

SUPER-N-Site

Ron McCarthy & Edgewood Valley Country Club

Shane Conroy, Park Ridge Country Club

Edgewood Valley Country Club has a long and rich history. Since its inception in 1926 the course itself has remained relatively unchanged. The lack of changes made managing some aspects of the course difficult because many of the same problems plagued the course for decades.

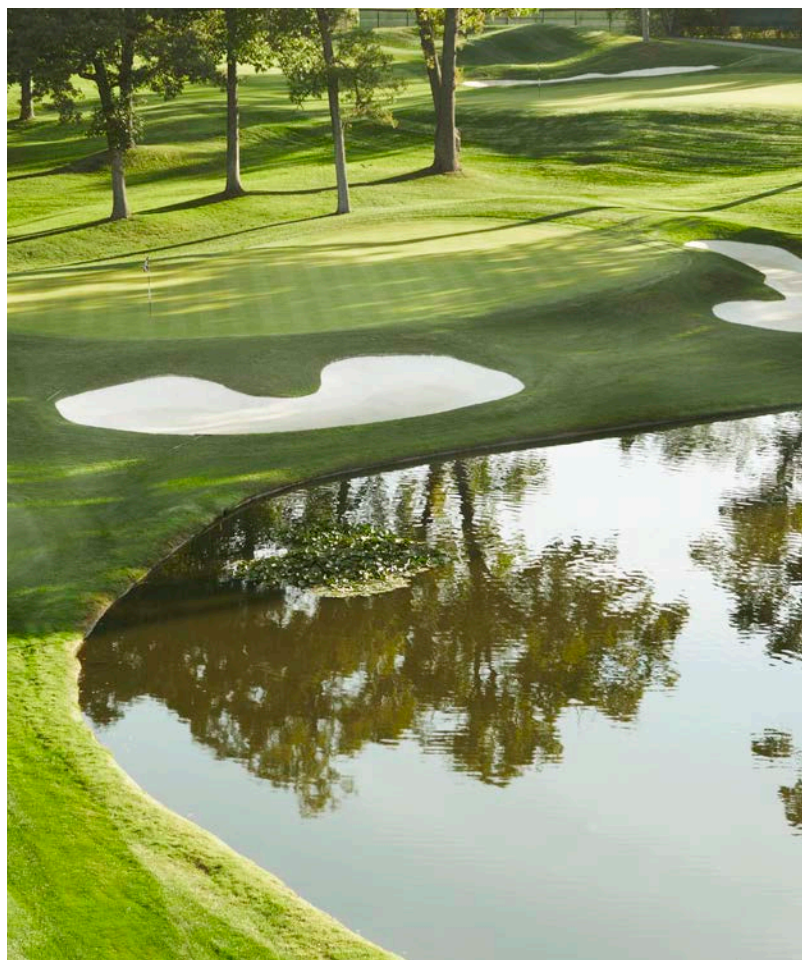


Ron McCarthy, a native of Wisconsin, takes part in last year's Wee One at Pine Hills.

Ron McCarthy however, addressed these issues, and with proper planning and practices, brought the course up to modern-day standards without compromising the classic feel and layout of the course.

Upon arriving at Edgewood Valley Country Club 16 years ago, Ron McCarthy immediately knew there were serious issues involving many, of what Ron called his problematic greens. There were trees literally growing

out of the collars on these greens, causing sunlight and air-flow problems, not to mention competition from century old oak tree roots. Most of the greens on the course also did not have proper drainage installed, and in turn, had rough time shedding water.





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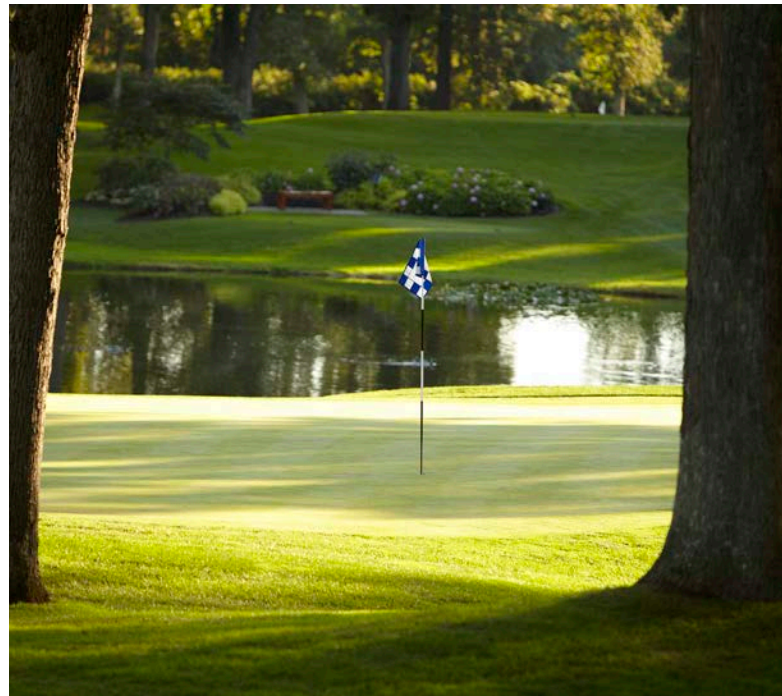
During his tenure at the club, Ron's main focus has been to alter the growing conditions of these problematic greens, and he knew the only way to do that would be to remove the competition from the existing trees. After bringing in tree specialists and getting the membership behind the idea, Ron was given the green light to remove trees surrounding one of the most problematic greens. This helped immensely with the growing conditions; however the greens still had issues with drainage. In 2000, to rectify the drainage problem, Ron had XGD drainage installed on his six worst greens. After improving drainage significantly on those six greens, the club decided over the next two years to go ahead and have XGD installed in the remaining greens as well. These greens still had issues due to shade and root competition from trees.

Ron again was given the go-ahead to remove trees around two more of his problematic greens. Combined with the XGD drainage and the lack of competition from trees, these two greens are performing great each and every season.

Ron says "From that day on, those two greens are now the best greens on the course." After seeing these two greens perform so well, Ron has, over the past 11 years been able to slowly remove trees around his problematic greens. The practice of reducing tree competition with the Poa annua greens, combined with proper cultural practices has seen these greens improve each year.

In 2006 the club went through a substantial renovation. The overall length of the course was increased, and the total amount of bunkers was brought up to 104. Along with increasing length and bunkers, the course also added additional drainage and constructed six new tee complexes. Nine

Image Left: The fourth hole at EVCC has a huge green guarded by well placed bunkers and a little water. It can make par elusive if not careful.



additional tee complexes are slated to be completed over the next three years.

Ron credits his success and the club's excellent playing conditions to his staff, especially his Assistant Superintendents, Brian Stout and Brian Kalal. When talking about Brian and Brian, Ron says "The membership is extremely proud and happy with the course, they are a big reason why." During the fall when not on the course Ron can be found cheering on the Wisconsin Badgers, and Chicago's second favorite sports team, the Green Bay Packers. ©