who play eight or more rounds a year, in 502 million, Core golfers, those 18 or older and 8 percent, or 2.1 million, juniors. Of all rounds played. Their direct spending on rounds, but private club players played more often (24.6 vs. 16.2 rounds per year.)

First time last year, 43 percent were women. A transformation is under way in Marietta, Ga, what has stood as the private 18-hole Marietta Country Club is undergoing extensive redesign and renovation and will reopen this fall as the city's first municipal golfing facility.

According to Ron Gosa, the city's streets and traffic superintendent and contract administrator for the project, the course averaged 7,000 square feet and are being built to USGA specifications. Dating to the early 1900s, the existing greens were built on native soil and measured only 3,500 to 4,000 square feet. The new bentgrass surfaces average 7,000 square feet and are being built from sand and Canadian spigament soil. Enlarged tees, sprigged with 419 rough areas and small tees and greens, the country club tract had little chance to succeed as a muni. A consultant suggested extensive renovation specifically designed to speed play and increase revenues.

As they approached the project, city officials realized the design would have to allow the course to be played in four hours or less and to be capable of hosting 50,000 to 60,000 rounds. And with that type of traffic, they knew maintenance was also important. From a maintenance perspective, one of the design strategies Young incorporated was widening the areas leading to and away from the greens and tees. For ease of maintenance, the tees are built to slope inward and catch errant shots. As they approached the project, city officials realized the design would have to allow the course to be played in four hours or less and be capable of hosting 50,000 to 60,000 rounds. And with that type of traffic, they knew maintenance was also important. From a maintenance perspective, one of the design strategies Young incorporated was widening the areas leading to and away from the greens and tees. For ease of maintenance, the tees are built to slope inward and catch errant shots.

When Marietta Municipal Golf Course opened to the public this fall, it will be a first-class facility.