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For public sector facilities, GE Capital Public Finance, Inc., the world's largest equipment lessor, is available to provide low-cost, tax-exempt funding support and leaseback plans that are creative and flexible. This innovative financing support keeps lighting projects within budgets and without long delays, says the company.

Site-specific engineering services ensure each installation provides the specified illumination for any type of sports, on new or existing facilities. Assemblies come factory pre-aimed to match computer generated lighting models. GE Sports Lighting Systems local representatives coordinate the custom-engineered installations with local contractors. Systems are modular with plug-together connectors for fast job site assembly. Systems carry a standard 7-year or optional 10-year warranty. Competitively priced replacement lamps are readily available from local electrical distributors.

Various pole types and mountings are available to suit aesthetic preferences and budgets. Light fixtures can be configured with integral or ground level, remote ballast. For facilities with aerial equipment constraints, GE offers the SportStar(tm) lowering system, a complete package that uses a winch and cable drive system to lower light fixture assemblies to the ground.

Ballasts from GE Sports Lighting are engineered for more efficient operation, longer lamp life and lower energy consumption. To eliminate glare and spill light pollution, GE Sports Lighting reflectors feature a glare control option. The GE Powr•Spot(r) advanced two-stage reflector design captures and redirects light onto the playing field that would otherwise be wasted into the night sky or misdirected into the eyes of the players and spectators or onto adjacent properties. Used in major stadiums worldwide, the Powr•Spot luminaire provides color rendition suitable for both viewing and television broadcasting.

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## CUSTOM MATS

Pioneer can help keep entrances clean with their olefin-constructed mats that can be customized with your logo, slogan, or mascot. The company says these mats last for years and are easy to clean, and can be used outdoors or indoors without rotting, fading, or shrinking.

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## LITTERBOSS SWEEPER/VACUUM

Minuteman Parker has brought to market the LitterBoss rider-operated litter sweeper/vacuum. The LitterBoss offers the convenience and comfort of a ride-on at the cost of a walk-behind. The LitterBoss cleans more in less time than walk-behinds while reducing operator fatigue, says the company.

The LitterBoss was designed climb curbs up to 9 in. high and it will pick up broken glass, soda cans, cigarette butts, leaves, etc., without difficulty from sidewalks, curbs, parking lots, alleys and landscaped areas. The 12-ft. accessory hose vacuums up debris in hard to reach areas such as under and around picnic tables and benches, trees, signage, and fences.

Emptying the debris hopper is effortless and clean. The design of the LitterBoss' collection system uses a collection bag in the hopper to contain the debris while dumping without spillage. To keep dust to a minimum, the unit is equipped with front mounted spray jets that expel a light mist on demand while sweeping to control side broom dust and the hopper features an electronic filter shaker.

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The new Turf-Tec HoleMatic removes 1 1/2-in. soil cores out of the ground, 8 in. deep. Uses include setting PVC sleeves or pipe in the ground for PVC markers or temporary fences. French drains can be made in clay infields or baselines without drilling and mixing soil with infield mixes. Holes can be dug under trees to fertilize, or to set termite bait stations.

Simply place the HoleMatic over the soil and hit the anvil with a hammer until the unit is 8 in. in the soil, and the core is ejected out the specially designed shoot. Then pull up the handles to remove from the ground. Works in soft, hard, rocky, wet, or dry soils, says the manufacturer.

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## Clippings

# Getting Started

**Director of grounds shares insight into  
the challenges of Miller Park's 1st year**



The field at Milwaukee's Miller Park uses three types of bluegrass on a sand base, underlain with pea gravel and a compacted subgrade.

**M**ilwaukee's Miller Park, home of the Brewers, is only the fourth retractable-dome, turfgrass stadium in North America. Its first year, and Milwaukee's weather, posed many challenges.

The field uses three types of bluegrass (no ryegrass) on a sand base, underlain with pea gravel and a compacted subgrade. Proper drainage was a high priority in the design, but adverse weather hindered initial establishment of the turf.

Gary Vanden Berg, the Brewers' director of grounds, was in charge of getting the field ready in time for the Brewers' March 28 exhibition game.

"We couldn't put grass down until March 21," said Vanden Berg. "After it warmed up it was settling and we had to replace it every day for a two-week period."

The drainage lines were installed in December 2000, during harsh winter weather. Frost had to be chipped away to lay the lines.

Although the sand that was brought in for the field was heated to 120 degrees before being put down, the cold outdoor temperatures caused the sand to form into chunks.

"Putting this field in was the hardest thing I've ever done," said Vanden Berg.

Miller Park does not have a heated field, so weather continued to be a factor through May. The soil temperature did not get above 50 degrees during that time.

Miller Park's retractable dome roof adds the benefit of protection from inclement weather, but it also poses some challenges.

"We knew starting the field would be somewhat tricky not just because of cool weather," said Vanden Berg. "Shade was also going to be a challenge, because this facility, like other retractable domes, is taller than traditional ballparks and lets in less sunlight, even with the roof open."

According to Vanden Berg, at one point this season the roof had to remain closed for 5 days straight due to poor weather conditions.

Milorganite, a Milwaukee-based supplier of organic nitrogen fertilizer, helped Vanden Berg's crew deal with the challenges Miller Park posed by supplying two tons of Milorganite fertilizer.

According to Vanden Berg, Milorganite gave the field a boost without concerns of root burning.

The field is currently cut to a length of 1 1/2 in. after beginning the year at 1 1/4 inches. As the field becomes more established it will be cut to a length of 1 inch.

Vanden Berg's crew will replace the outfield this fall, because it was originally put down over frozen ground.

"Another year will make a world of difference," said Vanden Berg.

### Train turf techs

Penn State has developed the "Turfgrass and Agricultural Equipment Service Technicians Certificate" to train techs to meet specific needs. Participants in the program will upgrade their current skills in hydraulics, electronics, machinery management, engines, and power transfer, as well as gain hands-on experience with the latest in turfgrass industry equipment.

"By combining the years of industry-specific experience of the advisory committee and the teaching ability of our faculty, we really believe we have created a program that will train techs who will be indispensable to turfgrass operations," says Dr. James Hilton, program director and associate professor of ag engineering and education.

Courses will be delivered through four 8-week sessions over a period of 2 years. For information, call 814-863-1817 or email jwh2@psu.edu.

### Still time

Visit your local Cat rental store by the end of October and register to win a week's free rental of a Cat skid steer loader; 52 winners will be chosen and no purchase is necessary.

ST



# Midwest Chapter's "Tour on Wheels"

BY MIKE TRIGG, SUPERINTENDENT  
OF PARKS, WAUKEGAN, IL

MIDWEST CHAPTER MEMBERS AND GUESTS had an enjoyable day touring outstanding Chicagoland facilities and fields on August 24.

The tour began at Alexian Field, home of the independent Schaumburg Flyers of the Northern League. Eric Fasbender spoke about his first year as head groundskeeper and field maintenance practices on the 3-year-old field, and members toured the facility, which opened in 1999.

Next stop was Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Fire professional soccer team. Head groundskeeper John Nolan gave a field tour, describing field preparation and line painting for both football and soccer. John also spoke of the major renovation the stadium will undergo in 2002 and 2003.

Lunch stop was Northwestern University, where participants toured Ryan Field,

STMA 2000 College/University Football Field of the Year (see ST Aug 2001, p. 8).

Eric Adkins, CSFM, led the tour and later discussed his turf maintenance practices with the use of natural and organic fertilizers.

The "Tour on Wheels" then made its final stop for the day, at New Trier High School. Jules Lande, field manager, discussed his football field maintenance and game preparation practices. This field won the STMA Midwest Chapter's 1999 Field & Facility Award. Later, Tour on Wheels sponsor representatives presented equipment demonstrations and discussed their products.

The tour returned to Alexian Field in the western suburbs to view batting practice and pre-game warm-ups, enjoy a picnic dinner, and then watch the Flyers game.

ST



Opened in 1999, Alexian Field is home to the independent Northern League Schaumburg Flyers.



Venerable Soldier Field is due to undergo a renovation next year; selling its naming rights is causing controversy already, since the field is a memorial to the country's war dead.

## STMA Chapter News

**Florida Chapter #1:** The Florida Chapter is planning an Irrigation Seminar in at Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on October 16. The Chapter will again take part in the annual Turf Rodeo. This year's event will be held at Deerfield Beach on November 7. A meeting in the Village of Pinecrest is scheduled for December 5. For information on the Florida Chapter, or pending activities, call John Mascaro at 954-341-3115.

**Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO/STMA):** KAFMO will hold their Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing on Monday, October 22, 2001, beginning at 12 noon at the Overlook Golf Course in Manheim, PA. For information on the KAFMO/STMA Chapter, the golf outing or other upcoming events, contact Dan Douglas, Reading Phillies Baseball Club, at 610-375-8469, ext. 212; or e-mail to: kafmo@aol.com.

**MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:** The MO-KAN Chapter is planning a Sports Facilities Tour for October 24. Details will be announced soon. For information on the MO-KAN STMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Trevor Vance at 816-504-4271; Gary Custis at 816-460-6215; or Jody Gill at 913-239-4121.

**Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization (MAFMO/STMA):** The

MAFMO Chapter will hold its 2001 Design and Construction Seminar from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on October 25 at the Radisson Hotel Annapolis in Annapolis, MD. On the program are: Don Campbell, French & Associates, speaking on Field Design; Dan Shalloo, Musco Lighting, speaking on Lights; Tim Cleary, Turf Equipment & Supply Company, on Irrigation; Murray Cook, Brickman SPORTSturf Services, on Fixtures/Amenities; Dr. Dave Minner, Iowa State University, on Soil/Grading; and Larry French, French & Associates, on Storm Water Management related to the Clean Air & Water Act. For information on the MAFMO Chapter, or pending activities, call the Hotline at 410-290-5652.

**Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Nebraska Chapter is planning an October meeting at Haymarket Park in Lincoln, the new home of the University of Nebraska Huskers Baseball Team and Northern League Saltdogs. For information on the Nebraska Chapter, or upcoming events, call Gregg Bostelman, City of Grand Island, at 308-385-5426.

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** The Colorado Chapter is planning a Fall Turf Day at the new Invesco Field at Mile High. More details will be announced



## STMA Chapter News

soon. For information on the Colorado Chapter, or upcoming activities, visit the Chapter's website- [www.CSTMA.org](http://www.CSTMA.org)-or call the CSTMA Chapter Hotline at 303-346-8954.

**Midwest Chapter STMA:** Upcoming events for the Midwest Chapter include a Fall workshop at the Lincolnshire Sports Complex in October, and the annual North Central Turf Expo at Pheasant Run Resort in December in conjunction with the Illinois Turf Foundation and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. For information on the Midwest Chapter, or pending activities, call the Chapter Hotline at 847-622-3517.

**Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA):** The Tennessee Valley Chapter is planning an October workshop. Details on that event will be announced soon. TVSTMA is sponsoring a Tour on Wheels in conjunction with the Tennessee Parks and Recreation Association Meeting in Memphis on November 4-6. The Tour of Memphis area sites will include the Liberty Bowl, AutoZone Park, and the Germantown Parks and Recreation athletic facilities. The chapter also is holding a joint event in conjunction with the Kentucky Turfgrass Council in Bowling Green, November 5-8. For information on the TVSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call Bill Marbet, Southern Athletic Fields, Inc., at 931-380-0023 or 800-837-8062.

**Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA):** The OSTMA 4th Annual meeting and awards breakfast will be held at the Columbus Convention Center from 7:30 am to 8:30 am on December 5th in conjunction with the December 3-6, 2001, Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference. Featured will be a special Sports Turf Track and vendor displays with products for the sports turf manager. For information on the OSTMA Chapter, or upcoming events, call OSTMA Headquarters at 740-452-4541 or Boyd Montgomery at 419-885-1982; or visit the chapter's website at [www.glstma.org](http://www.glstma.org).

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** The Arizona Chapter will participate with the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation to present the 9th Annual Sports Turf Field Day and Equipment Show on December 7, 2001. The day's activities include presentations by guest speakers, seminars, and the opportunity to view vendor displays. The 6th Annual "Sports Turf" Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2001, the day before the show. For more information on these events, contact Larry Munoz, City of Yuma Parks and Recreation, at e-mail: [Larry.Munoz@CI.Yuma.az.us](mailto:Larry.Munoz@CI.Yuma.az.us) or tel. 520-329-2824. For information on the chapter, or other upcoming events, contact Bill Murphy, Recreation and Facilities Manager, City of Scottsdale Park, at e-mail: [bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:bmurphy@ci.scottsdale.az.us) or tel. 480-312-7954.

Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Anthony, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, at 314-977-2956.

**Indiana Chapter:** For information on the Indiana Chapter, or pending activities, call Terry Updike, B & B Fertilizer, at 219-356-8424.

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Iowa Chapter, or upcoming activities, contact Lori Westrum of The Turf Office at tel. 515-232-8222, or fax 515-232-8228, or e-mail: [Lori@iowaturfgrass.org](mailto:Lori@iowaturfgrass.org).

**Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA):** For information on the Chapter or other pending events, call Rick Jurries, West Ottawa Public Schools, at 616-738-6974, or go to [www.mistma.org](http://www.mistma.org) to visit the chapter's new website.

**Minnesota Chapter STMA:** For information on the Minnesota Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Ron Unger, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Kasson, at tel. 507-634-4165 or e-mail: [ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com](mailto:ParkNRec@CityofKasson.com).

**Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey:** For information on the New Jersey Chapter, or upcoming events, call Jim Gavigan, Lesco, at 732-248-8979; or call Eleanora Murfitt, Director, Township of Clinton Parks & Recreation Department, at 908-735-5999.

**North Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the North Texas Chapter, or pending activities, call Kayla McAfee at 972-234-6584 or Rene Asprion at 972-647-3393, or visit the website at [www.ntstma.org](http://www.ntstma.org).

**South Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:** The South Texas Chapter is planning an event for early October. More details will be announced soon. For information on the chapter, or upcoming events, call Tom McAfee, Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, San Antonio, at 210-207-3754.

**Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Virginia Chapter, or upcoming events, contact: Chapter Vice President, Randy Buchanan, County of Henrico Recreation and Parks, via e-mail: [buc06@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:buc06@co.henrico.va.us) or at 804-261-8213.

**Mid-South Chapter STMA:** For information on the Mid-South Chapter, or upcoming events, contact Robert Bodi at e-mail: [TURF419@aol.com](mailto:TURF419@aol.com) or Jim Calhoun at tel. 901-755-1305.

### Chapters On The Grow

**Las Vegas:** With the STMA Annual Conference & Exhibition headed for Las Vegas January 16-20, 2002, plans for the formation of a Las Vegas Chapter also are moving forward. For more information on the developing chapter, please contact Rod Smith, Grounds Manager/Cashman Center at e-mail: [rms@lvca.com](mailto:rms@lvca.com) or at tel. 702-386-7140.

**New York:** A chapter is forming in Central New York. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the National Soccer Hall of Fame. For more information, contact Kevin Meredith, National Soccer Hall of Fame, at e-mail: [Kevin@wpe.com](mailto:Kevin@wpe.com) or at tel. 607-432-2953.

**Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:** WSTMA will participate in the Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO to be held at the Marriott, Madison West, January 8-10, 2002. For more information on the Wisconsin Chapter, or other pending events, call Richard Miller at 608-756-1150.

**Northern California Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Nor-Cal Chapter, or pending events, call Janet Gift at 530-758-4200.

**Southern California Chapter:** For information on the Southern California Chapter, or pending activities, call Ron Kirkpatrick at 858-453-1755.

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:** For information on the Gateway

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**Media:** 100 MB Zip Disk, CD-ROM. We also accept files via e-mail and FTP, but only with production/FTP manager approval. Please call 312-977-0999 for information.

**Software:** QuarkXpress 4.0, Adobe Illustrator 9.0 (saved as EPS), Adobe Photoshop 5.5 (saved as EPS or TIFF). Please convert higher versions down. If you can only supply an IBM format, the file must be in viewable EPS or TIFF format with fonts embedded as that format.

**Compression Software:** Stuffit, PKZip, DiskDoubler (self-extracting archives preferred).

**Color:** CMYK. Please note that files using RGB or Pantone colors (PMS) must be converted to CMYK before we receive files.

**Resolutions -** 300 DPI and 133 line screens are recommended for black & white and color ads.

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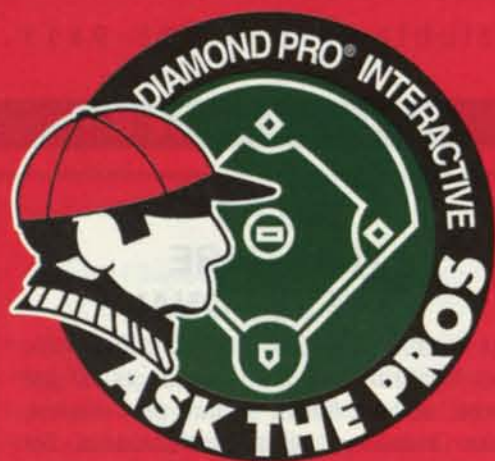
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## Q&A

BY DR. DAVE MINNER, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Two Sports too many

**I** have a question on our football field/baseball outfield. The baseball coach cuts the outfield at approximately 2 inches during the baseball season without watering the field and it has been dry. I have started watering the field and it has greened up but is not growing very fast. It needs to be thicker. I would like to get it to about 5 inches for football—does that seem about right?

**M**ultiple sports and multiple activities always lead to someone getting the short end of the stick. Every effort should be made to have separate fields for separate sports, i.e., baseball only, soccer only, and football only. Fields that receive autumn football and spring soccer only have from early June until mid-August to recover, and summer is the least desirable time to renovate with necessary practices like coring and reseeding.

In your case when spring or summer baseball follows autumn football the center outfield area is often left too worn out or rutted for baseball play. Like any good coach you are loyal to your sport, staff, and players. I suggest that the football and baseball coaches present a united front when talking to the school superintendent about getting separate and equal facilities for their respective sports; you deserve it. Multiple sports on single fields can lead to unsafe playing conditions and school superintendents should view this as a risk to students.

In the mean time here is what I suggest to make the grass perform the best that it can for both football and baseball. First and foremost realize that you both are responsible for the field 52 weeks out of the year, not just in the fall for football and in the spring/summer for baseball. A team effort here will make it better for both. You asked about the three basic turf inputs, water, mowing, and fertility, so I suspect that you both have been providing turf care during your respective season of play.

**Watering.** Stopping irrigation after baseball ends (mid-July) and before football practice begins (mid-August) is not a good idea. You need to start the season with the grass actively growing. Fields that receive baseball only may get by with irrigation only during the playing season, but since your administrator requires double duty on this field it is imperative that the field management plan allow for active growth and recovery of the field for 52 weeks out of the year.

Allowing the field's growth to slow or go summer dormant because of a lack of water is counter productive

to both sports (see *Sportsturf* August 2001 p. 46 for more on how to water). You need to think of the field as the 10th man in baseball or the 12th man in football—give it the respect that you would one of your players and it will be there for you when you need it most. The field doesn't know who's playing on it, but it does know when it is not being treated right.

**Mowing.** There are many Midwest high school football fields that are mowed in excess of 3.5 in. and your question asks if 5 in. would be suitable. My answer is no. Somewhere along the line the train jumped the track with this mowing height business. I suppose it's because of the old turf management adage that non-irrigated grass should be mowed taller in the summer. While this may have some truth it does not mean that excessively tall grass will withstand traffic more than shorter mowed grass.

Taller grass gives the appearance of covering the ground better, but it is a proven fact that taller grass produces fewer shoots per square inch and this reduces the density of plants covering the soil. I tell my students that as sports field managers (especially football), their job is to keep the player's cleats off the soil. Later they realize that this becomes a strategy for developing a thick cushion of mat and thatch to separate players from the soil and maintain the integrity of the surface.

The key to developing this mat layer is maintaining active turf growth in all seasons. Mowing at greater than 3.5 in. will reduce shoot density and reduce the overall mat layer that protects the field during intense traffic. Mowing frequency must also be considered when addressing mowing height. For your baseball/football use I suggest that you set the mowing height at 2-2.5 in. and that you plan on mowing the field twice a week during active growth

to insure that no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade is removed at each mowing. Clippings should rarely exceed 1 to 1.25 in. at this preferred mowing height.

To improve the field I would maintain active growth during both the baseball and football seasons by watering to keep the grass green and growing, mowing frequently at 2.5 in., and fertilizing in the spring and autumn. Your situation is not uncommon for high school fields in districts where the administration doesn't want or can't for some reason put sufficient resources towards playing field quality. If you continue down the path of limited watering and insufficient mowing, then you would be better off keeping a taller more drought tolerant mowing height. Just keep in mind you won't ever maximize the safety and playability of the field, let alone the performance of your players.

**ST**

### Have Questions?

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