

## **A New Era for Oakland Soccer**

**By Mike Guadagnino, Recreation Chairman**

It is with great pleasure that I am now able to announce a major upgrade in infrastructure for Oaklands Youth Soccer Program.

As currently constructed, the Borough of Oakland has four soccer pitches located within the borough. There are two full fields at the recreation complex, one smaller pitch at Wells Field and our full-size “soccer only” field on Truman Boulevard. Over the past few years, we took a hard look at Truman Field and knew it was not up to the standards we expect for Oakland’s youth. It was time to put a plan in motion.

With the help of a Bergen County Recreation Grant, the Borough has begun a two-phase project. Phase 1 is now complete and ready to open this month. Our Phase I project started by having Truman Field completely stripped and groomed and Oakland's very own DPW took care of repairing and upgrading the entire irrigation system. Once all the preparation work had been completed, the entire field was given a new surface with rolled fescue sod while leveled by laser technology. This work was completed back in May, which allowed us to put the park to sleep for the summer, to allow for perfect knitting and grass growth. We are proud to say we have a top-level playing surface that even the New Jersey Red Bulls would be proud of.



Consistent with Our Mission, Oakland's Recreation Commission is committed to a safe, clean, natural playing surface which is not only more cost effective but limits injuries and illnesses. At any time, this new surface can be retouched and patched while always assuring that Oakland Recreation Soccer will have “the crown jewel” of natural playing surfaces in the county. Phase 2, which is scheduled to begin in May '2024, will include the installation of the latest in field lighting technology.



Be on the lookout for two ball fields that will begin refurbishment this fall; which is the start of our Oakland Recreation Complex field upgrades to all our softball and baseball fields (also paid for by grants).

Here's to hoping all our fall athletes have a Great Fall Season!

Next Month's article will be about another infrastructure project that was completed in August.