

Dumpsite to Ballpark

Spring Training Baseball Returns to West Palm beach

WEST PALM BEACH, FL— In 2014 the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals had a vision to transform an old dumpsite, located in the heart of Palm Beach County, into an elaborate spring training complex with an open design and fan-friendly views - The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches.

Donning 15 Paspalum sod fields and 4 synthetic agility fields, this opulent complex would accommodate 6,500 fans and bring spring training baseball back to West Palm Beach for the first time in 20 years.

AECOM Hunt, collaborating again with SCG, broke ground on November 2015. The ballpark would need to be ready in 15 months, for the first pitch of spring training in February, 2017— 9 months sooner than the anticipated 2 years required to complete.

One week after sprigging the final field, Mother Nature threw a curve ball; Hurricane Matthew hit the Florida Coast. With the grass not yet deeply rooted, damage was done. SCG immediately took action to minimize damage, but some disturbance was unavoidable. High winds blew rootzone and infield mix off site and affected the grow in process for the sprigs. To stay in the game SCG kicked into high gear, working day and night, to get the fields back on schedule.

The storm had passed and the job came down to the wire— at last, the ballpark was ready for its debut. Jack McGowan, a Senior Project Manager at AECOM Hunt, recognized the effort stating; “This [The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches] was a bear of a project that only a group of top professional companies in this industry could pull off in the time frame allowed and with the quality that MLB demands. SCG is a top notch company that is professional, reliable, and works as hard as it takes to bring it across the finish line. The coordination to bring in a complex like this in on time is difficult for any construction management firm. Having a builder like SCG on board makes it a lot easier. From the management of this company to the guys in the field, SCG gets what it takes to build a park in the big leagues.”

On February 28th 2017, The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches arose from a landfill ready to play ball.