

## Property at a glance

Location: Sylvania, OH

Staff: Sylvania Recreation Department

Category: Parks, Recreation Area or Athletic Fields

Total budget: \$560,500

Year site built: 1989

Acres of turf: 135

Acres of woody ornamentals: 1

Acres of display beds: 1

Total paved area: 15 miles

Total man-hours/week: 70

## Maintenance challenges

- ▶ Maintain high quality turf despite high traffic
- ▶ Performing maintenance around activities
- ▶ Poor soil for athletic fields (heavy clay)

## Project checklist

Completed in last two years:

- ▶ Installation of four new ball diamonds
- ▶ Planting of over 100 woody trees
- ▶ Installation of paved access paths

## On the job

- ▶ Five full-time staff, 13 seasonal employees, three licensed pesticide applicators

# Pacesetter Park

## 2001 PGMS Grand Award Winner for Parks, Recreation Area or Athletic Fields

Pacesetter Park in Sylvania, OH, gives "field traffic" a whole new meaning. With 25 game-only soccer, lacrosse and flag football fields, eight ball diamonds, two open-air shelters and 66 acres of practice facilities, maintenance facilities and a state-of-the-art playground, it's the epicenter of all recreational activity in this northwestern suburb of Toledo. In 2000, the entire facility averaged between 191,000 and 200,000 players, spectators and other community users.

Obviously, this intense traffic makes maintenance a challenge. Grounds workers have become experts in aeration, fighting compaction in soil that's heavy in clay. Mowing is performed three to four times a week at a height of 1 3/4 in. All work must be completed by 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, as evenings and weekends are reserved for games.

Pacesetter Park was the first recreational facility in Ohio to install the Toro Touchnet irrigation system, which works



Pacesetter Park's grounds crew members spend a good deal of their time lining and re-lining the numerous on-site athletic fields.

off a computer and satellites to allow pinpoint precision of watering cycles and easy troubleshooting. There are over 500 irrigation heads on the soccer facility.

## PGMS

## Landscape MANAGEMENT

Editors' note: *Landscape Management* is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Grounds Management Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 2002 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2001 Awards, contact PGMS at:

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Mowing has to be scheduled around the park's numerous athletic activities.



With over 135 acres of turf to care for, grounds crew members must schedule jobs appropriately and complete them before 3 p.m. each day.

