



City Manager's Office

February 24, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Re: Sports Fields Re-Opening and Gabe's Fields Extended Closure

Today, February 24th, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department will re-open all Sports Fields that were [closed for annual maintenance](#), except Gabe's Fields at Harrison Park. Harrison Park will be closed for an additional 3 weeks and will re-open Monday, March 17th.

The fields and turf areas that will re-open on February 24th include:

- Codornices Park Softball
- Glendale-Laloma Park Softball
- Grove Park Softball
- Ohlone Park Soccer and Softball (2)
- San Pablo Park Baseball, Softball and Soccer (3)
- Tom Bates Soccer (2) and Softball (1)
- Thousand Oaks Turf Area
- Cedar Rose Turf Area

Harrison Park Extended Closure

The extended 3-week closure of two soccer fields (Gabe's Fields) at Harrison Park is required to restore the grass following a couple of incorrect maintenance decisions that contributed to a fungus issue while staff were attempting to mitigate the further deterioration of the highly used turf. Staff have updated maintenance and watering protocol to avoid this type of extended closure in the future. Staff have also communicated with all affected groups, which include youth and adult soccer, women's rugby and ultimate disc groups, and are issuing refunds for their permits during this period. The fields will re-open Monday, March 17th.

Annual Sports Field Maintenance

The City annually closes Berkeley Sports Fields during the winter for maintenance, so that the fields will remain in playable shape throughout the year. This maintenance includes replacing irrigation heads and lines, aeration, over-seeding, topdressing, fertilizing, mowing and the addition of amendment, top soil or sand. Wherever possible, staff keeps the fenced footprint as small as possible to allow park users access to open green space during the closure period.

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Sports Fields Re-Opening and Harrison Extended Closure

cc: Sharon Friedrichsen, Interim Deputy City Manager
Tasha Tervalon, Interim Deputy City Manager
Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager