Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks
Statement of Purpose

Central Park Conservancy Institute for Urban Parks is the educational arm of the Conservancy.

The Institute teaches park users and managers to care for urban parks everywhere.
Athletic Field Management
40 million visits annually
Managing Use

Fence
Managing use

Permitted

Non permitted
7000 permitted games

- Maintenance closures booked in December.
- Six 24 hour closures for applications.
- Four half day closures for maintenance.
- Fall renovation closure. Approximately 1 week.
- Weekdays: Dawn to 11:00 AM. Closed for maintenance.
- Weekends: Dawn to 8:00 AM. Closed for maintenance.
### 2015 MAINTENANCE DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heckscher</th>
<th>Sheep Meadow</th>
<th>Great Lawn</th>
<th>North Meadow</th>
<th>East Meadow</th>
<th>Bowling Greens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
<td>Tue closed</td>
<td>7/7/2015</td>
<td>Tue closed</td>
<td>7/2/2015</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wed closed</td>
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<td>Sat closed</td>
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<td>Sun closed</td>
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<td>Sun closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14/2015</td>
<td>Mon closed</td>
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<td>Mon closed</td>
<td>9/14/2015</td>
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</table>

Soccer Field A ( & B1) closed for season
Signage

Great Lawn

- No dogs allowed
- No bikes, rollerblades, or skateboards
- Alcoholic beverages prohibited
- No cleats or high-impact sports such as football, soccer, or rugby

The NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation requires permits for all sports and organized activities. Visit nyc.gov/parks to apply for a permit. Organized sports permits will not be issued on weekends or holidays.

Red flags indicate lawns are closed due to weather or maintenance. When the grass is wet, it is more susceptible to damage.

For updated conditions, call the Great Lawn information line at 212.838.1056 Ext. 806

Lawn closed for renovation

Newly seeded lawn
Please keep off
TURF CARE IN PROGRESS

AERATION: THE PROCESS OF MECHANICALLY PUNCHING HOLES IN THE LAWN TO RELIEVE COMPACTION AND EXPOSE SOIL FOR SEED TO SOIL CONTACT.

OVERSEEDING: APPLYING SEED TO INCREASE THE POPULATION OF DESIRABLE TURFGRASS.

THE LAWN AREA WILL REMAIN CLOSED DURING THIS PROCESS
Red Flag System

Red flags indicate lawns are closed due to weather or maintenance. When the grass is wet it is more susceptible to damage.

For updated conditions, call the Great Lawn information line at 212.860.1036 Ext. 806

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY
central to the park
Categorizing and Prioritizing lawns
Categories

- A Lawns: 65 acres
- B lawns: 33 acres
- C lawns: 73 acres
- D lawns: 162 acres
A Lawns

- Sports fields, Meadows
- Highest level of maintenance / lowest threshold for turf loss
- Fenced in. Permitted. scheduled open / close. Closed for winter
- Red flag system
- Automatic irrigation
- Scheduled maintenance
- Scheduled fertilizer and compost tea applications
- Scheduled control product applications
- Mowed 2 to 3 times per week
Pesticide use is regulated
Athletic Field
Cultural Practices
and Infield Preparation
Topics

1. Cultural practices
   - Keep grass surfaces healthy
2. Infield preparation
   - Keep clay surface in shape
3. Soccer Field Program
   - Most intense sport use
Primary Cultural Practices

Grass Surfaces*

1. Mowing
2. Irrigation
3. Fertilization
4. Aeration
5. Over-seeding

* not a lawn – needs to recover from use
Mowing

- Most basic of cultural practice but needs to be performed properly
- Removing top growth - is a stress
- Influence on density and health
- Equipment – rotary mower
  - 11 foot wide ride-on
  - 6 foot wide ride-on
  - 3 & 4 foot walk-behind

2x’s per week – 2.5” String trimming
Mowing

- Seasonal adjustments
- Frequency based on growth rate
- Spring – more frequent
- Summer – growth
- Fall – leaves/mulch mowing

Monitor growth and current conditions
Irrigation

- Application of water to plants – actively growing
- Automatic sprinklers
- Central computer
- Weather station
- Field scouting for conditions and adjust amounts

Overnight watering - allows to drain before use
Irrigation

- Monthly system check
- In-house repair and sprinkler adjustments
- ~ 400 sprinklers North Meadow
- Spring start-up
- Fall winterization

Valves and sprinklers repair parts inventory
Fertilization

- Soil tests
- Provide nutrients to encourage healthy growth or recovery
- Timing – April through October avoid hot temperature (July)

Tractor-mounted or walk-behind rotary spreader
Fertilization

Organic based granular

- Type – maintenance and starter
- Rate – 0.5 pound N / application
- Total 3.5 pounds N / year
Fertilization

Calibration and application important
Aeration

2 Types – solid tine & hollow tine

• Improve soil conditions
• Encourage root growth
• Reduce compaction
• Increase infiltration
  • air, water, and nutrients
Aeration

- Monthly – May to August
- Verti-drain
- Verti-quake
- Surface clean
- 6 to 8 inches deep
- Mark infrastructure

Solid Tine
Aeration

- Fall renovations – with seeding
- September or October
- Core aeration
- 2 to 3 inches
- Surface disruption

Hollow Tine
Over-Seeding

- Introduce newer improved grasses (species and varieties)
- recover from thinning / turf loss from summer stress
- Timing – September and October
- Often includes core aeration and other cultural practice

Broadcast seed on top of existing lawn
Over-Seeding

- Clean-up
- Create environment for seed to germinate
- Seed to soil contact

Verti-cut
Over-Seeding

- Create environment for seed to germinate
- Modifying soil / surface drying
- Thatch accumulation

Topdressing
Over-Seeding

- Seed to soil contact
- Break up soil plugs from core aeration
- Clean-up / knock in sand on surface
- Smooth out surface

Drag Mat
Over-Seeding

- Solid tine – vibratory
  - lateral shatter of soil
- Outside areas of play
  - aggressive
- Roller, one pass and can seed

Aera-vator
Seed specification

- Specification is reviewed annually
- Based on current NTEP data
- Cultivars are selected for:
  - Mean turfgrass quality
  - Disease ratings
  - Wear tolerance ratings
- 25,000 pounds of seed last year park wide

**Central Park Athletic Fields**

Kentucky Bluegrass – 3,000 lbs
Perennial Ryegrass – 3,000 lbs
Tall Fescue – 1,750 lbs
Shade – 300 lbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed Bid Specification</th>
<th>NTEP Turfgrass Quality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom Bluegrass 80/20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% Nuglade Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% Solar Eclipse Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% Everest Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% 4-Season Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>12% Award Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Rugby II Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Everglade Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Paragon GLR Perennial Ryegrass</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% Revenge GLX Perennial Ryegrass</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custom Shade Mix</th>
<th>NTEP Turfgrass Quality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15% Nuglade Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>15% Audubon Creeping Red Fescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>30% Falcon V Tall Fescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% Paragon GLR Perennial Ryegrass</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custom Tall Fescue 85-15 Mix</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85% Falcon V Tall Fescue</td>
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<tr>
<td>15% Nuglade Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
<td>6.2</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Custom Try Rye Mix</th>
<th>NTEP Turfgrass Quality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34% Manhattan 5 GLR Perennial Ryegrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>33% Paragon GLR Perennial RyGrass</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>33% Revenge GLX Perennial RyGrass</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over-Seeding

Rates \((1,000 \text{ ft}^2)\)

- Kentucky Bluegrass: 2 to 5 lbs
- Perennial Ryegrass: 5 to 10 lbs
- Tall Fescue: 5 to 7 lbs
- Shade Mix: 3 to 7 lbs
Infield Preparation

• Annual Maintenance - Spring
  – Edging
  – Infield mix additions
  – Mounds and plates

• In-season Maintenance
  – Daily grooming
Spring Infield Preparation

- Edging of arcs and baselines
- “Lip” build up
Spring Infield Preparation

Mother Nature
Spring Infield Preparation

Infield Mix Additions

Specifications
- Sand: 70-85%
- Silt: 0-15%
- Clay: 15-25%
Spring Infield Preparation

Grading, Leveling, Rolling
Spring Infield Preparation

Mounds and plates
- packing clay
In-Season Maintenance

- Smooth out previous days use
- Firm but loose “cap”
- Direction and patterns
  - important to prevent “lip” build up
- Watering

Daily grooming
In-Season Maintenance

- Pumping of puddles
  - careful of depressions
- Rapid Dry
- Time

Rain events
Soccer Field Program

North Meadow

• 6 regulation size soccer fields
• 10 weeks of play - Labor Day to Thanksgiving
• General decline in turf density
• Weed encroachment
  - Prostrate knotweed
  - Annual bluegrass
Soccer Field Program

1. One field closed per season
   - Combination of aeration, over-seeding and topdressing

2. Five fields in play
   - Weekly over-seeding
   - Verti-drain every 3rd week
   - Topdress after Thanksgiving
Soccer Field Program

• Vert-drain
• Core aeration
• Verti-cut
• Over-seed
  - Kentucky bluegrass
  - Perennial Ryegrass
  - 5 lbs / 1000 ft$^2$
• Sand topdressing

One field closed for season
Soccer Field Program

Five fields in play

- Closed on Monday
- Over-seed
  - Perennial Ryegrass
  - 10lbs/1000ft²
  - goal mouths and boxes
- Verti-drain
  - 1 or 2 fields
- Topdressing
  - after Thanksgiving
ATHLETIC FIELD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Athletic Field Use

Over 7,000 Permitted Games in the Summer Season (April-August)

Approximately 200 permit applicants

85 leagues and schools who regularly play in Central Park

Youth League (*including school recreation programs*) permit priority

Six soccer fields at North Meadow in the Fall

Approximately 400 Permitted Soccer & Ultimate Frisbee Games
Annual Meeting with Major Permit Holders

2015 Season
Baseball-Softball Permit Holders Meeting
AGENDA

1. Ballfields open on Saturday, April 4th [Conditions permitting]

2. Field Lock Boxes- Abandoned Property Rule and review of law enforcement matters by NYPD Captain Christophe McIntosh, NYPD Community Affairs Officer Jesse Cohen, Central Park Precinct, and Captain Benne McCants, PEP.

Presentation of Central Park Conservancy turf maintenance practices by Gary Gentilucci, Turf Care Supervisor

3. Use of outfields for non-permitted activities

4. Review of field use rules:
   - no metal cleats
   - alcohol is prohibited
   - red flag rule
   - no banners or signs
   - dogs are not allowed inside the ball field fence/dugouts/lock boxes
   - no bike riding on paths leading to ball fields

5. Field Conditions Hotline: 212-628-1036
   Great Lawn: Ext 330
   North Meadow: Ext 331
   Heckscher: Ext. 332

6. Field closures for maintenance

7. Special events rules
   - no tables on soft surface
   - banners/signs should not be attached to backstops, trees, or other Park property
   - carry-in carry-out
Ball Field Hotline
No Metal Cleats
Lock Boxes
Carry-in Carry-out
Rotation Fields
General Use of Athletic Fields

Outfields are for permitted games only
The NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation requires permits for all sports and organized activities. Visit nyc.gov/parks to apply for a permit. Organized sports permits will not be issued on weekends or holidays.

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Seasonal Messages

North Meadow Ballfields
Closed for the season
6” Snow Cover