

Bunker Overhaul the of Award-Winning R

For the past several years, North Shore Country Club has been busy implementing a multiphased golf course improvement plan. A team lead by Jacobson Golf Course Design developed a comprehensive Golf Course Strategic Preservation and Improvement Plan, while Hollembeak Golf Course Construction and Carlson Landscape Design were the primary contractors.



Prior to renovation, the course was reviewed for function, playability and aesthetics. Bunkers, in particular, were evaluated for strategic placement and playability. Ultimately, goals for the project included:

- Bring back and maintain the design character envisioned by the original architects H.S. Colt, C.H. Alison and Mackenzie, 1924.
- Rebuild all tees, utilizing USGA root zone with internal drainage. Add a forward/multiple-tee system, totaling five tee placements per golf hole.
- Rebuild bunkers to original character with modern updates such as internal drainage, erosion-control fabric and new functional sand.
- Improve golfer circulation with enhanced cart paths where needed. Replace all asphalt with degenerated granite gravel, or rustic paving brick in the case of high-traffic areas.
- Enhance ponds with ornamental water-garden features, shoreline erosion control and landscaped buffer areas.
- Install new, 1,450-head irrigation system.
- Perform extensive drainage repair and installation.
- Build new, one-acre driving range tee on USGA root zone with internal drainage, all-weather tee mats inlaid into rustic paving brick and enhanced target greens.
- Perform vegetation analysis, including tree removal and transplanting, extension of wildflower/prairie areas. Landscape diversification and wildlife enhancement were part of the scope.

Phasing the work allowed for improvements to be made while the course stayed open for play. Based on feedback from members and guests, the project has been an overwhelming success. North Shore Country Club not only received a national award from Golf Inc., but also earned recertification with Audubon International for the improvements.

Next on the list: improve fairway contouring and putting greens!

The renovation included evaluating all tees for distance and orientation. New tees were built with internal drainage and USGA root zone, laser-graded and sodded with Penncross. Fill was hauled in to elevate certain tees to better capture visuals of the landing area. Here, tee no. 7 during construction, sodding and upon completion. The hole is a par 5 playing 593, 533, 491, 450 and 444 yards. The new design accommodates golfers with a wide range of skills.

The Cornerstone Renovation Project



*(Left) After old bunker sand was removed, as much as three feet-plus deep, the original bunker configuration became apparent. These contours were used as a guide to form the new bunkers as we built the edges by hand.
(Right) Bunker construction in progress.*



Green no. 6 before and after bunker improvement.



No. 13 before, and now with new bunkers.

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Pond banks course-wide were prone to erosion. Here, at the pond on no. 15, installation of compost with permanent erosion-control fabric prior to seeding with Redtop grass. Next, installation of permanent erosion-control fabric, outcrops and landscape buffer. Finally, aquatic water gardens and buffer strips were planted in select areas. Bays in the ponds were carefully fenced to protect aquatic plants from being eaten by White Amur carp. The aquatic plants offer landscape interest with their floral beauty as well as act as a nutrient sink utilizing nutrients in the water. This will help create habitat for frogs, turtles and minnows, as well as help control algae.



During all phases of construction, the course remained open for play.



Construction debris (old bunker sand, sod and soil) was hauled to out-of-play areas where long, gentle, rolling mounds were graded. Wildflowers, prairie grasses and forbs were then seeded in these areas, creating landscape diversity and floral beauty as well as offering food and cover for wildlife.



New one-acre range tee built with internal drainage every 20 feet and USGA root zone. All-weather tee mats were inlaid into rustic paving brick; renovated range also included new, enhanced target greens.

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Renovation saw removal of all asphalt cart paths and replacement with stone paths in most cases. Where traffic is too heavy for granite gravel paths, rustic paving brick was installed, as on no. 10.



Holes 3, 5 and 18, and no. 3 pond, post-renovation.

