



City Of  
**Burnsville**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RESIDENTS ASKED TO PROTECT ATHLETIC FIELDS UNTIL GRASS IS ESTABLISHED**

With spring – at least temporarily – in the air, comes the clamor for outdoor activities. However, because turf grasses are not yet actively growing, residents are being asked to stay off of softball and other athletic fields until later in the spring.

Many people may not realize it, but even when grass fields begin showing green and growth, they aren't quite ready for foot traffic. It takes these fields several weeks to replace growth tissue that is necessary to maintain a good playing surface throughout the summer. Damage now can require costly renovations later, and result in downtime during the athletic season.

If grass is not allowed to establish, the turf will be thin, soil will be compacted, and the risk of weeds invading the playing field will increase. Thin grass and compacted soil also pose a safety hazard for players.

In general, parks maintenance crews like to see soil temperatures rise to at least 50 degrees – typically around mid-April – before allowing people onto the fields.

*For more information contact Burnsville Parks Crew Leader Paul Miskimen at 952-895-4541.*

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