



DATE: October 7, 2009

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Dennis Cook, Parks Athletics Manager,
Aaron Bert, Park Resource Manager, North Regional and
Cheryl M. Fraser, Park Resource Manager, South, Central-West Regions

SUBJECT: Athletic Field Closures for Field Renovation and Repair

Requested Board Action

This is an informational briefing on the closure of grass athletic fields for maintenance. In order to improve public notification of closures, Parks and Recreation plans to brief the Board of Park Commissioners each fall about upcoming field closures.

Program Description

Seattle Parks and Recreation has developed a systematic grass turf field renovation program. The aim of the program is to provide safe athletic venues, while limiting the impact on field users and providing predictability about future field closures. There are three elements to the program:

1. Providing adequate and properly maintained turf athletic fields;
2. Identifying turf fields that will benefit from renovation; and
3. Notifying the public about planned closures.

Issues

Athletic fields are heavily scheduled due to high use and demand. The frequency of use both restricts preventative maintenance opportunities and contributes to field degradation. Grass turf reconstruction needs to be done in the optimal growing season of early fall and early spring in order to allow seeds to gestate and take hold. The optimal growing times intersect with high user demand – thus continuing to contribute to worsening conditions.

Citizen Concerns: The public has expressed concerns about the limited field availability during the fall. When a field is closed for maintenance, re-assigned fields are generally not comparable to the closed field, and the same amount of scheduled time is usually not available. Teams want to stay in close proximity to their previously scheduled field when moved due to field closure, and this may not be possible. Additional concerns have been expressed about the need for more notification when a field is to be closed.

Parks and Recreation is updating the field closure process to address these concerns. The Parks Division will provide the Athletic Field Scheduling Office written notice of scheduled closures for minor field repairs one week in advance. The Park Resources Manager will send a written notice for field closures sixty days before the start of major turf field renovation. Major construction will be determined by the Parks Resource Managers.

Grass Fields in Parks Inventory (that are scheduled for athletic activity):

	EAST	CENTRAL	WEST
NORTH	Dahl Laurelhurst Magnuson Meadowbrook Montlake Ravenna University Viewridge	BF Day Green Lake Lower Woodland Wallingford	Ballard Bitter Lake Gilman Park Lawton Maple Leaf North Acres Ross Soundview
CENTRAL	Judkins Garfield Madrona		Bayview Interbay Magnolia Queen Anne Rogers
SOUTH	I-90 Lid/Sam Smith	Beacon Hill Brighton Cleveland Colman Hutchinson Maple Wood Rainier Rainier Beach Van Asselt	Alki EC Hughes Fairmount High Point Highland Park Lincoln Park Riverview Roxhill South Park West Seattle Stadium

2009/2010 Proposed Turf Restoration:

	EAST	CENTRAL	WEST
NORTH	Dahl Meadowbrook Viewridge	B.F. Day Lower Woodland (Cloverleaf) Wallingford (after soccer season in November)	Gilman Park Soundview (Lower)
CENTRAL	Judkins (Upper and Lower)		Magnolia (West) Bayview Queen Anne (West) Rogers
SOUTH <u>(Only if</u> <u>inclement</u> <u>weather</u> <u>damages these</u> <u>fields)</u>		Brighton Rainier Rainier Beach	EC Hughes Fairmont Lincoln Roxhill West Seattle Stadium

Additional Information:

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