

Naperville Park District

Created in 1966, the Naperville Park District is an independent, municipal agency serving the recreation needs of its residents. The District maintains and operates more than 2,500 acres with 140 parks and facilities and provides more than 1,400 recreational, arts and environmental programs and special events annually. Included within the District's operations are two championship golf courses, a multitude of playgrounds, trails, athletic courts and sports fields, two inline skating and skateboarding facilities, the Millennium Carillon, a paddle boat quarry, historic Centennial Beach, and the beautiful Riverwalk.

As a volunteer, you are a valued member of the Naperville Park District team. The commitment of your time and energy on behalf of the Naperville Park District is greatly appreciated by the District, the community and field users.

The Parks Department staff has prepared this *Baseball Field Prep Guide* to assist you in maintaining the fields using proven methods that will provide the safest and best possible overall experience for ballfield users.

Recreation Department Contact:
Gary Foiles, 630-848-3536



320 W. Jackson Ave.
Naperville, IL 60540
630-848-5000
www.napervilleparks.org



Naperville Park District Parks Department

Baseball Field Prep Guide



Engage Your Senses™

Dealing with Rain and Puddles

Make puddles a thing of the past with Turface®

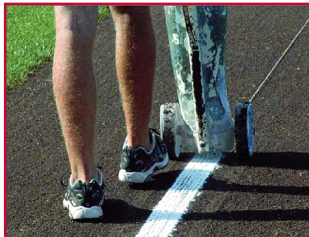
- Understand that sun, wind and time are your best allies.
- Fill in low spots at the end of each game, especially the last game of the night.
- Add Turface® Quick Dry® for the worst conditions only. Do not use Quick Dry® around home plate and the mound area.
- The use of Turface® MVP® absorbs moisture and conditions the soil. Do not use cat litter as a substitute for Turface.
- Do not shovel or push mix off field.
- Realize that some games might need to be canceled due to poor and unsafe field conditions and/or weather.
- The Naperville Park District may cancel all field permits due to extreme conditions. Please check www.napervilleparks.org for details.



Chalk

Tips for the best chalking experience

- Always use string line when applying.
- Use a thin layer.
- Stop short of turf areas. Do not use chalk on grass.
- Rake out chalk lines at the end of each game.



Lips and Edges

Best maintenance practices



- Frequently use rake to remove mix from turf edges.
- Do not drag mix onto turf areas.
- Do not push water onto turf.

Dragging

Maintain the perfect skinned infield using proper dragging techniques

Poor dragging practices can cause several infield maintenance problems.

- Remove bases and put plugs in anchors.
- Rake high areas around the bases. You may need to level off using the back of the rake.
- Drag slowly and stay a minimum of 6 inches away from turf to avoid lip build up.
- Alternate start and stop locations to prevent high and low spots especially where you stop.
- Hand dragging and raking edges prevents lip build up and is necessary on mounds, home plates and base paths.



Mound and Home Plate Repair

Maintain safe, durable mounds and batter's boxes

- Realize that infield mix is 70% clay and needs moisture to hold together.
- Understand that these are the highest use areas and they will require the most maintenance.
- Use tarps sized for the skinned area when rain is forecasted.
- Rake between games.
- Realize that clay bricks are not the answer to all of your problems.

The Five-Step Process to successfully maintain mounds and home plates:

1. Pull back loose, dusty material.
2. Add appropriate moisture to the worn down area.
3. Level off work areas with the dusty, loose material. You may need to use the back of the rake.
4. Tamp.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 until mound or home plate areas are level and compact.

