

## Torran Korman

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**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026 12:16 PM  
**To:** Mary Gourley  
**Cc:** Oriana Hart; Erik Billing; Elissa Overton; Torran Korman; Victoria Henkel; Zulema Higgins; John Jay; Jane Riley  
**Subject:** FW: soccer fields for Sebastopol

Please see public comment as it relates to an agenda item on the upcoming city council meeting.

BCC: Email BCC to City Council, City Attorney City staff that received this email are listed in the CC distribution line as noted above.

City Staff: Please Post to City Website Thank you Mary Gourley Interim City Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: JJ Yost <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 11:59 AM  
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>  
Subject: soccer fields for Sebastopol

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of any actions being considered by the city council that would help create soccer specific fields in Sebastopol. I am a Sebastopol resident and parent to an 11 year old, and I have been involved in the local Wesco soccer league since 2021 as a volunteer coach. I volunteer my time to coach because I have seen first hand the transformative power youth sports has to positively affect children both physically and mentally. With the mounting pressures on our children inherent in the digital age (constant connectivity, social media etc) I believe it is critical to get them involved in non-screen based activities. Soccer provides an outlet for learning how to appropriately manage feelings of aggression, and the joy, social interactions, confidence building, physical fitness, and learned humility that come from playing a team sport are critical antidotes to the disconnected and insular echo chambers that kids often find online.

There are no soccer specific fields in Sebastopol and I would love to see that change. Since all existing fields are shared between school programs and other sports leagues, demand often outpaces supply, and as a coach I often come up against field scheduling conflicts. I am a supporter of all these leagues and programs and want to see them all grow and flourish. As this happens however, we as a community need to continue to create and maintain new spaces for these programs. Adding full-size dedicated soccer fields would be great, but space and funding for their creation can be hard to find. An alternative in Sebastopol could be to emulate other cities by creating 'soccer courts', which are ideal spaces for trainings and small-sided games. These mini arenas require smaller footprints (they are similar in size to tennis courts), are contained with fencing and netting, are surfaced with artificial turf or another low maintenance surface, and can be lit with focused LED lighting for night use.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Yost