



Board and Commission Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff

Liaison:

Board/ Commission:

Submitted by: David Kesting

Study Issue Working Title:

Policy to Limit Artificial Turf Use in Sunnyvale While Retaining Field Turf for High-Use Athletic Fields

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

This study proposes policy to limit artificial turf exclusively for high-traffic athletic fields, where durability & usability are essential.

Artificial turf offers benefits at athletic fields: year-round use, lower maintenance, & water savings. At Fair Oaks Park, field turf supports extensive programming w/o surface degradation. In contrast, using natural grass at Lakewood Park has increased capital costs by \$2.2–\$2.9 million & will require \$500K–\$800K annually in upkeep. These natural grass fields will also have limited playability due to seasonal closures & surface wear.

A balanced policy would meet sustainability goals by reducing unnecessary plastic in low-use areas, while preserving the recreational value of field turf where needed.

Review Sunnyvale field turf usage, especially at sites like Fair Oaks.

Compare cost & usability of natural vs. artificial turf, focusing on Lakewood Park data. Assess options to limit field turf to athletic uses through policy or zoning tools.

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

[Use attachments if needed.]