

never assume you have adequate pressure—it's a critical design element that cannot be taken for granted."

So what exactly constitutes "high water pressure?" That depends on the sprays and rotors in use on a particular field. The vast majority of sports field playing surfaces are irrigated with larger rotors that have an accordingly larger distance of throw. "Most of my sports field customers irrigate their playing surfaces with rotors having a throw radius of 39 to 81 feet, or a throw radius of 39 to 64 feet," Dimmick said. "Due to their greater throw radius, the appropriate operating pressure for those rotors will be higher than, say, a rotor used in tighter areas, such as the areas between first and third bases and the fence line, or behind home plate and the backstop on a baseball field. The rotors used on the field itself may have a specified operating pressure range of anywhere from 30 to 100 psi; the smaller rotors or sprays used elsewhere will typically operate at a pressure range of 25 to 65 psi. However—just because your water pressure falls into the product's specified range doesn't mean that the rotor or spray is operating at maximum efficiency. It's important to check product specs or ask your local irrigation professional to determine the optimal pressure for your particular brand and model."

According to Dimmick, sprays typically have an optimum inlet pressure of 35 psi and smaller rotors operate their best at 45 psi. To help customers with high or fluctuating water pressure, Rain Bird has developed spray and rotor models with what the company refers to as "Flow Optimizer Technology." Inlet pressures up to 100 psi are effectively managed by integrated pressure-regulating stems (PRS) and ensure that these products always operate at optimum pressure levels.

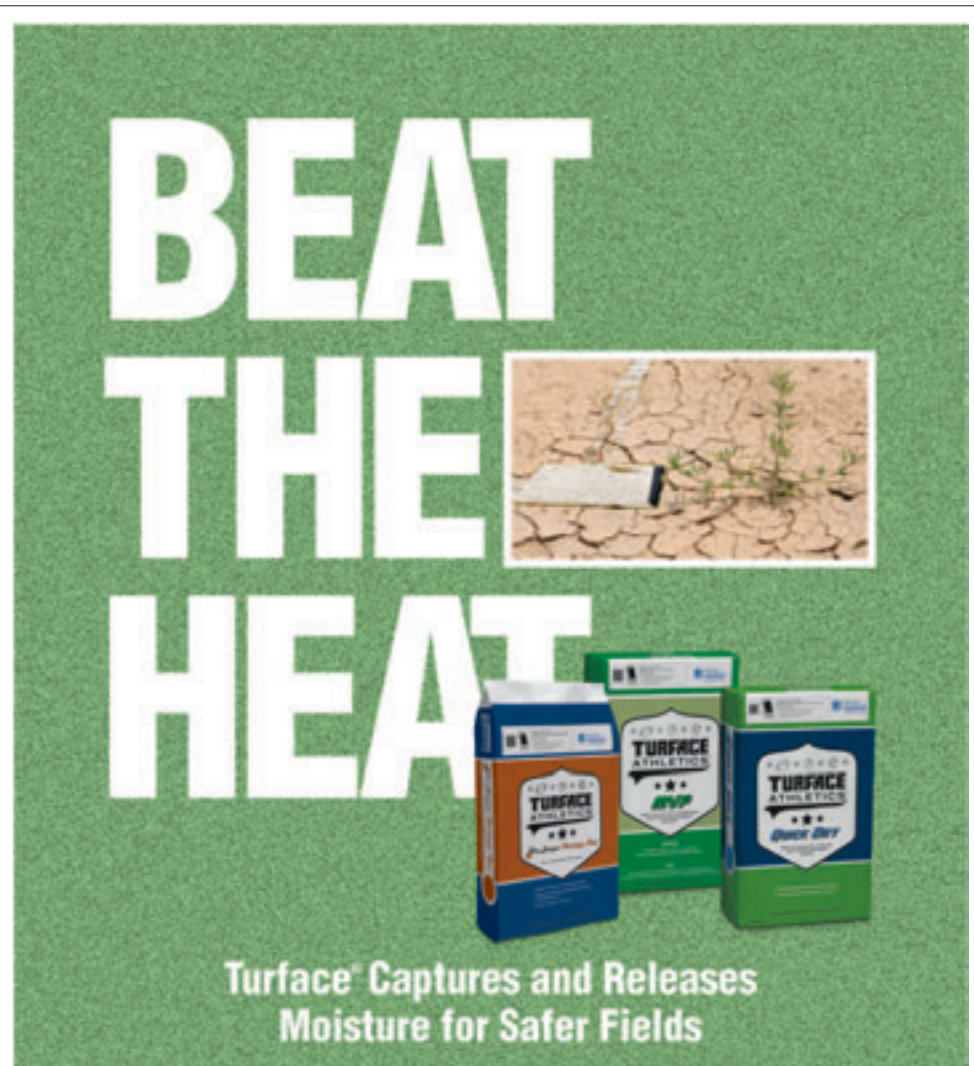
These particular products are very useful when irrigating areas off the field. But what about those larger rotors that water football, baseball or soccer fields? There are other ways to alleviate the problems associated with high or fluctuating water pressure. Pressure-regulating swing joints, for example, can also control and maintain a preset rotor inlet pressure. Like a pressure-regulating stem built into smaller rotors and sprays, these swing joints ensure optimal droplet size and eliminate misting, resulting in improved uniformity and reduced water consumption. They can also be used to provide the same pressure to each rotor on a zone in applications where high flow rates result in significant friction losses or where there are elevation changes.

It's also possible to regulate water pressure at the valve using a pressure-regulating module like Rain Bird's PRS Dial. This type of product

is specifically designed for use with commercial valves like those used in sports field irrigation systems. The module threads underneath the solenoid and adapter, effectively optimizing inlet pressure for all the rotors or sprays in an entire zone. However, while it's certainly better than not regulating pressure at all, regulating pressure at the valve may not be as accurate as using a pressure regulating swing joint or a sprinkler with in-stem pressure regulation. This is because the dynamic pressure—pressure while water is in motion—is constantly chang-

ing. When regulating pressure at the head rather than at the valve, the discharge pressure will be identical at each head, causing the heads to discharge the same amount of water.

"High or fluctuating water pressure can obviously have a tremendous impact on any irrigation system's efficiency and effectiveness," Dimmick said. "Given the higher prevalence of watering restrictions and rising water prices throughout the country, pressure regulation is a topic that deserves attention both on and off the field." ■



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Notes on becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager

BECOMING CERTIFIED is one of the personal accomplishments of which I am most proud. The decision to attempt to certify was based mostly on noble reasons but there was a little selfishness involved too. As the certification program was developing and gaining steam, it was important as a Sports Turf Managers Association Board member that I show complete support for one of the most exciting initiatives to roll out during my career. Also, I did not have a four-year degree so taking the challenging test and passing it was a way I could feel more assured as a sports turf management professional.

When I became certified I was the Athletics Turf Manager at Iowa State University, a position that leads students and helps prepare them for a future in this profession. I trusted that my becoming certified would demonstrate to students that no one ever stops learning and never stops striving to achieve.

The real beauty of the program is how it demands a CSFM to be active in promoting the profession.

The real beauty of the program is how it demands a CSFM to be active in promoting the profession. The Industry Service Points encourage CSFM's to be visible and active in writing, speaking, working, hosting and "representing" on behalf of, and for betterment of, the profession.

Specifically, giving presentations was (probably still is) one of my absolute terrors in life. Going through the exercise of developing and giving presentations certainly helped me immeasurably to be a better communicator within the sphere of our department. I'd like to think giving simple presentations has helped someone with a challenge they're facing in their career. That feeling of "giving back" to a friend or a colleague is most gratifying.

For personal and professional growth—regardless of it being field maintenance related or not—I feel the Industry Service Points element of being certified has impacted my career most deeply.

Mike Andresen is Facilities & Grounds Director at Iowa State in Ames, and a former president of the STMA. ■

Becoming a CSFM

I BECAME CERTIFIED the summer of 2009, the first year that I was eligible to take the test. My motivation was mostly to show my dedication to the profession and the STMA. I had had a lot of schooling, earning a few degrees from Michigan State, but I really wanted to show that Sports Turf was where I was dedicating my career. A smaller part of my motivation was to join the group of CSFM's that I respected so highly—a way to prove to myself that I belonged.

Since becoming a CSFM earning the Industry Service Points has been the most rewarding part. I enjoy giving talks at workshops and writing articles for our local chapter and *SportsTurf* magazine. I also enjoy volunteering on our local board and serving on national committees. I actually thought it would be the part of the process that would be the most difficult, but turns out I enjoy it the most.

We all have experiences that could help somebody; only by sharing those experiences will you ever be able to actually help. Helping people is one of the most rewarding parts of my career and I look forward to the next opportunity to do so.

BENEFITS TO YOU

- A valuable learning experience
- Recognition of achievement
- Increased earnings potential
- Commitment to excellence
- Increased educational opportunities

BENEFITS FOR YOUR EMPLOYER

- Increased professionalism
- Commitment to excellence
- Acknowledged accountability
- Dedication to cost effective facility management
- Commitment to field safety

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

The STMA firmly believes that a combination of education and experience are necessary to be the best possible athletic field manager. However, it also recognizes that in a profession as diverse as

the sports turf industry, experience should play a major role.

In order to successfully gain certification, you must meet certain education and/or experience requirements. These requirements were set to establish minimum criterion for becoming certified. You will notice, however, that there is a strong leaning toward experience as a sports field manager. For example, it is possible to be certified without having any formal education beyond high school if you have enough years of experience. You cannot, however, become certified by virtue of education alone.

A total of 40 combined education and experience points are required to take the certification examination.

*Education	Education Points
Advanced Degree	24
Bachelor's – Turf Related	16
Bachelor's – Other Non-Turf	8
Associate's – Turf Related	8
Associate's – Other Non-Turf	2
No Degree	0

Experience	Experience Points
Head Sports Turf Manager	6 pts. / year
Asst. Sports Turf Manager	3 pts. / year
Sports Turf Crew	1 pt. / year
**Golf Course Supt.	3 pts. / year
**Asst Golf Course Supt.	1.5 pts. / year

EXAMINATION

The examination for certification covers four major areas of sports field management: agronomics, pest management, administration and sports-specific field management. If you are committed to increasing professionalism in the sports turf industry, if you are interested in providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play, if you are interested in raising the level of sports turf management, then consider becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager. ■

Certified Sports Field Manager Program Information

HAVING RECOGNIZED the importance of fostering and improving professionalism within the sports turf industry, STMA has developed a certification program for sports turf managers.

Attaining the Certified Sports Field Manager status means you will be looked

upon as a leader in the industry. It will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment and it can even improve your current or future employment prospects.

Becoming a CSFM is meant to challenge your knowledge of managing sports fields and to draw upon all aspects of

your background in education and experience to prove that you are one of the best in the industry. Meeting the challenge can contribute to your professional advancement in sports field management. Contact STMA Headquarters for a CSFM Application Form.

JOHN MASCARO'S PHOTO QUIZ

Answers from page 17

This photo of lush green turf in the center of this soccer field that is surrounded by brown dormant turf was taken in late February. Notice that there are no leaves on the trees in the background. The true problem is that this municipality does not have as many winter turf blankets as they would like, with only enough to partially cover two of their 10 fields. In late fall they aerated this field multiple times, slit seeded it with a 90% turf type tall fescue/10% Kentucky bluegrass mix and applied a preventative fungicide. For the field pictured, they have five 60 x 60-foot blankets that cover a 60 x 300-foot area. They use blankets small enough that they are manageable for the two-person crew and install them over the worn center area. It also never fails that any time they take them on or off, there are 20 mph winds, which also make the smaller covers more manageable. When the covers were removed in late February, you can see the results for yourself. Through documenting the covers effectiveness, the sports turf manager was able to secure funding toward the purchase of more blankets for next winter.

Photo submitted by Josh Slayback, athletic fields technician for the City of Clayton, MO.



If you would like to submit a photograph for John Mascaro's Photo Quiz please send it to John Mascaro, 1471 Capital Circle NW, Ste # 13, Tallahassee, FL 32303 call (850) 580-4026 or email to john@turftec.com. If your photograph is selected, you will receive full credit. All photos submitted will become property of *SportsTurf* magazine and the Sports Turf Managers Association.

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Graco FieldLazer line marking equipment

Stripe like the Pros! Graco FieldLazer line markers are trusted by professional and collegiate football organizations to deliver television quality, bright, straight, long-lasting lines while using less paint. The NEW 2012 Graco FieldLazer line marker product lineup provides organizations of any size to achieve professional performance in the size and budget they require. FieldLazer S100 and S200 walk-behind strippers are ideal for organizations with 10 fields or less. FieldLazer R300 complete ride-on striping system boasts a 10 mph speed and large capacity paint hopper to mark more fields in less time with less fatigue. FieldLazer G400 is the industry's first stand-on self-propelled field marking machine. It has all of the advantages of riding with improved visibility, a larger paint hopper, and automatic gun triggering.

Graco Inc.



Streamliner dry line marker

The Streamliner is simply the best dryline marker in the business. With its variable flow control, Field Testing has proven the Streamliner is the best for the quality of the chalk line while using less chalk than its competition. A heavy-duty steel frame, pneumatic tires, rugged molded plastic hopper, flexible brush agitator, accurate string-line guides, and a one-button retractable handle for easy storage set the Streamliner apart. Available in 2-, 3-, and 4-wheel models with optional Double-Play aerosol paint attachment.

Beacon Athletics



Temp-Stripe marking paint

Temp-Stripe Athletic Field Marking Paint is the removable synthetic turf marking paint that applies like normal field paints. Our exclusive proprietary formula was designed and developed for temporary use on synthetic and natural turf fields in which numbers, lines, logos and boundaries require immediate change over following an event. Removal is accomplished with light to moderate water pressure or with help from our Port-A-Scrub paint removal machine. No costly chemical solutions needed. Because the colors are organic in nature and biodegradable, Temp-Stripe is environmentally friendly, low VOC and completely safe on turf, uniforms and players. It has been proven effective for over 20 years by stadiums of MLB, MLS, NFL, and NCAA. It's the original!

Whitlam Paint Company



4600 SP by Newstripe, Inc.

The 4600 SP, self-propelled airless paint machine with its four-wheel platform provides a new level of striping ease for athletic fields. Four pneumatic wheels and a dual ergonomic handle make it easier to produce straighter lines. The .44 gpm, 0-3000 psi airless pump provides great looking lines while using less paint than low pressure units. The simple friction drive speed is adjustable through the engine rpm. Cleanup is made quick and easy by simply exchanging the 5-gallon pail with a water pail. A simple, quick-release clamp removes the spray gun to paint stencils with the 25' length hose. Powered by a 126cc Subaru OHC engine, the 4600 SP is covered by a 36-Month warranty.

Newstripe Inc

Tru Mark Model E-100 field marker

Now temporary field marking lines on multi-purpose fields with virtually no clean-up using the Tru Mark Model E-100 Field Marker and SwitchBack Double Play Liquid Chalk. The Model E-100 battery operated pump with 2 nozzle applicator ensures crisp and uniform application of Double Play, diluted 1 to 1, which performs just like traditional powder chalk with no material buildup. Don't worry about ghosting and the manpower, equipment and cleaning agents to remove temporary lines. Great for custom logos and additional field marking requirements that must be easily removed. Aerosol Chalk also available from Tru Mark.

Tru Mark Athletic Field Marker



PowrLiner 850

The Titan PowrLiner 850 is a dependable airless line striper with a price that can't be beat. Whether it's a municipal athletic field or parking lot this unit is built for precise and consistent line striping. The PowrLiner 850 is perfect as basic line striper capable of higher spraying pressures for jobs grass, turf or pavement. It also has a Direct Link Pressure Control for adjusting pressure from 200-3000 psi. The Collapsible Cart allows the sprayer to store and transport easily; front wheel caster locks straight or free wheel motion for better control. The line striper also comes with the exclusive TR2 spray tip which provides two fan patterns in one tip giving the option of speed and control with a twist of the tip.

Titan Tools

Field markers for outdoor sports

Straight, bright white line marking is a cinch with line markers from Future Pro. Mark your field with chalk or paint. There are easy to maneuver units for both materials. Don't forget down and corner markers, Future Pro has those, too. Football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, softball - if it's an outdoor sport on a field, Future Pro has the markers to make the game ready to play.

Future Pro



The Rok striper machine

The Rok combines benefits of the riding and pedestrian (push) striper to produce an extremely productive and versatile machine. The environmentally friendly electric e-Rok, is used in conjunction with the Kombi or Beam-Rider, allowing you the option to either ride and paint or demount the Kombi/BeamRider for traditional use. The Rok has a low center of gravity with rack and pinion steering, allowing precise control and making it easy to produce quality straight lines. No fuel, no maintenance and no noise.

FleetUS



Combo soccer goals

When competition or practice space is limited, Bison Combo Goals allow soccer, football and rugby teams to share one field. These multi-use goals provide an official 24' (w) x 8' (h) soccer goal, official 10' high football crossbar and 10' uprights that install at high school and college football widths or rugby width. Goals are constructed of weatherproof 4" square aluminum extrusions with large corner radii and include QwikTrack net attachment, Torque Tested backstays and a durable powder coated finish. Choose in-ground or portable goals. Portable goals utilize Bison's exclusive No-Tip ballast drums that double as transport wheels.

Bison Inc.



New heavy-duty rubber drag mat

Earth & Turf Products, LLC, announces its heavy-duty rubber drag mat, great for breaking up debris after core aeration and leveling fields after topdressing. Mats measure 6 ft. x 6 feet and 3/4 inch thick, of heavy-duty, recycled rubber. Durable, long-lasting hitch system sandwiches rubber between two heavy steel plates using 7/16 inch bolts. All mats are shipped rolled up and bound with two strong cable ties. Total weight of each mat is 133 pounds. (Pull chains are not included.)

Earth & Turf



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Steiner introduces new 440 4x4 tractor

The new Steiner 440 Tractor is available in an assortment of high hp engines (32, 34 or 40HP gas or 24.9 HP diesel), with all-steel fuel tank and oversized filler neck with tethered fuel cap and 200-watt halogen quartz front headlights to its 1500 psi of lift pressure, Eaton Series hydraulic pump and transmission, Peerless 2600 dual range transaxles, 5 gallon capacity hydraulic oil reservoir, large 12 volt 525 CCA (cold crank amp) battery (630 CCA on the diesel), 7" seat slides for the perfect fit, an all-new operator panel design that puts control at your fingertips, and a folding ROPS standard, the new 440 has features that exceed the norm.

Steiner



New multifunctional zero-turn mower attachment

TurfEx introduces the new Thatch, Groom 'N' Sweep Package, an attachment system designed specially for zero-turn mowers that can be converted from a sweeper to a dethatcher without having to purchase additional equipment. Available in both 48- and 60-inch widths (models MT480 and MT600, respectively), the Thatch, Groom 'N' Sweep Package uses a universal mount that easily fits the form of most major manufacturers' zero-turn mowers. The attachment includes two rows of brush sections, which can be replaced with spring-mounted tines to turn the sweeper into a dethatcher in just a matter of minutes. To switch between the two, the operator simply removes a containment plate, and then slides the brush or tine sections in and out of the housing.

TurfEx



Cub Cadet RT 65 tiller

The Cub Cadet RT 65 Garden Tiller offers the following advantages: Honda GC190 187 OHC engine; 18-inch tilling width; 13-inch dual-directional tines; self-propelled, with forward and reverse; adjustable depth bar; and 16-inch pneumatic, ag tread wheels.

Cub Cadet Commercial



Diagnosing Turfgrass Problems: A Practical Guide

This book by Clemson University turfgrass veterans Ralph W. White and L. B. (Bert) McCarty provides a straightforward introduction to the fundamentals of turfgrass diagnosis for turf professionals. It is designed to provide the experienced professional with a handy reference for use on site, but it can also give homeowners a guide for improving their lawn care. The information included in this book is intended to help one recognize symptoms of common problems and limit mistakes in diagnosis and identification that allow minor problems to develop into major ones. Clemson University ISBN 978-0-9798777-6-6

Improving parks helps West Park, FL to "Playful City USA" title

2012 has been a story of success for the City of West Park, FL. They are recent recipients of the 2012 "Playful City USA" designation, and the lucky winner of a FieldLazer S100 field marking machine in the Graco FieldLazer "Walk the Line" Giveaway.

In 2005, the City of West Park was established as Broward County's newest municipality. There are currently 14,156 residents. Like many communities in Florida, the City has been hit hard by the current economic challenges and has had subsequent reductions in the tax base. Despite these hard times, the City is committed to maintaining its course of positive progression.

Since the City's inception in

2005, West Park has made significant investments in its parks to facilitate play and physical activity. The City has made substantial improvements to the park grounds with new playground equipment, a new scoreboard, and sports field upgrades. The City has a longer term plan to completely upgrade its 18.5 acre park to a state of the art facility. The City has recently taken on the football and cheerleading programs for the local elementary and middle schools in addition to the ongoing summer and after school programming already in place.

The "Playful City USA" designation is a nationwide program honoring cities and towns that make play for children a priority.



West Park has two main parks with two football fields, up to eight soccer fields, one baseball diamond, a volleyball court, and two playgrounds which are active year round. To help ensure a safe environment, the City has recently implemented a Smoke Free policy. This allows the local police to enforce any potential infractions and provide a positive, healthy place for play.

In May 2012 the City won the

Graco FieldLazer S100 field marker and it couldn't have come at a better time. West Park was renting a low pressure field marker and striping over the weekend to keep up. It cost over \$100 to rent each time they striped a field. With the new field marker, they not only eliminate the rental fees, but now are saving over 50% in paint costs due to Graco's high-pressure paint spray technology.

Student fees fund the project

Editor's note: This article was supplied by Creative Services, Encinitas, CA

A MULTI-YEAR EXPANSION PROJECT at Georgia's Kennesaw State University has culminated in one of the largest synthetic turf complexes in the US with six fields designed for sports and recreation activities. Located just north of Atlanta, KSU is the third largest university in Georgia and serves more than 24,000 students.

The new KSU Sports and Recreation Park spans 88 acres and boasts a showcase of facilities that meet the needs of an active student population. On any day of the week, visitors can see hundreds of students at the new KSU center competing in intramural and club sports; participating in fraternity and sorority workouts; marching in ROTC drills; planning concerts and more.

The NCAA-qualified Park also plays host to NCAA soccer tournaments and NCAA track meets.

Funded by a student fee initiative, the KSU Sports and Recreation Park interweaves modern synthetic playing surfaces with traditional natural turf fields for a harmony of venues.

The third and final phase of the 5-year project opened in April. Along with the three natural turf fields, the KSU Park offers five synthetic full-sized fields and one synthetic intramural field. The artificial turf fields are booked with men's and women's rugby, soccer and lacrosse, along with softball, baseball, football, flag football, running, ultimate KSU frisbee, kickball and more.

On any day of the week, visitors can see hundreds of students at the new KSU center competing in intramural and club sports;

Built by Choate Construction Company, the Park also features a new 8,300-seat stadium for sporting events and open air con-

certs; a 16,000-square-foot indoor training facility; a 9,000-square-foot center for training and concessions; an NCAA track; sand volleyball courts; warm-up training areas; a nearly 1 mile walking/jogging trail, and a 9-acre lake which acts as a reservoir.

Before the park's construction, students only had access to a 1.7 acre site for all intramural and club sports. Varsity teams had separate facilities, but intramurals and clubs typically had to practice miles away from campus, if they could find a field.

>> Left: KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY is located just north of Atlanta and with 24,000 students is the third largest college in Georgia. **>> Middle: WITH SIX NEW SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS**, rugby players and other intramural and club sports enthusiasts can schedule games and tournaments year-round, even during wet weather. **>> Right: KSU SPORTS AND REC PARK FIELDS** are constructed with XP Pro Fiber, a synthetic turf material designed for high-use, multi-purpose sports fields.



>> UNDERHILL LONG THROW SPRINKLERS cover up to 174 feet in distance and are installed around the perimeter of the synthetic fields.

A unique funding model was devised at KSU to pay for the land acquisition and construction. The Student Fee Committee and the Georgia State Board of Regents approved student financing of the project, which was underwritten by the KSU Foundation. Students are assessed \$75 per semester towards payment of the land acquisition, construction and park development.

“The college administration agreed with the students that important life lessons take place outside the classroom on the sports field,” says Laura St. Onge, associate director of sports and recreation at the university.

St. Onge has been involved in the project since its inception and oversees day-to-day operations, including site improvements and maintenance. A 20-year veteran of the landscape industry, she has specialized in sports fields.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH SYNTHETIC TURF

Synthetic turf was selected for a range of reasons, according to St. Onge. Along with the savings from lower maintenance and ir-

>> Below left: THE NEW KSU SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK encompasses 88 acres and, along with the new fields, includes a stadium, indoor training facility, NCAA track, sand volleyball courts and nearly one-mile hiking/jogging trail. **>> Below right: SPRINKLERS ARE RUN** before sporting events, and often at halftime, to keep the playing surfaces cool and clean. Surface temperatures can reach 150-180 degrees on hot summer days. Water can bring the field temperature down 50-60 degrees.



>> LAURA ST. ONGE, associate director of sports and recreation at KSU, oversees day-to-day operations, including site improvements and maintenance.

rigation costs, the artificial fields opened new opportunities for the campus.

“We now have year-round playability on consistent surfaces, which can enhance training and performance,” she said.

“Games can be scheduled regardless of weather conditions because the drainage system keeps the fields playable during or after a rainfall. Scheduling is seamless and the fields are virtually ‘cancellation free,’” she said.

With minimal maintenance and irrigation scheduling, the fields are available day and night for multiple extracurricular activities. And the school has the option to lease the fields to other athletic groups and associations, providing revenue during idle times.

Southwest Greens International (a division of Shaw Industries) manufactured and installed all six synthetic turf fields with XP Pro Fiber, a material designed for high-use, multi-purpose sports fields and which provides a realistic playing surface.

“The yarn used in the fiber is specifically for sports fields and



>> Above: UNDERHILL TOTAL SOLUTIONS KITS were installed at KSU. The TS Kits are new all-in-one sprinkler assembly packages that include sprinkler hardware and detailed AutoCad illustrations of the site-specific irrigation system.

among the most durable available,” says Barry Johnson, construction superintendent for Southwest Greens.

“XP Pro maintains 85% of its fibril integrity over a 10,000-cycle test, which mimics 10 years of use. This evaluation was based on the industry-standard LISPORT Test*,” he said.

INSTALLING COOLING CANNONS

One of the challenges for Associate Director St. Onge was how to keep the fields cool and comfortable during hot Georgia summers, and how to clean them year-round.

“Georgia summers can warm up to 100 degrees. That means a surface temperature of 120 to 180 degrees and that sort of heat goes right up the cleats.

“I was familiar with Underhill’s Mirage Series of long-throw sprinklers. They cover up a lot of turf with a high volume of water that effectively cools and cleans the entire surface. We installed four to six heads per field, depending on site dimensions.

“My experience is that synthetic turf and cooling systems go hand-in-hand. You can’t build a synthetic turf sports field in Georgia without planning for a cooling system. Our first concern is player safety and cooling the fields helps ensure that.”

M-174s sprinklers from Underhill International feature a long throw (up to 174 feet) so they can be placed outside the area of play for greater safety. “We considered a range of options, but the durability of the M-174s met our criteria for long-term performance,” she said.

St. Onge reports that the “cooling cannons” are run before games, and often at halftimes, when the field temperatures exceed 150 degrees. Each head covers a 180-degree arc and runs for two rotations, lasting 45 to 60 seconds each and delivering up to 328 gpm, depending on nozzle and pressure.

“By cooling the fields, we can bring the surface temperature down 50-60 degrees and minimize heat exhaustion and athlete discomfort.”

In Phase III, KSU went further and installed 10 new all-in-one sprinkler assembly packages that include sprinkler hardware and detailed AutoCad illustrations of the site-specific irrigation system. The Total Solutions Kits from Underhill include M-174s long-throw sprinkler; laterals with isolation valve configuration (3-, 4- or 6 inches deep); 3-inch electric sleeve valve; ductile iron swing joints with all required fittings and assemblies; plus a stainless steel Turf Box enclosure, which allows access to the sprinkler without disturbing the turf.

“Long throw sprinklers provide value to any synthetic turf installation,” said Southwest Greens Barry Johnson.

“Cooling and cleaning are critical elements to maintaining a long-lasting fiber field.”

St. Onge reports that the KSU facilities have become a magnet for big league events. The 2011 NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer College Cup was recently played at the new KSU stadium in December 2011.

“Quality academics and a vibrant campus life are part of any top university,” says Kennesaw President Daniel S. Papp. “The KSU Sports and Recreation Park is an important addition to the

St. Onge reports that the KSU facilities have become a magnet for big league events. The 2011 NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer College Cup was recently played at the new KSU stadium in December 2011.

university’s infrastructure. Kennesaw State is well on its way to competing at the national level.”

* The LISPORT test is a method used to get an indication of the durability of turf blades in a specific turf construction. The test gives a visual indication on how a synthetic turf system will age in time as a result of use. The durability of the turf carpet not only depends on use, but on the combination of installation, weathering, and maintenance. The results of LISPORT testing are very useful in comparing different types of components or tuft settings and provide an indication of the durability of the synthetic turf system. In the test two studded cylinders are rolled over a test piece of turf for a pre-set number of cycles. The number of cycles simulates a period of play on the pitch, as the studded roller simulates a cleat. ■

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No sports turf manager on site? The SAFE Foundation can make a difference

THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFER ATHLETIC FIELDS for Everyone (SAFE) recognizes that not every field is managed by a qualified professional. Neighborhood fields are particularly challenged because they are often the lowest priority for maintenance, and inexperienced volunteer parent groups may have the responsibility for upkeep. The economy also impacts these fields; maintenance dollars for low profile fields may be the first to be eliminated.

SAFE has developed an industry-wide initiative, *Sports and Recreation Fields-Safety First* to create awareness about the importance of managed sports surfaces. This initiative will fund education, outreach, research and scholarships to advance the safety and sustainability of playing surfaces and help reduce sports field injuries due to the playing surface.

Other organizations acknowledge that the playing conditions of fields and recreation areas are critical to the safety of athletes:

- The National Athletic Trainers Association has identified the need to check the playing area before practice or a game. They recommend checking regularly for debris, rocks, water and other hazards and removing these hazards before play.
- SAFE Kids, USA, the non-profit organization that promotes injury prevention for kids, cite properly maintained recreation areas for children enrolled in organized sports through schools and community clubs, as a proven intervention strategy for injury prevention.
- In a position statement by the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, the team physician is charged with assessing environmental concerns and playing conditions.
- The Institute for Preventative Sports Medicine states that players competing on a potholed schoolyard surface often suffer ankle injuries, indicating that the safety of playing surfaces is key.



• The Alliance to Address Youth Safety has as one of its four Calls to Action: to ensure sports equipment and fields are checked for safety and best conditions.

These are important assertions by major organizations. What is missing is the “how” to make athletic fields and recreation areas safer. This is where SAFE can make a difference.

The initiative “Sports and Recreation Fields-Safety First” begins with a 5-year fundraising campaign with a goal of \$1 million. SAFE introduced this fundraising effort to its membership in January. Called the “Grass Roots Campaign” so that members and chapters can show their ground level support, SAFE is seeking \$100 from members over 5 years (\$20 per year) and \$1,000 from corporations over 5 years (\$200 per year). Donors who pay their total 5-year amount in one lump sum, or donate \$100 or more will be recognized as a member of our Foundation Club. Foundation Club members receive a commemorative lapel pin.

STMA offers an ACH option for members to spread the payment out over 12 months and have it automatically deducted from a checking account.

As funds are raised, SAFE will be pursuing partnerships with community and industry organizations to collaborative develop its programs that will directly benefit communities. One element of its plan is to conduct an assessment to profile communities at-risk for poorly maintained sports fields. SAFE, with STMA, will engage its chapter network and its committees to help develop Best Management Practices for these at-risk fields.

For more information on how SAFE is impacting the profession or to donate, go to www.STMA.org and click on the SAFE Tab. ■

Start now! STMA Field of the Year application ready

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME to begin preparing your 2012 STMA Field of the Year Application. The program requires photos from throughout the year and completion of the STMA PCI four times, so it is important to begin working on those items as soon as you can.

Submitting an entry to the Field of the Year Awards program is now entirely electronic. Applicants are required to fill out the writable form, which is located at www.STMA.org under the Professionalism Tab/Awards, and submit it electronically. Photos are also required to be created in a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint can be submitted through our online Dropbox account (preferred) or applicants can send a CD or jump drive to STMA headquarters. These materials must be received at STMA headquarters no later than October 15, 2012.

The Awards Committee implemented the change to an electronic process to allow for remote judging of applications, to provide a fair process for all applicants regardless of the budget spent on the packaging of the submittal, and to focus on the field management practices.

By applying for the STMA Field of the Year Awards, members gain recognition from their employers and community. Community athletic facilities are a point of local pride, and by applying for this program, and showcasing your expertise in the process, you can draw media attention and gain respect throughout the community for the hard work you, your crew and volunteers undertake making your field look and play its best.

Each Field of the Year Award winner is presented with a special plaque at the STMA Awards Banquet, held each year at the STMA Conference and Exhibition. This year, the Awards Banquet will be the evening of January 18, 2013 in Daytona Beach, FL. In addition to the plaque, each STMA Field of the Year winner will receive free conference registration, three nights of lodging at the conference hotel, STMA signature apparel, and a feature article in the official publication of STMA, *SportsTurf Magazine*. These awards are generously supported by STMA's official awards sponsors Carolina Green Corp., Covermaster, Inc., Hunter Industries and World Class Athletic Surfaces. ■