



The 13th International Turfgrass Research Conference



Technical Field Tours - Overview

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

The Technical Tours Committee* chaired by Dr. Richard Hurley has scheduled an exciting list of turf venues and cityscapes to see during the ITRC Technical Tours on Wednesday, 19 July, 2017. Attendees will have four or five tours from which to choose. Each tour will depart from the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the morning and will visit two or three venues before returning to one of the Rutgers Turf Research Farms in the afternoon for a cocktail reception, socializing, and an “American-Style” BBQ dinner. Self-guided tours of the research plots will also be available (through the use of videos accessible from your smart phones or tablets) for those interested in seeing the latest research from the Rutgers Turfgrass Program. Sunscreen, light-colored, loose fitting clothes and a wide-brimmed hat are strongly suggested since July in New Jersey can be hot (~ 30-35 C) and humid. The following are the field visits currently under consideration:

1. **Golf Venues:**

USGA Museum and Testing Center

The United States Golf Association (USGA) Headquarters (or Golf House as it is commonly referred to) is located in Far Hills New Jersey. Here you will see the original US Open and US Amateur (men’s and women’s) Champions’ Trophies, tour the Palmer, Nicklaus and Hogan rooms containing many prized clubs, photos and memorabilia, and learn how golf balls and clubs are tested at the USGA Testing Center to meet the changing requirements of the game.

Baltusrol Golf Club

With a rich heritage that dates back to 1895, Baltusrol is one of the finest examples of a championship golf facility in the United States. At this tour stop, you will have an opportunity to visit the site of 16 national championships, including seven U.S. Opens and one PGA Championship, and to hear about the management programs that have made Baltusrol one of the top golf courses in the country.

Bayonne Golf Club

Offering views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Manhattan, Bayonne is a private Scottish links style golf course built on a former landfill. See an engineering



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marvel located just four miles (6.4 km) from Manhattan, with spectacular city views from the clubhouse and golf course. As part of the tour, you will take a 30 minute boat ride around the Statue of Liberty on Bayonne Golf Club's private ferry.

2. Sod and Race Track Venues:

East Coast Sod and Seed

Located on over 800 ha (~ 2,000 acres) of sandy loam soil in southern New Jersey, East Coast Sod and Seed specializes in the production of bluegrasses, tall and fine fescues, and high quality bentgrass sod for use in the golf industry. This stop offers an opportunity to view a state-of-the-art production facility that ships sod to residential properties, athletic fields, and professional sports venues throughout the eastern United States.

Tuckahoe Turf

Tuckahoe sod farm specializes in bluegrass and tall fescue turf for sports fields and landscapes. This will be a unique opportunity to visit one of the best sod farms in the country. On this field tour, you will hear about the challenges of growing sod in the hot, humid, mid-Atlantic transition zone. You will also see harvesting operations that supply many of the major professional sports venues including Lincoln Field and Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, Fenway Park in Boston, and Citibank Park in New York City with top-quality turf.

Monmouth Park Race Track

Established in 1870, Monmouth Park is one of the legendary race tracks for thoroughbred horses in the United States. It is the home of the Haskell Invitational and the United Nations Stakes, and hosted the Breeders Cup in 2007. At this stop, you will have an opportunity to see the tall fescue inner track that was completely reconstructed for the Breeders Cup and will hear about the management program that has made this one of the top racing facilities in the country.

3. Sports Field Venues:

Met Life Practice Field and Stadium

This is the home of the New York Giants and New York Jets American Football Teams located in the New Jersey Meadowlands adjacent to New York City. This tour will consist of a review of natural turfgrass and indoor/outdoor synthetic turf



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practice fields at the Quest Diagnostics Training Center and a visit to the synthetic turf field at Met Life Stadium.

Red Bull Soccer Arena

This is the home of the New York Red Bulls Professional Soccer Team located in Harrison, New Jersey and in close proximity to Newark, one of the largest cities in the state. Completed in 2010, this stadium has a partially translucent roof common to many European style football (soccer) venues. At this stop, you will receive a “behind the scenes” tour of the facility and will hear about the management program that keeps this natural grass field in excellent playing condition.

Yankee Stadium

On this tour you will visit the “new” Yankee Stadium, home of the world famous New York Yankees Major League Baseball Team and the New York City Football Club of Major League Soccer. Built in 2009, this facility incorporates many of the design features of the original Yankee Stadium. You will have the opportunity to walk the field, see the historical monument park in center field, and hear about the many challenges of this multi-use facility which hosts a range of sporting events (football, soccer and ice hockey) and concerts year round.

Citi Field

Citi Field is the new home of the New York Mets, a Major League Baseball franchise and site of the 2015 World Series located in the New York City boro of Queens. This stop will feature a “behind the scenes” tour where you will hear about the construction process, what it takes to maintain the facility for professional baseball and other events, and what the future holds for this state-of-the-art professional sports venue.

4. Botanical Gardens and City Park Venues:

Bronx Botanical Gardens –

Situated on 100 ha (~ 250 acres) in the Bronx Boro of New York City, this National Historic Landmark includes an extensive array of gardens, a conservatory, and a world-class research and education center. The Bronx Botanical Gardens is an oasis of large, fully mature specimens of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals, all wonderfully planted and displayed in an urban setting. At this stop, you will hear about the Garden’s many research and conservation programs and will have



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plenty of time to walk through the extensive collection of the more than 50 individual gardens, trails and water features.

Central Park

Located in the heart of Manhattan, New York City, this National Historic Landmark was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead who is considered by many to be the father of American landscape architecture. The park is maintained by the Central Park Conservancy, a private, not-for-profit organization which has invested millions of dollars for its restoration and management. On this tour, you will visit the recently renovated Great Lawn and Lake as well the Central Park Conservatory Garden, and will hear about the many conservation projects that seek to restore and maintain this iconic park.

*** Technical Tours Committee**

- ❖ Dr. Richard Hurley – Committee Chair and Adjunct Professor, Rutgers University
- ❖ Dr. Josh Honig – Rutgers University
- ❖ Ms. Carrie Mansue – Rutgers University
- ❖ Mr. Brad Park – Rutgers University
- ❖ Dr. Bruce Clarke – Rutgers University