

Bretton Woods Recreation Center was built in 1968 and since then a lot has changed. With new maintenance demands on the course and an outdated design, Bretton Woods was due for an update. McDonald and Sons was brought in to help revive the layout. The basic needs included bunkers that drained properly, re-contouring of table-top flat fairways to move water, and adding some flair to a few lackluster holes. We also gained valuable teeing surface both in size the of tee boxes and in the number of tee boxes per complex. The project was broken up into three phases. Phase one encompassed holes 5-9 and was completed in 2008. This past summer we just completed phase two which included holes 3, 4, and 14-17. Phase three is not scheduled yet, but we hope to complete that in the next year. All of the greens surfaces were undisturbed during construction, thus remaining the same as originally designed.

Phase two was more demanding than phase one due to the amount of earth moving that was required. Two holes, numbers 3 and 15 were almost entirely redone. Both holes were very straight and nearly mirror images of one another. To make each hole more memorable, new angles were created to make doglegs and increase strategy. The original design of these holes posed drainage issues. Each hole was so flat that water would remain in the fairways with nowhere to drain. So, in addition to creating doglegs, contours were added to help water drain correctly. By making the fairways roll up and down, left and right, low areas were built to collect water into drains. Nearly 1.75 miles of drain pipe was installed in phase two. This gives an idea of the overall area under construction and the amount of water that needed to be collected and drained. All the work of this phase resulted in an enormous net gain of soil which was completely removed from the course and used to build a second soccer field on location. The new soccer field required 16,000 cubic yards of soil. All of this soil came from creating new undulation in fairways and from carving out excess soil around green complexes. As worked pro-

gressed, all disturbed ground was sodded as it was completed; 17 acres total. Nevertheless, all of this work was completed in just eight weeks.

Phase three will consist of holes 1, 2, 10-13, 18. We are excited to see this project to completion and gain a course that is consistent both in style and maintenance. Also, holes 1, 10, and 18 are visible from the clubhouse, so as phase three gets underway, more people will get to see the progression of work being done and the time and expertise it takes to complete work on this scale. Phase three will be much smaller in scale than phase two- more similar to phase one- but extensive nonetheless. Bunkers will be reconstructed and tees will be rebuilt in the new rectangular style. The excess soil will again be stripped from around the greens. Far less drainage work and fairway reshaping will have to occur in this phase.

We are very close to having the entire course rebuilt in a new style with an eye toward maintenance as well. It was great to see the work unfold this summer, and if all goes as planned, we will be back at it next summer.



Above: Hole 14 During Construction



Top Left:
3 Fairway During Construction

Top Right:
15 Tee During Construction

Middle Left:
3 Fairway Complete

Bottom Left:
17 Complete

