

RECONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

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Brookshire Inn and Golf Course
Williamston, Michigan**

Brookshire Inn and Golf Course is located in Williamston, Michigan. It is just 10 miles East of Michigan State University, off Grand River Avenue. The club was a private 9 holes, constructed in 1959 by Mr. W. Bruce Matthews I. In 1986, the course was purchased by David Mahaney. He then purchased the clubhouse the next year and added a large addition to accommodate banquets and golf outings, with the intention of expanding the golf course to 18 holes. In 1993, Mr. Mahaney acquired the property needed, and hired Mr. W. Bruce Matthews III to design the additional 9 holes. At this time Mr. Mahaney decided it would be wise to renovate the existing 9 holes. Construction started in August of 1993, Mr. Mahaney hired me Richard Fogarsi, as superintendent in September. Construction went well until the late, wet fall we experienced. Renovation was then under way, due to the fact that we could work on wet turf of the front nine as opposed to the wet soil of the back nine. Throughout the winter and into the spring, renovation was completed. An interesting sidenote was that we also had to build boardwalks during the winter because of the firm, frozen wetlands that the cart path traveled through. Boardwalks were constructed "in-house" and completed by the spring, so attention could be focused on seeding and finishing new construction. The greens, tees, and fairways were shaped, seeded and starting the "grow in" process by April 1994, until the rains of June came. We received 13 inches of rain in 4 weeks. The back nine had very few washouts or erosion problems during this time. The front nine, being on a flood plain, was completely under water. A lot of the seeding from the renovation was destroyed. When waters receded there was a good portion of the front nine that needed seeding again to reopen. At this time (mid-July) Mr. Mahaney and myself discussed opening the back nine and closing front for grow-in. We opened the back nine on August 8, 1994, only 4-5 months old. It went over well and we reopened the front nine three weeks later.