



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS**  
**PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY**  
**COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 06/01/2026

ITEM NO: 2.

DESK ITEM B

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DATE: June 01, 2026  
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission  
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director  
SUBJECT: Creekside Park Turf Repair (Written Report)

**REMARKS:**

Attachment 2 contains additional public comment received before 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission meeting.

**Attachment Provided with this Desk Item:**

2. Public Comment received before 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission meeting.

**PREPARED BY:** Nicolle Burnham  
Parks and Public Works Director

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**From:** [Andrea Wald](#)  
**To:** [PPW Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Rob Moore](#); [Maria Ristow](#); [Mary Badame](#); [Rob Rennie](#); [Matthew Hudes](#)  
**Subject:** 6/1 Parks Commission, Public Comment Item #2  
**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2026 8:03:11 PM

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[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Parks and Sustainability Commissioners and City Council Members,

**I respectfully urge you not to accept the Artificial Turf Study in its current form.**

After reviewing the report, I have significant concerns regarding the age, quality, and relevance of many of the sources relied upon to support its conclusions. Much of the analysis appears to depend on older references, including studies dating back to 2010 and 2011, as well as a 2021 report from Zurich that contains important limitations and disclaimers regarding its methodology and completeness. Given the rapid evolution of research related to artificial turf, PFAS contamination, heat impacts, environmental sustainability, and field management practices, I am concerned that the report does not adequately reflect current knowledge.

I am also disappointed that this document has been presented as a final report without a meaningful opportunity for community review and discussion before reaching the Commission. The volume of information contained in the report is substantial, and community members have been given very limited time to review its contents and provide feedback. I respectfully request that the Commission allow additional time for public review before accepting the study's findings.

**Key concerns include:**

- References that are outdated, inaccessible, or do not appear to support the statements for which they are cited.
- Insufficient consideration of current research regarding PFAS, microplastics, crumb rubber, and other environmental and health concerns associated with artificial turf.
- Assumptions regarding local climate conditions that do not adequately account for increasing heat waves and extreme temperature events affecting our region.
- Conclusions regarding water use, groundwater recharge, and consistency with the Town's General Plan that are not fully supported by the cited documents.
- Claims regarding aesthetics and mental health benefits that overlook a growing body of research demonstrating the unique psychological and health benefits associated with natural environments and biodiversity.
- Assertions regarding field lifespan, maintenance requirements, and usage capacity that fail to account for advances in drought-tolerant grass varieties, irrigation technologies, regenerative turf management practices, and successful natural grass field programs operating in other communities.
- Cost comparisons that do not adequately examine long-term replacement costs, disposal expenses, environmental impacts, or successful examples of high-performance natural grass alternatives.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission refrain from accepting the study at this time. Instead, I ask that the report be subjected to further review, that current peer-

reviewed research be considered, and that community comments be fully evaluated before conclusions are adopted or recommendations are made.

There is simply too much uncertainty, too many unsupported assumptions, and too many unanswered questions for this study to serve as a reliable basis for decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wald, Co-Founder, Community for Natural Play Surfaces