

# Greenie Park Field and Facilities Maintenance Requirements

28-Oct-2008

## 1.0 Overview

Greenie Park baseball and softball playing fields as well as other facilities are in need of an overall maintenance program to satisfy the town's programs. It is important that one organization have responsibility for all activities so that they are coordinated, efficient and effective. One measure to insure that the interests of the town and program participants are met is to solicit bids from qualified vendors to carry out necessary Greenie Park maintenance.

## 2.0 Qualifications

**2.1 Experience** At least 5 years of athletic field maintenance.

**2.2 Licenses and Training** All required licenses necessary for fertilization, pest and weed control including, but not limited to Licensed Certified Pesticide Applicator status for all materials and methods required to carry out the contracted work under these requirements.

**2.3 Insurance** Industry standard insurance coverage as required by the State of NH for the contracted work under these requirements.

## 3.0 Work Requirements

### 3.1 Irrigation

- 3.1.1 Irrigation system maintenance for the control electronics, piping and sprinklers including spring start-up and fall shutdown procedures. Fall shutdown to include Concessions/Equipment building to keep pipes from bursting (all rooms)
- 3.1.2 Device or procedure for limiting watering during periods of significant rain
- 3.1.3 Document watering protocol (semi-monthly adjustments) under varied conditions.

### 3.2 Fertilizing/Weed Control

- 3.2.1 Fertilizing according to written schedule
- 3.2.2 Pest and weed control in grass areas according to written schedule.
- 3.2.3 Weed control treatments for infield skins
- 3.2.4 Weed prevention throughout grounds including, but not limited to fence lines
- 3.2.5 Alteration of the fertilizer program for seeding when necessary

### 3.3 Mowing and Trimming

- 3.3.1 Cut all fields on Mon & Thurs during playing season, May 5 through July 15, once per week for 4 weeks before May 5 and 8 times after 15-Jul, 32 cuts total
- 3.3.2 Adhere to minimum 2.0 to maximum 2.5" cut height<sup>1</sup> during playing season
- 3.3.3 Adjust cut height after July 15 as needed
- 3.3.4 Trim weeds as needed near dugouts, fences and concession/equipment building

### 3.4 Management

- 3.4.1 Manage all aspects of fields and grounds maintenance in section 3.1-3.3 above as sole responsible party reporting to NBSA and Newton Recreation Committee.
- 3.4.2 Provide timely adjustments to all phases of cutting, trimming, fertilization and weed/pest control treatments due to environmental conditions
- 3.4.3 Provide recommendations for changes to standard operating procedures
- 3.4.4 Provide prescribed treatment notice as required
- 3.4.5 Document program activities at standard intervals (treatment applications)

# Baseball Field Maintenance

## A General Guide for Fields of All Levels

This publication is provided by the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, a joint initiative of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association.

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### How to Mow a Field

The mowing of the infield and outfield grass should be completed based on the grass growing heights. A rule of thumb is mow no more than one-third of the blade of grass at any given time. Mowing the grass more than one-third at a time can result in discoloration or “scalping” of the turf, or cutting the turf too low. The following chart provides the suggested heights of common types of grasses.

#### Common Types of Grasses and Suggested Mowing Heights

Type of Grass	Best Height
Bluegrass	1-1 in.
Tall fescue	2 in.
Zoysia	1 in.
Bermuda	1 in.

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**H&K Sports Fields home page.** [www.hksportsfields.com/sports-field-maintenance/](http://www.hksportsfields.com/sports-field-maintenance/)

#### Bare Minimum Maintenance Procedures

At the barest minimum, ALL baseball and softball fields require the following:

1. *Regular mowing*

- never remove more than 1/3 of the total length of the grass
- sharper blades on the mower are better for the health of the grass

2. *Core aeration at least 2-3 times per year*

3. *Fall fertilization*

- when roots are strong and healthy the grass will play better and will have increased wear-ability

4. *Fall interseeding*

- patch up the bare spots, and fill in those spots that are showing some wear

5. *Post or Pre-season mound and plate area repair*

6. *Pre-season infield spike dragging* (or super raking) followed by rolling with a 1-ton roller  
-this removes the effects of winter freeze and thaw cycles, as well as ruts and bumps created through regular use and maintenance

7. *Pre-season top-up to your top dressing*

- no matter how careful you are, some top dressing is always lost in cleats, through plays, and in winter weather when the field isn't in use

8. *Post or Pre-season lip removal*

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## Sports Field Maintenance, Turface

[http://nhsoftball.baberuthnetwork.com/doc/l446\\_Ball%20Field%20Maintenance.pdf](http://nhsoftball.baberuthnetwork.com/doc/l446_Ball%20Field%20Maintenance.pdf)

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### ***Step 9: Mowing***

Once the turf has grown to 2 to 3 inches, it is time to mow. No more than 1/3 of the grass blades should be removed by mowing. The recommended maintained height of the Bluegrass type athletic turf is 2 to 2-1/2 inches. while Bermuda type grasses is 1 to 1-1/4 inches. This will allow the turf to ward off insects and disease. It will also require less water and maintenance. In most cases, the outfield and infield grass can be kept at the same height.

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Quotes from TORO Sports                      <http://www.torosports.com/tips/mowing.html>

"I found 2-1/2" cutting height works best for our multi-use fields. ie...baseball, soccer and football."  
**Paul Griffith - City of Woodbury, Woodbury, MN**

"Try to mow a few times a week during the growing season. This will help you stay within the 1/3 rd rule. Better to mow when grass blades are not wet, unless you have dollar spot. "  
**Heather Nabozny - Comerica Park, Detroit Tigers, Detroit, MI**

"Aggressive fertilization program. Aeration/seeding, top dressing at least once a year. - mowing: keep consistent height of turf (2-2-1/2") whatever you choose- sweep as needed. Mow 1-2 times per week as needed."  
**Roger Daigle - City of Fort Collins Parks Division, Fort Collins, CO**