

Stow Recreation Department Maintenance Plan

Components:

**Land
Assets
Fields/Turf**

Land

1. Maintain awareness and vigilance of land managed by the Recreation Commission. Report issues and problems.
 - Check properties weekly during the season and monthly during the winter.
 - Look for issues/problems
 - vandalism
 - trash
 - Report any problems to Rec Director and Maintenance Staff. Where required, file a report with the Police Department.
2. Perform ongoing trash removal at Fields, Beach, and properties.
 - During playing seasons - softball, soccer, empty trash weekly or more frequently as required.
 - During the summer season, and at the beach, empty trash at least 3 times a week. Beach staff should empty trash daily from beach and bathrooms and report issues from the picnic area.
 - During off season, barrels should be removed. Sites should be visited at least monthly to inspect for problems and to remove anything that has been dumped.
3. Implement special projects as proposed and required. (***See separate Special Project List***).

Assets:

1. **Inspect** assets of Recreation Department on an appropriate schedule.
 - Important to inspect all equipment before the start of the season.
 - Inspect active equipment during the season as appropriate. Swim docks should be checked by lifeguards daily and rechecked by maintenance staff biweekly.
 - The playground equipment should be inspected monthly and any reports of issues should be investigated.
2. **Maintain** structures, signs, equipment. (***See list of Recreation Department assets***).

- Implement regular ongoing, annual, and special maintenance projects. Vigilance shall be applied to items related to safety including beach area, structures, and facilities.
- Annually, the bathroom plumbing must be brought up to operation in the spring, and taken down in the late fall. Lines and tanks are to be drained and protected as there is no heat in the bathrooms over the winter.
- The irrigation system must be brought up to operation in the spring and taken down in the late fall. Lines and equipment must be protected from the winter elements.

3. **Install or replace** assets as required.

- As required, install new or expanded items. Respond to usage needs and to items proposed and approved by the Recreation Commission.

Field/Turf:

1. Mowing of grass

- Perform ongoing lawn mowing of grass on all fields.
 - Pine Bluff Field - 3.5 Acres
 - Memorial Field - 2.5 Acres
 - Pompo Field - 2 Acres
- Mowing done in an as-required interval depending on growing season conditions.

2. Grass/Turf Improvement

- **Aeration** of grass surfaces
 - Annually, the surface layer should be mechanically aerated so as to improve grass growth. Timing of this operation should be when the Spring soccer season ends. This operation can be combined with other improvement activities, ie: seed, fertilizer, etc.
- **Overseed** of grass surfaces
 - Annually or biannually, add new grass seed to play surfaces.
 - For special cases of damage, reseed or provide overseed. Area should have as much time as possible to allow seeds to germinate and root.
 - Ideally, fields should be allowed to rest after a major replanting.
- **Insect/fungus (Pest Management) control** applied to grass surfaces
 - In an as-required basis, apply insect control or other treatment. (Grub control treatment done one year to control an infestation of grub worms that was destroying patches of grass roots). Follow recommendations of UMass Extension Services and call on experts as required for issues.
- **Topdressing** - of patches or areas that are in need of repair
 - Consideration for the addition of a layer of soil and organics to the playing surfaces. This operation can be combined with other improvement activities, ie: seed, fertilizer, etc. Done only per special request.
 - Special care to assure irrigation heads are covered when in retracted state.

- **Acid Soil Treatment**
 - Add limestone to the fields with the goal of maintaining the proper pH. Can be done in response to a soil test for acidity or done every 2-3 years.
- **Fertilizer** - applied to playing surfaces
 - Consideration for the multiple applications of fertilizer. Suggest an application at playing fields in spring and fall.
 - Be aware of restrictions on type of fertilizer at Pine Bluff - low phosphate.
 - Generally, apply fertilizer to irrigated areas but can choose to apply to all sites.
- **Field/Turf Maintenance Schedule**
 Inclusion of particular service determined on an approval cycle per activity per year as directed by Recreation Director - **depends on conditions.**

When	What
Early Spring - April	Fertilizer
Late Spring - June	Insect control, Topdressing
Late Summer	Overseed, Aeration
Late Fall	Fertilizer, Limestone

Field/Turf Materials	Detail of Materials
Early/Late Spring Fertilizer	20-10-10 50% Slow Release Nitrogen -- 5lbs per 1000 sq ft
Late Summer Fertilizer	15-25-10 35% Slow Release Nitrogen -- 5lbs per 1000 sq ft
Late Fall Fertilizer	15-10-20 50% 'Winterguard' -- 6lbs per 1000 sq ft
Grub Control	'Merit' grub control.

3. Irrigation
 - Critical that irrigation system where installed be operational.
 - Irrigation should be set to run all summer and fall, with operation in the evening after all field use. System is run on a timer that controls zones and time of zones
 - Consider adding irrigation to Pompo and Memorial Field sites - irrigation is critical to maintaining grass during dry periods and to facilitate the use of fertilizers.
4. Field/Turf Protection
 - Rotate field use patterns. Work with field users to rotate field layouts such that heavy wear areas (in front of goals, midfield) are moved to different areas of grass.
 - Allow certain fields or field areas to rest, Ideally have a field not played for 1 year out of 4 allowing grass roots to fully develop and recover from use. (!!)
 - Control usage of fields in Spring, and during the seasons under wet conditions. Play on muddy fields will damage emerging grass during the spring startup, and on existing fields throughout the year.