

A track in a track in a track.

Thoroughbreds running on Polytrack are flanked by hard dirt for harness racing on the inside, and on the outside by the E.P. Taylor Turf Course. "Most tracks run for a few months in summer and hang it up," says Steve Koch. "We're a full-racing season encapsulated in one facility." Woodbine has scheduled 129 Standardbred and 167 Thoroughbred race days for 2012. **RIGHT:** Woodbine starter Ian Ross oversees a team that makes sure horses get in and out of the starting gate efficiently.



Workers remove temporary inside rails, set by a laser-guided tractor, on the turf course. The rails switch speeding horses to different lanes, resting sections of grass and keeping it healthy. "Horses make pretty big divots," notes Irwin Driedger, director of Thoroughbred racing surfaces and fleet. "Eight to ten people walk the track every day, putting the divots back and stomping them down with a wooden mallet."



Total wagered on horse racing through Woodbine in 2011: **\$1.3 billion** ///

Average annual visitors to Woodbine's gaming area: **6 million**