

Turf Report

Marley Park Development Surprise, AZ

Landscape Architect

Michael Walter
AAA Landscape
Phoenix, Arizona

Operator and Developer

DMB Associates, Inc.
Scottsdale, Arizona

Turf Supplier and Installation Contractor

Western Sod/West Coast Turf
Tempe, Arizona



Using Green to Build a Community

Even though city-dwellers share intimate spaces with their neighbors, many homeowners don't have the faintest idea of the names of the people who live right next to them. Architects and developers for the Marley Park development in Surprise, Arizona, created a neighborhood that was designed to shine light on such anonymity and welcome its residents outdoors. With over 140 acres designated solely for "open space," such as parks, village clubs and school playgrounds, architects realized they would need experienced turf counsel and quality turf—lots of it. Western Sod, a subsidiary of Palm Desert, California-based West Coast Turf, provided Marley Park's architects with both.

West Coast Turf specializes in working with landscape architects to help meet a wide variety of project demands, analyzing project needs and helps specify turf varieties ideal for the application. Western Sod is the company's distribution/installation arm in the greater Phoenix area.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

Marley Park is a 956-acre planned community created by architect EDAA, a global design company, and DMB Associates, Inc., a real estate development and investment firm headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ground was broken in October 2003 and Western Sod has been a valued consultant and provider in the turf

needs of the community since then. Designed to be a livable, walkable community, Marley Park has several diverse, themed parks that serve not only the varying recreational needs of the community but also provide areas for larger organized play, community celebrations and gatherings.

EDAA and DMB's goal was to create connections between neighborhoods within Marley Park by incorporating as much greenery and turf into the design as possible. Architects have planned Marley Park's development to be completed in five phases and will utilize these green concepts at every stage. Marley Park's Phase I development, which is nearing completion, is primary evidence of this connectivity. Phase I features lush greenery surrounding streets, boulevards, linear parkways, pathways and trails, inviting residents to come outside and enjoy their beauty. Inspired by classical landscapes, landscape architects have attempted to create distinctive memorable places for neighbors to get to know one another.

Phase I of Marley Park contains nine parks that are each uniquely themed with playgrounds, covered picnic areas, flower beds, shade trees and open play areas. By centering its community around its green, open spaces, architects have built Marley Park to be unlike any other neighborhood in Arizona's Northwest Valley.



Workers put finishing touches on a recent West Coast Turf sod installation at Marley Park.

EZ Turf™ at a Glance

Uses

Primarily for parks, lawns and other public areas

Color

Deep Green

Texture

Medium

Performance

This grass tolerates adverse wear conditions and recovers well. It's also easy to maintain, doesn't require a lot of water and is easy to mow with a rotary mower.

Disease Resistance

Excellent

Mowing Height

¾" to 1"

Cold Tolerance

Moderate

Heat Tolerance

Excellent

Drought Tolerance

Excellent

Shade Tolerance

Not shade tolerant

USDA Zones

7-11



Sod Selection Crucial for Future Needs

With Marley Park's emphasis on open, community congregation, the team realized early in the planning for Marley Park that they would need sod that could accommodate for the high traffic demands placed on the parks and open spaces. In addressing turf needs for Heritage Park, one of the nine parks planned for Phase I, landscape contractors AAA Landscape found what they were looking for when they selected Western Sod. Michael Walter, vice president of construction at AAA Landscape who oversaw the landscape construction for Heritage Park, said AAA selected Western Sod based on its turf quality, timeliness and willingness to meet the needs of their customers.

Western Sod Steps Up to the Challenge

Jay Danek, sales representative for Western Sod, said the selection of turf for Heritage Park was based on the developers plan's for the community.

"Given the use of the turf and the area's high temperatures, we thought Western Sod's EZ Turf—or MidIron Bermudagrass—would be a perfect solution," said Danek. "EZ Turf withstands high traffic, holds up to extreme temperatures and doesn't take a heavy toll on water and maintenance budgets."

Heritage Park included 17 acres of EZ Turf, which Western Sod installed. Danek said the sod laid in Heritage Park was contained on large rolls that measured 42 inches by 110 feet long. Over two, two-week periods, 12 Western Sod workers installed between



80,000 to 100,000 square feet of sod every day. Given the amount of work it took to install the quantity of turf required by Marley Park developers, one could see how it would take a special crew to handle this job.

"Despite the challenges of installing Marley Park's turf, it allowed us to showcase perfectly what we're able to accomplish every day in order to get the job done," Danek said.

Gage said her firm couldn't be more satisfied with Western Sod's performance and selection for sod.

“EZ Turf withstands high traffic, holds up to extreme temperatures and doesn't take a heavy toll on water and maintenance budgets.”

*Jay Danek, Sales Representative,
Western Sod*

"Western Sod was chosen to provide Marley Park's turf because of their reputation for quality and their level of exceptional customer service," said Gage.

Danek mirrored Gage's sentiments in being selected to provide Marley Park with its sod.

"Over the last 25 years Western Sod has been providing top quality sod to sports fields such as the 2004 Super Bowl in Houston and housing developments all over the Phoenix and Tucson areas," Danek said. "Western Sod has a lot of experience in laying large quantities of quality sod and were chosen based upon our past successes. We take pride in our reputation and helping our clients achieve their goals—no matter how challenging they may be."

By designing open spaces with beautiful landscapes and lush, green turf, Marley Park developers have created neighborhoods that make residents yearn to be outdoors. With the help of Western Sod, Marley Park has become a community that encourages neighbors to not only get to know the people next door but also the families up the street and even the ones on the next block over.

West Coast Turf
P.O. Box 4563, Palm Desert, CA 92261
Phone: 760-346-TURF / 800-447-1840
Fax: 760-340-7345
www.westcoastturf.com

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