ONLINE:

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
Landscaping and Grounds Keeping Workers

**Work Environment:**

- **Managers:** Manage the work and resources of their employees and provide overall direction, planning, and organizing.
- **Supervisors:** Supervise employees and coordinate their activities.
- **Custodians and Janitors:** Clean and maintain buildings and grounds.
- **Maintenance and Repair Workers:** Maintain and repair equipment and structures.
- **Gardening, landscaping, and lawn care workers:** Plant, cultivate, and harvest plants and care for landscapes.
- **Groundskeeping Workers:** Maintain and care for athletic fields and parks.

**What is an athletic field manager?**

A field manager is responsible for the maintenance and care of athletic fields, ensuring they are in optimal condition for games and events. They oversee a team of groundskeepers, schedule maintenance tasks, and manage budgets. Athletic field managers ensure that fields meet safety standards and comply with regulations, which may include environmental protection and accessibility for disabled individuals.

**What characteristics and skills does a successful athletic field manager need?**

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills to work with athletes, coaches, and other staff.
- Knowledge of turf management and maintenance techniques.
- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively.
- Attention to detail to ensure fields are in optimal condition.
- Physical fitness and the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

**Opportunity:**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in athletic field maintenance is expected to grow 14 percent during the current decade.

**Working Environment:**

Athletic field maintenance work is done outdoors in all types of weather. The work can be repetitive and physically demanding. Workers who use dangerous equipment such as lawn mowers or pesticides must wear protective clothing and follow proper safety procedures.

**Salary:**

- **Median annual wages, 2014-15:**
  - **Managers:** $54,470
  - **Supervisors:** $44,730
  - **Custodians and Janitors:** $28,090
  - **Maintenance and Repair Workers:** $38,010
  - **Gardening, landscaping, and lawn care workers:** $28,970
  - **Groundskeeping Workers:** $27,900

**Education and Training:**

- **High School:** Course work in math and science.
- **Postsecondary:** A two-year associate degree in athletic field maintenance.

**Skills:**

- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively.
- Attention to detail to ensure fields are in optimal condition.
- Physical fitness and the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

**Quick Facts:**

- **Working Hours:** Typically work full-time, but may work longer hours during game days or major events.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Opportunities exist in parks, schools, colleges, and universities, as well as in professional sports organizations.

**Additional Information:**

- **Training:** On-the-job training is common, but formal education programs in athletic field maintenance are available at community colleges and technical schools.
- **Certification:** Certification is not required, but may be beneficial.
- **Employment Outlook:** The employment outlook for athletic field managers is expected to be favorable, with many job openings resulting from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or leave the labor force.

**Further Information:**

- **American Sports Council:** <http://www.americansports.org>
- **National Recreation and Park Association:** <http://www.nrpa.org>
- **Sporting Goods Industry Foundation:** <http://www.sgif.org>