

Board of Supervisors

Athletic Field Turf Workshop



Athletic Field Turf Workshop

- ▶ Regional Parks field inventory, current and planned athletic fields
- ▶ Ag + Open Space Community Spaces Matching Grant Program criteria related to athletic turf and field inventory
- ▶ Share information about the benefits and drawbacks of artificial turf and natural turf
- ▶ Updates from the recent action by Zero Waste Sonoma board to develop a model ordinance to ban or place a moratorium on artificial turf

Regional Parks Athletic Field Inventory

8 Regional Park facilities provide athletic fields for soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse and other field-based sports activities

- Field Inventory

- 23 athletic fields total (7 maintained by user groups / 16 maintained by Regional Parks)

- 19 natural turf fields
 - 4 artificial turf fields

- 3 planned/undeveloped athletic fields

- Atletico Santa Rosa soccer field project at Tom Schopflin Fields
 - Maxwell Farms Regional Park
 - 1 additional soccer field
 - 1 additional baseball field



Considerations for the Development or Replacement of Turf Fields

- Community Need & Program Demand
- Equity and Access
- Environmental Compliance
- Natural versus Artificial Turf
- Stormwater and Drainage Design
- Lighting, Noise and Neighborhood Compatibility
- Safety and Risk Management
- Operational and Maintenance Capacity
- Budget, Grants and Total Cost of Ownership
- Partnerships, Governance and Scheduling Agreements



Ag + Open Space Grant Criteria

Measure F Expenditure Plan – approved by voters in 2006

- Urban open space & recreation projects through a matching grant program
 - Examples include creek restoration, trails, **athletic fields** & urban greenspace

Community Spaces Matching Grant Program

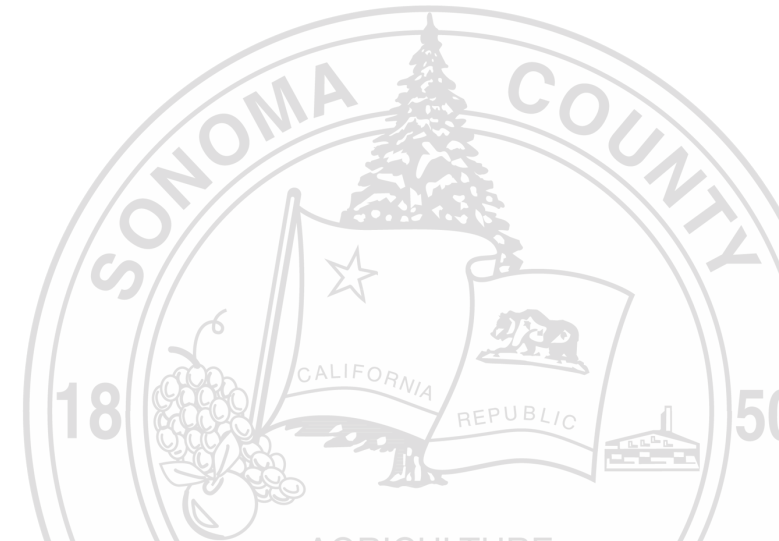
- Acquisition and/or development of land for public access and outdoor recreation, including athletic fields
- Project selection criteria
 - Intent: New outdoor, recreational opportunities
 - Need: Community support, public sector support, existing open space, previous investment
 - Strategic priorities: Racial equity, social justice, climate resiliency



Ag + Open Space Athletic Field Inventory

- Current inventory
 - 3 total athletic fields completed
 - All 3 maintained by City of Petaluma
 - All 3 are artificial turf fields
 - 3 planned/undeveloped athletic fields
 - 2 for City of Santa Rosa – A Place to Play
 - 1 for Regional Parks – Tom Schopflin Fields*
 - To be developed by Atletico Santa Rosa Soccer Club
 - All 3 to be artificial turf fields

**This is also reflected in Regional Parks' inventory*





Benefits and Limitations

Natural Grass and Artificial Turf

Natural Grass Turf Fields



Natural Grass Turf Fields

Benefits

- Biodegradable & compostable
- Somewhat lower initial construction costs
- Stays cooler
- Potential for irrigation with recycled water
- Preserves soil ecosystem
- Higher shock absorption

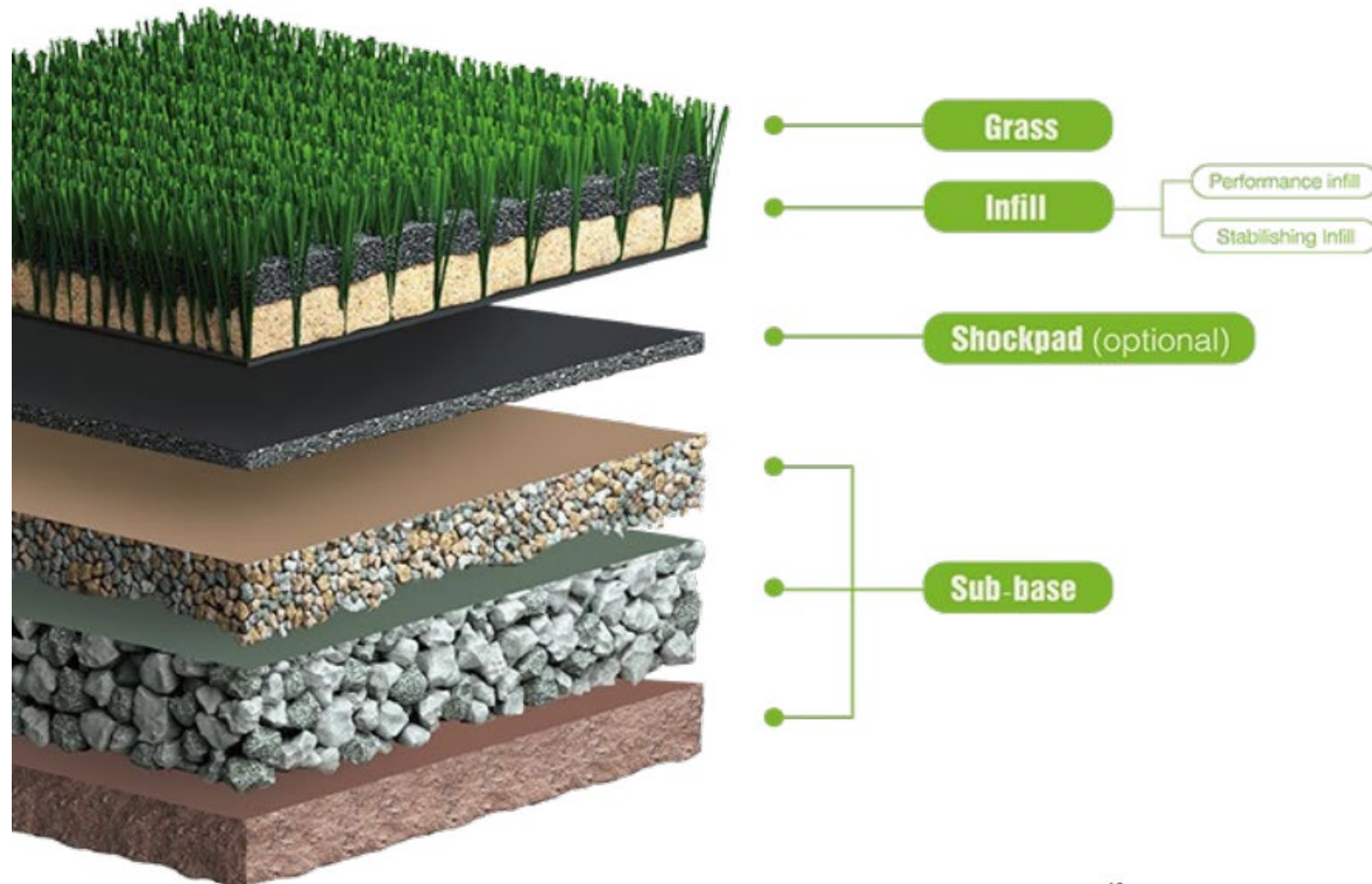
Drawbacks

- Higher ongoing maintenance costs
- Uneven surfaces / gophers
- Wet season closures
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Frequent field line marking
- Water Use / Drought restrictions
- Overuse in high wear areas

Ragle Ranch Soccer Field 1

- History and Challenges
- Key Issues: gophers / wildlife, overuse, pond-based irrigation water pH
- Expert Guidance
 - Sod selection, maintenance and performance
 - Soil biology and water testing
 - Irrigation water
- Actions Taken: new sod, gopher wire, irrigation adjustments, soil chemistry, field rest
- Path Forward: rest periods, field rotations, preventative maintenance, long term grass health, turf test plots

Artificial Turf Fields



Artificial Turf Fields

Benefits

- Nearly year-round play
- Less water use
- Level playing surface
- Lined during installation
- Equity impacts – extended hours and season
- Larger scale tournament hosting

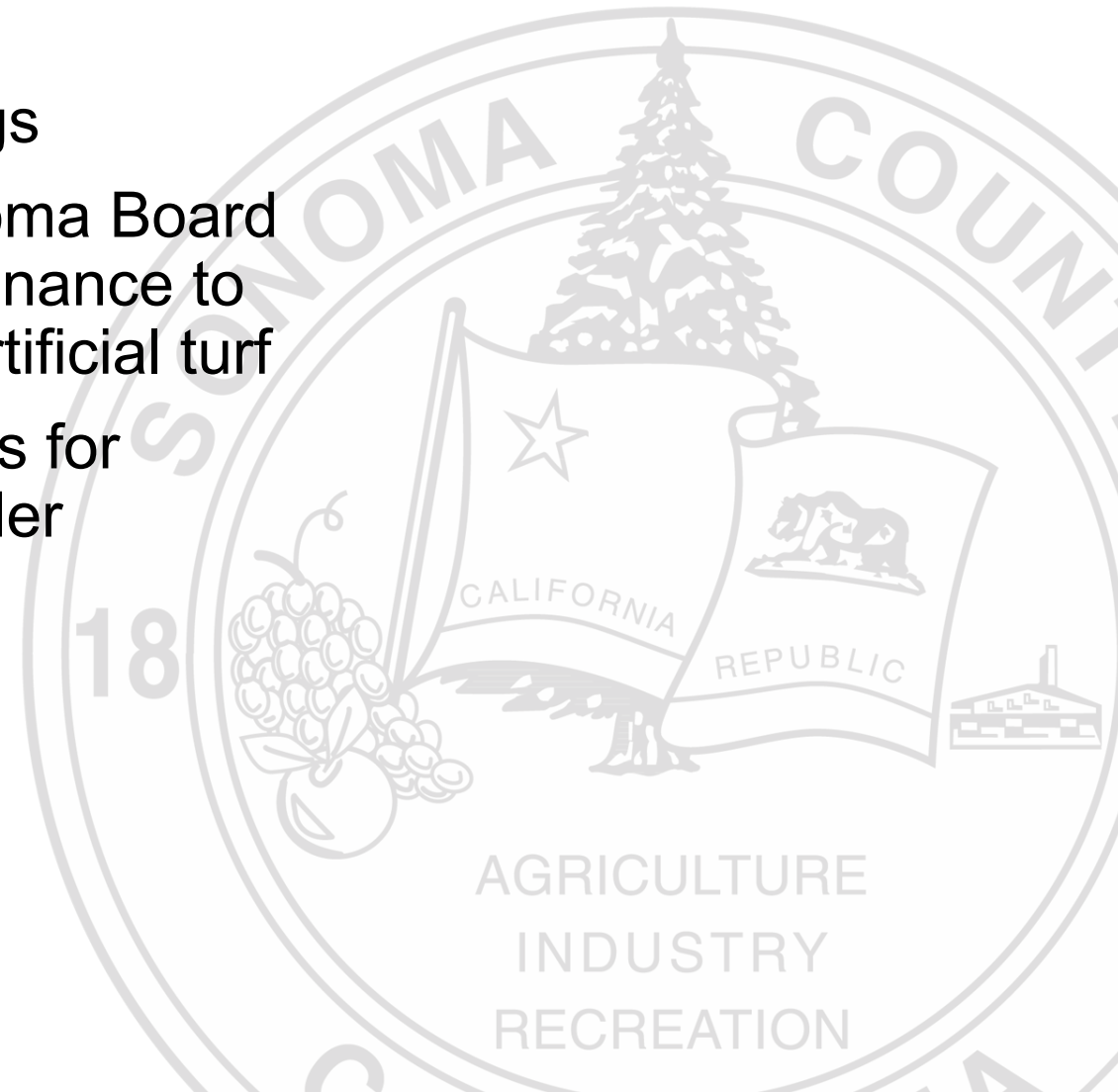
Drawbacks

- High volume of plastic and/or rubber materials used in construction
- High heat absorption
- 10-year fiber lifespan
- 25-year shock pad / drainage lifespan
- Off-gassing of toxic chemicals
- Breakdown of materials releasing microplastics
- Lack of recycling infrastructure
- Expensive and large volumes of materials to remove and remediate soil ecosystem



Zero Waste Sonoma Update

- AB 939 Local Task Force findings
- Direction from Zero Waste Sonoma Board for staff to develop a Model Ordinance to ban or place a moratorium on artificial turf
- Approximately 12-month process for research, drafting and stakeholder engagement

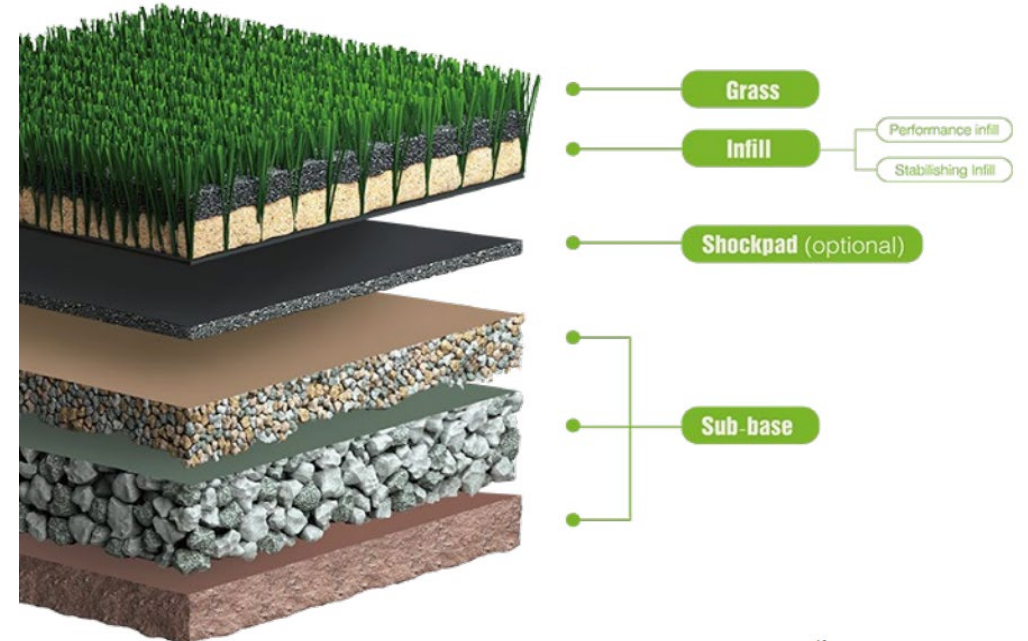


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Natural Turf



Artificial Turf