

**Greenbelt Youth Advisory Committee
Report to City Council**

Subject: Sustainable Land Care Policy

Discussion: YAC reviewed the Sustainable Land Care Policy at its monthly meetings May 10 through July 30. Braden Field was discussed as an area of concern. Outfield grass on Braden Field #1 (overlapping the football field) no longer grows on several areas due to frequent use by the public and youth sports (i.e. Greenbelt Boys & Girls Club). Questions were raised regarding the pooling of water in the outfield where grass no longer grows. Concerns were also raised regarding the maintenance, slope and drainage of the field during off peak usage months.

YAC supports the City's use plan to halt "the use all cosmetic landscape chemicals" in their effort to eliminate toxins that adversely affect the city's water air and soil. Members raised the following questions regarding "Turf Care" section of the policy

a) *All turf areas will be maintained at a height of 3 inches or more, the athletic fields are exempt from this standard.*

What maintenance standards will the athletic fields (i.e. Braden, Northway, etc.) be held (height, seeding, etc.)?

b) *Yearly soil tests on athletic fields are required to determine nutrient requirements.*

What actions will be taken if nutrient requirements on the athletic fields are not met?

c) *Over seeding of turf area should be seeded with a low mow species of turf grass and other companion plantings.*

Will the areas of the athletic fields missing grass be re-seeded during the off-season in preparation for soccer, football and youth sports?

Recommendation: YAC recommends additional information be included regarding the turf care, drainage and upkeep of Braden and Northway athletic fields. YAC also recommends the City seed areas of the athletic fields where turf no longer grows. YAC commends the city's efforts to implement such a policy and recommends its approval.

Vote 5-0

**Respectfully Submitted by:
Elizabeth Hammett, Chairperson
Youth Advisory Committee**