



City Council Meeting 4/23/26, Public Comment - Item 7D – Park at Rispin Mansion

Dear Council Members and Mayor,

I do not support the installation of artificial turf in the nice new park for many documented reasons. I attended the last council meeting 2/26/26 when this was discussed and the item was not opened for public comment. I wanted to oppose artificial turf for many reasons. 20 years ago it seemed like a great idea with the drought. Since then the use of artificial turf has many cons. I entered "artificial turf pros & cons" in Google search and immediately got an AI response and a New York Times review from 2021, you can get the basic info.

From personal experience - it is expensive. They dig & haul away out 6 inches of soil, replace it with rock, wire & weed block. It doesn't last that long, it frays at the edges and weeds sprout. The kids throw debris on it and once it gets dirt on it there are weeds unless you maintain it regularly. Please consider the below pros and cons.

Why We Don't Recommend Artificial Grass for Most People

The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com> › [Home](#) › [Gardening](#)

Jul 9, 2021 — Aside from the *high cost, short lifespan, and maintenance requirements* of artificial turf, serious environmental concerns are another reason we ...

People also ask

What is the disadvantage of artificial grass?

AI Overview

Disadvantages of artificial grass include high upfront costs, significant heat retention making it uncomfortable in sun, environmental concerns like plastic pollution (microplastics) and carbon footprint, lack of biodiversity support, and potential health risks from chemicals, while still requiring maintenance like cleaning and brushing, and posing issues with proper drainage and disposal.

Environmental Concerns

- **Plastic & Microplastics:** Made from petroleum-based plastics, it contributes to plastic pollution and microplastic release into soil and water.
- **Heat Island Effect:** Absorbs and retains heat, making surfaces much hotter than natural grass and contributing to localized warming.
- **No Ecosystem Support:** Does not support soil organisms, insects, or pollinators, removing natural habitats.
- **Runoff:** Can increase surface runoff, potentially causing flooding and carrying pollutants into drains.
- **Disposal:** Difficult to recycle and not biodegradable, creating landfill issues at end-of-life (typically 10-20 years).

Health & Safety Concerns

- **Chemical Exposure:** Contains chemicals like PFAS, PAHs, and phthalate

A instant research result says a little more below;

◆ AI Overview

Artificial grass provides a low-maintenance, year-round green lawn that saves water and eliminates mowing, making it ideal for high-traffic or shaded areas. While it offers great durability and a consistent look, it has a high initial installation cost, gets very hot in direct sunlight, and lacks environmental benefits. [Bella Turf +3](#)

Pros of Artificial Grass

- **Low Maintenance:** No mowing, watering, weeding, or fertilizing is required, reducing long-term upkeep time and costs [Angie's List](#).
- **Durability and Aesthetics:** Remains green, lush, and durable in all weather conditions for 12–20 years, even under heavy foot traffic [YouTube](#).
- **Water Conservation:** Ideal for drought-prone regions as it requires no irrigation.
- **Pet-Friendly:** Easy to clean and resistant to damage, fleas, and ticks.
- **Cleanliness:** No mud or grass stains, preventing pets and children from tracking mess indoors. [YouTube +4](#)

Cons of Artificial Grass

- **High Initial Cost:** Installation is generally 40% higher than natural grass, although it may pay off over time.
- **Heat Retention:** Synthetic turf can get very hot in direct sunlight, sometimes reaching temperatures uncomfortable to walk on.
- **Environmental Impact:** Made from non-biodegradable plastics and does not support local ecosystems or pollinators.
- **Requires Occasional Care:** While low maintenance, it still requires cleaning (removing debris, washing) and occasional brushing to keep fibers upright.
- **Non-Replenishing:** Unlike natural grass, it does not clean the air, produce oxygen, or aid in groundwater replenishment. [Bella Turf +5](#)

Sincerely,

Paula Bradley

