DRAFT PRESENTATION

Sunnyvale

Consider New Council Policy to Ban the Use of Artificial Turf at City Facilities and Open Space

City Council
August 27, 2024

Background

- February 2, 2024 – public comments under a Non-Agenda item regarding the negative environmental impacts of artificial turf.
  - City Council directed staff to create a policy restricting the use of artificial turf fields on City property.
- February 15, 2024 – City Council Approved Study Issue ESD 24-01 – Evaluate the Use of Artificial Turf versus Ground Cover
  - Analyze the benefits and challenges regarding the installation of artificial turf on private properties including residential and commercial landscapes and public properties.
  - The study will provide recommendations for the City to develop a policy regarding the use of artificial turf

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Important Items to Consider

The Cost to remove the artificial turf from existing locations:

Fair Oaks Park

Magical Bridge Play Area

Ortega Park Cricket Pitch

Muwekma Park Play Area

The cost to replant with natural ground covering

Reduction of field time

Increased maintenance and water costs

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Important Items to Consider – Fiscal Impacts

- Artificial Turf replacement qualifies for PDF
- Natural Turf maintenance does not quality for PDF funding
- Possible Loss of Revenue from reduced field availability

Filed Usage Report March 1 to November 30, 2023		
Park	**Hours of Reservation**	**Revenue**
Fair Oaks Park (synthetic)	5640.51	$276,932.50
Lakewood Park (grass)	2661.25	$6,784.50
Ortega Park (grass)	3419.50	$11,278.00
Washington Park (grass)	3104.80	$19,423.00

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Current Locations with Artificial Turf

1. Magical Bridge Play Area
2. Ortega Park Cricket Pitch
3. Muwekma Park Play Area
4. Magical Bridge Play Area
5. Fair Oaks Field
6. Parking strips in neighborhoods throughout the city (not pictured)

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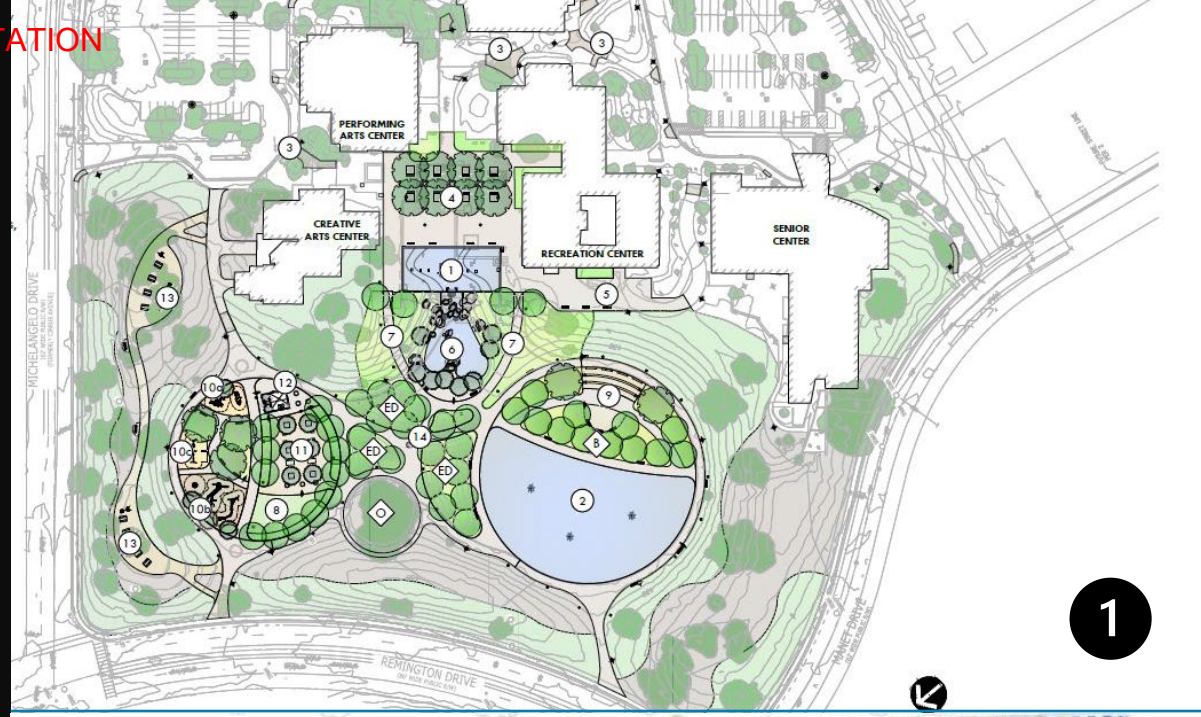
Current Project Redesigns

1. Community Center Grounds
2. Lakewood Park



Proposed New Policy

Proposal: Council Policy 3.7.3
Ban the Use of Artificial Turf in City Facilities and Open Space

POLICY PURPOSE:

This policy is to address the environmental impacts from the use of artificial turf by banning its use on all city property.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Sunnyvale will not use artificial turf on any city facility for any project renovating or constructing new infrastructure where artificial turf would otherwise be considered.

Recommendation

Considerations

- **Alternative 1**:
  - Approve the proposed policy to ban the use of artificial turf on city property and direct staff to revisit the policy upon the completion of Study Issue ESD 24-01- Evaluate the Use of Artificial Turf versus Living Groundcovers.
- **Alternative 2**:
  - Do not approve the proposed policy and defer the decision pending the completion of Study Issue ESD 24-01 - Evaluate the Use of Artificial Turf versus Living Groundcovers.
- **Alternative 3**:
  - Provide other direction to staff.

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Questions