

SYCAMORE GOLF CLUB A REAL ASSET
TO THE COMMUNITY

Sycamore is fortunate in having many citizens who are park and golf minded, and consider the park district a definite asset to the community. In the beginning, most of the land and the superintendent's cottage were donated by the late Mr. W. M. McAllister, a local merchant. Other donations to the park district have been many trees and shrubs.

As the park has progressed, we have been able to buy more evergreens and other types of shade trees.

Here at Sycamore, we have a park district with numerous facilities which includes an 18 hole golf course. The park section has a well lighted base-ball field, two soft-ball diamonds, three hard surface shuffle-board courts, eight horseshoe courts, a large outdoor swimming pool and several tennis courts.

The golf course is considered sporty but not to the extreme to make it too difficult for the average player. The putting greens are large enough to permit daily hole changing and the grass is mowed four times weekly at 1/4 inch height. The greens have a uniform strain of bent grass.

We do not have a watering system for fairway turf so with the exception of drought periods, the turf on these areas stand up well through-out the season. The fairways are mowed twice a week or oftener when necessary. With two sets of seven unit gang mowers at our disposal, it is not a problem to maintain the turf in good playing condition. Fairways are treated for weed control once a season consequently our weed problem is a thing of the past. We have a three-hundred gallon tank sprayer with a twenty foot boom which enables us to treat large areas in short order.

The greens are top-dressed twice a year, and fungus control treatments are made every seven days during the mid-summer period. The use of the power sprayer has certainly reduced the labor cost of applying fungicides compared to the old barrel method. During the past several years, Tersan has given good results in the control of Brown-Patch.

Fertilizer is applied about the first of April, and again during the latter part of May. Through the hot months, we use very little fertilizer, using only enough to maintain color in the turf. The latter part of September, the greens are fertilized heavy again, and approximately the 1st of November and the latter part of February, a treatment is made for the control of Snow-Mold. Brown-Patch and Snow-Mold are practically negligible on our course.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring, all greens are sliced with a disc to depth of about three inches. Lime is then applied at the rate of fifty pounds per green. Greens average about five-thousand square feet.

During the playing season, thirteen men are employed to maintain the course, park and the swimming pool. We are fortunate to have three of these men remain on the staff throughout the year which means a great deal when competent help is so hard to obtain. All golf course equipment is over-hauled during the winter months, and some necessary outdoor jobs are accomplished when the weather is not too cold. This outdoor work involves the pruning and transplanting of trees and shrubs wherever it is considered essential in the improvement and appearance of the grounds.

We estimated our attendance roughly at 100,000 people during this past year, although the population of Sycamore is barely 6,000 persons. Most of our visitors are from surrounding towns and the Chicago district.

The 1st Annual Midwest Golf Course Superintendent's Picnic was held here last June. Although the weather was threatening all day, a good time was enjoyed by all who attended this family get-together.

During our twenty years here at the park, we have watched it progress from a dream to a place of reality. Much credit is due to our chairman, Mr. Vernon Wetzel, and the Board of Directors for their sincere cooperation in making Sycamore Park and Golf Course a very pleasant place to work. - - Emil W. Cassier,
Superintendent

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The best way to kill time is to use it. When time hangs heavy on your hands, and you simply "don't know what to do with yourself," try this simple expedient: start producing something. Immerse yourself in some useful work; do something that positively needs doing; create something of value for others to use and enjoy.

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EDITOR'S MEMORANDUM

Have you written to your Congressman requesting an Issue of GRASS - Yearbook of Agriculture 1948? If you have not done so - get busy at once before this interesting publication on grass is depleted. Write to your district representative in Washington D. C.

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