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Some people want to live in a community built around a golf course. Goodyear, AZ is betting that people will want to live in a community built around a baseball field.

The Cleveland Indians are building a new stadium in Goodyear, a suburb of Phoenix on a 242-acre site about 30 miles west of downtown Phoenix. The 10,000-seat stadium will be the centerpiece of a project called Ballpark Village.

Ground was broken in 2007 and the Indians hope to play at their new home starting next year, in the spring of 2009. That will make them the 13th team in the Cactus League.

In all, there will be six fields at Ballpark Village. “This isn’t just a spring training facility,” says Jim Folk, the Indians’ vice president of ballpark operations. He notes that the team will have a complete player development complex about a quarter-mile from the ballpark.

Folk says the complex will be used for instructional league play, rehabilitation for players, and as a facility where players can work on their skills during the off-season.

The vision, Folk continues, is that players will relocate to the area and be able to work at the facility with the Indians staff on a year-
round basis. It will be more convenient for the players. "It's a great opportunity for us to enhance player development," he says.

"We will have one practice field that will be virtually identical to Progressive Field (the team's home field in Cleveland)," Folk says. The other five fields will be standard ball fields. In addition, there will be batting tunnels, pitching mounds, agility fields and the workout and rehabilitation facilities that are part of a modern ball club.

**Viewing the fields**

The turf for the Stadium field and the practice fields is being grown by West Coast Turf Farms. It is a Tifway 419 bermudagrass.

Through the winter, the bermuda was dormant. However, they are taking bimonthly soil samples for analysis of the growing medium.

"Tifway normally goes dormant through the winter in Arizona," says Joe Traficano, sales manager for West Coast Turf's Arizona operations. Tifway has been around for decades and is a proven sports field performer. It has a medium-fine texture, and rich dark green color. In addition to baseball fields, it commonly is used for golf course tees and fairways.

In the spring, when the grass comes back, it will be mowed every other day at a height of one-half inch.

The grass is fed via fertigation with some supplemental granular material based on soil test. "Typically, we'll use a 10-34-0 analysis and perhaps some 21-0-0 ammonium sulfate," Traficano continues. "It might be a bit different based on the soil test."

They also run close checks on the micronutrients like calcium, sodium, and magnesium.

While bermudagrass typically would be overseeded in the winter, that step was skipped this season since there is no need to keep the green color. "It will green up in the spring," Traficano says.
ing will actually depend on how quickly the rest of the project is completed. The turf installer is typically the last contractor on the job, following the sand, irrigation, and warning track installation. "We're the caboose of a big train," Traficano laughs. "But I want to be done by July so they can make their August turnover date."

A lot of preparation has gone into making it a success.

**Stadium design**

The design work was done by HOK Sport, Kansas City, the same outfit that designed the team's Cleveland home, Progressive Field. Also on the design team was Terra Sport, Port Charlotte, FL. The general contractor on the job is Phoenix-based Barton-Alow.

"Our association with Progressive Field did not hurt any," acknowledges Brian Smith, senior associate with HOK Sport. "But the project I would most liken this one to is the stadium in Surprise (Arizona) that we did for the Royals and Rangers 5 years ago."

There are differences between the Stadium field and the six practice fields, although the latter are all similar.

"The dimensions on the ballparks will be fairly generic," Smith continues. No effort made to design a field with any remarkable dimensions or construction differences.

West Coast Turf Farms is supplying the Tifway 419.
"We were striving for a solid design," Smith says. "They are fairly prototypical in that there is nothing eye-catching about the fields."

There was still some question at press time as to whether the same sod will be used on all of the stadiums. "That would be the ideal situation," Traficano says, looking at both installation and on-going maintenance. "It makes sense to do that."

The Stadium field itself is designed to major league standards. There will be a 4-inch gravel drainage base with a perforated pipe under-drain system.

Above that is the 10-inch rootzone that will drain to the lower level.

"We'll skinny the rootzone to 8 inches on the practice fields," Smith says. The six full-size practice fields and the one half-field will otherwise be about the same as the Stadium field.

The two major league fields will be reserved for use by the Indians year-round. The six practice fields will be for minor league and community use. There is no specific local commitment yet on those fields. At present, the city is hoping to use them for senior tournaments and community recreational use.

"This isn't just a spring training facility."

— Jim Folk

Beyond baseball

There is more than baseball at Ballpark Village. Spearheaded by the City of Goodyear, Ballpark Village will be a first of its kind mixed-use development anchored by the 10,000-seat ballpark and practice facilities for the Indians and, potentially, a second Major League Baseball team. The first phase of the project will be the construction of the Spring Training ballpark and practice facilities. Subsequent phases will be private, mixed-use development including residential, retail, hotel, and conference facilities, and Class A office serving Phoenix area residents and visitors.

"The City is doing all of the heavy lifting on this project," Folk says. "Their people are terrific." Of course, the Indians have input into what happens at the ball field.

In a way, this move back to Arizona will be a homecoming for the Indians. They trained a bit farther south, in Tucson, until 1993. Their current spring home is in Winter Haven, FL. They moved there after the Homestead, FL, site they had built was destroyed by Hurricane Andrew.

A private consortium that includes Goodyear-based developer Rose Properties Southwest, LLC; the Wood family, fourth-
Where this project is different, Judson says, is that there will be more, higher-density development around the sports facility. Judson sees the likelihood of a couple of million square feet of office, entertainment, hotel and residential development over the coming many years.

"It's important to provide the amenities," Judson continues. "This will be a great civic gathering place for games, of course, but also for the rest of the year. The ballpark will be the catalyst for this."

The result, he predicts, will be a "cool, active environment."

"This speaks to the vision of the community of Goodyear," Judson says. "They are learning from the successes of other communities in the Valley of the Sun (Phoenix area) and are trying to improve upon that."

The field should be good for the Indians, too. In fact, Smith went out on a limb about the new design and said it "guarantees" that the Indians will win a World Series the season that they start practicing in the new facility.

"Tell Jim Folk he can take that to the bank," Smith laughs.

Chris Harrison is a veteran freelance writer on turf issues.
NTEP Policy Committee slates upcoming trials, new trials

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Policy Committee met in February and slated trials in 2008 including bentgrass (putting green and fairway/tee) and fineleaf fescue. Each trial will include a total 17 trial locations, which includes several ancillary trials sites. Ancillary trials test cultivar response to specific stresses or under unique environmental conditions. For example, the bentgrass and fineleaf fescue ancillary trials will be conducted on one site each that is irrigated with saline or recycled irrigation water.

Other ancillary trials will focus tolerance to stresses such as snow mold (bentgrass putting green), traffic (bentgrass putting green and fineleaf fescue); and shade (bentgrass fairway/tee and fineleaf fescue). In addition, two bentgrass putting green locations will be established on courses where they will receive golf traffic.

Other items discussed during the meeting include NTEP's efforts to strengthen its data collection protocols and methods, visits to NTEP trial sites and two new trials in the planning stages. These new "trait specific trials" (see below) focus on the evaluation of drought tolerance and traffic tolerance, over multiple species.

The Policy Committee also took its cultivar testing in a new direction by establishing a new program, Trait Specific Trials (TSTs). Trait Specific Trials focus on the evaluation of specific traits or stresses, comparing multiple species in the same trial at several locations. NTEP feels that the TST program will address the demands of the American consumer by identifying grasses with improved tolerance to stresses such as low-quality irrigation water, low maintenance, drought, etc.

NTEP is excited to be partnering with the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA), through the SAFE (Safer Athletic Fields Environment) foundation, in developing and funding the traffic tolerance trials. STMA members and turfgrass researchers with traffic tolerance experience will be involved in determining trial protocols and locations.
How a one-man operation paints his fields

"The key I find to successful painting is taking time and having nice weather; now if I only had more time and lived where the weather is always nice. One thing that I cannot live without is aerosol paint because here in New England the weather is not always dry. The other thing I cannot live without is the Kromer. Being that I'm using 60 gallons a week, without it I'd spend all week painting and not much more than that and I like mowing and all the rest that goes along with it.

"Currently we are set for two baseball, one softball and eight lacrosse, so there is a lot of painting. Being efficient helps our fields look their best all the time."
New Titan Split tine

Toro has a new aeration tine with core-splitting technology, the Titan Split Tine, which simultaneously splits the core as it is pulled, breaking the core into smaller pieces. The smaller, partial cores created by the split tine are much easier to manage and will require significantly less time to dry. Quicker drying time means less waiting before processing, allowing you to complete the aeration process sooner and get your turf back in play.

The Toro Company
For information, fill in 056 on reader service form or see
http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-056

Eco-Liner SP athletic field marker

Newsstripe's new Eco-Liner SP is a walk-behind spray marker that adds the speed and convenience of being self-propelled. With the Qwik-Lock hands-free spray trigger, the unit offers the convenience of activating the spray trigger just once without having to continually squeeze the trigger while striping. A second squeeze of the trigger stops the spray. Weighing 125 lbs., the unit is maneuverable and easy to control.

Newsstripe
For information, fill in 070 on reader service form or see
http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-070

New Titan HydroSeeder

The all-new Finn Titan HydroSeeder package is loaded with a Tier III 170-hp engine; hefty pump configuration; dual discharge capabilities; independently controlled 3rd agitator; larger hatch and fillport; operator remote controlling system; advanced tank top support system; and more.

Finn Corporation
For information, fill in 058 on reader service form or see
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Honda trimmer
The HHT35S handheld trimmer is the most powerful trimmer in Honda Power Equipment's lineup and uses Honda's 3600 inclinable GX35 mini four-stroke engine known for its low noise level, low vibration level, and ease of starting. This model effectively bridges the weight gap with the two-stroke competition while delivering all the advantages of a four-stroke engine.

Honda Power Equipment
For information, fill in 060 on reader service form or see http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-060

New Redmax blower
RedMax introduces the ergonomically designed EBZ7100 backpack blower. The 64.9cc Strato-Charged "Green" engine moves up to 812 CFM of air at up to 205 MPH. With fewer moving parts, this engine requires less maintenance than its 4-cycle counterparts. No valve maintenance is required and the engine delivers improved fuel savings. An oversized, 2-stage fresh flow air filter system keeps debris from clogging the engine.

RedMax
For information, fill in 061 on reader service form or see http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-061

Tailgate mount for Giant-Vac
The new Giant-Vac Tailgate Mount Truck Loader quickly loads leaves and debris into a truck. The combination of the retractable discharge nozzle with the swivel discharge stack is designed to make it easier to unload the debris at the dumpsite without removing the unit. The new Industrial Skid Mount is available with a powerful 10-hp Kohler/Yamaha Command Pro engine.

Giant-Vac
For information, fill in 062 on reader service form or see http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-062

New Turf Tender blender option
Dakota Peat & Equipment has introduced a blender option for the 440 Turf Tender that allows you to blend materials on site. Blender can mix the perfect 90:10 topdressing mix or a wide variety of other materials including colored mixes with the sprayer option. The blender can mix at speeds as low as 1 ton per hour for small jobs like divot mixes or can mix as high as 60 tons per hour for bigger jobs.

Dakota Peat & Equipment
For information, fill in 063 on reader service form or see http://www.oners.hotims.com/14680-063