

Bellwood Oaks Golf Course Set To Host Spring Mixer on May 18

By BILL GULLICKS

Superintendent, Bellwood Oaks Golf Course

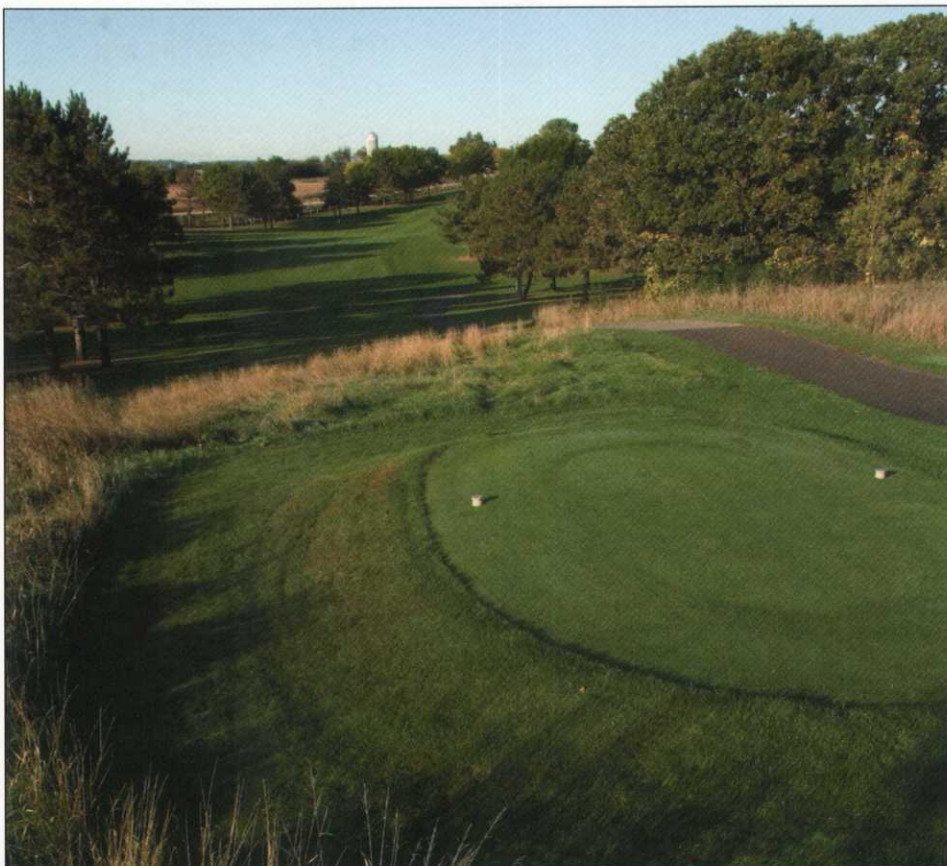
Bellwood Oaks Golf Course opened in the Spring of 1972. I have been the Superintendent since April 1994. The par 73 course measures 6,791 yards.

History And Course Overview

Bellwood Oaks was designed by Don Raskob and built by Don Raskob and Leonard Swanson of Hastings. The Raskob family has successfully run the course since its opening in 1972.

As a daily fee course, Bellwood Oaks limits memberships with its goal to keep

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No. 7 at Bellwood Oaks Golf Course, site of the May 18 MGCSA Spring Mixer.

tee times easily accessible to the public.

The clubhouse is simple, serving as a glorified starter shack. Golfers can find sandwiches, beverages and the essential golf supplies necessary to enjoy their round.

Bellwood Oaks was built on rolling farmland just south of Hastings. Portions of the property are wooded with mature oak trees while the remaining areas were planted with ash, red pine, and white pine. All the planted trees were grown from seedlings and then spaded onto the course. The now mature trees have really changed the overall look and feel of the course.

The greens at Bellwood Oaks are fairly flat, but can be deceiving at times. The

slopes on a few greens can quickly bring most golfers putting prowess back to reality.

The course layout has a different feel from the front nine to the back nine. The front nine can be summed up by the famous saying, "What you see is what you get." Whereas the back nine offers a few sharp dog legs and four tough finishing holes. Elevation change, a long par 4 and a long par 3 have been known to bring ruin to many good rounds of golf.

At Bellwood Oaks we have tried to keep things simple. Producing the best product with the appropriate amount of resources is the philosophy we work towards. It is continually a challenge to have quality conditions and remain a good value to the customers.

Changes and Challenges

During the past years there have been many changes at Bellwood Oaks. A complete irrigation renovation was completed during the 1996-1997 seasons. The addition of forward tees was completed in 2004, allowing us to utilize four sets of tees. In 2006 seven fairways were sprayed with glyphosphate and reseeded with a Blue Rye mix.

The agronomical challenges we have are few. We are lucky to have naturally nutrient rich, sandy loam soil along with excellent drainage. There is only about 100 ft. of drain tile on the entire course, which allows us to utilize carts on almost any given day.

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Bellwood Oaks -

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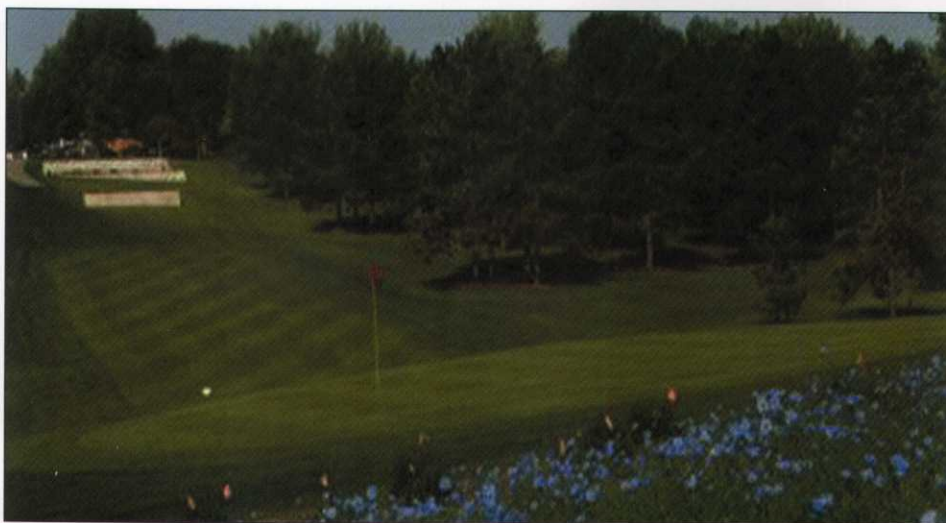
The main challenge we battle is Poa. We are continually trying to improve our bentgrass population on the greens through the use of cultural and chemical means. The results have been promising, but as we all know it is an ongoing struggle for many courses.

Superintendent Bill Gullicks

I have been married to my wife Kristen for 16 years. She is an elementary teacher in Hastings and keeps the lives of our four children Andy, Abbey, Brady and Ellie organized. I graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead and Anoka-Hennepin Technical College. My work experience has included being Assistant Superintendent at Apple Creek Country Club in Bismarck, No. Dak. and New Prague Golf Club in New Prague, Minn. In my free time I enjoy watching my kids in their various activities and checking off home improvements on the "Honey-Do" list.

Owner Dan Raskob

Dan Raskob is the owner of Bellwood



The 17th hole at Bellwood Oaks Golf Course.

Oaks along with his wife Jennifer. They have three children: Charlie, Annie and Willie. Dan spends most of his winter following his boys to hockey rinks throughout the Midwest. In his free time he is an exceptional woodworker, which has come in handy at the course many times.

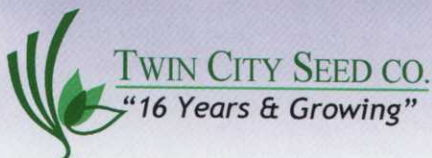
Dan has been involved with Bellwood Oaks since the beginning. I am fortunate to have him extremely involved with the everyday grounds portion of the golf

course. He supports the idea that the golf course can make or break a facility.

Our support staff consists of 10 seasonal employees and a seasonal mechanic.

I hope that everyone is off to a great start for the 2009 season and will have the opportunity to come and enjoy the Spring Mixer at Bellwood Oaks.

Let's hope for good weather and I look forward to seeing many of you on May 18!



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