



It's not usual to see greens as fine and as large as this on a municipal course, but New Haven is the exception.

# New Haven's Municipal Course Is Model Public Layout

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**N**EW HAVEN'S 18-hole municipal golf course, situated among the most natural of settings and covering 145 acres of hill and dale with a sizable stream to provide water supply as well as mental hazard, was officially opened May 17, 1929. The designing of the course was by Robert D. Pryde, golf architect. All of the work of layout, construction, etc., was under the supervision of the Board of Park Commissioners. Due to drainage conditions, work was somewhat hampered and the course took two years to complete. An expensive water system, pump house, etc., was installed and the City of New Haven can now well boast of one of the finest municipal courses in the country.

The manager of the course has under his supervision the maintenance crew, mechanics, clubhouse attendants and all physical equipment of the course. The professional at the club gives lessons, has the sale of all golf equipment and regulates the traffic of the course, caddies, etc.

In connection with the course there is a large nursery for the growing of stolons.

Because of the vast number of users the greens are worked overtime and constant vigilance in their care is maintained. The nursery contains about 2½ acres of land and as time goes on the expansion of this experiment plot will be measurably increased. Golf in New Haven has not been proven a noble experiment; it has proven a decided necessity and a beautiful as well as profitable addition to its excellent park system.

The course has all the most modern golf equipment and conveniences. A spacious clubhouse contains a lounge room, locker-rooms for men and women, kitchen and restaurant, besides a comfortable apartment used for the manager's residence. There is a spacious garage, compost building and implement shed. All buildings are well built and synchronize with the natural beauty of the course.

## Adequate Water Assured

Foreseeing the possibility of future droughts and lack of summer rains, the Park Commission under whose administration and supervision the course comes, has

installed an excellent water main system to provide watering of the entire 18 greens simultaneously. This innovation has proven a boon to the condition of the course and places it among the finest of the municipal type. Water is secured from artesian wells in any quantity desired.

The Commission has also planned for forestation on the course to add to its beauty and natural hazards. Untiring work in administration has proven its work and the public of New Haven and vicinity are justly proud of its management in the hands of capable officials.

The season starts on the first day of April and the continuous traffic on the course has been a terrific strain on the upkeep. The schedule of maintenance for the course has been capably mapped out so as to give but little interference in the play of the public. From dawn till dark, the play on the course is in a steady stream. As many as 885 golfers have played it in a single day. Tickets for 9 holes (35c) and 18 holes (75c) are sold at the course while a seasonal membership (\$15.00) can be purchased at the executive offices of the Park Commission, of which 362 were sold in 1932. A daily check-up of season players is made by means of the holder receiving an automatic register ticket and signing his name at the clubhouse office. In this manner the Commission may determine the number of season ticket holders who play every day. This seasonal membership, at a minimum fee, is restricted to residents of New Haven and East Haven only and carries with it the right to play any day for as long as one wants during the golf season.

Green-fees to date have amply carried

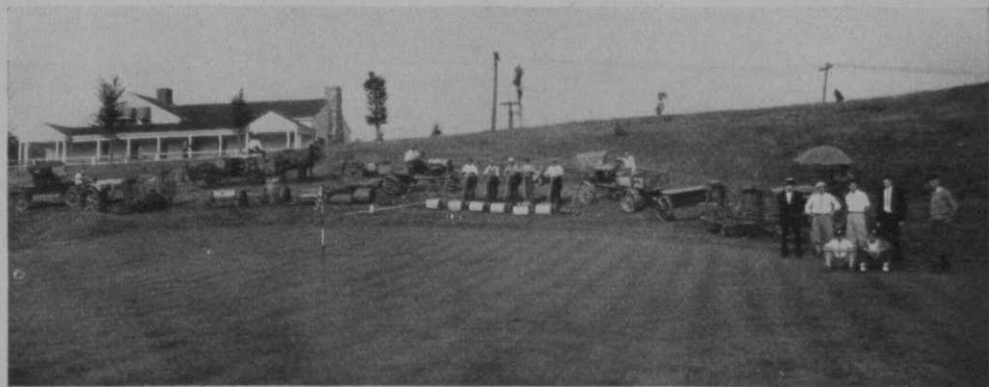
all expenditures and leave a balance for improvements to be carried out. Play on the course on all days except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is open to anyone regardless of place of residence. On these special days it has been found necessary to restrict the play to local residents only because of the extra burden of traffic. This ordinance is effectively carried out by the efficient policing of the park employes.

Because of the popularity of the game, the success of the administration policies of the Park Board, the genuine recreational value of the game and the proof by the administering officials that municipal golf can pay its own way, the public of New Haven are clamoring for another golf course. Over 326,000 players having played the course in less than four years of operation argue well for local chasers of the little white pill.

### "Hidden Assets"

In the parlance of golfers, as in drama, "the play's the thing." However, to people that are responsible to the public to give them the utmost in service for the gratification of their games desire, the technical points are to be considered. A few salient facts pertaining to the management of the New Haven Municipal course are here dwelt upon to point out a few of the "hidden assets" which are responsible for the wonderful condition the course is in.

1. Two and one-half acre nursery (stolons) for the repatching of disease-infected greens, enlargement of same or for new greens built on the proposed new municipal golf course. (The amount of greens



The Maintenance equipment at New Haven, as indicated from this photo, is more complete than the equipment at many private clubs.

surface available is enough to build nine large greens.)

2. Cups changed twice a day on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or days when traffic is heavy. Three times a day after a rain storm or heavy showers.

3. Greens watered nightly by means of a large sprinkler which is constantly attended and reset by night workmen.

4. Fairways watered on an average in 1932 of twice a week.

5. Sprinkler system operated by centrifugal pump with a capacity of 200 gallons per minute.

6. Heavy topdressing put on all greens in late fall and early spring. Topdressing is well-rotted compost aged two years. Topdressing of the greens is then carried on lightly every 35 or 40 days, depending on the need due to traffic or other conditions.

7. All work in traps, raking, etc., is gone over daily.

8. No job left partly done or in any manner to disrupt play or slow up play on course. Capable management has proven that New Haven can handle 90,000 golfers in less than eight months without a hitch.

9. During "brown-patch season," mercury compound sprayed on the greens and nursery once a week by means of power sprayer. This job which takes about four hours was sometimes started at 3 A. M. to insure the chemical seepage into the structure of the greens.

## Players Organized

We are fortunate in having our course represented by the New Haven Municipal Golf association in the Connecticut Public Golf association and the New England Public Links association. This group of men, composed of some of the leading golfers in New Haven (municipal players only) approached the Commissioners with a plan to make for more cooperation between the administering officials and the golfers. With the sanction of the Commission this organization was founded and thrived so successfully that the conditions of play on the course have already shown the signs of perfect cohesion brought about by the forming of this group. The organization which includes several park employes is a real live working club sponsoring tournaments, participating in State and New England meets and very creditably representing and upholding the fair "City of Elms" in the golf world.

The association meets at least once a month and the Park Commission endeavor-

ing to instill a deeper spirit of cooperation has given it the privilege of using the clubhouse for all meetings. This keeps the members right in the golf atmosphere. Most of the individual complaints are now ironed out by acquaintance with the "etiquette of golf" which is one of the prime motives of the organization's policy of golf progress.

The forming of this association is in general line with other progressive moves in municipal golf in New England. It enables this group to participate in all public golf tournaments throughout New England excepting those restricted to individual organizations. It is the aim of this group to bring more competitive golf into being on our municipal course. Other lesser tournaments were sponsored by local clubs or organizations and used the facilities of the course.

A concise statement of our success in operation of our municipal golf course:

<i>From opening May, 1929, to Oct., 1932</i>	
Total gross receipts since opening .....	\$155,656.18
Total refectory receipts.....	31,742.88
Total skating receipts*.....	1,196.80
Total links' operation.....	122,716.50
Total number of players since opening .....	326,308
Total approximate No. of holes played .....	3,683,898

## 1932 Results

Gross receipts .....\$ 35,890.80

No. of players—18 holes.....	7,011
No. of players—9 holes.....	54,482
No. of players—season tickets..	22,411
Total No. of players 1932 season to Oct. 1, 1932.....	83,904

\*Note—We have a stream on the course that is dammed to form a lake for ice skating. A portable checking house was erected and charges made for clothing checking and pop, candy, soda, etc. No charge made for skating.

The gross income to date, Oct. 1, 1932, \$155,656.18, represents over 92% on the original outlay of \$168,950.25.

**B**UILD A sand trap and if possible a small green in one corner of your practice field. Members will appreciate the opportunity to practice explosion and other shots from the sand and to polish up on approaching to the green.