



**City of Sunnyvale  
Department of Public Works  
Parks Division  
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**



## **WHY ARE SPORTS FIELDS CLOSED??**

City maintained sports fields at parks and school sites receive a great deal of play throughout the year, and the Parks Division is directed by City Council to maintain them in a safe, usable and attractive condition. To that end, the majority of fields are closed every winter from December through February and temporarily throughout the year as weather and/or site conditions dictate. For example, a water main break at a particular site may necessitate closing the field for safety purposes. Seasonal and temporary field closures are one component of a comprehensive turf management program. This practice helps to ensure that the fields will meet quality standards throughout the year.

If the fields are used when rain or site conditions cause the soil to become soaked or when they are worn down, the turf and fields may be damaged beyond what our normal maintenance practices can repair. The end result would be the closure of fields for an extended period of time while they are renovated, if the necessary financial resources are available. Additionally, all players are subject to increased possibility of injuries as they play on an unstable or excessively worn surface. Seasonal and temporary closures protect the fields and prevent them from being used when their lack of growth, lower quality and/or weather conditions make them the most vulnerable.

There are permanent signs located on fences and backstops at each site that indicate if the fields are open or closed. You may also call the Turf Hotline at (408) 730-7585 to determine the status of fields and to report any conditions that may need attention. Field conditions are monitored daily by professional, experienced staff throughout the year and both the field signs and the Hotline are updated every day by 11 a.m. Staff closes the fields only when conditions warrant and seasonally from December through February. In consideration of the year round recreation needs of the community, each year four to eight fields will be exempt from seasonal closure and are available for both drop-in and permitted play. They will still be subject to temporary closure during that time for the previously stated reasons. To determine which fields are open during the winter simply call the Hotline.

To permit a field, or to find out if a particular field has already been permitted, call the Sports/Aquatics unit of the Recreation Division at (408) 730-7721. Field rental information and permit forms are available on the web at

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/FacilityRentals/FieldRentals.aspx>

*For additional information on Sunnyvale parks, please call the Parks Division at (408) 730-7506.*