

Diamond User Information

Jan 6, 2012

Many volunteer organizations change leadership over time and this type of information sometimes does not get handed down.

I have collated a number of both written and unwritten "understandings" regarding Field and Diamond Maintenance to help clarify expectations between Field / Diamond Users and the Vancouver Park Board.

Annual Field Maintenance Time:

VPB preps diamonds during "Field Maintenance Time" once per year.

Generally occurs the 2nd week in March to at least the 2nd week in April.

These 4 to 5 weeks have been determined as an absolute minimum needed by for VPB Field Maintenance Staff.

VPB Field Maintenance attend to the 117 A & B Grade Fields and 138 diamonds (as far as money and time allow), as well as a myriad of other areas and situations.

Some of the reasons for this time period are:

Most Grade A & B fields are shared use between Soccer, Rugby, Ultimate, Football in Fall / Winter and Diamond Users in Spring / Summer.

Fall / Winter Field Sports are drawing to a close and Spring / Summer Baseball / Softball is about to start.

Usually the weather has begun to cooperate and facilities are drying out to be able to work on them.

Irrigation systems can be turned back on.

Grass dormancy is ending and germination/growing season is beginning.

Grass fields require "rest" or "no play" to remain functional year to year.

Annual Field Maintenance Time is not always consistent or universal, and depending upon current conditions, scope of the work needed / requested, can be a longer or sometimes shorter time period.

This gives Field Maintenance a narrow and limited window of opportunity "between seasons" to correct Fall / Winter deficiencies and prepare for Spring Summer activities.

Diamond users are permitted to prep and groom infields during their season.

We appreciate the effort and the amount of hours volunteers put into these facilities each year.

VPB Field Maintenance is happy to help provide information, expertise and anything they can manage, within budgetary and time constraints.

Having said this... VPB Field Maintenance needs to be informed before work begins if:

- The work involves outside contractors.
- The work goes beyond grooming infields.
- Machinery of any sort is utilized on site.
- Specs regarding any materials (ball mix, seed etc) being brought in.
- Removal of any materials or structures is involved.

Grass infield diamonds, can be cut shorter with the use of a lawn mower (not ride on).

This shorter cutting is not extended to outfield areas.

Outfields are shared grass with other sports and for VPB to maintain and cut.

Grass Clippings from infields can be mowed in (cutting cross ways) or removed by the user group.

The operation of any motorized ride on device on a VPB Park is not permitted. This includes ride on mowers.

Only VPB supplied and specified ball/repair/seed material can be utilized.

Seeding or Sodding by Field or Diamond Users is not permitted.

The erection of structures, fences, **including outfield fences, dugout roofs**, poles, tents, stages, bleachers, portable toilets, chairs, the use of fire or fireworks, or the installation of electricity is prohibited or must be approved by the Vancouver Park Board.

Vehicles of any sort are not to be driven onto parks or parks property, including maintenance access roads or trails.

This includes materials delivery (ie. Red Gold) or event/game set up.

Exceptions can be made...but first:

Dates must be included in permit language and therefore insured.

Cleared through VPB Field Maintenance.

Unforeseen problems, additional supplies, and additional work requests can be called in to the Coordinator for Outdoor Facilities 604-257-8493 or the Field Booking Clerk at 604-257-8489

Outfield fences should not be put up until Field Maintenance Closures are completed and permits begin.

Outfield fences must be gated to allow VPB crews and gang mowers access to cut enclosed areas.
Outfield fences should be no more than 4 feet high and specs need to be submitted before purchasing.
Organizations with outfield fences are responsible for the cutting and upkeep of grass along the fence line.
Specific date ranges for putting up and taking down outfield fences will be specified by VPB.
Any structure, storage box, additions or changes (including outfield fencing) to any given park, must be VPB approved before being put in place.

***The Vancouver Park Board will want to review the specs and / or product diagrams before Outfield Fences are ordered and put into use.
If you or manufacturers have other/better ideas... we are interested in hearing them.***

Red Gold:

Field Users are responsible for the purchasing and delivery of "red gold" material.

Help in placement:

Establish location, where and when.

Field Maintenance will need a map, detailed description, or someone on site, for reference on locations.

Field Maintenance does not have available manpower to do the spreading.

This process can be weather dependant as they will not drive a loader onto a water saturated field.

Disposal:

Currently we are able to recycle discarded or old red gold.

This service may not be available in the future and groups may have to factor in disposal when purchasing.

You can e-mail Field Superintendents with the when and where.

West brian.scott@vancouver.ca

South jeff.whitehead@vancouver.ca

North rick.kyllo@vancouver.ca

They will contact you back if they can confirm or work out a schedule.

If you have any questions with any of the above please let me know.

Thank you.