

Wednesday October 17, 2012
Last Bi-Weekly Update of the Season

It has been a very successful season over at the Ultimate Park in Manotick Station. We were all faced with our own set of challenges with regards to the drought, irrigation malfunctions and overall turf struggles as it tried to survive without water.

On October, 15 the second and last application of fall fertilizer, 4-14-27 was applied to the fields. This application was perfectly timed as we watched the cooler weather. Application of a fall fertilizer too early before the winter and there would be no nutrients left for the turf as it over wintered. Too late of an application and the turf wouldn't have to absorb the nutrients before the winter.

The team from Mountainview has been working hard on getting the irrigation problem alleviated so that there would be no further water issues next year. First, silt and debris was removed from the old inlet pipe. A new pipe was then laid. Everything was working wonderfully before the system was closed up for the season.

The fields are currently being mowed at once a week. Mowing will stop in the next couple weeks as the colder weather makes the grass go into dormancy and cease from growing.

As the season has come to a close and the grass stops growing, there is no more need for irrigation. The very last step in preparing the fields for winter is blowing out the irrigation lines. This entails attaching a compressor to shoot all remaining laying water out of the irrigation lines. You do not want any water to remain in the irrigation pipes over winter as it can cause them to bust. This process will take place in the next coming week.

Regardless of how the weather faired for our turf, overall, we are extremely happy with the outcome of the season. The turf was healthy enough from proactive methods of turf maintenance and was able to rebound from the drought.

As a final note, Mountainview would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Ultimate Frisbee Association for another successful season. We look forward to working together next year.

Wednesday October 3, 2012

Welcome to October! Although the Ultimate Frisbee season has come to an end, the grass is still continuing to go and thrive. The fields at Manotick Station are responding well to the recent cultural practices that have taken place. The added relief of compaction through aeration, added seed and recent fall fertilizer applied is adding to the turfs continued success.

Through the month of October, the grass will begin repairing it's self from the past season's rough use of normal play. It will begin filling in bare areas with new turf growth, ready to be played on next season.

The fields are currently in between applications at this time.

The fields are being mowed 2 to 3 times a week depending on the weather forecast.

Wednesday September 19th, 2012

Fall is here! The long days of warm sun, no rain and heat are gone. The colder temperatures will soon bring the grass to a point where its growth slows. Grass normally still has great vibrant color in September as it adjusts from summer into fall.

As the season comes to a close for Ultimate Frisbee players, fall maintenance comes in full swing at the fields.

On September 11th, 12th, and 13th a crew from Mountainview arrived on site to do the fall aerating, fertilizing and overseeding.

Aerating in the fall is the best option for turf being that there is less stress on the turf from heat and play. After a busy summer at the fields, aerating will relieve compaction and water infiltration for the grass.

Many people don't realize that you have to fertilize turf in the fall prior to winter. This first application gives the turf extra nutrients to continue to grow and thrive as it would all year around. The second application later in the fall will target giving nutrients to the roots to make them as healthy for the upcoming winter.

It is expected every year that with normal play and wear on the fields that some grass is damaged. This year the fields had to fight another battle with drought. By applying 2 bags of seed per acre the grass fills in the bare areas before weeds can.

While the Mountainview team was at the fields they removed the water pump to replace some bearings and seal kit. These were damaged when the well ran out of water this past summer.

Currently, the fields are being mowed 2 times a week. As the new fertilizer releases over the next few weeks, we expected to increase mowing to 3 times a week.

Overall, we are happy with the condition of the fields. We are looking forward to closely monitoring the fields as the new seedlings germinate and the fertilizer releases nutrients.

Wednesday August 22nd, 2012

The fields are in between applications at this time. Mowing is continuing at twice to three times a week, weather dependant.

Overall, the fields look great and more cultural practices (aerating, fertilizing and etc.) will resume once playoffs are finished.

Wednesday August 8th, 2012

Another warm and dry month is now behind us. August should bring some relief to summer heat with cooler evenings. The cooler evenings is preparing the grass for the fall weather that is ahead.

Since the irrigation system has been up and running we are very pleased with the way the turf has rebounded out of dormancy. The grass is again becoming green, lush and growing steadily. It is currently being mowed at 2 to 3 times a week, weather dependent.

On **July 26th**, after a bit of delay the deep well pump was installed and functioning again allowing for proper watering.

Also on **July 26th**, the parking lot was whipper snipped and cleaned of any debris in anticipation for the upcoming tournament. They also began cutting around the valve boxes and spray painted the tops in a bright color to allow them to be seen more clearly.

July 27th brought the team from Mountainview back to the site to prepare 4 broken valve box lids. The broken lids are made out of plastic occasionally break from regular wear.

On **July 31st** Mountainview team went back to Manotick Station to check the irrigation system and to mark heads they felt were not functioning properly and were broken.

Over the course of a season a head may become crooked from wear and from the thaw cycle of spring. While the irrigation head is still able to shoot out water that stream tends to not be as evenly distributed. It can lead to one section of turf getting more water then another and therefore having an uneven appearance.

In order to fix this they must dig below the surface and straighten the head. Then the dirt and turf must be repacked around the sprinkler head.

Although, there was no time to begin the process of straightening the heads on the fields, on **August 1st** and **August 2nd** the team went and replaced all of the heads that were broken.

Overall, we are pleased with the appearance of the fields and the way the turf has rebounded after “the great drought of 2012”. We anticipate the fields to recover fully with regular cultural practices and the cooler temperatures to come.

Wednesday July 25, 2012

For many, summer is going to seem very long this year. Even though it is only the end of July with at least another month of warm weather ahead of us the summer is far from over.

Things over at UPI have rebounded from the drought that occurred from the irrigation system being down. Now, that the fields are getting proper moisture they have been able to improve in color and in growth. What a resilient plant!

Being that the grass is much healthier from the added fertilization this month and irrigation watering, the fields are being mowed twice a week.

We were all extremely happy to report that on July 14th we had water on the fields again. After working all week long to fix the system it was finally turned on.

The irrigation has been turning on in the evenings, when fields are out of play. Irrigation should never be turned on in the middle of the afternoon or late morning during hot and dry weather. Not only can water droplets land on a turf surface and act as a magnifying glass in the sunlight but it can also evaporate quickly. For both the environments and plants health we are closely monitoring the water system and being conscious about watering at the optimum time.

On July 23rd, Mountainview’s external manager arrived on site to assess the condition of the fields. Overall, he was very pleased with how the fields were turning around since the irrigation was fixed. However, he was suspicious of more irrigation issues. Upon closer inspection it was discovered that there were a few irrigation heads that were not turning properly. This is due to silt build up and is very common. He also noticed that the primer pump was not functioning which is a bigger problem being that the irrigation system cannot run without it.

On July 24th Mountainviews external manger arrived again on site with the company’s mechanic to try to fix the primer pump. After working all morning and afternoon they were still not able to get it working. It was decided that it needed replacement which would happen the next day on July 25th.

Overall, we are pleased with the condition of the fields. What we are most pleased with is the turn around that the fields were able to make with the drought stress. It is a testament

to all the cultural practices that the association does on the turf that made it be able to rebound so quickly.

We wish you all a safe and fun tournament this weekend!

Wednesday July 11, 2012

Throughout all of the Ottawa Valley there has been an incredible lack of rainfall. Grass throughout the area has gone into dormancy. Even the most high tech irrigation systems cannot match the quality of a good rain shower. Therefore, until the forecast changes, a yellow tinged turf is to be expected.

It's been a very active two week's at the UPI. Over the course of a week the fields went from lush green to showing signs of dormancy.

On June 28th a meeting was held at the UPI to look at the condition of the fields. Overall, everyone was very pleased with the condition of the fields.

After getting a couple of concerned e-mails, a member of the Mountainview staff arrived at UPI to inspect the fields on July 5th. Immediately, she noticed the fields showing signs of dormancy. After watching the irrigation system for about an hour it was determined that there was something faulty.

Early on the morning of July 6th, Mountainview's external operations manager arrived on site to fully inspect the fields. It was determined that the supply well was running out of water and not filling up fast enough to have all zones of the fields irrigated. Without the proper equipment on hand, he decided to turn back the amount of water each zone was getting so that all areas could be irrigated. While there, he did fix two broken valve boxes and one irrigation head.

On July 9th, under regular contracted maintenance, the fields received their summer fertilizer application of 24-6-12. This slow release fertilizer should begin releasing immediately and continually over the course of the summer.

A team from Mountainview has been working diligently (on July 9, 10th and 11th) to fix the irrigation problem. A small leak was discovered at the well and another at the primer pump. A backhoe and full team from Mountainview are on site fixing the issues so that the irrigation system can run again at full capacity. Although the fields will greatly improve once there is more irrigation water, nothing would be better for the fields and help them turn around than a good rain storm.

Being that the fields have been in a state of dormancy the growing has slowed. They are currently being mowed only once a week. We expect the fields to be growing more consistently once the irrigation system beings properly working again.

Wednesday June 27, 2012

Finally, a break from the heat wave! The grass would be very pleased with this cooler weather we have been experiencing this week. It will begin to recover from the stress that the heat had put on its system.

Normally, when there is an excessive amount of heat and little about of rainfall the growth of the grass tends to slow down. It's not something that is typically harmful to the grass. It is simply going into dormancy (like it does before winter) to prevent it's self from dying. This is not the case at the UPI fields. The grass at the fields is not going to dormancy and although showing some signs of stress (yellowing) it is still growing. The turf is growing enough for the fields to be mowed 3 times a week.

On June 19th, Mountainview's external manager arrived at the fields to inspect the turf conditions. He was very please with what he did see. He walked every field and although dry, he was not in the least concerned over condition. With little rain in the near and far forecast he opted to turn on the irrigation system so that it would run it's normal cycle.

On June 25th, there was a concern over a hole in Field 15. Immediately, Mountainview sent over member of the team to inspect. It has been marked and will be repaired in the very near future.

At this time the fields are in between fertilizer applications. The consistent about of turf growth tells us that the spring fertilizer application is still being taken up by the plant. As soon as turf growth begins to slow down the summer application will be applied.

Overall, we are encouraged by the look of the fields. Every turf surface would struggle during these extreme weather conditions but it is the ones with proper maintenance that get through it without grass loss. It is because of the Ultimate Association's proactive turf care that allows the turf to continue to grow and thrive during heat waves.

Wednesday June 12, 2012

On Wednesday May 30th, Mountainview painted the valve boxes a bright color. This will allow for players to be able to see this hazard. Kentucky Bluegrass (the type of grass at UPI) tends to spread. This is great for rut repairs but hard on irrigation heads and valve boxes. The heads and valve boxes tend to be covered by the grass and are not easily spotted. Mountainview also trimmed the grass around the valve boxes.

On Sunday June 10th, a Mountainview inspected teh fields. A slight color change has taken place due to lack of moisture. This was noted and will be inspected closely again in the days to come.

The turf is still being mowed three times a week as needed. Mountainview is noticing a good amount of growth considering the lack of moisture. This is due to the spring fertilizer application which is giving the turf lots of nutrients.

Overall, the fields are beginning to lighten in color which is normal during the hot summer months. Because of the dry spring, the grass is changing in color earlier than normal. At this point the grass is experiencing slight draught and Mountainview will continue to monitor it closely over the coming days.

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Welcome to the 2012 season! It was an extremely early spring this year which has made things drier earlier than normal. On **April 20th, 2012**, Mountainview assessed UPI's condition after the winter. They came armed with rubber boots as the fields are usually extremely wet and at times, impassable in the spring. This year, every field was dry. Dry enough to already pass a tractor over without creating any ruts. Never have the fields been in this condition so early in the season.

Mountainview was extremely pleased with the look UPI. The fields have completely filled in with grass from the wear and tear after the CUC 2011. Very minimal weeds are present on the fields. This is largely due to the fact that grass was able to quickly fill in before weeds infested the bare areas after the tournament.

On **April 30th**, the first application of fertilizer was applied. The 22-4-8 is a fast release fertilizer that gives the grass a fast boost after being in hibernation throughout the winter.

The Mountainview team also leveled the parking lot, cut the grass around the parking lot and trimmed around the fences. They also trimmed and cut the brush that was around the exterior of the fields.

Mowing started on **April 30th**. UPI has been continuously mowed 3 times a week in order to keep up with the growth.

On **May 3rd**, Mountainview rolled the fields at UPI to relieve thaw heaving that had taken place. During the winter freeze/thaw cycle turf tends to lift. Rolling the fields brings the thatch and roots back into contact with the soil.

Garbage bags from the UPI cleanup day on May 5 were removed by Mountainview on **May 10th**. Broken lids on valve boxes were also replaced in mid-May.

On **May 22nd**, with all the extreme heat of the early spring, the irrigation system was filled to be prepared for the first sign of drought on the fields. The system has not yet been started but Mountainview is keeping a close eye on the fields and is prepared to turn it on when needed.

The color and growth that is taking place at UPI for this time of year is remarkable. Normally, the fields are just beginning to regularly grow after a long winter. This year, with the early spring and warm temperatures the grass is thriving! All fields have wintered well and are fully rehabilitated after CUC2011.

