



For Immediate Release

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Annual Field Closures for Field Maintenance and Spring Preparation Work

Vallejo, CA, December 27, 2016 – In preparation for 2017, Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) has closed all natural grass athletic fields for the winter including Wardlaw Soccer, Wilson, McMannus, and Glen Cove. Residents are being asked to respect the signs that are posted at all locations and not engage in high impact sports until the spring season opening. As an alternative, residents can play on a synthetic soccer/softball field which can be reserved for a nominal fee at Dan Foley Park.

GVRD spends several months doing field maintenance to provide a better playing surface and then closes them to allow the fields to “rest”. The fields need the rest to fill in bare areas, low areas, and for the root system to expand. This helps to provide a playing surface that is more even and full. Besides allowing the field to rest and grow, they are very vulnerable when the ground is wet and soggy. Playing on the fields at this time causes more damage and does not allow the fields to grow back.

“GVRD takes great pride in the quality of all of our parks and fields,” said Gabe Lanusse, GVRD Maintenance Superintendent. “Allowing time for the sports fields to rest and winterize will ensure that the fields are in optimal condition for public use in Spring 2017.”

Maintenance includes aerating, reseeding, top dressing, winter fertilizing, and re-sodding the goal box areas in the soccer fields. Improvements were made along the perimeter edge of the baseball infields, around pitcher’s mounds, and home plate by cleaning up the edges and adding seed and sod. Also, GVRD inspected and made necessary repairs to the irrigation systems before complete shutdown for the winter.

For more information about athletic field closures or to reserve a field, residents can visit the GVRD website at <http://www.gvrd.org> or contact the main office at (707) 648-4600.

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About GVRD

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) is a separate government agency from the City of Vallejo that provides parks and recreation programs for children, families, and seniors in Vallejo. GVRD operates primarily by means of locally-controlled funding and also receives revenue from fees for services, park entrances, programs, and facility rentals. Grants and park dedication permit fees assist in the provision for new park development projects and ongoing maintenance.

GVRD manages 407 acres of public park space including 20 neighborhood parks, 10 community parks, 6 special purpose parks, an olympic-size swimming pool and 4 community centers. GVRD, maintains over 1,000 acres of public land and offers programs that benefit over 120,000 Vallejo residents of all ages each year.

A frequently asked question is “*Why is GVRD a separate district and not a department of the City of Vallejo?*” In the late 1930’s, members of the Vallejo Parent Teachers Association (PTA) decided they had a need for an individual to organize and manage recreational activities for local youth. The PTA hired Lyston Johnson, also known as “Mr. Recreation”, to do the job. In 1944, an election was held and voters elected to create the entity known today as The Greater Vallejo Recreation District.

Visit the website for more information at <http://www.gvrd.org>.