Sustaining Athletic Fields
in Central Park

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Central Park Conservancy
Webinar Objectives

- **Describe** the athletic fields in Central Park

- **Examine** the management of the athletic fields over the course of a year

- **Discuss** planning, facilitation, coordination, and communication between multiple departments within Park Operations and with active user groups

- **Share** three critical behaviors or practices that support and sustain the athletic fields in Central Park annually
Athletic Fields in Central Park

- Three locations
  - North Meadow
  - Great Lawn
  - Heckscher
- 26 fields total
- Permits required for active play
- Conservancy Operations responsible for management and maintenance
Athletic Fields in Central Park
Athletic Fields: Prioritizing

- Considered “A” lawns
- Expected highest level of maintenance and lowest threshold for turf loss
- Managed use
- Scheduled maintenance
- Automatic irrigation
Athletic Fields: Managing Use

Fencing

- 4’ PVC-coated wire mesh
- T-post fencing
- Entrance gates
- Hours of use
- Consistent maintenance
Athletic Fields: Managing Use

Communication

- Signage
- Athletic field hotline
- Social media

Great Lawn

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.

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

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 212.664.8000 ext. 8696

Sheep Meadow, East Meadow, North Meadow, Great Lawn, and Heckscher Ballfields are closed today because of rain.

(Central Park) (April showers bring...)

8:17 AM - 26 Apr 2017
Communication

- The 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 212.639.1098 Ext. 806.
# Athletic Fields: Managing Use

## Schedule of Maintenance

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- **24-hour closure**
- **Half-day closure**
Athletic Fields: Annual League Meeting

- Meeting held prior to the start of the season
- Face-to-face interaction between leagues and Conservancy staff
- Overview of season schedule, policies, and maintenance practices

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY
central to the park
Primary Cultural Practices to Keep Grass Surfaces Healthy

- Mowing
- Irrigation
- Fertilization
- Aeration
- Restoration
- Integrated Pest Management
Primary Cultural Practices to Keep Grass Surfaces Healthy

- Mowing
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- Integrated Pest Management
Seed Specification

Blends of:
- Kentucky Bluegrass (3,000 lbs)
- Perennial Ryegrass (3,000 lbs)
- Tall Fescue (1,750 lbs)
- Shade (300 lbs)
Spring Infield Preparation
Athletic Fields: Annual & Seasonal Practices

Spring Infield Preparation
Athletic Fields: Daily Maintenance
Athletic Fields: Daily Maintenance

Inclement Weather Conditions
Athletic Fields: In-Season Maintenance

Monthly Maintenance Regrading of Infields
Athletic Fields: Fall Soccer
Athletic Fields: Dormant Season

North Meadow Ballfields
Closed for the season
Key Takeaways

✓ Consistency

✓ Communication

✓ Collaboration
Q & A
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