

Communication from Public

Name: Westlake North NC - Community Impact Statement
Date Submitted: 02/13/2025 09:56 AM
Council File No: 24-0602
Comments for Public Posting: Support to Artificial Turf Removal in Westlake North. Reasons: Impact on Community Health and Safety, Environmental Consequences, Financial Considerations, Loss of Accessibility, and Community Impact.



Westlake North Neighborhood Council
January 14, 2025

Honorable City Council City of Los Angeles
C/O City Clerk Room 395
City Hall Los Angeles CA 90012

RE: CF 24-0602 Councilmember Blumenfield's motion on Artificial Turf

Dear City Council,

We support Councilmember Blumenfield's motion in Council File 24-0602 as an important step toward an eventual ban on artificial turf, and we wholeheartedly vote in favor of this initiative.

Soil is not just dirt—it is a living ecosystem, teeming with microorganisms and essential life forms. When we cover it with plastic grass, we effectively suffocate these organisms, killing vital biodiversity. As you are well aware, we are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, further exacerbated by the climate crisis. The widespread use of artificial turf stands in stark opposition to the urgent need to restore and protect the environment.

The environmental costs of artificial turf extend beyond its impact on soil life. Fake grass exacerbates flooding by preventing the natural absorption of stormwater, increasing runoff and overwhelming local water systems. Worse, the runoff from synthetic turf, often made from petrochemicals such as crude oil or natural gas, contains harmful PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), toxic "forever chemicals," and microplastics. These substances pollute our drinking water and watersheds, posing severe risks to public health. The EPA has stated that there is no safe level of PFAS exposure, which are linked to cancer, neurotoxicity, and hormone disruption. Additionally, studies show that approximately 15% of the plastic found in our oceans originates from synthetic turf.

The dangers of artificial turf are not limited to the environment. It can reach temperatures up to 80 degrees higher than the surrounding air, posing a serious burn risk to those who come into contact with it. It also contributes to the urban heat island effect, exacerbating the risks of heatstroke, particularly in already vulnerable communities. The artificial nature of this material can lead to more frequent injuries in sports and requires costly maintenance and eventual replacement.

Given the many dangers and environmental costs associated with artificial turf, we urge the City Council to take bold and swift action in support of this motion, and to commit to a future where our public spaces are restored to their natural, biodiverse, and sustainable state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Westlake North Neighborhood Council Board Members

www.westlakenorthnc.org