



# SANTA MONICA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Santa Monica, California



President  
Jon Katz

VP Political Action  
Sean Kolodji

VP Membership  
Michael Soloff

VP Programs  
Michelle Grant

VP Communications  
Philip Nazzari

VP Diversity & Inclusion  
Keith Coleman

VP Legislation  
Isabel Storey

Treasurer  
Marcy Lebovitz

Recording Secretary  
Lynn Cervini

At-Large  
Derek Devermont  
Patricia Hoffman  
Susan Sheu  
Dolores Sloan

## Resolution Calling for Ban on Artificial Turf on Public Land in Santa Monica

**WHEREAS** Santa Monica is, and, with its groundbreaking sustainability policies, including without limitation the Sustainability Rights Ordinance, has historically been, at the forefront of environmentally sustainable practices and the preservation of green spaces, protecting the health and safety of residents, particularly children; and

**WHEREAS**, while artificial turf was once seen as a water-saving environmental innovation, the overwhelming evidence has since shown that its installation in public spaces exposes children, athletes, and community members to serious health hazards, including toxic chemicals such as PFAS (“forever chemicals”) and heavy metals linked to cancer, hormone disruption, and developmental harm, while also increasing rates of sports injuries such as concussions and lower-extremity strains compared to natural grass, and subjecting users to dangerously high surface temperatures; and

**WHEREAS** synthetic turf, a fossil fuel-based product, further contributes to environmental degradation through the release of microplastics and chemical contaminants into air, soil, groundwater, and stormwater, polluting waterways and threatening aquatic ecosystems; prevents natural groundwater recharge and the carbon-absorbing and cooling functions of living soil and vegetation; exacerbates local heat-island effects; and generates large volumes of plastic waste at the end of its short lifespan, much of which ends up in landfills or is illegally dumped rather than recycled; and

**WHEREAS** Santa Monica’s parks and playfields serve as essential community spaces for residents and visitors alike, reflecting its unique role as a regional hub with a daytime population nearly double its residential base, numerous youth and adult sports programs, and constant demand for open space; and because over 70% of Santa Monica residents are renters who rely on public parks and school playfields for recreation and community gathering, our school fields are a vital extension of the public park system and a natural area for collaboration on sustainability goals; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that, in order to reaffirm Santa Monica’s role as a leader in sustainable and healthy public spaces, the Santa Monica Democratic Club urges Santa Monica’s public agencies to: (1) immediately prohibit net new installation of artificial turf on locally owned public land in Santa Monica, including parks, athletic fields, and parkways; (2) develop a strategy for the mitigation of chemical and plastics pollution from existing turf installations within city limits; (3) develop a plan for the replacement of existing synthetic surfaces with natural, non-toxic alternatives and a maintenance plan with sufficient resources to support long-term recreation, playability, safety, availability, and environmental health; and (4) collaborate with each other to advance shared sustainability goals, reduce chemical exposure in play environments, and promote safe, natural, and effective grass management practices for all public land; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Santa Monica City Council, City Manager Oliver Chi, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, Senator Ben Allen, Assemblymember Rick Zbur, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, and the Environmental Caucus of the California Democratic Party.