‘Stunning’ work, says Avondale official

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With that, they were able to re-open the front nine in early July and back nine at the end of the month. “They wanted to play it this year and the weather this spring was not good for grass-growing,” Rathert said, “so we sodded all the greens and a bulk of the fairways, landing areas and green surrounds.”

Major among the improvements, Coultrap said, is “a 400-foot babbling brook coming out of the lake next to the 10th green which runs into a waterfall that splits behind a natural outcropping and falls into a new lake.

“It is absolutely stunning,” Rathert incorporated that brook and waterfall into a new 11th that has become Avondale’s signature hole. The 11th was an uphill, blind par-3. Rathert lowered the green and created the lake on the right-hand side which falls into the brook Coultrap mentioned. The green is fronted by a bunker and backed by water.

The 2-1/2-acre lake at the bottom of the waterfall serves as an irrigation reservoir.

The original, pushup greens were very small — in the range of 3,000 square feet — and fell sharply off the back. The contractor, Adair Earthworks of Post Falls, took extra material from the lakes and incorporated it around the greens to enlarge them and hold shots.

Meanwhile, Rathert said, he “reshaped the bunkers into a [Alister] Mackenzie-esque style — with some noses and fingers — and used a soft approach, with no mounds. The land forms we created are smooth contours — no bumps.”

Elsewhere, Rathert recousted many of the fairways which have severe left or right slopes in the landing areas that pushed balls into the roughs.

“It’s tight because of woods,” he said. “We just tried to make it more fair, add some character and create an old-looking course. And we thinned out a few trees for better sunlight and air circulation.”

“It started out as a solely an irrigation project,” Coultrap said, adding that the 500 shareholders of the public facility are glad they went the extra mile with an extensive remodeling.

Meanwhile, opened a nine-hole addition at Indian Creek Golf Club in Elkhorn, Neb., in June and has a nine new at Kissing Camels Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., under construction. Coultrap said, is a 1928 18-hole course.

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