

Question for Superintendents and Assistants:

How Do You Regulate Cart Traffic?

In the past at **North Links** we used 4" diameter round post about a foot tall with a spike in the bottom to push into the ground, and the superintendent rotated them depending on the wear. The rough mowers had to get off their mowers quite often to move them and put them back, so this past spring I rented a hammer drill and put holes in the cart paths every four feet so I can rotate them whenever I want without effecting the rough mowers. We have tee to green cart paths so this works very well. My initial fear was that when a cart hits one it might cause damage to the cart but it has not been a problem. When hit, the post brakes or the spike bends but no damage to the carts so far and we have had many hit. In a construction area out on the course we do use posts with rope strung between them, but I think that it looks kind of tacky. - *Eric Peters, North Links GC*

At **Northland Country Club** we are using a combination of ropes, stakes and signage. In the past, ropes were the primary way of directing cart traffic but we are working hard to change the culture of carts here at Northland. In my regular e-mails to the membership I usually throw in a reminder about cart traffic: where and where not to drive carts, to please follow the signs and stakes and the damage carts can do to a golf course. So far so good, the members seem to be getting the message and driving in the proper areas and we have nearly eliminated the use of ropes. My hope is to have 90% of the people obey the cart rules. 10% are probably going to drive where they want regardless of what you tell them so I do not worry too much about that group. - *Chris Tritabaugh, Northland CC*

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What traffic!!!
I'm very fortunate at **Somerset**.

Actually, our members are not big fans of asphalt and we do get a fair amount of riders. Plus, our equipment can leave paths. We are able to get by with cart signs and "no carts" in certain areas. We use as little rope as possible. On a side note we switched to gray dresser rock for our cart paths and I like it a lot. - *James Bade, Somerset CC*

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At **Rutger's** we use a combination of methods to control golfers (sheep) and their carts. On some holes just a cart arrow directing them to the cart path will do. In

other areas where they seem to just run the arrow signs over, we use stakes and ropes. Along a few paths where the signs and rope don't get their attention we use large rocks so they cannot leave the path.

The grounds crew is responsible for moving any signage and/or rope and stakes as needed to prevent excessive wear. Good luck with the sheep, I mean golfers on your course!

- *J.W. Wollner, Rutger's Bay Lake Lodge*

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At **Waseca-Lakeside** we use a combination of several approaches to help ease the impact of carts:

1) Cart paths by all greens and tees, at this time they are crushed limestone but hope to pave someday.

2) On the curves where carts tend to "cut" we are using the short green and white Par Aide recycled stakes with decent success. However we do have to straighten some of them because they do get hit.

3) Rope off areas where the traffic concentrates around greens, usually on the side opposite the path where people can "cut" to the next hole. We use the 12" green Par-Aide recycled rope stakes with yellow rope.

4) White lines painted across the approach to each green at least 30 feet out from the green. We usually pick out a tree on the opposite side of the cart path and paint a gentle arc following the approach.

5) During extremely wet conditions we "try" to restrict carts to paths only; this has limited success. We also will rope off very wet areas such as drainage basins until they are dry enough to mow through.

We use signs and directional arrows as well but question how effective they are. I guess it makes me feel better for at least trying to keep the damage to a minimum. I also have to admit that I have really slacked off my restrictions due to the huge negative impact it has on the revenue side of the ledger. I would like to be able to aerify the compacted areas more than just the fall but we just don't have the labor or equipment to get it done. We also try to use a ranger during busy periods to regulate traffic and speed of play with limited success. - *Rob Panuska, Waseca-Lakeside GC*

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163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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Peer-to-Peer—

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At previous facilities I managed, I liked using only signage as it was much neater than sagging ropes. At my current facility, **The Ridge at Castle Pines North** in Colorado, there was no signage when I arrived so I have been using ropes and stakes for the past few years. I avoid using ropes in the fairways and approaches but use them along cart paths at entrance and exit points. I also utilize ropes and stakes to direct foot traffic around our native grass tee walk-ups. In many cases I feel that ropes in fairways cause more damage than good. Ropes are straightened each morning by the staff and monitored throughout the day by myself and assistants. Any significant movement of ropes is performed by myself and assistants. -David J. Soltvedt, Troon Golf, L.L.C.

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We out here at **Bully Pulpit** use a combination of things. Around our tees and greens we use some constructed log rails that are a bit more pleasing to the eye and stay more rigid where foot traffic is the norm. Where we regulate cart entry to and from the golf hole, we use a combination of ropes and stakes as well as signage where we don't like the carts to approach the green any closer. We use a lot of arrow signs here and there to limit the amount of traffic traveling through our native areas, as well as to limit them from constantly going through our "neck down" spots between bunkers, etc. Our crew is required to move the ropes and traffic logs on a daily basis through course setup, moving when mowing, and also periodically as they encounter traffic stress throughout the day. As far as limiting the distance from the



Alexandria CC Superintendent Donnacha O'Connor, right, relaxed and enjoyed the Scholarship Scramble at Greystone along with Par Aide Product Co. representative Scott Melling. (Results on Page 22)

green where carts merge back to the cart path, that decision is up to myself and my assistant. - Kyle Fick, Bully Pulpit GC, Medora, ND

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At **Crosswoods GC** we use rope and 18" spike stakes to control traffic around the tees and a directional sign in the fairway in front of the green. No matter how well you stake it or mark it, someone always finds a way to drive where you don't want them. -Mike Stone, Crosswoods GC

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Since arriving at **Theodore Wirth**, I have utilized ropes and stakes, cart direction signs, and wide stripe white lines. All greens have traffic control with the white line and cart arrow signs. High temptation areas also receive yellow rope and black recycled plastic stakes. Usage is high judging by the wear areas we have created. "Green and whites" just won't work in this public scenario because they don't offer enough of barrier to the untrained golfer. -Brad Zimmerman, Theodore Wirth Golf Course

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At **Burl Oaks** we use ropes and stakes mostly and some small cart signs. -Thomas Natzel, Burl Oaks GC

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At **Tanners Brook GC**, we mainly use 8" white stakes to direct traffic at the ends of the cart paths. We also use the same stakes when we have repaired turfed areas. Also, in front of several greens, we have attached a rope between to directional arrow signs laid on the ground to direct traffic no closer to the green. -Kevin Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC

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At **Hong Kong Golf Club**, two of the three courses have a continuous cart path system. On these two courses, the use of stakes and ropes is limited. The philosophy of the Club is to use ropes and stakes as little as possible. Signage is used more extensively than ropes and stakes, but still the usage of signs is kept to a minimum. The third course is basically a walkers course only with the exception being a medical excuse or the golfer being 70 years of age or older. In those cases, the use of a cart is permitted. All ropes and signage is the responsibility of the assistants for their particular golf course. -Randy Witt, CGCS, The Hong Kong Golf Club

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