

## Winter Pines Irrigation

BY JOE ONDO, CGCS

*Winter Pines G. C.*

Our irrigation system at Winter Pines has gotten progressively better over the years. We started in 1979 with eight holes automatic electric double-row system, and 10 were hydraulic on greens and tees and quick couplers in the fairways. Starting in 1981, we added automatic irrigation one or two holes at a time. We have Griswold controllers and valves, so we continued with those. We used RainBird 51's and 81's on greens and tees and Thompsons on the fairways.

We did this until the City of Winter Park Treatment Plant expanded and brought effluent water to the middle of our golf course. The city helped pay and install the rest to finish our course.

We usually run one or two heads off one valve. We have added part circle

sprinklers over the years along the property line and along our lakes.

We had nowhere to install a holding pond, so our pump station was taken out and capped. The city has supplied us with all the pressure and water we need from about two miles away. We average and pay pumping costs for 150,000 gallons a day, and we don't have to use it when it rains a lot.

The city also has alternate sites to pump to, like cemeteries and baseball, football and soccer fields. We work closely with them and have not been down more than 24 hours since 1985.

We also have four monitoring wells that are checked periodically by the city. Water tests are also done by us once or twice a year. Maintenance of our system is an ongoing process that is done by my irrigation technician and myself.

Syringing cycles are run daily in dry conditions to check rotation and water hot spots.

The RainBird 51 and 81 heads work

best for us on greens and tees. We can avoid dragging a hose out to water a localized dry spot by stopping the impact sprinkler where we want.

Having an electric system has been good for us because if a solenoid has a short or gets hit by lightning, the breaker will blow on that station to tell you which one it is.

The Griswold valves are self-cleaning and are fairly easy to rebuild. Sometimes a diaphragm will tear or a piece of debris in the valve will cause the sprinkler to run all night, but thankfully those happenings are few and far between. Each station has its own lightning protection so if there is a power surge, the control panel is kept separate and is less likely to receive any damage.

We continue to add irrigation to dry areas as time permits and monitor our coverage as the need arises to change an area. As a whole we have a good system for our course and a good supply of water for the future.

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