MIDLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT FIELDS STATUS REPORT

Presented at the Midland Park Board of Education Meeting of June 4, 2019
Presentation Goal

- To provide fact-based information with regard to the status of district fields, i.e., conditions, maintenance, and usage.
  - Stadium Field
  - Schiffer Field (Rear Field)
  - Lower Sunset
  - Upper Sunset
  - Highland Field
District Field Maintenance

- July 2017- after consulting with a professional turf management company, a plan was put in place for all fields which includes:
  - Fertilization
  - Weed control
  - Core aeration
  - Slit seeding
  - Rest
Stadium Field
Highland Field
Schiffer Field (Rear Field)
Upper Sunset
Lower Sunset
District Field Maintenance
Field Conditions

“A well-established and maintained turf can withstand a significant amount of use without serious damage. Abuse, however, will cause permanent damage that cannot be overcome by even the best maintenance program. Use of athletic fields, under certain conditions, must be restricted to preserve the turf grass cover. A football stadium, for example, cannot be kept in prime condition for interscholastic competition if it is also used for everyday intramural activities. Moreover, the use of fields during inclement weather and wet soil conditions is likely to result in permanent damage to the field that will require extensive reconstruction procedures to repair.”

Henry W., Indyk, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension
Spring and Fall – Stadium Field

**Spring**
- MP Track (Track), 168
- St. Elizabeth (Track), 10

**Fall**
- MPHS - Band, 155
- HS Soccer, 262
- MP Rec Soccer, 0
Spring and Fall – Schiffer Field (Rear Field)

Spring

- HS Base/Soft, 252
- MP Rec Base/Soft, 338.5
- MPHS - Band, 0

Fall

- HS Soccer, 243
- MP Rec Soccer, 215
- MPHS - Band, 12
Spring and Fall – Highland Field

### Spring
- MP Rec Soccer, 146
- Ajax Soccer, 176
- PTA/EPTA, 12.5

### Fall
- MP Rec Soccer, 286
- MPCE - Summer Heat, 18
- PTA/EPTA, 25
Spring and Fall – Upper Sunset

**Spring**
- MPH - Band, 0
- HS Base/Soft, 36
- MP Rec Base/Soft, 228

**Fall**
- MPH - Band, 12
- HS Soccer, 25
- MP Rec Soccer, 261
Spring and Fall – Lower Sunset

**Spring**
- Ajax Soccer, 218
- MP Soccer, 75
- HS Golf, 27
- MPHS - Band, 12

**Fall**
- MPHS - Band, 12
- HS Soccer, 65
- MP Rec Soccer, 261
From the Experts: Rutgers Cooperative Extension (Turf grass Management)

- Maintaining a dense turf cover with enough vigor to outgrow damage from play should be the primary focus of a sports field management program.

- Damage from overuse of natural turf fields is a common challenge. Programs to control traffic (permitting of field use and rotating and closing of fields) are needed to prevent severe loss of natural turf from unregulated play.

- A stable, resilient turf surface provides the proper footing needed for athletic play and the cushion necessary to protect athletes against injury.
Conclusions & Recommendations

- District fields support the activities of borough recreation programs and other outside organizations.

- District fields are overused and not provided sufficient time to rest.

- District fields are currently in the best condition possible, one much improved from prior years.

- Outside coaches and athletic directors have complimented administrators on the excellent conditions of our fields during the playoff season, asking, “How do we do such a great job?” The answer: ensuring commitment to our successful maintenance program.

Recommendations:

- Strictly curtail field use for any program other than district-based programs.
- Consider replacing grass fields with artificial turf.