

FIELD MAINTENANCE

City Council
May 15, 2018



STRATEGIC PLAN



Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments

BACKGROUND

- **Westside Sports Complex** undergoing maintenance to restore fields. Turf deteriorated from lack of watering while irrigation system was being repaired
- Public unaware of maintenance efforts, expressed concerns about turf conditions



CURRENT CONDITIONS

Westside Sports Complex

- An EPWU water main ruptured, resulting in the line being down for several weeks during irrigation start up in March and April

Game and Practice Fields

- Significant wear from public use degraded the turf areas that had been renovated as recently as 2017

General Park Areas

- Several park areas are being renovated with leveling and seeding. Users were unaware that they are undergoing maintenance

Public Use

- Annually over 58,000 participants use flat fields, 25,000 diamond fields for games. Practices at nearly every available green space in the City.

All of these conditions, and the impact of users unaware maintenance is underway, make it appear maintenance was not being performed to community expectation



RECENT INVESTMENTS

Maintenance Program

- FY15 Restored funding for park maintenance and moved under Parks and Recreation
- Invested new equipment enhancing productivity
- FY17 Invested funding to address addition of Parkland Dedication acreage previously absorbed without additional resources
- LSS implemented irrigation sprinkler repair improvements, from 24 hour to 2 hour turnaround
- Added park maintenance staff to maintain playgrounds, reducing downtime for repairs
- Keeping pace with maintenance funds for Quality of Life Bond projects (Eastside Sports Complex, Barron, John Lyons, Argal, Westside Natatorium, Trailheads)

**256 PARKS
38 GAME FIELDS
HUNDREDS OF
PRACTICE FIELDS
NEW SPORTS COMPLEXES**



RECENT INVESTMENTS

Water Conservation Program

- **El Paso Water Utilities Grant** - \$40,000 to modernize irrigation system. Four sites already completed and saving funds and water.
- **El Paso Water Utilities Grant** - \$100,000 to implement landscape conversion to reduce non-functional turf, install xeriscape native plants to reduce water consumption (Edgemere Median) underway.
- **US Bureau of Reclamation Grant** – Total \$150,000 grant with \$75,000 City matching funds to install additional central irrigation control to seven parks and reduce water consumption by 20 percent.
- **Updating El Paso Water Utilities Water Ordinance** – to allow for irrigation delivery without impacting users by providing for a flexible schedule based on water goals.

**CENTRALIZED IRRIGATION
RESULTS IN SAVING
WATER, EMPLOYEE TIME,
AND BETTER CUSTOMER
SERVICE**



INNOVATION

Using Existing Resources

- Developed TIF/PID program to fund Phase II of Eastside Sports Complex, doubling number of fields
- Expanded Scattered Field Program by partnering with other agencies to maximize number of fields by avoiding land acquisition costs
- Funding additional fields (Alameda Recreation Center) where fully developing a site makes sense

**ADDING MORE
FIELDS WITH
EXISTING
RESOURCES**



INNOVATION

Using Existing Resources

- Designing Eastside Sports Complex Phase II fields to have first ever synthetic field construction, supporting year round use with minimal downtime
- Implementing central irrigation control to new parks under construction or renovation (NE Regional, Eastside Sports Complex, Shawver) as part of improvements.
- Developing an in-house Turf Renovation Program where 12-15 fields get renovated each year

**IMPROVING MORE
FIELDS WITH
EXISTING
RESOURCES**



FIELD RENOVATION



In 2016, Parks and Recreation recognized the need for a turf renovation program, made necessary due to extreme high use of fields and a lack of resources to address impacts to fields.

- Department team created to renovate fields
- Fields identified from user input and staff observation of condition of turf
- Using existing budgeted funds, up to 15 fields renovated each year by taking fields out of service

FIELD RENOVATION - 2017



Braden Aboud
- Before



Braden Aboud
- After



Saipan Ledo
- Before



Saipan Ledo
- After

FIELD RENOVATION - 2017



Alethea - Before



Alethea - After



Pico Norte - Before



Pico Norte - After

2018 FIELD RENOVATION PROGRAM



	Start Date- 2018	Location	Type of Work
1	4/23	Mission Hills	General Park Area
2	4/30	Mundy	General Park Area
3	5/7	East Cave	General Park Area
4	5/14	Galatzan	one field (disc and seed)
5 ★	5/28	Shawver- Flats	Three field (disc and seed)
6	6/4	Pavo Real- Flats	Two field (disc and seed)
7 ★	6/11	Saipan Ledo	Two field (disc and seed)
8 ★	6/18	Nations Tobin	one field (disc and seed)
9	6/25	Rancho Del Sol- Flats	sod goal mouths and Centers
10	UNDETERMINED	WSSC- F5	Complete Field Rehab (Contract?)
11	7/2	Walter Clark	Two field (disc and seed)
12	7/9	East Dog	one field (disc and seed)
13	7/16	WSSC- 1-13	sod goal mouths
14	7/23	Blackie –Flats	sod goal mouths
15	7/30	NER- 1-3	sod goal mouths

COMPLETED

COMPLETED

**GROWING
SEASON FOR
TURF MAY
TO AUGUST**

GOING FORWARD

The following Recommendations aim to further enhance the program:

- Leverage existing Field Renovation Program that has produced good results. Increase funding to double number of fields renovated.
- Fence selected game fields and develop as championship field, to at least one per District (Two already underway at NE Regional, District 4 and Eastside Sports Complex, District 5)
- Move forward with plans to develop synthetic turf fields that can expand the number of hours for play, with less downtime for maintenance (Eastside Regional Phase II)
- Add fencing to additional game fields to reduce wear and tear and allow for faster recovery
- Improve communication with the public by providing regular updates to City Council, with information on the Department website on maintenance activities and schedule.

Westside Sports



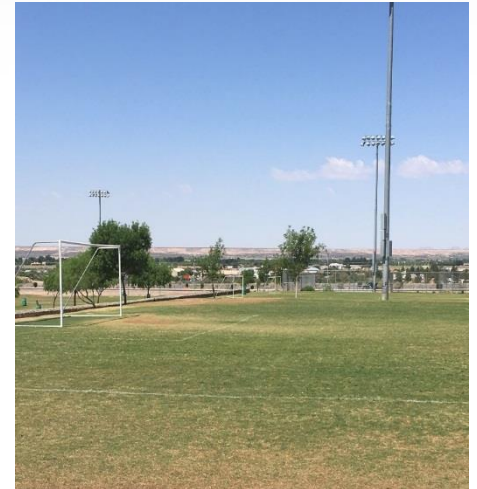
Before



4-29-18



5-8-18



Blackie Cheshier



Before



5-8-18



South Dakota



Before



5-8-18



Nations Tobin



Before



5-14-18



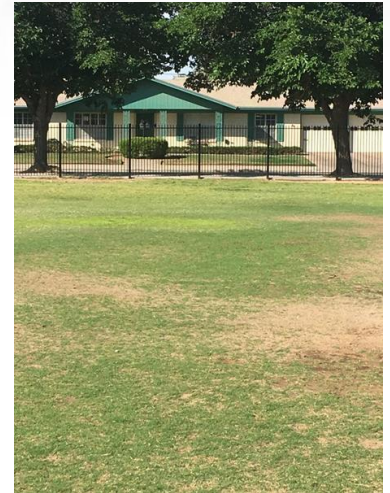
Cielo Vista



Before



5-8-18



Skyline

Before



5-8-18



Veterans

Before



5-14-18





Before



5-14-18



Two of the four flat fields will be renovated through the FY2012 QOL Bond. The remaining two will be renovated this year.



**Comments or
Questions?**