UPDATIS Field

Summer 2025 Vol. 25, No. 2

Managers Association of New Jersey

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Welcome! New and Renewed SFMANJ Members for 2025

We have 183 new & renewed members for 2025. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has generated invoices for 2025 membership dues to all current members. If you did not receive an invoice, please contact us at 856.514.3179 or download the membership form available at www.sfmanj.org. Mail membership dues direct to SFMANJ, PO Box 205, Pennsville, NJ 08070.

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Travis Nesmith	Burlington Twp. Recreation Dept
	Continued on page 18

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Sports Turf Managers Association www.stma.org

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This newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey.

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SFMANJ does not necessarily support the opinions of those reflected in the following articles.

Update Summer 2025

RUTGERS LAWN, LANDSCAPE AND SPORTSTURFFIELD DAY

Including SFMANJ-Sponsored Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, 594 Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday,
July 30, 2025

By Brad Park

New Jersey Turfgrass Association (NJTA), Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ), and Rutgers University will again collaborate to hold the Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf Field Day. This year's event will again be held on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at the Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ.

A trade show will be sponsored and administered by SFMANJ and is open to all vendors who sell products and services to the Green Industry. Coffee, bagels, Danish pastries, etc. will be served during the trade show. The trade show provides a great opportunity for attendees to network with other Green Industry professionals and examine the latest product offerings from Industry-supporting vendors.

After opening remarks from Rutgers University representatives, the education portion of the program will begin at 9:00 am. Groups will rotate between three tour stops per hour. This year's Field Day will again incorporate sports field and landscape equipment demonstrations into the tour stops. Two 3-stop rotations will consist entirely of turfgrass education; two additional rotations consist of turfgrass education and SFMANJ-sponsored equipment demonstration.

The Summer Field Day has proven to be a great venue for vendors to show their latest equipment offerings and for attendees to

observe equipment being operated in-the-field. This edition of SFMANI Update provides the Field Day agenda for July 30.

Following the turfgrass education, a fine lunch will be served to all of those in attendance. The trade show will also be open during this time. Following lunch, New Jersey DEP pesticide recertification credits, pesticide credits from neighboring states per approval, and ProFACT fertilizer credits will be available to attendees. An optional CORE pesticide credit session will also be offered following lunch.

See you on July 30 at Adelphia!

Please note the following:

Attendees may register online by visiting the NJTA website: www.njturfgrass.org; (o) 973.812.6467; (email) execdirector@njturfgrass.org

Those vendors interested in reserving trade show space and equipment demonstrations are encouraged to contact SFMANJ for more information and appropriate paperwork (website) www. sfmanj.org; (o) 856.514.3179; (email) mail@sfmanj.org

Brad Park is Research and Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and 2024 recipient of the SFMA Dr. William Daniel Founders Award.

Save the Date Wednesday, October 29, 2025 SFMANJ Fall Field Day · Mantua Township, NJ

Don't forget to send in your entry for the SFMANJ Field of the Year Contest

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Photo SFMANJ Spring Field Day Recap Goffle Brook Park, Hawthorne, NJ • April 23, 2025



Hope to see you at Adelphia on July 30th!

Update Summer 2025



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Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ) held its first Field Day twenty-four years ago in 2001; the 2001 Field Day and those immediately subsequent have served as a model for our staple events that have been held continuously each year since with the exception of 2020 which was interrupted by Covid-19. In recognition of the 25th year of SFMANJ, this article will attempt to recap our early Field Days administered by SFMANI during 2001-02.

By summer 2001, the Association was approaching the conclusion of its first year in existence - having formally aligned itself as a Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA; now Sports Field Management Association [SFMA]) Chapter and incorporated with the State of New Jersey during July and August 2000, respectively. The first SFMANJ Field Day was held on June 22, 2001 at Commerce Bank Ballpark (now TD Bank Ballpark) in Bridgewater, NJ - Home of the Somerset Patriots Baseball Club, now the Double-A Affiliate of the New York Yankees. The June 2001 event was hosted by Raymond Cipperly, Head Groundskeeper and recipient (posthumously) of SFMANJ's inaugural Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award in 2015.



Image of the first SFMANJ Field Day held on June 22, 2001 at Commerce Bank Ballpark (now TD Bank Ballpark) in Bridgewater, NJ

According to an article that appeared in the first issue of SFMANJ Update (July 2001; Vol. I, No. I), The event was a great success, educating and feeding 95 potential sports field managers ... Ray Cipperly's instruction on infield maintenance was very informative ... Rutgers Plant Science specialist, Dr. Steve Hart gave an interesting lesson on weed identification and control. Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management at Cook College, Rutgers University, Dr. Murphy demonstrated how aeration affects turf growth.

Our Field Days would return to TD Bank Ballpark in April 2011 and April 2022 – These events were hosted by Dan Purner, Head Groundskeeper for the Somerset Patriots and longtime SFMANI Member.

During early 2002, the SFMANI Board of Directors began planning another Field Day to be held in Central Jersey. Billed as "Problem Solving" - Spring Field Day in the March/April issue of SFMANJ Update (Vol. 2 No. 2), the April 3, 2002 event was to be held at Plainsboro Township Community Park in Plainsboro, NJ. The event was hosted by Jeff Cramer, Plainsboro Township DPW (Jeff became a member of the SFMANI Board of Directors later that year).

Reported as ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS! in SFMAN| Update (May/June 2002; Vol 2. No. 3), the April 2002 Plainsboro Field Day included fifteen vendors and a speaker line-up of the following: Jim Gavigan (Lesco), Dr. James Murphy (Rutgers) and Dr. Henry Indyk (Turfcon), Jim Hermann (Total Control, Inc), Dr. Steve Hart (Rutgers), Dr. John Grande (Rutgers), Ann Waters (NJ DEP), and Art Elmers (Storr Tractor). Subjects addressed during the day included use of turf blankets, chemical Canada goose deterrence, mound construction with clay bricks, soil test interpretation, and baseball/ softball infield skin management and lip removal. The Association would revisit Plainsboro Community Park for a Field Day in August 2004, notable for a unique backhoe-operating contest won by Ric Stephens, Washington Township Parks and Recreation.

I had a recent opportunity to talk with Fred Castenschiold to discuss these early SFMANI Field Days. Fred, now retired from his role as a Sales Professional with Storr Tractor, was listed as one of three Trustees for the Association on its Certificate of Incorporation filed with the State of New Jersey in August 2000 and was the recipient of the Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award in 2016. Fred repeatedly underscored the success of a Field Day held at Harry Dunham Park, Basking Ridge, NJ on August 8, 2002. Let's examine this Field Day and the individuals influential in making the day happen.

According to the Courier News (Somerville, NJ), Harry Dunham Park was dedicated in 2001 and was named after a prominent member of the Bernards Township Planning Board. The facility remains in existence today and continues to be managed by the Bernards Township [NI] Parks & Recreation Department.

SFMAN| Update (July/August 2002; Vol. 2 No. 4) noted that the Park was a New Jersey Recreation & Parks Association (NJRPA) Award Winner in Excellence in Design and advertised the soon-tohappen August 8, 2002 event as the First Annual Fall Demo/ Field Day Concentrating on Athletic Turf and Equipment and promised Topic discussion ... in conjunction with equipment demonstrations utilizing various equipment necessary in the care and maintenance of sports turf to include but not be limited to mowing, aeration, topdressing, seeding, soil preparation and field painting. Other items of note for would-be attendees included whole roasted pig on the lunch menu, the opportunity to see turf modules as used on the field at Giant[s] Stadium, and door prizes such as a 20 ft. Alum. Retractable flagpole w/flag (donated by Prosser Equip. Co.) and New York Yankees tickets (donated by Sherwin Williams).

Fred indicated that the August 2002 Field Day was principally spearheaded by Dr. Henry Indyk (deceased; 2005); Dr. Indyk had retired from his role at Extension Specialist at Rutgers University and was Association's Advisor in 2002. Dr. Indyk had deep roots in sports field management both in New Jersey as well as nationally; in addition to other accolades, he received the SFMA Harry C. Gill Founders Award for 1994 and was named Sportsturf Magazine

Continued on page 15

Project Evergreen

Launches New Clean Air Calculator to Help Green Industry Professionals Quantify the Environmental Benefits of Their Work

Editor's Note: Project EverGreen is a national non-profit committed to strengthening communities through the development, maintenance, and revitalization of green spaces. Signature initiatives include GreenCare for Communities, GreenCare and SnowCare for Troops, TM and the Clean Air Calculator. Through partnerships and volunteers, the organization promotes environmental, economic, and social health through access to healthy green spaces.

Landscape and lawn care professionals, sports field managers and golf course superintendents now have a powerful new tool to showcase the environmental value of the green spaces they create and maintain.

Project EverGreen is proud to launch the Clean Air Calculator – an innovative, easy-to-use online mapping tool that measures how green spaces such as lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, and parks sequester carbon, offset vehicle emissions and contribute to cleaner air.

The tool is designed for professionals who work with turf, trees, and shrubs – from landscape contractors and lawn care specialists to sports field managers and golf course superintendents – providing them with data to demonstrate the ecological impact of their work.

"Green industry professionals are on the front lines of environmental stewardship," said Cindy Code, executive director of Project EverGreen. "The Clean Air Calculator allows them to quantify their contributions in real, measurable ways – and communicate the value of well-maintained green spaces to clients, communities, and stakeholders."

Using an interactive map, users can outline the area of any property – whether it's a single-family lawn, schoolyard, park, sports field, or golf course – and receive an instant Clean Air Score. This score details how much carbon is sequestered, how much air pollution is removed, and how much oxygen is produced compared to surrounding surfaces.

For professionals who manage multiple properties or large landscapes, the calculator becomes a valuable tool for client education, sustainability reporting, and community outreach. It also provides a compelling way to reinforce the importance of natural grass and healthy landscapes in urban and suburban environments.

Ready to put the green spaces you care for to the test?

Visit www.projectevergreen.org/clean-air-calculator to map your properties, get your score, and share your results with customers. It's a fast, interactive way to back up your environmental efforts with hard data – and advocate for greener, healthier, and more sustainable communities.

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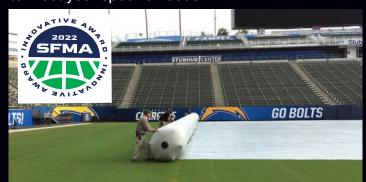
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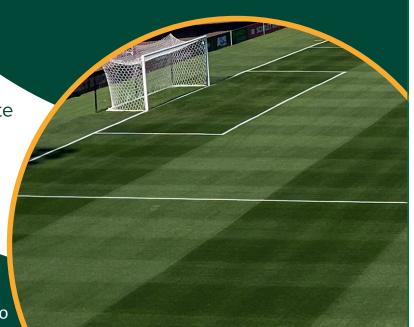
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2025 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day

Trade Show and Equipment Demonstrations sponsored by SFMANJ

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 • Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ

7:30 to 9:00 AM

Trade Show sponsored by Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ)

9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Stop # I: Alternative and Synthetic Broadleaf Weed Control Programs

Speakers: Dr. Matt Elmore and Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis:

The presentation will discuss selective organic and alternative herbicides in combination with nitrogen fertilizer programs for broadleaf weed control in cool season turf. These programs consisting of boric acid and chelated iron will be applied alone and in combination with nitrogen fertilizer and compared to synthetic herbicide standards. A second trial will show the effect of various postemergence broadleaf herbicides in combination with preemergence herbicides for season-long broadleaf weed control.

Stop # 2: Management of important turfgrass insect pestsSpeakers: Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer and Matthew Brown

Presentation Synopsis:

Presentation will discuss BMPs for important landscape turf insect pests including identification, monitoring, and IPM including chemical and biological control.

Stop #3: SFMANJ-Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations

10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Stop #4: Shade Research in Cool-Season Turfgrasses Speaker: Eric MacPherson

Presentation Synopsis:

Shade affects many homelawns and golf course greens throughout the world. The development of shade tolerant turfgrass would

improve the quality of homelawns and putting greens under shade. The traits important for shade tolerance and the best species of cool-season turfgrass to use in shade will be discussed.

Stop #5: 2022 NTEP Perennial Ryegrass Test + Breeding for Gray Leaf Spot Tolerance

Speaker: Dr. Stacy Bonos

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of perennial ryegrass will be discussed. Breeding for disease resistance such as gray leaf spot, brown patch and stem rust and will be discussed.

Stop # 6: Performance of warm-season grasses in New Jersey Speaker: Mark LaBarge

Presentation Synopsis:

Hotter and dryer summers in New Jersey has elevated the importance of testing warm-season grass performance in New Jersey. Bermudagrass and zoysiagrass with improved winter performance were evaluated from 2022-2024. The top performers were planted alongside creeping bentgrass in a fairway trial. Establishment, cold tolerance, and fairway performance will be discussed.

11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Stop #7: 2023 NTEP Kentucky Bluegrass – Breeding for improved disease resistance in Kentucky bluegrass
Speaker: Ryan Earp

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of Kentucky bluegrass will be discussed. Breeding and selection techniques used to develop Kentucky bluegrass cultivars will be described. Cultivar tolerance to important diseases such as rust, leaf spot, and summer patch will be discussed. The latest advances in molecular marker technology will also be discussed.

Continued on page 17





SFMANJ Spring Field Day 2025 Wrap-Up & THANK YOU ______ By Miguel Delesus

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I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Sports Field Manager Association's Spring Field Day such a tremendous success. From the planning stages to the final wrap-up, everything ran seamlessly, and that is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of so many individuals.

A special thank you to Brad Park, Debbie Savard, and the SFMANJ for allowing us the honor of hosting this year's event at the beautiful Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne, NJ. We're incredibly proud to have welcomed everyone to our park.

I also want to sincerely thank Darryl Sparta, Director of the Passaic County Parks Department, for his ongoing support, and Greg Moore and Vinny Spano for all the help behind the scenes. Your efforts were key in preparing the park and fields to look and perform their best for the event.

To Isabella Costa, Angelo Burrafato, George Pasquella, and Kyle Kaps—thank you for your support and contributions. You each played a vital role in the success of the day.

A big thank you to the Passaic County Park Rangers, not only for staffing the event and ensuring everything ran smoothly and safely, but also for hosting an information booth that added so much to the experience.

To our vendors—thank you for being part of the day and especially to those who provided equipment demonstrations. Your willingness to share knowledge and answer questions on the spot truly enriched the experience for our attendees.

It hasn't even been 24 hours since the event, and already I've received countless calls, texts, and emails from attendees expressing how impressed they were with our speakers. The presentations were insightful and engaging, providing a wealth of valuable information to all who attended.

Finally, the condition of our sports fields and the park as a whole received many compliments—and rightfully so. I know that this wouldn't have been possible without our exceptional staff. Your hard work and pride in what you do keep this department shining day in and day out.

Thank you again to everyone who played a part in making this Spring Field Day one to remember. Please extend my thoughts and thanks to all of your staff personally from myself and the Passaic County Parks Department as a whole.

All The Best, Miguel DeJesus

Miguel DeJesus is Supervising Greenskeeper, County of Passaic – Department of Parks and Recreation

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732-241-7378 732-580-5516 (now Sports Field Management) Man of the Year for 1999. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey developed the Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award to honor an individual who has demonstrated a tireless commitment of service and hard work contributing to the advancement of the both sports fields and sports field managers in New Jersey.

By all measures, the August 8,2002 Field Day was a resounding success. Fred recalled Storr Tractor's demonstration of a tractor mounted core cultivation tool immediately subsequent to the application of a topdressing material via a commercial topdresser — The intention of the dual equipment demo being the demonstration of using core cultivation as a method to incorporate a surface application of a topdressing material. The Association holds a number of hard-copy photographs of this Field Day taken with a 35-mm camera in its archive; the photos were donated by Elenora Murfitt.

SFMANJ Update (Sept./Oct. 2002; Vol 2. No. 5) reported a whopping 145 in attendance for the Bernards Township Field Day with 31 equipment demonstrations and 42 vendor booths. Topics and speakers included, "Optional Renovation Techniques, 5+ Soccer Goal Scenarios" presented by Jim Hermann, CSFM (Total Control, Inc); "Apply Soil Test Information to Your Maintenance Program" by Dr. James Murphy, Extension Specialist (Rutgers University) and Dr. Henry Indyk (GSI Consultants - TurfCon Div.); and a panel discussion on "Do's & Don'ts of Writing Maintenance Specifications," lead by Eleanor Murfitt (Washington Township Parks & Recreation); the panel included Dr. James Murphy, Dr. John Grande (Rutgers Snyder

Research Farm), Dr. Henry Indyk, Jim Gavigan, CSFM (Lesco) and Jeff Cramer (Plainsboro Township DPW).

Additional individuals responsible for the success of the August 2002 Field Day deserve mention here. The Field Day host was Dan Callahan, Bernards Township and longtime SFMANJ Member. Years later, Dan hosted the 2016 SFMANJ Spring Field Day at Mountain Park in nearby Basking Ridge – A facility also managed by Bernards Township Parks and Recreation.

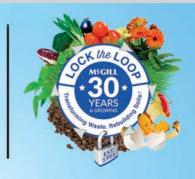
As the first President of SFMANJ, Eleanora Murfitt (Washington Township Parks and Recreation) led the Association during 2001 and 2002 – the subject of this article; she would remain in the role through the end of 2005. Eleanora attended the Rutgers NJAES-OCPE Athletic Field Maintenance and Construction course in early 1999 and connected with Dr. Indyk, who served as a Course Coordinator and Instructor in the Continuing Education Course. This connection culminated in the development of SFMANJ, with Eleanora taking on the Chapter's leadership role. Our Association recognized her contributions to SFMANJ by presenting her with Dr. Henry Indyk Memorial Award in 2017.

My goal is to further explore the August 2002 Field Day and share several of the Eleanora Murfitt-donated images of this event as part of my historical report during the SFMANJ Annual Business Meeting at Expo in Atlantic City on December 9, 2025.

Brad Park is Research and Outreach Agronomist, Rutgers University; Editor, SFMANJ Update newsletter; a member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors; and 2024 recipient of the SFMA Dr. William Daniel Founders Award.







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2025 Rutgers Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Field Day

Stop #8: Pre and Postemergence Yellow Nutsedge Control Speaker: Dr. Matt Elmore and Dan Tuck

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will evaluate yellow nutsedge control with Celero herbicide applied at various timings before and after nutsedge emergence. The biology of yellow nutsedge, a perennial warm-season weed, will also be discussed. Discussion will focus on seasonality of tuber production and how to time herbicide applications to minimize tuber production.

Stop #9: SFMANJ-Sponsored Equipment Demonstrations

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Stop 10: Early postemergence crabgrass control Speakers: Dan Tuck and Dr. Matt Elmore

Presentation synopsis

This presentation will show a trial evaluating the efficacy of various dithiopyr formulations applied shortly after crabgrass emergence. Additional discussion will focus on cultural practices to help complement preemergence herbicide programs.

Stop # 11: 2024 Tall Fescue Trial + Breeding for disease resistance and other traits in tall fescue

Speaker: Dr. Stacy Bonos

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of tall fescue will discussed. We will describe various selection procedures used to improve these important traits. Breeding objectives of tall fescue including important traits such as drought, rhizome formation, brown patch and gray leaf spot resistance will be discussed.

Stop #12: 2023 Fine Fescue Trial

Speaker: Ryan Daddio

Presentation Synopsis:

Characteristics and uses of fine fescues will be discussed. Breeding objectives of fine fescues including disease resistance will also be discussed. Selection work for summer patch tolerance, leaf spot and dollar spot will be described.

1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

LUNCH

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

OPTIONAL: Toxicity of pesticides

Speaker: Mike Reed

Presentation Synopsis:

Pesticides and chronic disease are increasingly a concern of the community, regulators, and of pesticide applicators themselves. Whether you're responsible for managing application for residences, commercial properties, or athletic fields, this presentation should explain the importance of using the proper PPE for pesticide application.

Brad Park: Recipient of the Dr. William H. Daniel Founders Award

Brad Park, Rutgers University was presented with the 2024 Dr. William H. Daniel Founders Award at the conclusion of the 36th Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference & Exhibition in Palm Springs, CA during its annual Awards Banquet on January 16, 2025.

Dr. William Daniel set the pattern for educator/researcher involvement in SFMA. The partnership between educators and researchers and the sports turf managers who incorporate these advances in on-the-field applications is key to the progress of the industry. The Daniel Award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the industry through research, teaching or extension.



Brad Park with Kristen Althouse Receiving the 2024 Daniel Award Image by John Mascaro

From: Sport Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference Post-Show Recap (sportsfieldmanagementonline.com)

"Brad Park embodies the spirit of this award and has spent more than two decades working to make athletic fields safer and more sustainable. Park's career has been dedicated to conducting practical, impactful research — often focusing on topics that others might overlook due to challenges in funding or implementation.

From traffic stress tolerance studies to projects on low-input turfgrasses, Park's work has provided invaluable insights to athletic field managers across the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Park's hands-on approach involves testing turfgrass under real-world conditions, ensuring that the findings are both practical and applicable.

Park is well-known for his expertise in cool-season turfgrass species and cultural practices, and is a trusted resource for practitioners seeking advice on integrated pest management, species selection, and sustainable management practices. Park is a passionate educator who has guided countless students, helping them forge successful careers in the turfgrass industry.

Park is also a tireless volunteer, serving on numerous SFMA committees, including the Education Committee, where his thoughtful input has helped shape the organization's programs and priorities."

Calendar of Events

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days Golf & Fine Turf

July 29, 2025

Rutgers Hort Farm No. 2

North Brunswick, NJ

Lawn, Landscape, and Sports Turf

Includes SFMANJ-sponsored Trade Show & Equipment

Demonstrations

July 30, 2025

Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm

Freehold, NJ

973.812.6467

www.njturfgrass.org

SFMANJ 2025 Fall Field Day

October 29, 2025 Chestnut Branch Park Mantua Township, NJ 856.514.3179 www.sfmanj.org

New Jersey Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference

December 9-11, 2025 Borgata Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, NJ 973.812.6467 www.njturfgrass.org

2026 Sports Field Management Association (SFMA) Conference & Exhibition

January 18-22, 2026 Fort Worth, TX 800.541.4955

www.sportsfieldmanagement.org

Questions? www.sfmanj.org 865-514-3179

New and Renewed Members

Charles Oborty	Control Park Consorvancy Inc
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	New Jersey Turf Grass Association
	Central Park Conservancy, Inc.
	Turf Trade
	Byram
	Twp of Morris Parks & Rec
Erika Plut	Twp. of Morrris Parks and Rec
Kevin Ponti	Middlesex County Parks
	Upper Freehold Regional School Dist.
Debbie Savard	SFMANJ
	Central Park Conservancy, Inc.
	Central Park Conservancy, Inc
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Robert Smethers	Plainsboro Township
Brian Stevens	Twp of Burlington Rec Dept
Christopher Szymanski	Readington Township
Daniel Taylor	Twp. of Burlington Parks and Rec
Ricky Tier	City of Long Branch, Parks
Mark Tindall	Cinnaminson Board of Ed
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