

# SFMA Environmental Facility Certification

# Attester's Form

Facility/Field Name being attested:

For: (Sports Field Manager's Name)

City:                      State:

Attester's Name

Organization Affiliation

Ph.    Email

Date of Assessment:

**Instructions:** Please meet with the Sports Field Manager, face-to-face, and conduct this assessment together. The manager will bring a copy of his/her answers.

Read each statement carefully in each section and place a checkmark in the box provided that most closely describes how you view the sports field manager's progress in meeting that objective. Choices are: *Yes, No, Addressing, and N/A*. If the criteria does not apply to the facility and N/A is selected, you must include the reason **why** it does not apply to the facility.

*Definitions:*

**Yes** - meets the requirement, as described.

**Addressing** - is making progress in carrying out the requirement, as described, but it is not fully implemented.

**No** - no practice is in place at the sports facility/field.

**N/A** - does not apply to the facility/field due to a specific reason. This must be documented in the *N/A Rational* section under each practice.

At the end of each section, you will be asked whether or not you recommend certification in that environmental area. If your review does **not** match the Sports Field Manager's self-assessment, or if you do not recommend certification, please have a discussion about why the assessments differ and note these reasons in the *Notes* section provided. When all 10 sections have been reviewed, please hit submit.

## 1. Storm Water Management BMPs

**Bare Soil:** One of the biggest pollutants of surface waters is soil erosion. Incorporate preventive measures, such as plantings, in all areas where runoff may collect. As water infiltrates soil, plant roots help to absorb and filter out pollutants. The soil also acts as a filter, removing some

pollutants. Use silt fences around bare areas to prevent runoff during construction or establishment periods. Control erosion of bare soil by mulching, seeding/sodding or using a compost blanket.

**Q: Are bare soil areas being addressed?**

**Non-Point Source Control:** Source control BMPs include any measures that prevent and/or minimize pollution from contaminating stormwater. Examples include trash enclosures, hazardous material storage structures, covered loading docks and work areas, and emergency response plans for spills.

**Q: Do you implement the following at your facility:**

*SDS?*

*Spill Kits?*

*Spill Response Plan?*

*Are storage areas/bins for top-dress sand, infield mix, topsoil, etc., covered to limit contact with rain and prevent material from entering stormwater runoff?*

**Stormwater Runoff Collection Areas Management:** The best way to reduce stormwater impact is to use practices that treat, store, and manage runoff before it can affect surrounding bodies of water. Methods include:

- Infiltration trenches/grassy swales
- Retention/detention basins for pre/post construction
- Permeable pavements for parking areas
- Drainage diversion for roofs/parking lots
- Rain gardens/bioretenion

**Q: Are you implementing and using BMPs to reduce stormwater impact to treat, store and manage runoff?**

*Additional best management practices can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). Each state has environmental regulations that could impact your sports facility, especially in the construction of new facilities relative to storm water and irrigation. Refer to your state's environmental department or municipal land agency for more information. Also reference SFMA Educational Bulletins under Environmental Stewardship: Best Management Practices to Reduce Stormwater Runoff and Pollution as your Sports Facility.*

<b>Recommend certification for Storm Water Management?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 2. Fertilization BMPs

Soil and plant tissue tests should be conducted on an annual or more frequent basis to help prevent over-application of nutrients to turfgrass and landscaped areas. State and local laws can affect your ability to apply phosphorus.

**Q: Conducts soil or plant tissue tests on an annual basis?**

***Q: Tests soil or plant tissue using appropriate methods to determine the amounts of nutrients needed?***

***Q: Plans the fertilizer program according to test recommendations?***

***Q: Knows state and local laws regarding phosphorus applications before applying it to turfgrass areas?***

The amount of fertilizer applied should be specific to that particular turfgrass use. For example, it would be applied differently to a heavily used soccer field versus its surrounding utility turfgrass areas. Fertigation has been shown to decrease the amount of water used for irrigation, reduces labor, chemical and energy costs for equipment and reduces runoff and leaching of nutrients. Slow-release fertilizers minimize environmental impacts and are less likely to enter storm water systems.

***Q: Applies the appropriate amount of fertilizer to each specific turfgrass area to maintain it to acceptable conditions?***

***Q. Considers utilizing foliar applications, fertigation or frequent granular applications at lower rates?***

***Q: If applying granular/soluble fertilizer to bare soil, incorporates the fertilizer into the soil to reduce exposure of nutrients to storm water runoff?***

***Q: Uses slow-release fertilizers?***

***Q: If granular fertilizers are applied to an area near an impervious surface (sidewalks, parking lots, warning tracks) ensures that any spillover is removed?***

***Q: Does not apply fertilizers on a windy day or before a heavy rainfall?***

Sometimes more fertilizer is prepared than is used, and it will need to be disposed of in a way that does not impact the environment. Disposal methods for excess include spreading it at a secondary area that can use fertilization or storing it for future use.

***Q: Disposes of excess fertilizer and fertilizer containers safely?***

Additional best management practices can be found at [SportsFieldManagement.org](http://SportsFieldManagement.org).

<b>Recommend certification for Fertilization?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 3. Pesticides/Integrated Pest Management BMPs

The goal of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is not to eliminate pests, but to manage pests at a tolerable level while avoiding environmental disruptions. In most cases an IPM approach is the most efficient and environmentally safe approach to pest control. IPM combines chemical and non-chemical control methods to reduce losses from pests.

***Q: Employs Integrated Pest Management strategies?***

- Q: Always applies pesticides in accordance with label recommendations?**
- Q: Loads, rinses and washes herbicide/pesticide products only in a designated containment facility?**
- Q: Keeps detailed and accurate records for each application?**
- Q: Mixes only the appropriate amount needed for each application?**
- Q: Always wears appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when using any pesticides?**
- Q: Sprays in the early morning, at dusk or low velocity wind days when wind speeds are usually the lowest?**
- Q: Takes immediate action to handle all accidental pesticide spills and leaks?**
- Q: Has SDS available per state regulations?**
- Q: Has a Pesticide spill Control Station available on site?**
- Q: Has a Pesticide Spill Response plan?**
- Q: Has trained the staff on the Pesticide Spill Response plan?**

*Also reference SFMA Educational Bulletins under Environmental Stewardship: Developing an IPM Plan.*

<b>Recommend certification for Pesticides/IPM?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 4. Recycling BMPs

Reducing, reusing and recycling can save resources, reduce pollution and benefit the community and environment. We should put forth the effort to reduce materials we use and recycling what we can to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills.

Environmental Stewardship for athletic facilities and maintenance operations includes reusing and recycling materials according to lawful and safe procedures.

**Q: Does your facility provide opportunity for staff to recycle waste products such as: paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic?**

**Q: Does your facility provide visible and well-marked containers for recycling waste products in PUBLIC areas?**

**Q: Do you properly dispose of all vehicle fluids, waste oil, engine parts, tires, scrap metal, etc.?**

<b>Recommend certification for Recycling?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 5. Composting BMPs

Compost is a product resulting from controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitized through the generation of heat and stabilized to a point where it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost is an organic material that can improve chemical, physical and biological characteristics of soils or growing media.

**Q: Conducts soil or plant tissue tests every two to three years to guide the application of the most beneficial compost for your situation?**

**Q: When using commercial compost products, always obtains a sample before applying to sports fields, or makes sure the product has been field tested by a university or used successfully by other field managers?**

**Q: Tills to an approximate 4 to 6” depth when used as a soil amendment prior to turfgrass establishment?**

**Q: Always has the compost laboratory tested to determine its composition and what supplements need to be added?**

**Q: When using to topdress established turfgrass, applications are conducted following core cultivation, as appropriate, in the spring and/or fall for maximum benefit?**

**Q: Does your facility or organization implement their own composting program of common raw materials such as coffee grounds, animal manure, leaves, grass clippings /yard waste, woodchips/sawdust, clean paper/cardboard, food waste from dining facilities?**

*Also reference SFMA Educational Bulletins under Environmental Stewardship: Compost Applications to Sports Fields.*

<b>Recommend certification for Composting?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 6. Mowing BMPs

Standard mowing heights vary depending on grass species, sport, and the amount of maintenance the turfgrass receives.

**Q: Mows at a height that is optimal for healthy turfgrass?**

**Q: Reduces mowing frequency and raises the mowing height of cool-season grasses when hot, dry weather slows their growth rate?**

The plant nutrients and organic material they contain play an important role in developing a healthy, productive environment for root growth.

**Q: Rarely removes grass clippings from mowed turfgrass areas?**

Grass develops a grain based on cutting direction, tending to lean towards the direction you mow. Alternating the pattern causes upright growth.

**Q: Changes the mowing pattern each time the turfgrass is mowed?**

Driving on wet turfgrass may cause long-term damage, such as wheel ruts and soil compaction, which can impact turfgrass health and recovery.

**Q: Avoids unnecessary vehicular and equipment traffic on wet turfgrass?**

**Q: Walks the site during wet conditions to do a visual inspection?**

Ragged cuts made by dull blades increase the chance of disease and pests.

**Q: Keeps mower blades sharp and balanced.**

Grass clippings that find their way in streams and drainage systems degrades water quality.

**Q: Ensures that grass clippings do not have the potential to be washed into streams or drainage systems.**

Trimming is performed by walk-behind mowers and line trimmers in areas that cannot be accessed by riding mowers.

**Q: Coordinates trimming to coincide with other mowing activities on the site.**

*Also reference SFMA Educational Bulletins under Field Management Bulletins.*

<b>Recommend certification for Mowing?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 7. Energy Conservation BMPs

The following BMPs reduce the “carbon footprint” of the facility. Energy savings means cost savings. Energy is a controllable cost and many organizations are realizing the cost benefits of energy reduction.

Energy efficient lighting includes compact fluorescents, T-8 Fluorescent, or LEDs/ replacement program. Lighting technologies can detect the presence or absence of people and turns lights on/off accordingly.

**Q: Uses lighting timers and/or occupancy sensors in facilities?**

**Q: Uses energy efficient lighting?**

Clean energy technology includes biodiesel, liquid propane/LPG, compressed natural gas/CN, electric.

**Q: Uses clean energy technology?**

Clean Diesel refers to the new Federal standards for diesel emissions. All new diesel motors are required to have this.

**Q: Uses clean diesel cars and trucks for lower levels of emissions?**

**Q: Uses alternative energy systems to provide and/or conserve energy such as solar systems, wind energy, geo-thermal energy at any facility?**

Energy Star is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program that identifies equipment, which is energy efficient and protects the environment (i.e. refrigerators/freezers).

**Q: Incorporates Energy Star Equipment throughout the facility.**

Energy consumption by heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems can be reduced through technology and maintenance.

**Q: Sets thermostats to the correct temperature depending upon season?**

**Q: Uses programmable thermostats?**

**Q: Changes filters regularly?**

**Q: Performs schedule maintenance on HVAC equipment, i.e. clean condenser and evaporator coils at least every six months?**

<b>Recommend certification for Energy Conservation?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 8. Shop Buildings and Storage Areas BMPs

Numerous activities are conducted in sports facilities' maintenance buildings and storage areas that can pose a threat to the environment. Also, they are sources of stormwater pollutants if BMPs are not in place to contain spills, manage trash, and handle non stormwater discharges. Best Management Practices are activities that support pollution prevention and good housekeeping. They also help maintenance facilities meet local regulations and improve their operations.

**Q: Conducts equipment and vehicle maintenance in an identified mechanics repair/parts storage area?**

**Q: Conducts an ongoing maintenance program that identifies equipment and vehicles to be serviced regularly, either by hour usage or miles?**

**Q: Monitors equipment and vehicles for fluid leaks and places pans under the leaks to collect fluids until the leak can be fixed?**

**Q: Uses less toxic or non-toxic materials for cleaning, coating, and lubricating to prevent costly hazardous waste generation?**

**Q: Uses less toxic or non-toxic materials for cleaning, coating, and lubricating to prevent costly hazardous waste generation?**

**Q: Concentrates cleaning and disposal at a centralized station to confine solvents and other fluids to one area?**

**Q: Directs drip pans and draining boards to the solvent sink or holding tanks?**

**Q: Keeps used fluids in recycling drums or hazardous waste containers until they can be disposed of properly?**

**Q: Uses local services to collect used liquids?**

**Q: Protects the environment in case of a natural disaster, spill or leak, by storing all chemicals in a chemical storage locker or containment area that is labeled, locked and limits access to unauthorized personnel?**

**Q: Cleans up spills immediately using absorbent materials, such as kitty litter?**

**Q: Utilizes catch basin inserts to collect dirt, sand, grass clippings, and other contaminants in maintenance area drains that may be connected to stormwater systems?**

**Q: Reduces the amount of water used for cleaning equipment?**

**Q: Utilizes a system to recycle wash water for equipment wash areas?**

**Q: Directs wash water to the sanitary sewer? *(Be sure to check sewer authority requirements for wastewater before discharge into the sanitary sewer)***

**Q: Recycles and/or properly disposes of all shop wastes: vehicle fluids, waste oil, tires, engine parts, scrap metal, etc.?**

***Q: Checks the fuel tank/station bi-annually for physical damage such as leaks, cracks, or scratches and to ensure it is in working condition?***

***Q: Has equipped the fuel tank/station with spill kits and an emergency shut off within 100 ft.?***

<b>Recommend certification for Shop Buildings &amp; Storage Areas?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 9. Irrigation & Water Quality Testing BMPs

When rainfall is insufficient and water resources become limited, the supplemental irrigation required to sustain plantings, such as turfgrass and other landscaping plants, is often the first to be placed on water use restrictions. When managing turfgrass and other landscaped areas,



reduce water use to the lowest possible level to conserve and protect our most precious natural resource. Always comply with local and state water use regulations and restrictions. Applying water responsibly can conserve resources and save money while still maintaining a healthy, safe turfgrass surface and aesthetically pleasing landscape. Due to constantly changing environments, a water quality analysis should be performed regularly to check for potential problems due to changes in pH, salinity, heavy metals, bicarbonates, micronutrients, and suspended solids.

**Q: Conducts an irrigation audit to maximize water use efficiency?**

**Q: Audit checks sprinkler head operation and output as well as irrigation distribution, uniformity, and pressure?**

**Q: Performs routine inspection of irrigation system for optimal working conditions?**

**Q: Maintains irrigation system in a manner that allows for efficient application of water. Inspect irrigation system for the following:**

- Damaged sprinkler heads?
- Clogged nozzles?
- Leaks?
- Pressure Test?
- Arc alignment?

Correct cultural practices minimize supplemental irrigation to the lowest level, while still maintaining acceptable turfgrass quality.

**Q: Considers the following when managing site:**

- Mowing height?
- Soil and tissue testing?
- Nitrogen Fertility?
- Aeration?
- Herbicide Application?
- Wetting agents?
- Soil amendments/conditions?

**Q: Waters plants only when needed?**

**Q: Considers the following technologies to improve irrigation efficiency:**

- Evapotranspiration (ET) controllers?
- "SMART" controllers?
- Rainwater collection?
- Soil moisture sensors?

**Q: Waters deeply and infrequently.**

**Q: Cycles irrigation so sprinklers run in shorter increments to give the water time to infiltrate into the soil?**

**Q: Conducts appropriate watering practices that maintains healthy turfgrass while conserving water and reducing runoff, such as deep and infrequent irrigation?**

**Q: Utilizes turfgrass species that exhibit drought resistance and/or demonstrate water use efficiency?**

**Q: Incorporates water efficient landscapes that use native and other climate-appropriate materials that can withstand drought and require less time and money to maintain?**

**Q: Works with the local cooperative extension service to determine the best native plants for your situation?**

Also reference SFMA Educational Bulletins under Drainage, Irrigation, & Water Management: Water Conservation Best Management Practices for Sports Facilities; Conducting an Irrigation Audit; Effective Water Use.

<b>Recommend certification for Irrigation and Water Quality Testing?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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## 10. Educational Outreach Program BMPs

A variety of media, such as signs, magnets, calendars, videos, BMP fact sheets and handbooks, website, newsletters, etc. can be used to promote your environmental stewardship initiatives to patrons and community.

**Q: Does your facility/agency educate patrons/staff on your environmental stewardship/ BMPs initiatives?**

**Q: Does your facility/agency have a staff-led Environmental Committee or Green Team to encourage implementation of Environmental Initiatives/BMPs?**

**Q: Does your facility/agency have an environmental policy or plan, or guidelines that help you to become more environmentally responsible?**

<b>Recommend certification for Educational Outreach?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**SUBMIT BUTTON**