

Pacesetter Park Case Study



Located in Sylvania, Ohio, Sylvania Recreation is a thriving 140-acre sports complex that includes facilities for baseball and softball, soccer, flag football, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, and others. A premiere soccer club calls Pacesetter Park home, on top of the park's in-house travel club of 20 teams. Perched on the Michigan-Ohio border, Sylvania attracts premiere regional tournaments due to its centralized location and easy driving access.

"We're plenty busy," said Brian Hall, Facilities and Maintenance Director for the Sylvania Recreation District, which maintains Pacesetter Park. "It varies from season to season, but we maintain around 30 painted fields at any given time."

To keep facilities sharp, Sylvania Recreation employs a dedicated full-time staff plus seasonal summer staff, but they're still short-handed. On average, Hall said, they operate at about 60% staff.

That's what led Hall to TinyMobileRobots, which he initially heard about on Twitter. From there, he got in touch with a local rep and loved what he saw.

"The accuracy sold it for me. The ability to sit in our office and plan out 30 fields on this facility with absolute accuracy was great. The robot remembers the layouts, so when you repaint it, it's exactly the same. That's what validated the investment for us," Hall said.

Hall claimed the robot was life-changing right out of the box.

- When preparing for rec soccer season, they must lay down 25-30 soccer fields in a custom arrangement using traditional stringing and measurement.
- Pacesetter's crew maintains several facilities scattered across the city, which stretches staff and travel costs.
- Initial field layout and painting made it difficult to tend to other tasks like mowing, string trimming, and general upkeep and maintenance.



Soccer fields took 3 people and over an hour to paint.



Each field takes 20 minutes, while staff can multi-task.



Painted unused fields just to keep original layout.



Paint from scratch any time, no layout prep required.



Spent weeks painting for tournaments.



Can paint tournament fields the day before or the

At first, Hall planned to allow only his full-time guys to operate the new robot, but he quickly found the robot was so easy to use, he could let seasonal staff and interns use it. That way, his higher-skilled staff didn't have to worry about painting at all.

"We have a reputation for quality. That sells people on wanting to use our facility to put on their tournaments," he said. "Also, from a parent perspective, they're paying premiere price, so we should give them a premiere experience, and that's what we're doing."

Top Benefits

- ✓ Far more efficient use of paint, time, and manpower.
- ✓ Helped crew make time for higher-level tasks.
- ✓ Easy enough for anyone, fast enough for the busiest seasons.

	2021 prior to TMR	2022 using TMR
Fields	29	32
Man hours to paint these fields	82.75 hrs \$1,961.18	22.75 hrs \$555.10
Gallons of paint	90.75	20.45

Tournaments (25 Fields)	2021 prior to TMR	2022 using TMR
Man hours to paint these fields	72.25 hrs	14.5 hrs
Gallons of paint	100.5	27.5

The executive director of Pacesetter's premiere club, a former professional soccer player, has remarked on several occasions that Pacesetter's game fields are as good as the fields he played on as a pro.

"That's a high compliment," Hall said. "In Parks & Rec, you don't hear much of that. Mostly you hear about what's wrong and what needs to be fixed. So it's nice for him to advocate for that quality, and it helps him recruit athletes."

TinyMobileRobots has been such a gamechanger that Hall's boss has offered to purchase a second one.

Challenges

- Huge number of fields for a wide variety of sports - 30 at any given time
- Arranging fields for tournaments, rec leagues, and fall to spring seasons
- Low on manpower, relying on a few highly-skilled crew members
- Maintain facilities spread across many locations
- Painting fields during inactivity just to keep existing lines
- Inefficient manual painting process left little time for mowing and other tasks

Pacesetter's favorite features

- **TinyMobileRobots' intuitive interface** allowed the Pacesetter team to plan out fields with precision through its drag-and-drop Google Earth functionality.
- **TinyMobileRobots transformed field painting** from a two-hour, three-person job that required a specialized skillset to a 20-minute, one person job that anyone could do.
- **TinyMobileRobots' razor-sharp, accurate lines** created professional-looking fields that solidify the experience for athletes, coaches, and spectators alike.
- **TinyMobileRobots' easy to use software** allows staff to quickly learn to use the robot.

Outcomes

- 72% of labor savings. Calculate from stats
- 72% paint savings.
- Better-looking fields
- Reallocation of employees to accomplish more tasks/workload

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