, L, Grant-Bier, E et al (9 Jul 2025). *"Artificial Turf Versus Natural Grass: A Case Study of Environmental Effects, Health Risks, Safety, and Cost."* Sustainability; 2025, *17*(14), 6292; https://doi.org/10.3390/su17146292
https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/17/14/6292

[143] Ozanian, M (2014). *"How Taxpayers Get Fooled On The Cost Of An Artificial Turf Field."* Forbes Magazine.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2014/09/28/how-taxpayers-get-fooled-on-the-cost-of-an-artificial-turf-field/

affirmed last year in a letter submitted to CA DTSC by the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, regarding DTSC's background document on Candidate Chemicals in Artificial Turf. Dr. Rachel Massey noted:

> *"Regarding play times, we have documented examples of sustainably managed grass athletic fields that meet the play hours needed by communities. Grass athletic field consultants explain that with proper maintenance, a grass field will accommodate as much play as needed. We have also encountered instances in which artificial turf vendors assign different "weights" to different activities. For example, one hour of a heavy activity such as football may be counted as more than one hour of use. It can be important to understand these weightings when assessing the expected life span and cost effectiveness of the product."*[144]

New technologies that can be used for both artificial and natural grass playing fields include programs that can be installed at select locations around a sports field to track actual field use time, and can be used for maintenance scheduling and records management.[145,146] Of note, field use time was noted to be consistently overstated based on data from at least one of the systems.[147]

Despite the theoretical advances in technology in synthetic turf, their "useful life" has not increased. What has changed in some instances, are the warranties. It should be noted that warranties are a tool to protect the manufacturer from claims. One manufacturer offers a 12-year warranty, but specifically only covers high use areas of a playing field for 2 years (batters + catchers' boxes, pitcher landing strips, soccer goal + penalty kick locations).[148] Hours of play on synthetic turf is exaggerated by using calculations based on the booked/scheduled hours of play, not the actual hours of play. The difference between the two can be significant. In California, youth sports are already seeing a significant drop in the number of days of play due to heat- reportedly 13 fewer days.[149] A reduction in hours of use will be increasingly impacted by:

- Climate change- extreme heat and atmospheric river events
- AB 1653- Intercollegiate athletic programs emergency action plans: heat illness:

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[144] Massey, R (30 Sep 2024). *"Comments on California DTSC's Background Document on Candidate Chemicals in Artificial Turf."* Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, Univ. of Mass., Lowell. LCSP letter to DTSC

[145] Field Turf Genius, how it works

[146] FieldTurf Genius, product details

[147] FieldTurf Genius Artificial Intelligence system

[148] TenCate Pivot Warranty (Nov 2024)

[149] Project Play (29 Jul 2025). *"Project Play survey: Youth lose one week of sports a year due to climate extremes."* https://projectplay.org/news/project-play-survey-youth-lose-one-week-of-sports-a-year-due-to-climate-change

guidelines[150]
- CIF Rule - California Interscholastic Federation Rule on air quality/particulate matter[151]

Synthetic turf fields are not played on 24/7, as the industry likes to tout. Nor are they "set it and forget it" low maintenance fields.

A SOLUTION EXISTS!

Hybrid Bermuda grass varieties have been developed that are being used for high use sports fields. They are drought, even desert tolerant, evidenced by the fact they are being grown in the Coachella valley. In 2022, Bermuda grass stolons were shipped from the U.S. and grown in Saudi Arabia, harvested, then transported to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup in 2022.[152]

Natural grass actively sequesters carbon dioxide and provides a cooling function that is especially dramatic when compared to the heat generated by synthetic turf. Grass naturally filters toxins, performs important eco-services for the soil beneath, and provides widely dispersed rainwater infiltration allowing absorption and recharging of the water table. Additionally:[153] Research suggests that:

- Natural grasses can accumulate and deposit carbon into the soil by approximately one-half ton of carbon per acre per year for 30 to 40 years.
- **Regenerative / organic management, and zero emission maintenance equipment mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, reduce costs over time, and increase carbon sequestration.**
- Automated battery powered mowers,[154,155,156] for lawns and playing fields are commercially available, as are line markers for sports fields, and are reported by users as being game changers, allowing staff to focus on other activities.[157]

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[150] State of California (8 Oct 2023). *"Assembly Bill No. 1653; CHAPTER 589. An act to amend Section 35179.4 of, and to add Section 35179.8 to, the Education Code, relating to interscholastic athletics."* https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1653

[151] California Interscholastic Federation (Oct 2023). *"CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Statement on Air Quality and Sport Participation."* https://www.cifstate.org/sports-medicine/aqi

[152] 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar Turfgrass Fact Sheet

[153] The Lawn Institute. *"Carbon Sequestration."* Accessed 2 Feb 2025. https://www.thelawninstitute.org/environmental-benefits/carbon-sequestration/

[154] Husqvarna robotic mower system for playing fields

[155] Husqvarna Automower® for Sport

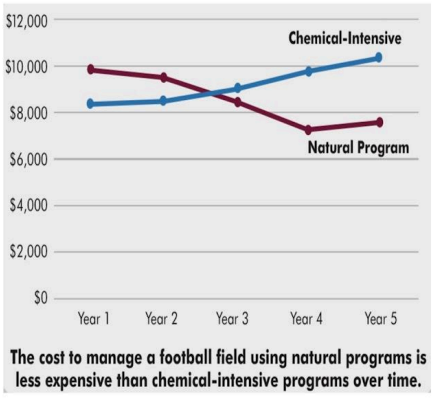
[156] Kress robotic mower system

[157] Turf Tank One line marker

With proper soil testing, appropriate remediation, and professional installation and maintenance using regenerative /organic practices, the negative impacts on climate change can be realized by increasing carbon sequestration; biodiversity will be enhanced; reliance on petrochemical plastics, and the harmful effects to humans and the environment will be improved. These practices, along with a commitment by staff, can result in high use playing fields that last 20 to 24+ years.[158]

Natural grass maintenance costs:

- Soil testing: $50/sample
- Soil amendments: variable depending on soil testing
- Organic/regenerative maintenance less costly over time
- Not a product swap
- Drought tolerant hybrid grass can save 40 – 60% water
- 84,000 sq ft playing field: $50,450 (sod + delivery)
- Installation: $0.82 for 100k ft² (non-taxable)
- Aeration 3-5 times/yr
- Organic fertilization removes synthetic fertilizers, pesticides
- Battery powered landscape equipment
  Reduces number of staff required
  Eliminates GHG emissions



Beyond Pesticides: Cost Comparison: Organic vs. Chemical Land Management

[159]

It is time for LA RAP to be part of the solution to the climate, biodiversity and plastic pollution crises, and no longer part of the problem. Stop kicking the can down the road and making future generations pay for the poor decisions being made today…through their compromised health, and that of the environment they will inherit.

> *"The world needs to go on a low plastics diet. We are limited as individuals in what we can individually do to change our own behavior. We really need policy change. And policy change I'll take it as a start at the local level, but we really need it to happen internationally.…the climate change kind of playbook where they were, you know, kind of obfuscating the facts. It's really going all back to the tobacco industry playbook where you delay, you obfuscate, you deny, and we're seeing the same thing again with certainly the fossil fuel industry, climate change and plastics."*[160]

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[158] May 2024 Natural Grass Experts Webinar

[159] Beyond Pesticides. "*Cost Comparison Organic vs Chemical Land Management.*" https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/documents/Cost%20Comparison.pdf

[160] Hagens, N, Trasande, L, Birnbaum, L, Dixon, C (21 Jan 2025). *"The Plastic Crisis: A Health and Environmental Emergency."* The Great Simplification Podcast.

Dr. Linda Birnbaum, former director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Toxicology Program (NTP).

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Conway, President
Dianne Woelke MSN, Board Member
Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.
https://www.safehealthyplayingfields.org
SHPFI is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501-c-3

https://www.thegreatsimplification.com/episode/reality-roundtable-15

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Flying Carousel - Centennial Park Installation

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 11:01 AM
To: Steven Kaplan

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Sat, Nov 22, 2025 at 12:15 PM Steven Kaplan wrote:

> Hi Traci,
>
> I hope you're well.
>
> My kids love the Venice Flying Carousel at the Venice Canals.
>
> Would you kindly provide an ETA on the Flying Carousel move to Centennial Park? What is the hold up?
>
> Centennial Park is a great addition to the neighborhood but it isn't currently kid friendly. There is no playground, carousel, etc.
>
> Cheers,
> Steven
>
> Steven Kaplan

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Law Violations

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 7:32 AM
To: Concerned Citizen

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

You may also visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at: https://myla311.lacity.gov/s/

On Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 10:04 AM Concerned Citizen wrote:

> Honorable officials,
>
> I am writing to urge you to address a serious and increasingly visible problem affecting neighborhoods across Los Angeles: **dozens of vehicles with expired license plates** are parked long-term on our public streets with **no enforcement action taken**.
>
> Residents see it every day — vehicles with plates from other states AND within our state that expired months or even 3+ years ago, parking on the streets with no consequences.
>
> This is not a trivial issue. Many of these vehicles belong to individuals who live and work here but continue to drive on expired tags to **avoid paying registration fees and taxes** that fund essential city and state services.
>
> Every one of those vehicles represents lost revenue, inequity, and a visible message that some people can simply ignore the law without consequence.
>
> It's time for Los Angeles to take action. I urge the City Council and all relevant departments to:
>
> 1. **Direct Los Angeles Parking Enforcement and LAPD** to actively enforce California Vehicle Code § 4000(a)(1) against vehicles with **expired registration** left standing on public streets.
> 2. **Review and, if necessary, update City policy** to ensure parking enforcement officers have the authority and tools to issue citations regardless of a vehicle's state of origin.
>
> This issue affects every part of Los Angeles — from residential blocks to busy commercial corridors. It is about more than parking; it is about fairness, public trust, and ensuring that everyone contributes their fair share to the city we all share.

> The people of Los Angeles expect and deserve **enforcement of the law**. I strongly urge you to prioritize this matter and take immediate steps to ensure that vehicles with expired tags/registration are held to the same standards as everyone else.

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Oceanarium

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 8:06 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2025 at 5:12 PM wrote:

Tim Rudnick

Venice Oceanarium

Dec 2, 2025

Dear Commissioner Vinson

My name is Tim Rudnick, and I am the founding director of the Venice Oceanarium, a "museum without walls" based at Venice Beach. For over 30 years we have offered free, family-friendly marine science and educational programs to the public, including weekly beachside exhibits, children's classes, and community events.

I am writing to ask if I may have the opportunity to speak with you about the Venice Oceanarium and our plans to create a marine museum at the end of the historic Venice Fishing Pier. We believe that this project would be an important public amenity for Los Angeles---expanding access to marine education, supporting environmental stewardship, and enhancing the visitor experience at Venice Beach.

I would be very grateful for the chance to briefly present our vision, answer any questions you might have, and explore how this idea might align with the Department's priorities and procedures. I am happy to meet at your convenience, either in person or via phone/online meeting, and can adjust to whatever time best fits your schedule.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support and for your

> service to the people of Los Angeles. I look forward to the possibility of speaking with you.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Tim Rudnick
>
> Founder/Director
> Venice Oceanarium

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
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Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: THIRD email: Formal Request for placement on the agenda of the next PAB meeting Prior to Vote on Artificial Turf Installation

1 message

Elaine Piha <elaine.piha@lacity.org> Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 10:57 AM
To: Kari Weaver
Cc: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Email received and acknowledged.

Thank you.

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 12:11 AM Kari Weaver wrote:

Dear Elaine and RAP Commissioners,

I am **forwarding, f**or the third time, (and would like acknowledgement of receipt) **an email request below** from our nonprofit organization, **Resilient Palisades**, which was sent to our local PAB board and to RAP members Jimmy Kim, Jasmine Dowl, Chinyere Stoneham, Sonya Young-Jimenez, and Desiree Ramirez. We are requesting that this matter be **added to the agenda** for the upcoming **Pacific Palisades PAB meeting and a vote be postponed until all community members are properly notified and can weigh in**.

The current agenda includes a presentation by *Bryan Whalen*—representing PCCC, a fundraising organization for the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association (PPBA) and potentially other sports groups—regarding the proposed installation of artificial turf. Following his presentation, public comment will be held, and **a vote is scheduled immediately afterward** on whether a community organization will be allowed to install artificial turf.

Given the significance of this issue and the concerns outlined below, it is essential that Resilient Palisades also be **given time on the agenda**.

Key Concerns Requiring Immediate Attention

1. Significant conflicts of interest within our PAB.
This initiative originated within PPBA, and **five current PAB members—Bob Benton, Kambiz Kamdar, Mike Skinner, Rick McGeagh, and Alex Hemmat—are directly affiliated with PPBA.** PAB President Andy Starrels, who has served in various roles on the PAB for more than 20 years, previously coached with PPBA. Mr. Laffer, also a member of the PAB, has a son who played with PPBA.

These direct ties to PPBA raise concerns about the impartiality of their votes on this matter. (amended form original email)

2. Documented coordination between PPBA-affiliated PAB members and RAP leadership.
The attached email exchange shows **Jimmy Kim providing guidance to PAB/PPBA members** on how to position their artificial turf request to Councilwoman **Traci Park's** office. This correspondence indicates early RAP support for the PPBA proposal, prior to any public engagement.

3. PAB/PPBA believed they had a "green light" from RAP based on letters from a small group of parents—while the rest of the community was entirely unaware.
A PAB/PPBA member emailed the local AYSO Commissioner and others urging parents to lobby Councilwoman Park in support of artificial turf. In that email, he stated:

> *"Because of your support, the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department has agreed that local communities should decide what they want for their own fields — a huge first step."*
> —Kambiz Kamdar (PAB/PPBA)

This statement clearly shows that PPBA leadership interpreted RAP's position as a **go-ahead** for their artificial turf plan **based solely on input from a small subset of sports parents**, despite the fact that the **broader community had never been informed or consulted**. The full email is included in the attached PDF.

4. The community was deliberately kept uninformed.
As early as June 2024, internal PAB communications show the PAB President stating that if the project proceeded under a "Right of Entry," there should be **no public process** and that the community should not be able to force discussion "before proponents are ready." He further dismissed community concerns as "false science and scaremongering."
This posture kept discussion of artificial turf **off the agenda for months**, preventing community awareness and meaningful participation.

"The community shouldn't be able to force a discussion that isn't ready to be had yet. When the proponents are ready, they will present to RAP, and then it's up to RAP if they want to hear it at big Board of Commissioners, or through the PAB. I'm concerned that this is an attempt to hijack the hard work and charitable efforts of a strong Palisades community by a loud but small number of voices who trade on false science and. scaremongering. I respect your concerns, but wouldn't support such an attempt to hijack a good project." - Andy Starrels, President Pacific Palisades PAB

5. The community only learned of this proposal after internal support was secured.
As PPBA was finalizing its proposal and gaining support from RAP leadership, the broader community was finally notified—**for the first time in October 2025,** when a petition (attached) circulated from our organization. Within the 90272 ZIP code received **585 local signatures**, with an additional 315 from nearby ZIP codes such as 90049 (Brentwood), whose residents are members of and participate extensively in Palisades schools and youth sports programs.

6. Requests for community presentation have been repeatedly ignored.
Resilient Palisades has verbally and in writing requested the opportunity to present both to the community and at a PAB meeting. **No response** has been provided. I reiterated this request again yesterday in a formal request sent via email.

* *Please note that Bryan Whalen is also affiliated with both PPBA and AYSO Region 69 leadership.*

Request

In the interest of transparency, public trust, and fair process, Resilient Palisades respectfully requests: **(1)** equal time on the upcoming agenda to present community concerns, scientific information, the results of our petition, and a **sustainable, organically managed natural-grass alternative**; and **(2)** a **delay of any vote** on artificial turf until the broader community—not only families currently participating in field-based sports—has an opportunity to learn about both proposals and provide input. This field has served generations of residents before the current families and will continue to serve the community long after today's players have aged out. It is a public park for the entire city, including local residents who use the field for recreational and family activities, and their voices must be included in any decision regarding its future.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to an open and equitable public process.

Best regards,

Kari Weaver

KARI WEAVER

Founder, Principal Designer & Creative Director

On Nov 28, 2025, at 6:12 PM, Kari Weaver wrote:

I made an error about an association between Andy Starrels and C.J. Laffer. All other details are correct. I have corrected the email within.**Dear Elaine and RAP Commissioners,**

I am **forwarding an email request below** from our nonprofit organization, **Resilient Palisades**, which was sent to our local PAB board and to RAP members Jimmy Kim, Jasmine Dowl, Chinyere Stoneham, Sonya Young-Jimenez, and Desiree Ramirez. We are requesting that this matter be **added to the agenda** for the upcoming **Pacific Palisades PAB meeting and a vote be postponed until all community members are properly notified and can weigh in**.

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> *"Because of your support, the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department has agreed that local communities should decide what they want for their own fields — a huge first step."*
> —Kambiz Kamdar (PAB/PPBA)

This statement clearly shows that PPBA leadership interpreted RAP's position as a **go-ahead** for their artificial turf plan **based solely on input from a small subset of sports parents**, despite the fact that the **broader community had never been informed or consulted**. The full email is included in the attached PDF.

4. The community was deliberately kept uninformed.
As early as June 2024, internal PAB communications show the PAB President stating that if the project proceeded under a "Right of Entry," there should be **no public process** and that the community should not be able to force discussion "before proponents are ready." He further dismissed community concerns as "false science and scaremongering." This posture kept discussion of artificial turf **off the agenda for months**, preventing community awareness and meaningful participation.

"The community shouldn't be able to force a discussion that isn't ready to be had yet. When the proponents are ready, they will present to RAP, and then it's up to RAP if they want to hear it at big Board of Commissioners, or through the PAB. I'm concerned that this is an attempt to hijack the hard work and charitable efforts of a strong Palisades community by a loud but small number of voices

who trade on false science and. scaremongering. I respect your concerns, but wouldn't support such an attempt to hijack a good project." - Andy Starrels, President Pacific Palisades PAB

5. The community only learned of this proposal after internal support was secured.
As PPBA was finalizing its proposal and gaining support from RAP leadership, the broader community was finally notified—**for the first time in October 2025,** when a petition (attached) circulated from our organization. Within the 90272 ZIP code received **585 local signatures**, with an additional 315 from nearby ZIP codes such as 90049 (Brentwood), whose residents are members of and participate extensively in Palisades schools and youth sports programs.

6. Requests for community presentation have been repeatedly ignored.
Resilient Palisades has verbally and in writing requested the opportunity to present both to the community and at a PAB meeting. **No response** has been provided. I reiterated this request again yesterday in a formal request sent via email.

** Please note that Bryan Whalen is also affiliated with both PPBA and AYSO Region 69 leadership.*

Request

In the interest of transparency, public trust, and fair process, Resilient Palisades respectfully requests: **(1)** equal time on the upcoming agenda to present community concerns, scientific information, the results of our petition, and a **sustainable, organically managed natural-grass alternative**; and **(2)** a **delay of any vote** on artificial turf until the broader community—not only families currently participating in field-based sports—has an opportunity to learn about both proposals and provide input. This field has served generations of residents before the current families and will continue to serve the community long after today's players have aged out. It is a public park for the entire city, including local residents who use the field for recreational and family activities, and their voices must be included in any decision regarding its future.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to an open and equitable public process.

Best regards,

Kari Weaver

On Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 2:55 PM Kari Weaver wrote:

> **Dear Elaine and RAP Commissioners,**
>
> I am **forwarding an email request below** from our nonprofit organization, **Resilient Palisades**, which was sent to our local PAB board and to RAP members Jimmy Kim, Jasmine Dowl, Chinyere Stoneham, Sonya Young-Jimenez, and Desiree Ramirez. We are requesting that this matter be **added to the agenda** for the upcoming **Pacific Palisades PAB meeting and a vote be postponed until all community members are properly notified and can weigh in**.
>
> The current agenda includes a presentation by *Bryan Whalen*—representing PCCC, a fundraising organization for the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association (PPBA) and potentially other sports groups—regarding the proposed installation of artificial turf. Following his presentation, public comment will be held, and **a vote is scheduled immediately afterward** on whether a community organization will be allowed to install artificial turf.
>
> Given the significance of this issue and the concerns outlined below, it is essential that Resilient Palisades also be **given time on the agenda**.
>
> ## Key Concerns Requiring Immediate Attention
>
> **1. Significant conflicts of interest within our PAB.**
> This initiative originated within PPBA, and **five current PAB members—Bob Benton, Kambiz Kamdar, Mike Skinner, Rick McGeagh, and Alex Hemmat—are directly affiliated with PPBA.** The PAB President has an indirect affiliation, and Mr. Laffer works at the same law firm as the President. The impartiality of any PAB vote on this matter is therefore fundamentally compromised.
>
> **2. Documented coordination between PPBA-affiliated PAB members and RAP leadership.**
> The attached email exchange shows **Jimmy Kim providing guidance to PAB/PPBA members** on how to position their artificial turf request to Councilwoman **Traci Park's** office. This correspondence indicates early RAP support for the PPBA proposal, prior to any public engagement.

3. PAB/PPBA believed they had a "green light" from RAP based on letters from a small group of parents—while the rest of the community was entirely unaware.
A PAB/PPBA member emailed the local AYSO Commissioner and others urging parents to lobby Councilwoman Park in support of artificial turf. In that email, he stated:

> *"Because of your support, the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department has agreed that local communities should decide what they want for their own fields — a huge first step."*
> —Kambiz Kamdar (PAB/PPBA)

This statement clearly shows that PPBA leadership interpreted RAP's position as a **go-ahead** for their artificial turf plan **based solely on input from a small subset of sports parents**, despite the fact that the **broader community had never been informed or consulted**. The full email is included in the attached PDF.

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This posture kept discussion of artificial turf **off the agenda for months**, preventing community awareness and meaningful participation.

"The community shouldn't be able to force a discussion that isn't ready to be had yet. When the proponents are ready, they will present to RAP, and then it's up to RAP if they want to hear it at big Board of Commissioners, or through the PAB. I'm concerned that this is an attempt to hijack the hard work and charitable efforts of a strong Palisades community by a loud but small number of voices who trade on false science and. scaremongering. I respect your concerns, but wouldn't support such an attempt to hijack a good project." - Andy Starrels, President Pacific Palisades PAB

5. The community only learned of this proposal after internal support was secured.
As PPBA was finalizing its proposal and gaining support from RAP leadership, the broader community was finally notified—**for the first**

time in October 2025, when a petition (attached) circulated from our organization. Within the 90272 ZIP code received **585 local signatures**, with an additional 315 from nearby ZIP codes such as 90049 (Brentwood), whose residents are members of and participate extensively in Palisades schools and youth sports programs.

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** Please note that Bryan Whalen is also affiliated with both PPBA and AYSO Region 69 leadership.*

Request

In the interest of transparency, public trust, and fair process, Resilient Palisades respectfully requests: **(1)** equal time on the upcoming agenda to present community concerns, scientific information, the results of our petition, and a **sustainable, organically managed natural-grass alternative**; and **(2)** a **delay of any vote** on artificial turf until the broader community—not only families currently participating in field-based sports—has an opportunity to learn about both proposals and provide input. This field has served generations of residents before the current families and will continue to serve the community long after today's players have aged out. It is a public park for the entire city, including local residents who use the field for recreational and family activities, and their voices must be included in any decision regarding its future.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to an open and equitable public process.

Best regards,

Kari Weaver

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Kari Weaver**
Date: Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 10:50 PM
Subject: Formal Request for placement on the agenda of the next PAB meeting Prior to Vote on Artificial Turf Installation

To:

Maryam Zar David

<jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, <jasmine.dowl@lacity.org>, <chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org>, <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, <desiree.ramirez@lacity.org>
Cc: Marian Ensley <marian.ensley@lacity.org>, Arus Grigoryan <arus.grigoryan@lacity.org>, CD P RP Steering Committee (2025)

Dear Members of the Palisades Park Advisory Board and the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks,

On behalf of **Resilient Palisades**, a nonprofit, community-based organization that has proactively addressed the climate and ecological crisis through local action—and has worked since 2019 to build a more sustainable and resilient future for all residents of the Palisades community—we respectfully submit this formal request to present a proposal to the Board at the upcoming PAB meeting scheduled for **December 9 at 6:30 p.m.** We specifically request that our presentation be heard **prior to the Board's discussion and vote** regarding the type of turf to be installed on the playing field.

Our organization has a demonstrated record of constructive community engagement, including efforts that successfully halted the proposed installation of artificial turf at the Palisades dog park —an outcome that reflected broad community support for environmentally safer alternatives.

We now seek the opportunity to present to the Board a comprehensive, evidence-based proposal regarding the Palisades Recreation Park playing field ("Field of Dreams"). Our proposal will include:

1. A preparation and installation strategy for high-durability natural sod designed for intensive athletic use; and
2. A sustainable, organic maintenance program aligned with environmental-health best practices.

Given the substantial implications of the Board's forthcoming decision concerning the potential installation of artificial turf on this field, we respectfully request that Resilient Palisades be granted the opportunity to present this proposal **prior to any final vote or binding action**.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to engage with the Board at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
Resilient Palisades

--
Kari Weaver
Steering Committee Member

Kari Weaver
Steering Committee Member

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment: AltaMed Chicano & Mexican Art Museum Project

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 7:05 AM
To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 5:39 PM wrote:

> Dear Department of Recreation and Parks:
>
> On behalf of SEIU Local 721, please see attached public comments on the proposed AltaMed Chicano & Mexican Art Museum Project proposed for a 1.9-acre site on the northwest corner of W. 1st Street and N. Broadway.
>
> Very truly yours,
>
> **JORDAN R. SISSON, ESQ.**
>
> Law Office of Jordan R. Sisson
>
> PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: This electronic message contains information from the Law Office of Jordan R. Sisson and is attorney work product confidential or privileged. The information is intended solely for the use of the individual(s)or entity(ies) named above. If you have received this transmission in error, please destroy the original transmission and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner.

LAW OFFICE OF JORDAN R. SISSON
LAND USE, ENVIRONMENTAL & MUNICIPAL LAW

December 3, 2025

VIA E-MAIL:

Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
c/o Takisha Sardin, Board Secretary I (rap.commissioners@lacity.org)

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALTAMED CHICANO & MEXICAN ART MUSEUM PROJECT

Dear Department of Recreation and Parks:

On behalf of SEIU Local 721 ("Local 721"), this office respectfully provides the following public comments to the City of Los Angeles ("City") Department of Recreation and Parks ("RAP") regarding the proposed AltaMed Chicano & Mexican Art Museum Project ("Project") proposed on an approximate 1.9-acre site on the northwest corner of W. 1st Street and N. Broadway ("Site").

In short, there are numerous live questions regarding the Project, which involves RAP approval of a long-term lease of public lands intended for parks and open space, pursuant to a Grant Deed with the State. So too, it is unclear whether the Project has complied with the Surplus Land Act (Gov. Code §§ 54220–54234) ("SLA"), which typically requires city-owned property to be made available to affordable housing developers before disposing of public lands (including long-term leases). Furthermore, it is entirely unclear what entitlements or environmental review are being considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA"). These are significant issues that should be resolved well before RAP considers any lease with the applicant in furtherance of the Project.

For the reasons discussed below, Local 721 urges RAP to direct staff to coordinate its efforts with City Planning staff to ensure any lease is considered in conjunction with potentially necessary land use entitlements and CEQA review. So too, RAP staff may want to inform potentially interested State agencies, such as the California Department of General Services ("DGS") (i.e., a party to the Grant Deed) and the Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD") (i.e., the agency responsible for enforcing the SLA).

As a brief background, the Project was discussed during the RAP Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force ("Task Force") briefing held on August 7, 2025. (See Agenda Report, PDF pp. 2, 46-47 [Item 2C].) The RAP Task Force Agenda Report mentions that the RAP acquired the Site from the State in 2013, subject to a "Grant Deed" that requires the property to be used for " 'parks or open-space purposes' for not less than 25 years …." (Id., at PDF p. 47.) It seems that the RAP spent approximately $13.7 million in acquisition and design consultation costs in furtherance of a proposed park, which was apparently the subject of a January 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND").[1] The RAP Board ultimately suspended the park development in 2023.[2]

[1] IS/MND (Jan. 2019), State Clearinghouse No. 2019011002, State Clearinghouse No. 2019011002.
[2] See RAP Board (2/16/23) Report No. 23-043.

During the August 2025 meeting, the Task Force approved requested to review/consider the Project and recommend RAP staff to negotiate two separate agreements, including (1) a 3-year agreement to build a "temporary/interim public park" and (2) a 35-year lease to "construct, manage, operate, and maintain the Museum" (collectively "Lease Agreements"). (Id.) Based on applicant matierals, the Project may include various uses, usch as "Exhibition Galleries, Learning Spaces, Lobby, Retail Store, Study Center/Library, Movie Theater, Art Storage (short term), Wellness Center, Entrances (Park, Parking), Street level Café, Rooftop Restaurant Bar, Parking Lot, Public Art, Outdoor Spaces, Special Event Spaces, and a Residency Program." (Id., at PDF pp. 46, 62.) The Agenda Report also mentions the possibility of retail, venue rentals, food and beverage services, alcoholic beverage license fees, and other economic activities. (Id., at PDF pp. 67-68.)

First, it is unclear how the proposed Project is consistent with the 2013 Grant Deed. As mentioned above, the Site was acquired from the State subject to a Grant Deed requiring the Site to be used for "parks or open-space" purposes. Open space is defined under the Grant Deed, specifically section 1 provided below (highlights added). The Project, as proposed, includes uses that do not seem to fit within the definition of open space and, thus, may not be compliant with the Grant Deed. This may be of interest to the California DGS, which is the Grantor of the property and would revert to DGS under the Grant Deed if the Site is not used for parks or open space purposes (see below).

> 1. In accordance with the Purchase Agreement and California Government Code section 11011.1 et seq., Grantee hereby covenants and agrees for itself, its successors, its assigns, and every successor in interest to the Real Property and each portion thereof, that the Real Property shall be used for parks or open-space purposes for not less than 25 years following Close of Escrow. The real Property shall revert back to Grantor if the Real Property is changed to a use other than parks or open-space purposes during the period of 25 years following Close of Escrow. For the purpose of this paragraph, "open-space" means the use of land for public recreation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, or conservation or use of natural resources.

Second, it is unclear whether the City has complied with the Surplus Land Act. Generally, before a local agency disposes of non-exempt public land, the SLA requires the agency to make the land available to affordable housing developers. (See Gov. Code § 54222.) Disposition is defined to include leases longer than 15 years. (Id., § 54221(d)(1); see also SLA Guidleines § 102(i).) Here, the RAP Task Force Agenda does not indicate whether the City has made a prior SLA-exempt finding or issued a Notice of Availability ("NOA") to affordable housing developers pursuant to the SLA. Thus, the Project may not comply with the SLA without further actions taken by the City. This may be of interest to the California HCD, which, in addition to enforcing the important state housing law, provides technical assistance to local governments on SLA requirements.[3]

/ / /

[3] See HCD, Surplus Local Land for Affordable Housing; Id., If You are a Local Agency.

Third, it is unclear what the Project's entitlement and CEQA pathway are. According to ZIMAS, the Site is designated Open Space and zoned [VF1-G1-5] [OS1-N].[4] However, the RAP Task Force Agenda Report does not identify the number or size of structures, or the square footage of the various uses, to determine whether discretionary approvals are necessary. Nor does ZIMAS identify any recent planning case numbers associated with the Project or Site. Furthermore, the prior MND did not consider the various uses now contemplated for the Project. Collectively, this raises live issues regarding whether the City anticipated a zone change, other land-use entitlements, and the type of CEQA review expected for the Project. Critically, the City needs to consider Lease Agreements collectively to avoid improper project piecemealing.[5] So too, the City needs to ensure it does not pre-commit itself to approving the Project prior to completing its CEQA review.[6]

In sum, Local 721 has concerns regarding the Project, which should be addressed well before RAP considers the Lease Agreements. Before moving forward with the Lease Agreements and other Project approvals, RAP staff should coordinate their efforts with local City Planning Department staff and seek input from potentially interested State agencies (i.e., DGS, HCD).

On behalf of Local 721, thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

Jordan R. Sisson, Esq.
Attorney for Local 721

CC (via email)

Downtown Community Plan, Los Angeles City Planning Department
Sophia Kim (sophia.kim@lacity.org)
Erick Morales (erick.morales@lacity.org)
Alice Okumura (alice.okumura@lacity.org)

[4] See ZIMAS.
[5] A project's CEQA review must assess "the whole of an action" to ensure that all of the project's environmental impacts are considered. (CEQA Guidelines § 15378; see also *Santee v. County of San Diego*, 214 Cal.App.3d at 1454; *San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. Cnty. of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 730 [held use of "truncated project concept" violated CEQA where EIR was otherwise adequate].) CEQA mandates "that environmental considerations do not become submerged by chopping a large project into many little ones – each with a minimal potential impact on the environment - which cumulatively may have disastrous consequences." (*Bozung v. LAFCO* (1975) 13 Cal.3d 263, 283-284; see also *City of Santee,* 214 Cal.App.3d at 1452.)
[6] See Pub. Res. Code § 21080(a); CEQA Guidelines § 15004; *Save Tara v City of W. Hollywood* (2008) 45 Cal.4th 116, 124-126, 138-139; *Saltonstall v City of Sacramento* (2015) 234 Cal.App.4th 549, 566.

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment Submission

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 5, 2025 at 7:03 AM
To: Ron Bitzer

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Dec 4, 2025 at 1:01 PM Ron Bitzer wrote:

> Hello
>
> Please send my attached statement to the appropriate recipients since conditions on the ground are changing.
> Ron Bitzer

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Before November

Statement of
Ron Bitzer
Alexandria Park, North Hollywood
December 2025

November 29, 2025

Visit a City Park Before Voting in November

Reform measures for the City's parks and recreation centers ---- admittedly as a wide range of activities from a recent partial repatriation of Alexandria Park land from illegal campers and squatters in North Hollywood to the pending City Council's response to a City-wide Park Needs Assessment----now merit public scrutiny.

Residents who vote in the November election may decide if public financing will supplement the annual budgets of two Departments: Fire and Recreation and Parks.

<u>Public Scrutiny</u> of Park Conditions (Exemplified at Alexandria Park)

A 5.3 acre public park in North Hollywood has been denied *de facto* access by the public during the 2020-2025 period because of hundreds of "legal" and illegal individuals experiencing homelessness living there.. This phenomenon has arisen despite opposition --- even legal action --- by Griffith Park visitors and advocates at the A Bridge Home site on a park parking lot (Friends of Waverly v City of Los Angeles.)

Mayor's Office --- The Mayor's Executive Directive No. 3, "Emergency Use of Viable City-Owned Property," included a provision that "significant restrictions" may prevent City-owned property from use as interim or permanent housing. The Directive further stated, "This order does not apply to *active* recreational sites in the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks …. (emphasis added) ED #3 was lifted by the Mayor but may return in City codified form, California Planning and Development Report, November 2026. Meanwhile, the City sidesteps potential problems of what is an "active" recreational site and what is a "park purpose" (See below.)

- **At Alexandria/Valley Plaza Park Recreation and Parks Commissioners** approved a fifth year for "…extension of emergency use of a portion of the park for temporary homeless shelter/low barrier navigation center facility for a period not to exceed one (1) year…. RAP Board Report 25-058, April 17,2025 p. 1. Board action further approved the finding that the temporary shelter "…is consistent with the use of a portion of Valley Plaza Park (Alexandria Park) *for park purposes* …." RAP Board Report 25-058, April 17,2025, p. 1 (Clarification added).

- **City Contractor debunks "active" Alexandria Park ----** A City contractor for Alexandria Park Tiny Homes publicly described the five acre park as "unused and hard-to-reach," Nerin Kadribegovic, Lehrer Associates Press Release, 2020.

- **The Superior Court of California** rejected a legal challenge from a community coalition lobbying against the use of a parking lot at Griffith Park for homeless housing (A Bridge Home provided by PATH). Judge Mitchell Beckloff denied a plaintiff's petition "… that the RAP Board had no authority to permit the City to enter into an agreement with PATH (contractor) to provide a housing shelter (at 3224 Riverside Drive), Case No. 20STCP00082, August 31, 2022.

- Meanwhile, community residents reported to Recreation and Parks (RAP) in August 2023, "Since the installation of the Riverside Bridge Home, both crime and homelessness immediately around the shelter have increased around three times the rate as in the Los Feliz community since the shelter was placed …", RAP email by Kevin Miullican, August 21, 2023.

- **City Documents <u>Illegal Camping at Alexandria Park</u>** --- The judge in the U.S. District Court Case 23-175 (L.A. Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles) continues to demand accurate data about the status of the homeless and services for this population. The City did report to the Court on April 17, 2024, that <u>more homeless individuals lived outside Alexandria Park Tiny Homes</u> (i.e. within 500 feet of Tiny Homes<u>) than in interim housing there (252 v . 200),</u> City Filing (emphasis added).

Professional Scrutiny of Councilmember's Funding Strategy already promoted by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) ,,,, Councilwoman Heather Hutt has begun to answer the question posed by the Trust for Public Land.

Trust for Public Land asked in a recently published paper, "How can cities ensure that park creation keeps pace with new development and population growth?" Executive Summary, From Development Policy to Parks, p. 1. TPL's analysis points to two-thirds of new parks in 10 representative cities that were provided from in-kind or cash transfers to satisfy "… a one time charge required from developers to offset the cost of city infrastructure, such as parks, that will need to be built to serve the new development," Executive Summary, From Development Policy to Parks, TPL, p. 1.

Impact fees are termed "Park Fees" and "Quimby Fees" in the City of Los Angeles under City Council's Ordinance 184,505, with a history of controversy as a policy issue and case history. Annual Park Fee revenue payable to the Department of Recreation and Parks <u>exceeds $50 million,</u> Department of Recreation and Parks, Annual Report of Park Fees for FY 24-25, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, p. 1.

Councilmember Hutt's innovation has been to solicit the help of City Council in directing the Department of Recreation and Parks to expend Park Fees collected <u>now or in the future</u> in her CD #10 District for specific projects.

For example, her May 8, 2024 Motion to City Council stated, “I MOVE that the Council action of September 12, 2023 relative to the use of Council District 10 Quimby Funds for capital improvements at Reynier Park (C.F. 23-0866) BE AMENDED ….”

Hutt later in 2024 proposed a City Council Motion as follows “… to INSTRUCT the Department of Recreation and Parks , with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to commit all Quimby funds generated within the LAPD Olympic Division’s geographic boundaries for ten years to provide funding for acquisition and construction of park facilities in the community,” City Motion, October 1, 2024, and G.F. 24-1193.

The ”significant influence” of Councilmembers with Recreation and Parks is not a new finding; see “Development Fees and Park Equity in Los Angeles*,” Journal of the American Planning Association*, April 2023, p. 14.

A $100 Million Fund for Parks … Annual reported uncommitted Park Fees were $146 million in FY 2024, $126 million in FY 2023, and $109 million in FY 2022. NOTE: “Uncommitted” by Council District may included informal “earmarks.”. While Quimby Park Fees are not committed evenly throughout the City, involvement by Council members could reduce the reported cash UNCOMMITED balance of more than $160 million,
Department of Recreation and Parks, Annual Report of Park Fees for FY 24-25, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, p. 1. An updated Park Needs Assessment is unlikely to address this issue or the pertinent State law allowing the suspension of a “fee expenditure zone” requirement.

<u>Public Scrutiny</u> of Voter Mandated Measures for LA’s Recreation and Parks

Experts with access to local data and conservationists such as the Trust for Public Land, Olin Partners, Greenlab and the UCLA Institute on the Environment and Sustainability compare populations of heavily populated cities with the City of Los Angeles

Any 2026 proposal for a property tax assessment would be subject to tax district regulations and a sales tax competition with the Department of Fire in November 2026.

Timely exploration of other sources of revenue could be addressed elsewhere and then provide evidence for support to address a $15 billion deferred maintenance cost.

Prop K Lessons regarding public financing ---- Public financing for parks and community centers in the amount of $750 million (Proposition K LA for Kids Program) was approved by a 1996 slim “Yes” city-wide vote of approximately 1,400 ballots (50.1% YES). It restricted capital expenses (82%) to acquisition and improvements for parks, recreation and community facilities serving the youth, 2024-2025 Proposition K Program Reconciliation, L.A. for Kids Steering Committee.

<u>By naming specific priority projects in a 2026 successor Prop K 2.0 ballot measure, the City could address the funding of rehabilitating fewer than 10 parks compromised today</u>
~~manages several such “special funds~~
<u>by City construction of interim homeless housing on park land.</u> The treasurer to the City

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safety Concern at Poinsettia Park – Ongoing Off-Leash Dog Violations, Harassment, and Vandalism

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Smock Me
Cc: David Ebner <David.ebner@lacity.org>, Shannan Calland <shannan.calland@lacity.org>, Poinsettia Poinsettia RC <poinsettia.recreationcenter@lacity.org>, RAP PublicInfo <RAP.
Yaroslavsky <Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, Vanessa Saldana <vanessa.saldana@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

You may also visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at: https://lacity.gov/myla311 or:

Park Rangers	323-644-6661	Only until 11PM (Rangers are off at 8p
LAPD Security Services Division	323-913-7390	11:00 PM to 06:00AM
24 Hour Communication Center Non Emergency LAPD	(877) 275-5273	□ ANY REPORT OF VIOLENCE □ DISTUR ALCOHOL AND DRUG CONSUMPTION □ ACTIVITY □ LOOSE DOGS AND OTHER A LEWD CONDUCT □ FACILITY AND MAINT REGULAR WORK HOURS □ REPORT PR NEEDS
RAP Emergency Info Hotline	800-882-1482	*Only available during RAP activation

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:54 AM Smock Me wrote:

> Dear Park Rangers and Los Angeles Recreation & Parks Officials,
>
> I hope you are well. I am writing to urgently bring your attention to a growing and dangerous situation occurring daily at Poinsettia Recreation Park. The issue has escalated to the caregivers no longer feel safe using the park as intended.
>
> For over two weeks, one of the posted “Dogs Must Be Leashed” signs has been vandalized and spray-painted over, completely obscuring the rule (photo attached). Despite this, th and the situation around it has continued to deteriorate.
>
> Every evening between approximately 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM, large groups of dog owners—often 25–30 dogs at a time—gather in the park and allow their dogs to remain complete city regulations and despite the proximity of the children’s playground, which is used daily by families, nannies, and young kids.
>
> In addition to the off-leash violations, many of these owners have become increasingly aggressive toward residents. They have cursed at parents, nannies, and even other park vis attempting to follow posted rules. The group has also tampered with the secured park gate on multiple occasions, clipping it open even after Park Rangers had properly locked it.
>
> This growing sense of entitlement and disregard for public safety has already led to multiple incidents, including:
>
> - Several children being attacked by off-leash dogs
> - An elderly woman being injured
> - Families avoiding the park out of fear for their safety
>
> This is deeply concerning and unsustainable. Poinsettia Park is meant to be a family park, yet many families now feel unwelcome and unsafe due to ongoing harassment from dog rules.
>
> We are reaching out to you because we urgently need enforcement, corrective action, and restored order before a more serious or tragic incident occurs. We are also preparing to bring wider awareness to the problem, as the situation has been ongoing for a very long time without improvement.
>
> We sincerely appreciate your time, attention, and any assistance you can provide. Our goal is simply to make Poinsettia Park safe again for children, families, and all respectful co
>
> Thank you for your help and for the work you do to protect our parks.

Park

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Sylmar park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 7:33 AM
To: Mario Gomez

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Dec 9, 2025 at 2:54 PM Mario Gomez wrote:

> Good afternoon,
>
> I am writing to bring to your attention a recent incident that occurred at the Sylmar Recreation Center. Due to one particular player on our All-Star team, the entire team was disqualified from the tournament. The player was deemed ineligible after it was discovered that she had participated in a junior varsity high school game. I understand that the rules are clear, and she should have informed Sylmar of her participation.
>
> However, I find it unfair that the entire team and all of the other players must be penalized for her mistake. We respectfully request any assistance or reconsideration that may help our team in this situation.
>
> Additionally, I would like to address the fact that the rule book ("blue book") is apparently kept internally, which is very concerning. The wording in the rule book states that a team "may" be disqualified—indicating that disqualification is optional, not mandatory. This raises several questions: Who determines when a rule can be applied flexibly? What factors are considered when making that decision? Are the park, the community, the team, or the specific circumstances taken into account?
>
> We would greatly appreciate clarification on how these decisions are made and why the most severe option was applied to our team.
>
> Thank you for your time and understanding.
>
> Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request for a special hearing regarding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter and more recent photos and information

1 message

Takisha Sardin <takisha.sardin@lacity.org>
To: Cameron Flanagan
Cc: Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, rap-gpab@lacity.org, RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org, Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Good Morning Cameron,

Received, thank you

Takisha Sardin
Board Secretary
Department of Recreation and Parks
Office of the Board of
Recreation and Park Commissioners
Office: (213) 202-2640
F: (213) 202-2610
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org

Park Proud LA

On Sun, Dec 7, 2025 at 11:33 AM Cameron Flanagan wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Cameron Flanagan**
Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 3:07 PM
Subject: Request for a special hearing regarding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter
To: <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>, Jimmy Kim <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Brenda Aguirre <brenda.aguirre@lacity.org>, <rap-gpab@lacity.org>, <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>

Dear General Manager Jimmy Kim, Assistant General Manager Brenda Aguirre, and the Board of Recreation & Parks Commissioners,

Special Hearing Request

May you please schedule a special hearing regarding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter? This was requested at the August 2025 RAP Commission hearing after the d
meeting could help the public understand the pitfalls and why the shelter has not been successful, and determine next steps. Most organizations in the area in and arou

Given the chronic issues surrounding the Riverside Bridge Home shelter over the past 5 years, the tacit allowance of an operator with a documented history of defraud
Department has an increased liability exposure, without any indemnity against a potential lawsuit.

Weingart

The new shelter operator, Weingart, is operating on parkland unlawfully, as the lease has not been approved through the Municipal Facilities Committee as required. It
interim shelters. Weingart was identified by name in the 2025 federal Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) audit as one of the operators unable to account for allocated and spent h
less expensive operators for interim sites. Weingart is the opposite of cost effective - having just requested over $300k for 'rehab and repair' of the Riverside Bridge Ho
its 5-year structural duty cycle. It's a classic example of throwing good money after bad..

Now that the Mayor's Emergency Declaration has expired, why is Weingart, or anyone, being allowed to operate a shelter for a small special interest on public parklanc
Why is RAP assuming the liability by allowing a known fraudulent operator to occupy a structure beyond its safe life expectancy?

Further, the community would appreciate hearing firsthand how the new shelter operator is functioning, since it appears Councilmember Raman intends to continue fur
extensions). For example, are residents instructed how to behave outside the shelter so as not to create nuisance and crime in the adjacent neighborhoods? The answ
cleanup this past weekend around the shelter yielded 5x 42-gallon trashbags, with voluminous food trays, scattered and obviously feeding the wildlife of coyotes, birds
soccer fields, such blatant disregard for the area puts the children at increased risk of coyote attack due to the food attraction - seems unwise.

Weingart has come under federal audit, and recently, CEO ex-Senator Kevin Murray has been placed on leave as allegations of fraudulently inflated property valuation

Failed Policy

At this past week's City Council, Homelessness Strategy Committee, and Homeless "Oversight" meetings with LAHSA, LAHD, and the CAO, Councilmember Raman s
Emergency Declaration expiration on Nov 5, 2025. Additionally, though there is no money for LA Housing Dept Oversight positions, and vouchers are at all time low, Co
demonstrably failed programs. LAHSA's own statistics demonstrate that the shelter placed fewer people into permanent housing than it attracted to the area. The shelt
tract more than doubled in 5 years.

As of November 7, 2025, Judge Carter has yet to receive data on shelter beds from the City, and he has called the Mayor to account for this failure to fulfill his court or
one trying to get information so no more money is wasted, as was uncovered in the A&M Assessment. (See attached article from Daily Journal).

Councilmember Raman's Homelessness Strategy Committee hired a Consultant to generate a report. The report shows a trend, which I have witnessed firsthand from
majority of homeless, despite the shelters being low-barrier, tend to return to the streets within 90 days. These findings were confirmed by CD4 Homelessness Director
become more comfortable in the shelters, they tend to fall further into substance use and mental health issues, which continue to manifest as an increase in nuisance a

In October 2025, the highest number of calls to LAPD in the Northeast Division were from the shelter at 3210 Riverside Drive. As a result, LAPD Northeast Division has

A final finding this past week is that a lack of dedicated Case Managers assigned on an individual basis to shepherd a homeless person from street to housing is result
current funding system, intensive Case Management (ICMS) will never be robust enough, because more money is spent on the non-profit G&A than on the provision of
Bridge Home shelter, and it is beyond challenging with my 18 years experience as a clinical therapist.

Finally, last week the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) modified grant requirements, shifting funding away from Housing First, low-barrier
requirements. FINALLY, some common sense prevails.

I hope our RAP Commission can use common sense. When something doesn't work, throwing more money at the problem is not an answer. Keeping Angelenos out of
experiment, is discrimination.

Ambassador Program

The community is confused, as CD4 has shifted between describing the Ambassador Program's purpose as providing security, to offering coffee, friendship, and donut
residents, contrary to the report you heard at the November 6 Commission meeting by Mr. Siggins, there have been no social programs or engagement of the shelter r

Further, discretionary funding for any Ambassador Program ended last month, in October 2025. Mr. Siggins is now describing the Ambassador Program as outreach, s
stated it was not providing security as an Ambassador Program, though that was the original reason given by Councilmember Raman for the creation of the Ambassad

Next Steps

At a minimum, please, please add exterior security. The CIRCLE team is NOT security, as they only appear intermittently when called. Even when they arrive, they reg
night, November 7. If CD4 is paying for the CIRCLE team, that office needs to review that contract, as CIRCLE has not been out and around the Riverside Drive Bridge
would aid in providing for greater safety for everyone, and allow both the shelter residents and broader community peace.

I look forward to a special hearing date regarding this shelter.

Sincerely,

Cameron Flangan

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Chatsworth Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 10:06 AM
To: Tricia Gillikin

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 9:44 AM Tricia Gillikin wrote:

> I wanted to commend Julio Vargas at the park I frequent in Chatsworth. He consistently maintains the cleanliness of the park. Recently he made me feel safe by assisting in removing some of the unhoused folks that took up residency in the park. He is friendly, communicative, and took his time to explain/hear me. As a woman walking in the park with my dog, it is important that my safety concerns are actually heard- he has done just that. I appreciate the city hiring people who care and take pride in their work.
>
> Tricia Gillikin

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: REJECT the WATER REUSE PROJECT at San Pascual Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org> Fri, Dec 12, 2025 at 7:56 AM
To: Yael Pardess
Cc: Ysabel Jurado

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Dec 11, 2025 at 9:08 PM Yael Pardess wrote:

Recreation and Parks Commissioners
CD14Mrs Ysabel Jurado

I urge your committee and CD14 to reject Pasadena/ South Pasadena's bid to use a half acre of our park land at San Pascual Park for their Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project. This park land is used by residents and wildlife. Allowing the use of our parkland by South Pasadena in perpetuity violates LA City Charter 594 c. We ask that you direct LA Recreation and Parks not to move forward on this project and instead to urge Pasadena/ South Pasadena to adopt a better nature-based solution with clean up at the source that will not destroy an urban forest that is valued and used by our community and by wildlife.
This project that will not benefit LA or the residents surrounding this park who are strongly opposed to it.
It is a public park and it cannot be given away and destroyed for sake of providing 20 million cleaned water gallons to the South Pasadena Golf Course.

Measure W clearly states that project funded must preserve or restore the environment and include the community in their decisions. None of this was followed. Instead The project will remove 136 trees out of 166 trees, 36 protected old mature oak and Sycamores and capture 60% of the Arroyo stream affecting the stream natural habitat downstream and future arroyo natural restoration. There isn't any reasonable mitigation that can realistically protect the remaining 18% of trees. The Water stream will be destroyed
Instead-will have serious pollution, noise ,heat dust, hauling trucks, and health impacts to the valley residents, that will last for years, as well as an irreversible ecological damage to a natural riparian habitat and all its creatures.
The proposed rebuilt park will be an artificial sparse recreation with a concrete pool, a surrounding fence and no access to the water. It will take 20-50 years to bring back the benefits that the original park gave such as shade, cooling and habitat, calm and beauty for people and animals.
This is an historic land that has deep significance to the local community dating back generations, and for the Gabrieleno Kizh-for 1000s of years. They were not included in any of the planning violating AB52.
At this time of global warming, we should protect every mature tree we have. We should clean maintain and beautify this park, safeguard every tree and remove invasive plants. It was neglected

by both cities and they can do better than destroy it. There must be better natural technologies to treat contamination at the source rather that demolish a gem. Please oppose this project.

Thank you,
Yael Pardess

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