The interaction between municipalities and private country clubs is generally limited to tax collection. However, with help from Lohmann Golf Designs, the City of Loves Park and Forest Hills Country Club have together killed two birds with one stone.

Based in nearby Marengo, Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) has overseen construction of three retention ponds at Forest Hills that improved playability at the course while also providing much-needed stormwater detention capacity for the city of Loves Park.

"Forest Hills had a major drainage swale running across the entire golf course," explained Jay Wille, the LGD senior architect who oversaw the project. "During any substantial rain storm, flowing water would run through the swale, causing unsightly erosion, unplayable conditions and continual maintenance problems. As it happened, the city also needed to expand its stormwater confinement capability. We were able to provide a dual solution."

LGD and Wille designed a series of three ponds that served the city's stormwater needs while, at the same time, improving the layout's playability and aesthetics. Further, the swale was essentially submerged by piping it underneath several fairways.

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