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Teamwork emphasized in Northbrook Parks District:

by Mike McBride
Northbrook Park District

■ For every baseball/softball program, everyone must understand that he or she is on the same team: coaches, users, maintenance crews. We have 23 baseball/softball fields, serving players from T-ball through adult mixed leagues.

Pre-spring preparation takes place in the fall; all edgings are done, ball mix is worked in, and infields are re-sodded. In spring, only some edging and infield tuning are needed.

Skinned infields are a mix of 80 percent clay and 20 percent sand. They are crowned for drainage. Turf areas are perennial ryegrass mixes.

All of the Little League fields are grassed, with maintained basepaths, mounds and pitcher's boxes. Softball fields are entirely skinned.

Fields are dragged and lined every day, even for practices. The main field, located downtown, has moveable bases that are set for each game. All other fields use Hollywood bases, set by coaches.

Fields are aerated as play schedules allow. All fields are maintained to regulation, with pro-type basepaths, mounds and

batters' boxes.

The main field is used for Little League, softball and baseball. It has three pitcher's mounds in an hourglass-shaped skinned area, with sufficient room to be "legal" for all three levels. Even after the pitcher releases the ball, his foot never touches the grass.

None of the fields are irrigated; hand watering is used as needed. This year, a stabilizer will be tried for dust control.

A six-person crew handles ballfield maintenance. Crews work Monday through Saturday. After 11 years of working toward it, there are no Sunday games this year. Each crew member works 10-hour shifts, four days a week. Wednesday and Thursday are the "double-crew" days.

—Mike Trigg is parks supervisor for the Waukegan Park District. He is president of the Sports Turf Managers Association's Midwest chapter. Mike Moorman is maintenance supervisor for the Glenview Park District. Mike McBride is athletic field/signs supervisor for the Northbrook Park District. All three are STMA national and Midwest chapter members.



Al Liebert cuts sod during field renovation along the arc edge.

Advice from Uncle Sam:

How to apply for a small business loan

■ There are seven steps you must take if you are applying for a small business loan, according to the Small Business Administration.

Here they are:

1) Prepare a written business plan for your business. Describe your experience, and management capabilities of owners and/or managers in writing; personal resumés are acceptable.

2) Prepare the following financial information:

- financial statements for the past three fiscal years, or period of time the business has been in operation;

- current business balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement, not more than 90 days old at time of submission;

- aging of accounts receivable and accounts payable;

- copies of corresponding income tax

returns for prior three years, or time business has been in operation.

(All financial statements should include the balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement.)

3) Prepare a detailed projection of earnings and expenses for a one-year period if the business has not been in operation at least two years. Include a narrative explanation of your basis for the projections.

4) Prepare an estimate of the total amount that you need, and break it down to show amounts estimated for land, buildings, leasehold improvements, equipment, inventory, operating expenses, etc.

5) Prepare a list of collateral to be offered as security for the loan, with your estimate of their individual present values. Include an itemized list of currently-owned equipment and/or equipment to

be acquired with the loan proceeds (serial number, model and cost value).

6) Prepare a current personal financial statement for each owner or partner or stock-holder owning 20 percent or more of the business. (Do not include business assets and liabilities in these statements.)

7) Take this material when you see your banker. Ask for a bank loan; if refused, ask the bank to make the loan under the SBA's Loan Guaranty Plan or to participate with the SPA in a loan.

If the bank is willing to grant you an SBA guaranty loan, the banker will provide you an application. Return the completed forms to your commercial lender, who will in turn forward them to the SBA with a cover letter. The bank will deal directly with the SBA from this point out.