



**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 strives to maintain them in a safe, usable and attractive condition. To that end, most fields are closed every winter from December through February and temporarily throughout the year as weather and/or site conditions dictate. They may also be temporarily closed to permitting for exclusive use to limit activities that cause significant wear and tear such as adult sports leagues. For example, a sports field may remain open for casual or “drop-in” use by the community but not be available for exclusive use permits on some or all days of the week for a period of time. Limiting field use by seasonal/ temporary field closures or restricting permitting is 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 may be damaged beyond what 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, overly compacted or excessively worn surface. Restricting permitting and seasonal/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 daily by 11 a.m. and by 7:30 a.m. on weekends. 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 three to six fields will be exempt from seasonal closure and are available for drop-in/casual use and may be available for 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 determine which fields are available for exclusive use permits on any given day or period of time, call the Sports/Aquatics unit of the Community Services Division at 408-730-7721. Field rental information and permit forms are available on the city’s web site 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.