

City of Oakland's Mowing Practice



The general practice for mowing turf is, **mow high, mow frequently**, and allow the grass clippings to return to the lawn. [The clippings](#) provide a great source of nitrogen and it helps to increase and promote the health and fertility of the soil.

MOW HIGH

Generally, the higher the height of the cut the less maintenance is required. This is due to the fact that higher cut grass has a deeper root structure. Shorter heights of grass promote shallower root systems. Deep root systems have a greater rate of success and a higher tolerance to environmental stresses (i.e. drought and disease.) This is why the City practices a mowing height of three to four inches which produces a healthy, good quality turf.

MOW FREQUENTLY

The City's mowing schedule varies with the season to allow for adequate growth and root system development. In the Fall and Winter months, with our mild temperatures and rains, our mowing schedule changes to every three weeks to keep our lawns healthy and usable for our community. During the Spring and Summer months, when the growth rate slows and park use increases, the frequency at which we mow is increased to a bi-weekly schedule for our "High Priority Sports Fields and Recreation Areas", this allows us to accommodate the higher volumes of park patrons.

Our Parks Services staff have all been trained and certified through the [Bay Friendly Landscape Maintenance](#) program.