

## Golf Course Happenings & Update – 8/10/25

Hi everyone,

Happy August! We are hopefully nearing the end of what has been a considerable drought period—typical for this time of year in Chicago. These late-summer seasons can be hit or miss—either too wet or too dry—and this one has definitely leaned dry. It's been an especially challenging year, considering the cold, wet spring that flipped almost overnight into a hot, humid, and droughty summer. Thankfully, we've been able to rely on our irrigation system to get us through the tough stretches, though some unirrigated rough areas are starting to show signs of stress. This is the time of year when cart traffic and tree competition for water become more noticeable on the course.

On the bright side, divot recovery is picking up steam. Mid-August is when bent grass really kicks into gear with lateral growth (“tillering”), which helps speed up recovery. We're continuing to fill fairway and tee divots as time allows, and we greatly appreciate everyone who's pitching in. Your efforts make a real difference—thank you!

You might've noticed that we're using a different divot mix this year. It's a 1:1 blend of sand and organic yard-waste compost. Why the change? Compost holds moisture better than sand, stays slightly warmer, and contains natural nutrients that support healthier, more drought-tolerant seedling growth.

Even more importantly, this mix helps improve soil conditions—especially in our more challenging fairways (#8, 9, 10, 15, and 18), which sit on heavier clay. Every divot you fill with this mix is a small step toward building better, more resilient turf. Combined with our aerification efforts this fall and next spring, we expect continued improvement in those areas.

A good benchmark for us is this: if we can make it to September 10 without major turf loss, we're usually in the clear for the season. After that, nights cool down, days get shorter, and the rain (hopefully) returns on a more reliable schedule. We're pushing through the tough stretch now, but we're on track to finish the summer strong and transition into a beautiful fall season.

As always, I appreciate your support, awareness, and care for the course. Looking forward to seeing you out there over the next few weeks!

Best,

**Evan**

Golf Course Superintendent

**P.S.** New Trier golf tryouts are happening this week, so if you see a bare tee, fill an extra divot for the team!