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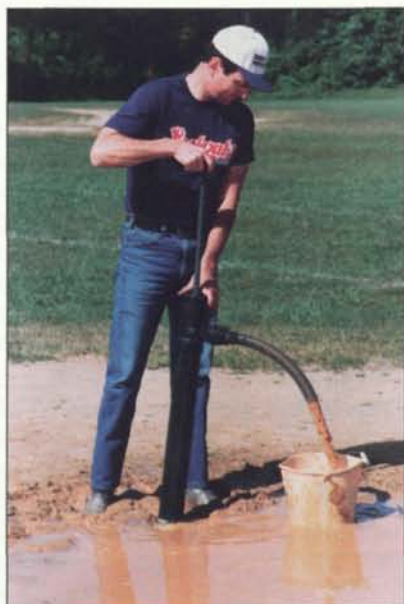


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MCAFFREY

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One of the first things McCaffrey did in his new position was contact the city of Carroll to ask for use of some of the softball and baseball fields during the off-season. By seasonally converting an area into a full-size football field, six to eight games were shifted from the stadium turf.

Construction For The Community

When the new high school was built in 1989, McCaffrey was there to oversee field construction. Because his program was showing results benefitting the whole community, good sports turf was an accepted and welcome part of the program. Five acres of the 50-acre site have complete underground irrigation and it was there that the three new practice fields were built, roughly designated as one full-size soccer field and two full-size football fields—one for the junior high athletes, and one for high school freshmen and sophomore games. The main practice field has bleachers to accommodate the fans for competitive play.

After a check of the buildings around 7 a.m., McCaffrey spends 95 percent of his day outside in the spring, summer, and fall. With just him and his understudy handling grounds care, it takes a major time block just to do the mowing. Then there's the overseeding, sodding, tree, and shrub care and helping monitor the safety conditions of playground areas.

McCaffrey personally makes all fertilizer and pesticide applications. Parking lot upkeep is part of the package, including snow removal. But McCaffrey does contract some of that out when winter snows are extensive.

During January and February, McCaffrey blocks out the grounds care agenda for the coming year and orders supplies. Soil samples taken in the fall and analyzed at Iowa State, along with input from Dr. Mike Agnew, ISU extension turfgrass specialist, give him the basis for program adjustment.

"I like to experiment with different things," says McCaffrey.

The stadium is mowed every other day during the football season, removing approximately one-quarter inch of the three-inch turf. McCaffrey covers the fields with a slicer every 10 days to two weeks. This reduces compaction, increases water penetration, and provides a softer, safer cushion for the players.

McCaffrey walks every inch of the playing facilities at least once a week, looking for problems. He talks with the coaches, players, and officials, assessing the turf from their point of view.

"You have to look at the number of kids on the fields, the number of competitive games held, the total traffic for each field," he says. "Safe playing conditions are essential for sports turf. Liability is a prime factor."

Major renovation takes place in the spring. In late February or early March, the fields are topdressed. Then, around the first of April, McCaffrey makes six or seven passes with the core aerifier. As the tough, broadleaf weeds, such as knotweed, emerge, he applies Trimec. In approximately one month, he does the seeding. His basic mix consists of 60 percent perennial ryegrasses, and 40 percent bluegrasses, because of the quick green-up and fast recovery rate under heavy use. He drill seeds the bluegrasses and broadcasts the perennial ryegrass. Because the soils have a decent phosphorus

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MCAFFREY

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level, the fertilization program includes phosphorus only when seeding, with balanced nitrogen and potash then and throughout the year. Other nutrients are included as soil tests point out deficiencies. Chelated iron applications have been added during the playing season this year with good results.

Birth Of An Association

In the fall of 1985, Christians came to Carroll to teach a course and stopped in the see what McCaffrey had accomplished. He liked what he saw and he and Dr. Agnew contacted McCaffrey about being a guest speaker at the January 1986 Iowa Turfgrass Conference.

It was during the Turfgrass Conference that Dr. Agnew, Gary Peterson, the Newton, IA, extension agent, and McCaffrey put together the plan for the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association. McCaffrey appreciated the benefits offered by his membership in the national STMA, and wanted to increase that interaction closer to home. Safe, playable sports turf for all Iowa athletes was—and is—the goal.

McCaffrey reached out to a few neighbors. He contacted the smaller colleges and other school districts. Once the core team was in place, there was no stopping the progress. Today, ISTMA has close to 200 members, holds two regional clinics each year, and participates in the Turfgrass Conference. The organization contributes to ISU turf research and the Iowa Turfgrass Institute.

In 1988 Gary Peterson, ISTMA secretary, approached the Iowa Turfgrass Institute about ISTMA affiliation. ITI is composed of the state's major turfgrass organizations—parks and recreation, lawn care operators, golf course superintendents, sod growers, and since January of 1988, the sports turf managers. Since that formal acceptance, McCaffrey has served as the ISTMA liaison with ITI, and has joined representatives of the other associations, Dr. Christians, Dr. Agnew, and Dr. Mike Chaplin, head of the ISU horticulture department, on the ITI board. In 1992 he was ISTMA's vice president. Recently, he took up the presidential reins.

"With Dr. Agnew as secretary/treasurer, and the main cog of ITI gears, we've been able to establish a strong scholarship program, awarding 16 scholarships

with total funds of more than \$7,000 last year," McCaffrey reports. "The added encouragement has helped the ISU horticulture department increase its student count by 55 percent over 1990/91."

This coalition has also promoted outstanding growth in the Turfgrass Conference. Attendance reached nearly 1,800 in 1992.

McCaffrey continues to reach out to his neighbors. The ISTMA Turf Clinic held at his facilities last August drew 40 attendees, 25 of which had no previous contact with ISU or ISTMA. The Iowa Parks and Recreation Association spent part of its September meeting touring his facilities and learning about his program and ISTMA. Then there's the assistance he provides to other school districts, like helping Lake City Community Schools develop the complete plan for reconstruction of their football field.

"The great thing about cooperation is it works both ways," says McCaffrey. "If I have a problem or a doubt about my facilities, I can just pick up the phone and dial a neighbor, like Dr. Agnew." □

Editor's Note: Bob Tracinski is the manager of public relations for the John Deere Company in Raleigh, NC, and public relations chairman for the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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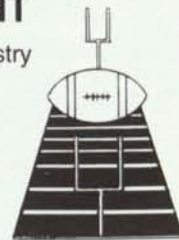
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Maintenance, including mowing, is still in the hands of the city, but will be contracted out after construction is completed.



The 40-acre Oso Viejo Community Park complex will be a practice haven for the U.S. Soccer Team until after the 1994 World Cup. All photos courtesy of Jan Frainie, park superintendent, City of Mission Viejo.

Mission Viejo Takes The World Cup Challenge

By Theresa Delia

The men constructing the Oso Viejo Park Lower Tier in Mission Viejo, CA, may not be the biggest soccer fans in the world, but they don't have to be. After the construction of the 1994 World Cup practice fields and training facility for the U.S. Soccer Team is completed, they may have fans of their own.

With the 1994 World Cup held in the United States for the first time since its beginning in the 1920s, choosing the practice field for the U.S. Team was as important as choosing the competition fields. After all, good fields lead to good play. Conversely, poorly constructed fields can lead to injuries.

According to World Cup USA 1994, more than a billion people watched the 1990 World Cup final on television, triple the audience that watched the 1969 landing on the moon. It is the most popular sport in the world and the fastest growing team sport in this country. With that kind of emphasis, The World Cup Organizing Committee will have nothing but the best for their teams.

The Committee had several fields in mind, according to Steve Sampson, vice president of competition, World Cup Organizing Committee. The U.S. team's practice field sites were narrowed to Orlando, Dallas, and Mission Viejo.

"They chose Mission Viejo because it not only had the best facility, but the best climate," says Sampson. "It is also a suburban area with a good living envi-

ronment. Players will be able to bring their families. We were welcomed with open arms by the city council and by the community."

Other activities are also important. Golf courses, swimming facilities, and reduced-rate entertainment are nearby for the athletes. Sampson feels that without these and other attractions, the players will become bored, which may affect their playing.

Tom Levene, a landscape inspector with the city, calls Mission Viejo a "bed-room community—its landscapes have basically put it on the map." The hilly, master-planned, 16-square-mile community has approximately 90,000 residents. There is a high demand for recreational activity in this "well-developed" area, with youth sports being the city's number one priority.

Kelly Doyle, director of parks and community services for the city, says one reason for choosing Mission Viejo had to do with its soccer heritage.

"We have the second largest soccer region in the nation," he boasts. "It came down to this site and the one in Orlando. Mission Viejo was picked because of its moderate climate, its proximity to the ocean and Pasadena, CA [home of the Rose Bowl, site of the World Cup Final]."

The other thing Mission Viejo had on hand to show the Committee were the blueprints for the Oso Viejo Park Lower Tier.

Jan Frainie, park superintendent for the city explains that the city approved a capital improvement project for the 1992-93 budget, which included two baseball diamonds with soccer overlays. The seven-acre complex also included a 3,800-square-foot training facility, complete with a 25-person locker room, showers, weight room, physical therapy room, kitchens, offices, a patio large enough to hold 40 or 50 people, a lobby, a laundry room, and a TV/Media room.

The upper tier of the park has one lighted slow-pitch softball field, a senior major little league field, and two soccer fields.

Sampson explains that the city wanted to keep the new field consistent with the other fields in the complex.

"That was fine with us," he says. "They are in beautiful shape."

Laying The Ground Work

Before the city received the bid for the project, it needed to overcome several obstacles. The blueprints showed baseball fields, for which they already broke ground and installed lighting. The land-

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MISSION VIEJO

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scape architects literally had to go back to the drawing board.

Keith Rattay, project manager and landscape architect for BSI, explains the U.S. Soccer Team put forth strict guidelines concerning the field and the facility. Two fields had to be constructed, both at least 110-x-75 yards. They needed to be lighted with television viewing in mind.

"The margin of error was very tight," he says. "There was only about five feet of leeway on both sides of the fields. Computers were being used to produce accurate documents. Each point on the field has a coordinate. This was one of the biggest challenges."

A few years earlier, the city took aerial photos of the site for digital coordinates. With the help of an AutoCADD computer-aided drafting program, laying out the new blueprints based on points was easier than off-set dimensioning.

"Problems arise when things are not tied down very clearly," explains Rattay. "Digitizing coordinates and makes things more accurate. Engineering designs are tied to landscape architecture designs."

Levene remembers the difficulty in reworking the logistics.

"We had to provide access for traffic and the handicapped, plus the players themselves," he describes. "We had to negotiate around natural water courses and topography. It was an engineering challenge."

Doyle feels the most difficult aspect was not only redoing the blueprints, but getting them done on time. There was a serious time constraint to have the bid in and ready the course for next year.

"We had about two months to re-do the blueprints and get our bid in on time," he says.

With the new blueprints completed and the bid proposal set, Frainie, Rattay, Doyle, and Levene teamed up with Jim Crosby, superintendent and general contractor with Valley Crest Landscaping, Inc. The city decided to postpone the plans for the baseball diamonds, at least for the next two years. However, the field is constructed with the baseball and soccer overlay in mind.

Field With A Future

The baseball lighting, done by Musco Sports Lighting, remained. Valley Crest began construction in June.

A two-inch silica blend sand base was installed for better root development and drainage. It is also better for the players and the future baseball fields.

The turf is a Tifway-2 hybrid bermudagrass grown by West Coast Turf in Palm Desert, CA. Rattay explains that after the turf matures, topdressing will be applied periodically to build up the sand layer.

The fields are graded one to two percent for drainage. Although there is no below-grade drainage system, there are storm drains and catch basins. The field is irrigated with Rain Bird R-70 rotors.

While the field grows in, Levene will be responsible for the turf development. "Establishment is everything," he asserts.

After the construction, maintenance will be contracted out, but a decision on who that will be has not been made. Whoever it is, Levene says, will treat the field differently for the next two years.

"After it is in, we should have 3-3/4 acres of 'putting green.'"

One problem Levene hopes to avoid is prolonged dormancy or slow "green-up" before play begins.

"If the turf is played on before dormancy is over, it may never recover," Levene explains. "A week of 55-degree weather could put the turf into dormancy."

Levene and Frainie's options for avoiding dormancy include covering the field, applying calcium nitrate bi-monthly, inducing a higher soil temperature. Another option would be dyeing the dormant turf. A darker color would attract solar radiation and heat the soil. Levene would prefer not to do either of those, hoping the turf remains out of dormancy.

"The challenge of any sports turf manager is to enable the turf to recover from an inordinate amount of wear," he says.

The U.S. Soccer Team requested six-foot-high fencing with a shade cloth covering around the field for privacy. There are no seats, but spectators can sit on a slope coming from an upper facility.

The area is wooded with different trees for privacy. Rattay and the others decided on California peppers and cedars, but there are also honey locusts, pine, eucalyptus, and palms. Other drought-tolerant and flowering material is planted around what will be the patio area of the facility.

Construction on the hardscape began in November. Rattay says that because the complex is built in a terraced form, retaining walls will need to be installed. There will also be a lower level parking lot at the lowest level. A road will lead up to the training center and the practice fields behind it. The upper tier is beyond that.

The field is ready for play and the U.S. Soccer has arrived. The training facility is currently under construction and Frainie estimates its completion by May. In two years, after the games are over, it is slated for a conversion into a restroom/concession area, with space for offices.

Reaping The Benefits

Funding for this project comes out of the city's budget. The benefits, however, can hardly be ignored. Doyle estimates construction costs to be about \$2.3 million with an operating cost of about \$75,000 per year. The economic benefits for the city may be anywhere between \$500,000 and \$4 million. Although there will be no direct income for the city, visitors and players will spend money on gas, food, hotels, restaurants, apartments, and in local stores.

"It will certainly help our economy," Doyle says.

Besides the practice games for the U.S. team on the newly constructed field, games between the U.S. team and other foreign and college teams will be played at the local high schools. Much of the concession money will go to the Mission Viejo Soccer Foundation.

The money the World Cup will generate all over the country is staggering. Some of the biggest names in merchandise are sponsors of the World Cup. Not missing the advertising boat are Coca-Cola, Gillete, MasterCard, McDonalds, and Snickers.

What is most important to Sampson is the team's ability to catapult the game of soccer into an unheard of popularity.

"This is the greatest single sporting event in the world and the finest playing surfaces in the world," Sampson explains. "We have everything to gain and lose."

Sampson feels that if the U.S. Team can get beyond the second round, it will be a significant accomplishment.

"I think we will be very competitive," he adds.

As for the *construction* team, there is still time for them to become serious soccer fans. □

CHEMICAL LOG

Herbicides At Work In Turf Renovation

The Waukegan, IL, Park District faces a challenge common to municipalities nationwide—maintaining high-visibility parks and athletic fields. To keep its grounds in the kind of shape its users have come to expect, this well-respected district uses a number of tools. Herbicides, in addition to cultural and mechanical practices, play a vital role.

"Herbicides provide the right tool for the job," says Greg Petry, Waukegan Park District superintendent and president-elect of the Sports Turf Managers Association. "They're a great tool for keeping weeds in check. If you have a maintenance routine set up to make parks safe, you are, in essence, doing the same things that are going to make them beautiful."

Located in the predominantly urban area between Milwaukee and Chicago, the Waukegan Park District staff maintains 360 acres of parkland and 14 athletic fields. According to Petry, broadcast herbicide applications work best on areas that receive high traffic or are particularly unsightly.

Integrating herbicides with mechanical measures produces the best overall maintenance program, says the superintendent. For Waukegan, the cost of herbicide treatment is one dollar per thousand square feet. Asked how the cost compares to those of mechanical measures, Petry says simply, "It doesn't—that would be comparing apples to oranges. We haven't done a cost analysis because it's obvious that herbicides are more effective and economical."

In addition to saving money, time, and manpower, herbicides offer long-term weed control. Mechanical weed control methods, such as using a sod cutter to scalp weeds, are less effective.

"Scalping weed isn't very beneficial because crew members only scalp the top growth," Petry explains. "The roots remain intact and eventually sprout again. An herbicide, like Roundup provides about 95 percent control of weeds."

The park district maintains a symbiotic relationship with the nearby school dis-

trict. The school districts' athletic program, while secondary to education, is an important component of the system. Limited funds have led the two districts to frequently lean on one another.

"Our district has the expertise, equipment, knowledge, and skills to help them renovate and maintain their athletic fields," says Petry. "By the same token, we use their baseball diamonds for park-related activities. It's a good tradeoff—it makes for a strong working relationship."

When renovating football fields for local schools, crew members apply Roundup

In addition to saving money, time, and manpower, herbicides offer long-term weed control.

as a burndown treatment. Applied with a tractor-pulled boom sprayer, the herbicide is *always* used at recommended label rates.

After the burndown, crew members core aerify the field, followed by broadcast, slit-seeding with desirable grass seed and topdressing. "Apply some fertilizer and you have the field back in shape," Petry says.

For spot spraying undesirable vegetation after the renovation, the department applies Trimec™ at recommended rates with a backpack sprayer. This herbicide is used to control broadleaf weeds, clover, and knotweed.

Petry and his crew also use herbicides for weed control around parking lots, side-

walks, fence lines, and bleachers. "The best philosophy regarding herbicides is 'spray only when necessary,'" Petry emphasizes. "It is important to follow safety precautions and spray herbicides at proper rates."

The district uses a combination of in-house and private contractor spraying. Even contracting out the work can be more expensive, companies usually guarantee that weeds will not grow back, says Petry. If necessary, reapplications are at the contractor's expense. Because of the contractor guarantee, the crew need only follow up with minor spot spraying in the fall. Petry employs two crew members who perform 99 percent of the in-house spraying. Both are licensed by the State of Illinois for pesticide application.

"Besides the contractor, Arthur Clesen, Incorporated, our distributor, has given us a lot of support," says Petry. "They've helped teach our employees about how herbicides should be used."

Other cultural practices the district uses include aerifying, fertilizing, topdressing, and overseeding. If kept up on a seasonal basis, turfgrasses are more likely to out-compete, Petry adds, which is one of the district's long-term maintenance goals.

"Incorporating different vegetation management measures into our program is a balancing act," Petry says. "You need to set your priorities and stay with them to make it work. As a result, the Waukegan Park District has brought its grounds to a point where significant weed problems no longer exist."

The determination to do the job right has been recognized, and not just by the thousands of people who use the parks and athletic fields. The district won the STMA's Best Park and Municipal Diamond of the Year in 1988-1989, a distinction that still makes Petry proud.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gil Landry



Change has come to the world of associations according to Michael Skinner, Ph.D. In an article entitled, "Winning



Associations Find a Way," which appeared in the quarterly newsletter of the Olson Management Group called *Outreach*, Skinner notes associations are merging, expanding, downsizing, and becoming extinct.

Let's see how the Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) compares with Skinner's findings. You might find, as I did, this information is somewhat applicable to your personal performance as well. Skinner suggests the best associations have the following characteristics:

They have and use an updated strategic plan. STMA's plan includes such goals as regional institutes, an annual conference and trade show, working with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) to create construction and maintenance standards for recreational facilities, and the development of a professional certification program.

The best associations are member-driven. Membership provides energy through active committees; staff helps supply focus. STMA has more than a dozen committees including member services, chapter relations, finance, communications, etc.

Image of the industry is of special concern. STMA has worked hard through this magazine and other national publications to enhance the image of sports turf management. Our code of ethics fosters professional image-building.

Well-run associations are politically active. The best associations have members involved in the political process. Lobbyists can be effective; however, members contracting legislators is equally effective. STMA's

The best associations have members involved in the political process.

involvement in the field standards issue with ASTM is a good example of a political process driven by members.

It is necessary to constantly work on updating membership services. The best associations constantly revise services to reflect membership needs. Practically every activity of STMA address this issue. In addition to those services already mentioned, we're producing a membership directory, developing technical materials, fostering chapter involvement, etc.

The best associations provide service to their community. This means associations give back to those communities supporting their membership. STMA provides awards and scholarships annually at the national and local level in support of its communities.

Well-run associations are leaders for change. The association communicates well with its members and constantly works to provide better services. STMA formally communicates with its members through a bi-monthly newsletter, this magazine, and national publications and chapter newsletters. In 1992, STMA Public Relations Committee produced more than 30 technical articles, and is working to develop a technical resource committee that can help solve problems for members.

Winning associations set standards for the entire industry. The best associations help police their respective industry and set ethical and performance standards for its membership and the public. STMA's activity with ASTM and its interest in developing a professional certification program are good examples.

Finally, the best-run associations exemplify a well-run service business and act as role models for the membership. In 1992, the STMA Board of Directors worked hard to develop trust with its members and the industry. That process continues in 1993, and is already producing desirable results.

Skinner summarizes his observation with this: "Winners find a way; losers find a reason." He also points out it is easy to find a reason to justify the loss, but success takes time, effort, and courage.

Skinner concluded his article by asking, "Are you willing to find a way?" STMA is. The best measure of STMA's efforts are found in the fact that after some tough years and changes in management in 1992, we are retaining a significantly higher percentage of our members than most associations. STMA may have stumbled, but we're back on our feet—and with our members' courage, effort, and time on our side, we are finding a way to succeed.