

INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

# Bonestroo Golf

**Your To Do List:** Remodel #12 green; fix drainage problem on #2; repair eroded streambank - again, and seed the out of play area with native plants.

**What goes through your head when you read your to-do-list:** An architect could make the 12th green special; the low area on #2 is next to a wetland. What are my options? I rip-rapped the streambank last year and it washed away - now what? I want the native area to look nice. What plants should I choose? How am I going to find the time to answer these questions? I've got a pre-emergent to get down, the new guy just showed up, the green chairman is on hold...

**Sound familiar?** Everyone has projects that need special knowledge, but it's hard finding time to track down answers. Bonestroo Golf makes it easy. One phone call can answer all your questions.

The seed that became Bonestroo Golf was sown more than forty-five years ago, when Otto Bonestroo started a municipal engineering firm. As municipalities grew and became more complex, Bonestroo's services diversified and Otto began to envision a "one-stop shop" for engineering

solutions.

**In the mid-1990s a lucky bit of timing propelled Bonestroo into the golf business.** The City of Chaska, a long-time client, was planning the Town Course. Permitting and environmental issues reared up, threatening to tangle the project in red tape. Bonestroo kept the project on track.

At the same time, Bonestroo hired a promising golf course architect, Jeff McDowell. Jeff had already remodeled some courses, worked on Ron Bloom's construction crew, and was completing his master's degree in landscape architecture.

*How am I going to find the time to answer these questions? I've got a pre-emergent to get down, the new guy just showed up, the green chairman is on hold...*

**While working on the Chaska Town Course,** it became obvious that superintendents don't have the time or energy to find and then coordinate numerous consultants. Transferring Otto's "one-stop shop" philosophy to the golf industry was a no-brainer. The seed germinated, and Bonestroo Golf took root.

Since the Chaska Town Course, Bonestroo Golf has been solving problems for superintendents and owners. When the City of Roseville's Cedarholm Golf Course was having trouble maintaining its push-up greens, Bonestroo Golf was hired to remodel and update the greens to USGA standards. Care was taken during the design to create greens that fit the clientele's golfing ability.

**While at Hillcrest,** Mike Brower used Bonestroo Golf to eliminate some isolated drainage areas. Catchbasins and drainage pipes were sized based on drainage areas, amount of runoff and how long temporary ponding was acceptable.

Park Construction teamed with Bonestroo Golf on a design/build, nine-hole addition at the Milaca Golf Club. The site had wetlands and a large, flat, poorly-drained area. Park liked the idea of having one company design the golf course, deal with wetlands and plan the drainage system.

**Bonestroo's current projects** include nine-hole additions for the Zumbrota Golf Club and the Silver Bay Golf Club. Norma O'Leary's project in Silver Bay is putting their full-service design philosophy to the test. The site is blessed with two trout streams, 35 acres of wetlands, mature pine forest, and plenty of dramatic elevation changes. Along with these blessings comes responsibility. The design team is working hard to create a special golf course while protecting the site's natural resources.

*(Editor's Note: To learn more about Bonestroo Golf go to [www.bonestroogolf.com](http://www.bonestroogolf.com), or call Jeff McDowell at 651/604-4798.)*



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