

Fields Closed November 1st – March 31st.

The City of Cheyenne's Athletic Facilities are closed to the public for any organized use during the months of November through March. Fields become available on April 1st of each year. There are several reasons for these closures, but the primary goal is to supply the community with well-groomed facilities that are safe to play on.

Practices in open parkland is allowed year-round. The City strives to be fair and consistent, therefore the rules do apply to all and not just a select few. During our pre-season meetings, this is made clear to all organizations and stated in the Community Recreation & Events "Facility Rental Guide". The field closure dates are put in place to benefit the user.

Our goal is to supply the community with quality Athletic Facilities that have healthy turf, which is safe, resilient, and aesthetically pleasing for an entire season. Immediately following the winter months, the turf is in a vulnerable state and is just starting to come out of dormancy. This is especially true if the winter was dry and the grass has suffered the effects of desiccation. At this point, the crown of the plant is delicate and if subjected to continual heavy traffic, the plant could be killed – thus resulting in barren ground. The temperatures in the soil are still very cold and the plant is not active. Allowing the plant to become active and begin growing will give the turf the best opportunity to handle traffic and to have the ability to recover from such traffic. Healthy turf is also safe turf. Good strands of grass have a layer of thatch that provides protection to the crown of the plant and supplies a cushion that lessens impact during athletic play. This layer acts as a buffer for anyone who might fall or slide on the grass. Early and lengthy use also increases the compaction of soil which hinders root growth and results in a stressed plant which is more susceptible to disease and drought. Both compacted soil and damaged turf allow opportunity for weed growth, as it is not able to outcompete non-desired plants.

In addition, the month of March is a crucial timeline for the Parks Division to begin preparing the Athletic Facilities for play on April 1st. The City of Cheyenne is responsible for preparing and maintaining 27 baseball/softball fields, 45 acres of turf containing 23 soccer fields, and one lacrosse field.

The month of March never guarantees accommodating weather to enable all work to be completed. The ground must thaw, winter debris cleaned, infield mix added/leveled, bases installed, pitching mounds built, foul lines painted, dormant grass tips cut, soccer/lacrosse fields measured out and striped, field lights tested and repaired, synthetic turf groomed, etc. The City cannot guarantee safe playing conditions at all facilities on the first nice day in March, as all areas have not been assessed and/or prepared. The hard work of one day by Parks Staff can immediately be nullified by people using our athletic facilities pre-maturely. Even the start date of April 1st poses many challenges to have these facilities ready.

The City invests a lot of money and manhours to perform good cultural practices to yield healthy and safe turf for users. Our maintenance and cultural practices are one of the main reasons we can attract State Tournaments, Regional Tournaments, and even National Tournaments.

We hope you understand and are patient when it comes to this matter.