

Ruth Lake Country Club Undertaking a \$4 Million Facelift



Before.

After nearly three years of planning, on August 2nd Ruth Lake Country Club closed its doors to golfers and began major renovation. Throughout those three years, superintendent Dan Marco, CGCS worked tirelessly to give the membership all the information they needed to cast the deciding go-ahead votes. Dan, along with architect Arthur Hills and the firm of Discovery Management, put together a very powerful multimedia presentation that included hole-by-hole flyovers and professional commentary noting the proposed changes to the existing 6,400-yard layout.

Ruth Lake hired Landscapes Unlimited, LLC of Lincoln, Nebraska as its contractor. Together, they will be building eight new green complexes while gassing and regrassing 10 more. The greens and collars will all be seeded with A-1 creeping bentgrass. The course will also go through serious routing changes as hole number two will be changed from a par 4 to a par 5 and hole number three from a par 4 to a very challenging 230-yard par 3. A number of other changes will result in the addition of 300 yards to the championship tees. Dan chose L-93 for his new fairways and approaches.



After.

The club will also be completely renovating their existing bunkers. Dan chose the “Tour Grade Signature Bunker Sand” coming from Best Sands in Ohio. Also in the works is a completely new practice facility with a T-1 bentgrass tee, low-mow bluegrass fairway and bentgrass target greens, complete with a mist irrigation system. The mist irrigation system will allow members to practice and Dan to irrigate.

The project doesn’t end there; Liebold Irrigation has been contracted to do the \$250,000 worth of irrigation work. The new irrigation will afford the opportunity to irrigate all grassed bunker faces. Finally, Ruth Lake Country Club will be moving and constructing a new maintenance facility. The new facility is going to be 10,800 square feet with a separate 2,000-square-foot chemical storage building.

Ruth Lake Country Club hopes to have the contractors off the property by year’s end and be ready to open sometime in June of 2005.

—Brian Baker
Chicagoland Turf

Midlane Country Club’s Recipe for Topdressing Greens

In 2004, we began topdressing our greens every seven days with rotary fertilizer spreaders, and our greens have never played better.

Two men are sent out in the afternoon to apply dried sand with Lesco rotary fertilizer spreaders.

The spreaders are set wide open.

The sand is applied to 130,000 square feet of putting surface in six man-hours.

A hopper full of sand is good for two passes across the green, on 12-foot centers. We are currently reloading our hoppers with shovels from a utility cart at the edge of

the green. If we had a silo for storing the sand and dispensing it into five-gallon buckets to be dumped into the spreaders, we would probably be able to reduce our man-hours considerably since much of our time is actually spent in shoveling the sand into the spreaders.

We have discovered that there is no brushing or dragging of sand required after application with the Lesco spreaders.

The application of sand with this method does not interfere with golf play. Actually, the greens seem to roll even better while the sand is being applied.

The greens are watered for nine minutes at night to move the sand below the turf canopy.

The amount of sand that is applied on this schedule is slightly less than the amount of sand that was formerly applied with our tow-behind topdressing unit, but our intervals are more consistent. I am expecting the weekly application of sand to better match our growth curve.

Using this method, there is no waste of sand from being thrown beyond the putting surface. And we have eliminated the compaction weight of the utility cart, which was used to brush the sand in.

Our former method of brushing the sand in after application required a follow-up mowing to clean up the tufts of grass, which were lifted by the drag broom. But the rotary-spreader method has eliminated the clean-up motions.

—Brad Anderson
Midlane Country Club

Selecting an Architect for Renovations at The Oak Park Country Club

The Oak Park Country Club has retained the services of Rick Jacobsen to develop segments of a renovation master plan, including greens, tees, fairways and bunkers. The master plan will also address trees that have grown to affect the playing surface and the game.

During the process of selecting an architect, Alan assured the committee members that he would be able to work with any architect that they chose. Alan also encouraged the committee to be absolutely sold on what the architect could bring to them and do for them, and to adopt completely the theme and concept of the architect's plan.

—Brad Anderson
Midlane Country Club



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