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“Grooming the Turf at Veterans Memorial Field”



It may not need mowing or watering but the new turf football field at Veterans Memorial Field does need the occasional grooming.

Leaves from nearby trees blow across the field. The black rubber balls that make up the base of the turf get spread around.

Every 20 hours or so of usage, the turf field needs to be gone over with the groomer which is mostly a glorified broom pulled by a utility terrain vehicle. Under the groomer's 50 inch wide deck aren't lawn mower

blades but lots of thick broom bristles. The bristles level out the field.

“You can feel the divots in the field where the rubber (pieces) have been moved around. The groomer smooths them out again,” said Ryan Kuchar, caretaker of Veterans Memorial Park. A magnet on the front of the groomer picks up the stray cleats that occasionally come off of the players' shoes.

Behind the groomer is the sweeper. It picks up the leaves, straw and woodchips that have blown on to the field from area yards and landscaping. Netting at the bottom of the sweeper bag catches the debris but allows the rubber pieces to fall back onto the field. Kuchar drives across the field width wise as that is the direction that the turf's “carpet” was laid.

With two state playoff games being held this week at the field, Kuchar is making a special trip across the field with the groomer.