

14-1197

MOTION

Artificial turf is an excellent alternative to grass, but it requires a costly permit to install in the parkway because currently there are no standards for the installation. Therefore, costs are frequently over \$2000.00 for a Bureau of Engineering permit making this unavailable to most Angelenos. Artificial turf aesthetically accomplishes the same goals of grass without the use of water, chemical fertilizers, pesticides or gas mowers to maintain. Lawns annually require on average 100 gallons of water per square foot. The parkways in Los Angeles use 26 square miles of land.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power administers the Residential Turf Removal Program which pays \$3.00 per square foot of turf removed. This rebate program is in place to give incentives to homeowners to remove their lawn for an environmentally friendly alternative.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), over one-third of residential water is used for lawn irrigation nationwide, totaling more than 4 billion gallons of water a day and each weekend 54 million Americans mow their lawns, using 800 million gallons of gasoline per year producing tons of air pollutants. Garden equipment engines, which had unregulated emissions until the late 1990s, emit high levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, producing up to 5 percent of the nation's air pollution with higher concentrations in metropolitan areas.

Furthermore, the EPA estimates that over 17 million gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, are spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment. In addition to groundwater contamination, spilled fuel that evaporates into the air and volatile organic compounds spit out by small engines make smog-forming ozone when cooked by heat and sunlight.

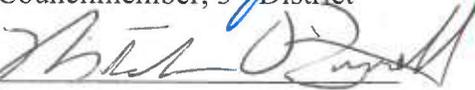
Additionally, the use of artificial turf eradicates the use of almost a billion pounds of pesticides and fertilizers. Artificial turf does not produce any of the harmful processes associated with grass. With a standard for installation, permit costs could be greatly reduced or eliminated.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering be instructed with City Attorney assistance, to develop a standard for using artificial turf in parkways, to request funding and technical support from the Department of Water and Power for said work, and report back to Council within 30 days with the developed standard and proposed implementation.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:




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