

**Synthetic Turf Use Guidelines**  
**Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Construction**  
**San Diego Park and Recreation Department**

Synthetic turf systems may be considered for use in public park facilities if they are installed for permitted, active sports-related recreational activities or to replace small, high use natural turf areas that are difficult to maintain as determined by the Park and Recreation Director.

The following criteria shall be met before site is considered for synthetic turf. Some or all of these criteria may be waived or additional criteria may be imposed by the Park and Recreation Director at any time due to the varying recreation facilities found in the City's park system, the evolution of synthetic turf products and new research findings becoming available.

- The synthetic turf system for athletic fields shall be a crumb rubber, crumb rubber and silica sand, synthetic or organic infill type with a subterranean drainage system sufficient to allow the playing surface to drain quickly.
- The manufacturer shall have local or regional representation within San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, or Los Angeles Counties, capable of performing repairs and maintenance services as may be required and maintenance advice in a timely manner.
- All components of the synthetic turf system shall meet or exceed relevant federal, state and local health requirements. Manufacturers shall be required to fully disclose all materials used in the manufacture of the synthetic turf system and provide complete information on all potentially toxic constituents.
- The project specifications for a synthetic turf system shall include provisions to secure the necessary equipment and training to properly maintain the synthetic turf system according to the manufacturer's recommendations and warranty requirements.
- A synthetic turf facility for sports related activities shall be by permit only, unless otherwise supervised by City staff, and shall be designed to be secured when not in use.
- Signs shall be posted with user health and safety guidelines at all synthetic turf fields and information about which activities are allowed and not allowed on the synthetic turf. These signs shall address, but not be limited to, items such as food, drinks, pets and certain types of chairs, umbrellas, athletic shoes and athletic equipment which may damage the turf and invalidate the manufacturer's warranty or shorten the product's life expectancy.
- Shade and drinking fountains shall be provided near the synthetic turf field. Where shade and/or drinking fountains cannot be provided due to design or site constraints, efforts shall be taken to encourage users to provide acceptable portable shade systems and drinking water.
- Each synthetic turf installation shall include a water system of quick coupling valves to assist in the proper maintenance of the synthetic turf. Potable water shall not be used to cool the synthetic turf playing surface.
- The recyclability of the synthetic turf and infill components shall be considered when selecting the synthetic turf type to assure the materials can be recycled at the end of the useful life.

- Synthetic turf fields shall not be installed in flood prone areas due to potential damage to the turf and possible dissemination of synthetic turf materials, such as the infill material, into storm drains or natural drainage courses.
- Synthetic turf may be considered for smaller areas other than athletic fields where the extensive use causes soil compaction and makes natural turf difficult to maintain, such as adjacent to playgrounds or other high use passive areas. In these smaller areas, synthetic turf systems that do not use an infill and are not designed for athletic use may be considered.

Synthetic turf may be considered for use in joint use facilities where the proposed turf area is 1.5 acres in size or smaller, and shall meet all the criteria stated in these guidelines unless approved otherwise by the Park and Recreation Director and the participating joint use partner. Joint use facilities may not be subject to permitted use only criteria. They may be open to the public per the conditions stated in the joint use agreement for that particular site.

Synthetic turf may be considered for use on city parkland when requested by organizations that have a contractual relationship with the City. Upon approval by the City, the organization requesting the use of synthetic turf shall agree to adhere to these guidelines and provide all necessary funding to install, maintain and replace the synthetic turf to the City's satisfaction.