

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 07/01/2015

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/13/2015

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1197

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The SLNC is concerned about the use of artificial turf, which compacts and kills soil microbiology, generating runoff and providing no carbon sequestering benefit. It also creates rather than mitigates the heat island effect caused by the changing climate.

Additional Information: Rather than using artificial turf, we recommend the watershed approach, which 1) uses rainwater as a source of irrigation; 2) creates permeable, living soil using natural woodchip mulch or leaf litter, 3) uses permeable hardscaping; and 4) utilizes climate-appropriate plants and drip irrigation.

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Amy Clarke
Charles Herman-Wurmfeld

VICE-CHAIR

Ted Adams

TREASURER

Georgene Smith Goodin

SECRETARY

Teresa Sitz

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Serving the Silver Lake
Community Since 2003

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SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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April 17, 2015

Mitch O'Farrell

Councilmember, 13th District

Los Angeles City Hall

200 N. Spring Street, Room 450

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell:

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council is concerned about the use of artificial turf, which compacts and kills soil microbiology, generating runoff and providing no carbon sequestering benefit. It also creates rather than mitigates the heat island effect caused by the changing climate. As recent news coverage of Los Angeles rains showed, one inch of rain generates 8 billion gallons of runoff in the City. This urban runoff is the primary source of ocean pollution, and could be a valuable source of irrigation, groundwater recharge, and enhancing stream flows. Also, landscapes with living soil can help sequester carbon.

We wanted to express our concerns to you, as the co-author of Council File No. 14-1197, approved by the City Council on October 15, 2014, which instructed the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, with City Attorney assistance, to develop a standard for using artificial turf in parkways, to request funding and technical support from the Department of Water and Power for said work, and report to Council within 30 days with the developed standard and proposed implementation.

Rather than using artificial turf, we recommend the watershed approach, which 1) uses rainwater as a source of irrigation; 2) creates permeable, living soil using natural woodchip mulch or leaf litter, 3) uses permeable hardscaping; and 4) utilizes climate-appropriate plants and drip irrigation.

Please feel free to contact me at green@silverlakenc.org or (323) 660-2780 to share or request more information.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hart
Chair, Green Committee
On behalf of the
Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

cc: Bob Blumenfield

I certify that this statement represents the official position of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.

Teresa Sitz, Board Secretary
On behalf of the
Silver Lake Neighborhood Council