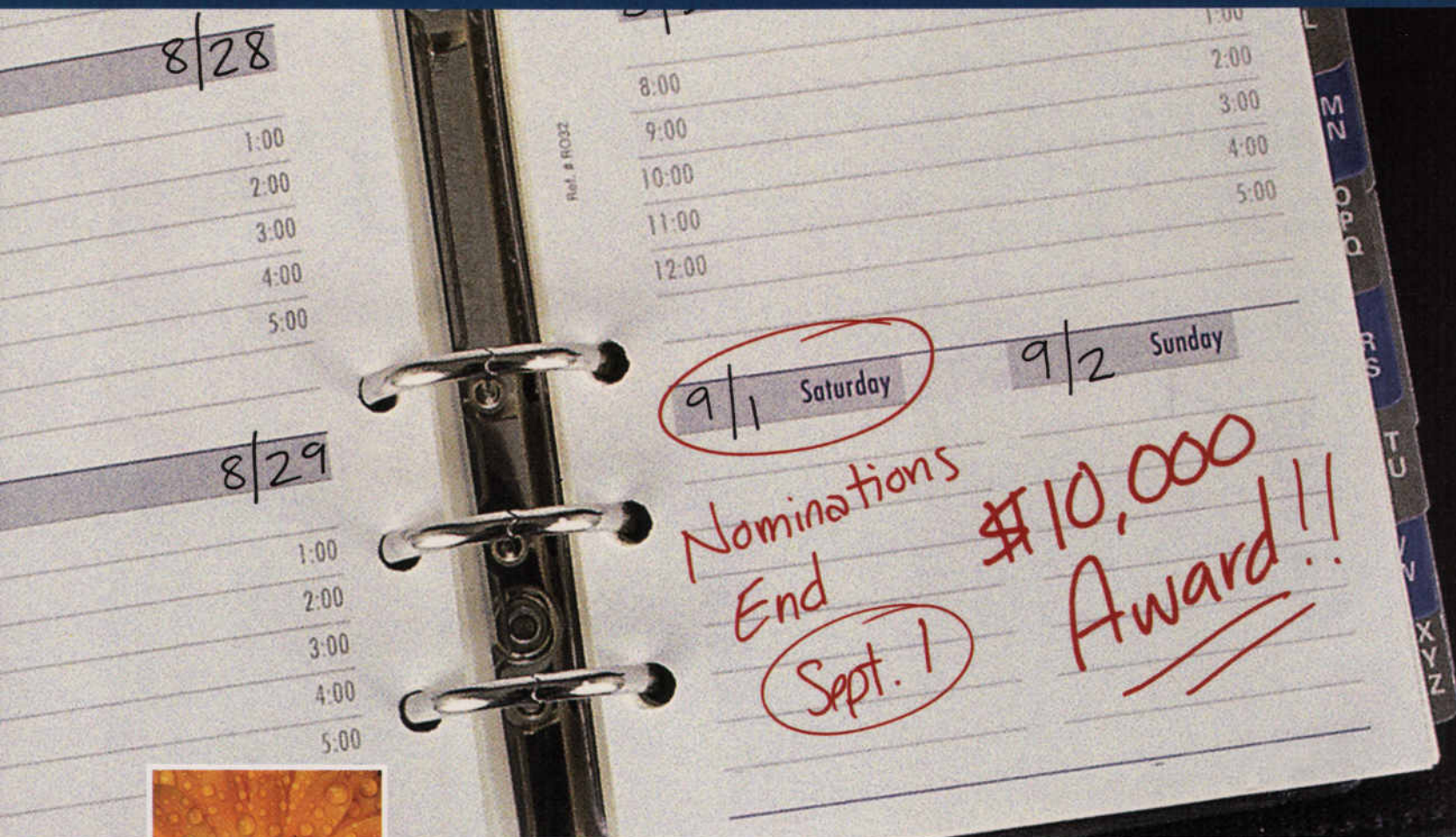


Your water-conserving landscape project
just might be award winning.



Nominate your project for the Rain Bird® Intelligent Use of Water™ Award. The Intelligent Use of Water Award serves to reinforce Rain Bird's commitment to bring about even greater knowledge and awareness of the need to use water responsibly. This award recognizes projects that have raised the standard for landscape water conservation. One project will be selected to receive a **\$10,000** award. Individuals and organizations are eligible. To nominate a project, go to www.rainbird.com/awards. Nominations close **September 1, 2007**.

The Intelligent Use of Water.™

— [LEADERSHIP • EDUCATION • PARTNERSHIPS • PRODUCTS]

RAIN  **BIRD**®

Fill in 119 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-119>

FACILITY & OPERATIONS

acre active area includes six soccer fields, two baseball fields, three softball fields, outdoor ice skating rinks, tennis courts, a basketball court, a playground, a 280-car parking lot, a concessions building, and a maintenance facility. The passive use area is divided into a parcel that is a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve, and a transitional area from the Nature Preserve to the active use area. The Nature Preserve is an extension of one the Village had already dedicated to the State several years ago, which borders the southern edge of the property. The transitional area has trails for cross-country skiing and hiking, and a picnic shelter. The park opened in the spring of 2001 and hosts on average 2,500 events per season. North Park has won several local awards as an outstanding facility and STMA's 2006 Complex Field of the Year for Schools and Parks.

The first step in planning a project like North Park is to become educated about the basics of athletic field and park construction. Attend every seminar and read every article you can that has information

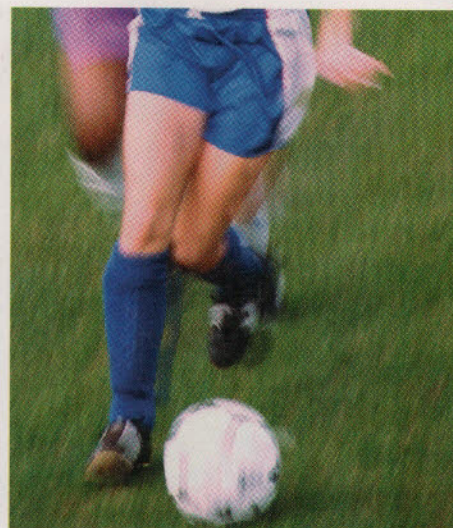
about facility construction. Join professional associations like the STMA, which provides an excellent opportunity to develop contacts with other professionals who have done similar projects. This was perhaps the most important thing that I did that led to the successful development of North Park.

Through contacts I made with the STMA, I was able to discuss several key issues before and during the construction process with my peers in the sports turf industry. My membership in the STMA led to the development of a professional relationship with Ken Mrock, Head Groundskeeper of the Chicago Bears, who was brought in as a consultant on the project. I cannot overstate how valuable Ken's knowledge and experience was to the project's overall success.

When considering completing a project, planning is the key. We formed a committee that included government officials who would control the funding, representatives of the sports league that would be



Membership in the STMA led to a professional relationship with Ken Mrock of the Chicago Bears, who was extremely valuable to the project's success.



TIFSPORT BERMUDAGRASS

IT'S IDEAL FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS OF ALL STRIPES

TifSport Bermudagrass has great color. It recovers very rapidly from day-in and day-out abuse and injury. It has a much finer texture than Tifway 419 and most other bermudagrass varieties. It's also extremely cold tolerant, which makes it ideal for fields in the transition zone. Overseeding TifSport is a routine job as well. It provides an excellent base for ryegrass and ryegrass blends. If you're looking for a certified bermuda

that can stand up to the stress and demands of big-time sports, to the wear and tear from the cuts, starts and sudden stops you get from football and soccer cleats, to the punishment of baseball spikes, relax, you've found it - TifSport. It's what many experts are calling the new standard in sports turf for the 21st century. For more info and a list of licensed growers visit our website or call 706 542-5640.

TIFSPORT
www.tifsport.com



The 28-acre active area includes six soccer fields, two baseball fields, three softball fields, outdoor ice skating rinks, tennis courts, basketball court, and a playground.

the primary user's group, interested environmentalists who were concerned with the use of the natural area of the park, and the staff who would oversee the construction and be responsible for maintenance. This group worked with the architect to complete the design process.

Having a diverse membership on the planning committee was absolutely critical in determining the final product. Each faction was able to present the concerns and ideas that were important to them so that all of the important issues were incorporated into the design process. Also, the communication that took place up front between all of the interested parties led to everyone being on the same page when it came to the expectations for the final product and the level of maintenance and associated costs involved for the future of the facility. This process was absolutely crucial to the success of the construction and long-term maintenance of North Park.

During planning it is important to discuss:

- Expected type and level of use for the fields
- Available budget

- When the fields are available for play
- Required maintenance level to meet user expectations

By getting a consensus on these important issues, it allows for the design of a facility that will meet the users needs, and that can be maintained at the level necessary to allow for the best possible experience of the athletes using the field.

After the design process is completed, the next step is creating the specifications that you want the contractor to work with to complete the project. This is an extremely critical component of the development process. The specifications are a legal document, and should contain the exact methods and materials that you will be requiring for developing the final product as designed. The "tighter" the specifications, the less likely that there will be disputes with the contractor, and making it much more difficult for the contractor to cut corners and deliver an inferior product.

As the specifications are being developed, you will want to check with any government agencies that have jurisdiction in your area for

Membership Application

SportsTurf MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Experts on the Field, Partners in the Game.

Name _____ Title _____

Employer/ Facility _____

Business Home

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Signature _____

Direct Supervisor Name _____

Membership Category:

- Sports Turf Manager \$110
 Sports Turf Manager Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same facility) \$75

Please select the primary facility type where you are employed:

- Professional Sports Higher Education Schools K-12 Parks and Recreation

- Academic \$95
 Student (verification of enrollment) \$25
 Commercial \$295
 Commercial Associate* (Additional member(s) from the same commercial company) \$75

- Affiliate (Person who is indirectly or on a part-time basis, involved in the maintenance/management of sports fields) \$50

- Chapter Dues (contact headquarters for amount)
Chapter name) _____ \$ _____

- Contribution To SAFE Foundation (research, education and scholarship): \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Method:

- Check Money Order Purchase Order #: _____

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover

Name on Card _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

*There must already be a national sports turf manager from your facility or commercial member from your company before you may sign up in the Associate category.

Phone: 800-323-3875 **www.sportsturfmanager.org**

Fill in 121 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-121>

Fax to: (785) 843-2977

Or mail with payment to:
Sports Turf
Managers Association
P.O. Box 414029
Kansas City, MO 64141

"I know I am a better sports turf manager because of this association. As sports turf managers, we take the challenge seriously to make our fields the best possible for the next game. The resources I have access to through STMA helps me do it."

— Bob Campbell, CSFM
Higher Education
Membership Segment

Cut
Here
to
Fax
or
Mail



The "tighter" the specifications, the less likely there will be disputes with the contractor.

AerWay®

AerWay® delivers Speed

AerWay® can aerate the typical playing field in less than 30 minutes, without taking it out of play. More frequent aeration treatments reduce compaction, speeds drying of the field when it rains, and makes more efficient use of water when it's dry.



for more information call

1-800-457-8310

Advanced Aeration Systems

www.aerway.com email: aerway@aerway.com

Fill in 167 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-167>

permitting requirements. Some agencies have a very long process that must be completed before a permit for work can be issued. Timing for an athletic field project can be critical, especially if turf establishment is involved.

It can be very frustrating to have everything in place and ready to go to start your project and then be delayed for weeks or even months waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers or your local county or state agency to issue a permit. Once the construction process has started, be sure that all of the requirements set forth in any permits are followed to avoid stop work orders that can significantly delay the completion of your project.

Keep talking

Before beginning construction, hold a pre-construction meeting to establish communication between all of the parties involved in the project, and answer any questions that the contractor may have regarding the construction process. Once the project is begun, consider holding weekly, or as often as is necessary, construction update meetings to address any issues that may come up.

Having a good line of communication with all of the people involved in the development of a project is a big advantage and assists in keeping a project on pace and running smoothly. It allows you to keep the owners or managers of your facility informed on the project's status with timely information when necessary.

Keep on top of the project by making daily site visits. Observe the methods being used to construct the facility and watch to make sure the materials specified are correct and are being handled properly.

Point out problems to the contractor as soon as they are observed so that they can be addressed promptly. As components of the facility are completed, make sure that a thorough final inspection is accomplished and that all deficiencies found are corrected before signing off on an item and authorizing payment. This simple step can save you tremendous headaches down the road, and will help to insure that you deliver the final product that was envisioned in the planning process.

The number one key to planning and constructing an award-winning field is communication. It starts with communicating with

peers in your industry to educate yourself on the proper methods and means to construct a facility. It involves communicating with the potential users of your field, the financiers of the project, and other interested parties to reach a consensus on the facility's use.

Communication with regulating entities assures compliance with legal requirements and can ensure that the project development starts on time. Communicating with the contractor performing the work and keeping the people involved in the planning on the project's status keeps everyone on the same page and avoids unrealistic expectations. By maintaining excellent communication between all parties during the entire development process, a successful plan will be created leading to a facility that meets the needs of the primary users, and can be maintained to the expected level. ■

Scott Pippen is Superintendent of Streets and Parks, Village of Lincolnshire (IL).



The number one key to planning and constructing an award-winning field is communication.

EVERGREEN™ Turf Blankets... ...trusted around the world!

**“Results Outstanding...
Could Not Believe...”**

wrote **Dann Daly**, Park Maintenance Supervisor,
Parks & Recr. Dept., North Smithfield, RI

- Earlier spring green-up
- Faster seed germination
- Deeper root development
- Delays dormancy in fall
- Ideal winter blanket
- 3 & 7 yr. warranty covers
- Best for quick turf repairs
- Available in any size

Want to know more?
CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-387-5808

COVERMASTER™
COVERMASTER
COVERMASTER

MASTERS IN THE ART OF SPORTS SURFACE COVERS



Covers for football and soccer fields are also readily available.



Covered... Uncovered...



It works on the greenhouse principle, every time!

covermaster.com

E-MAIL: info@covermaster.com



COVERMASTER INC., 100 WESTMORE DR. 11-D, REXDALE, ON, M9V 5C3 TEL 416-745-1811 FAX 416-742-6837

Fill in 122 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-122>

Top 5 Painting Recommendations, Part 1



We asked several top turf managers for their "Top 5" recommendations when it comes to painting or marking their football fields. We'll share some this month and the rest in the August issue:

Five P's to Proper Painting

1. Plan out the job.

- Make sure all equipment, materials, supplies are on hand
- Schedule the days and times based on time of year (frost, rain, snow, day-length, drying time) and scheduled games/events.
- Make sure enough people are scheduled and trained to perform the job in a timely manner.
- Have stencils made and on hand for quick, professional logo and decoration painting.

2. Prepare the surface

- A good paint job is further enhanced with an aesthetically pleasing surface (clean, level and uniform green color)
- For natural grass fields good agronomics promote good footing (soil stability and paint longevity), level surface (proper mowing practices), and uniform color (proper fertility and irrigation).
- Set "benchmarks" around the perimeter of the playing field to eliminate the need to measure each time. Football "layout" sets are available from industry suppliers or you can make your own



Pioneer®
 P: 800.877.1500
 F: 800.877.1511
 www.pioneerathletics.com

"The Striping People"

Member
SportsTurf
 MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

Synthetic Turf Council
STTC
 CERTIFIED
 SERVICE EQUIP

Advanced Field Paint & Striping Equipment Technology



Natural Grass Paints

- Premium Paint Formulas for all Levels of Athletic Events
- Highest Quality Bulk and Aerosol Blends
- Standard and Custom Colors Available
- Paints used by NFL Teams, Universities, High Schools and Parks and Recreation Departments



Synthetic Turf Paints & Coatings

- Specially Formulated for Exceptional Brightness and Durability
- Quick and Easy Removable Paint System for any Event
- Restore and Revitalize Synthetic Turf
- Conceal Inlaid Markings
- Sports Antimicrobial Coating

Fill in 123 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-123>



(for natural grass fields benchmarks can be 6-inch nails punched through a folded brightly colored ribbon and driven into the ground along the sidelines and backlines). Stretching a string from one nail to the other located across the field will provide each 5-yard line while a string stretched from one endline to the other will provide the top/bottom of the numbers and hashmark locations. The head of the nail should be at least 1/2 inch below the soil surface and should not be placed within the actual playing field for safety reasons.

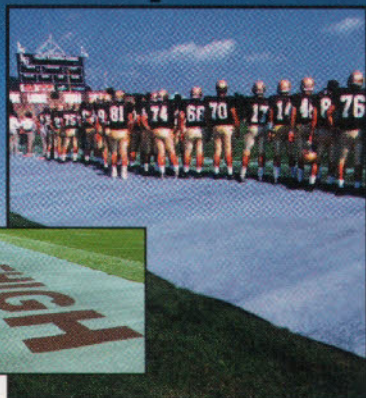
- When measuring for field lines or setting benchmarks always use a steel tape measure to minimize any tape stretching for more accurate measurements.

3. Proper paints and paint mixing

- Use paint made for natural turfgrass or synthetic surfaces (they are different).
- Mixing area should be in a safe and convenient location (paint and mixed paint

It's your turf – keep it safe...

FieldSaver™ Football Sideline Covers – only from CoverSports USA



FieldSaver™ Sideline Tarps can be personalized to your specifications

- Save your sidelines - real grass or artificial turf
- Heavy-duty construction stands up to the toughest football teams
- Durable polypropylene fiber lets air and water pass through
- 5 Stock sizes from 14' x 50' to 14' x 150'
- We will customize by size, school name and logo
- Full field rain covers also available

Protects and preserves your sidelines

COVER SPORTS USA
A Division of Humphry Manufacturing

Your All-American Advantage

5744 Woodland Ave., Phila., PA 19143
800.445.6680 Fax: 215.724.8706

www.coversports.com
email: sales@coversports.com

GSA Contract # GS-07F-6052P

© 2006 CoverSports USA

Fill in 130 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-130>

WE'RE ON YOUR TURF.

MAKING LIFE EASIER

THE TD-460, TYCROP'S DEDICATED LARGE AREA TOP DRESSER, WILL HAVE EVEN THE MOST EXPANSIVE TURF SAFE FOR PLAY IN NO TIME FLAT.

1-800-845-7249 WWW.TYCROPTURF.COM



FINANCED PROVIDED BY:



Fill in 131 on reader service form or visit <http://oners.hotims.com/13971-131>