

**Parks Maintenance
Report to the
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board
August 14, 2014**

- Athletic field crews have been preparing all athletic fields for fall league play. All fields have had sod installed in worn areas, low areas have been top-dressed with soil, irrigation heads have been checked to insure that they are level, grass infields have been edged, etc. It has been a very busy off season for them working on 13 soccer fields at Craig Ranch Soccer Complex, 5 fields at AR 1, 10 baseball/softball fields at Gabe, 6 softball fields at Towne Lake, 3 baseball fields at Mouzon and 2 baseball fields at North Park. These 39 athletic fields do not include the neighborhood park fields that are used for practices and in some cases league play for t-ball.
- With the much needed summer rains we have had this year, mowing crews, both ours and the contractual mowing crews have been busy playing catch up after the rain events. The contractually mowed areas have grown very well with the rain given the current 14 day mowing cycle. Our undeveloped parkland which in the summer is usually mowed once a month has been a challenge to keep up with. The undeveloped parkland is mostly Johnson grass which grows extremely well with a little rain. For the middle of August all areas are still pretty green, even the non-irrigated ones.
- Irrigation crews have reset most controllers to the upgraded water restrictions of once every 14 days. All athletic fields are being watered 2 times weekly or less in accordance with the new stage 3 restrictions. The City of McKinney has several acres of non-irrigated medians that are NEVER watered that do just fine. A few examples are Hardin, from Virginia Parkway north to Hwy 380 and Lake Forest, from McKinney Ranch Parkway south to 121/SRB Tollway. Please take a look at these medians during your travels through McKinney. If you want to conserve water and save on your water bill, turn your grass irrigation zones to 0 minutes, it will survive.