

Golf Course Happenings & Update – 9/3/25

Hi everyone,

I will go out on a limb and go on the record saying fall is coming early this year. Looks like Mother Nature jam packed all the heat and humidity into July and August, and left nothing in the tank for September through the end of the year. This could mean a few extra layers for fall golf, but for us, it's a much needed reprieve. Labor day marks the start of a great window of ideal bentgrass recovery weather. Nighttime temperatures in the 50s are ideal for low mowed bent to "tiller" or spread laterally as opposed to vertically, which is the plant's natural instinct throughout the hot summer. This is great for divot recovery, recovering from any bruises incurred after a hot summer (think 5 and 7 green, 14 approach) or to recover from a more invasive cultural practice.

Speaking of cultural practice, I wanted to outline again our plans to address the soil structure issue going on on a few of our fairways. As I wrote not too long ago, or discussed with some of you in person, a handful of our fairways were capped in a heavy clay, sourced from the bottom of the retention pond on hole 18 during its construction. While this clay does provide a firm surface, it comes along with a few issues including severely limited divot recovery, impermeable soil that is not receptive to water, limited ability for the plant to grow hardy roots, and extremely high nutrient deficiencies that require substantial costly and environmentally harmful inputs to remain consistent with our other healthy fairways.

Over the past 6 months of getting to know the property, we have put together a 6 stage plan to amend the soil profile, while being as minimally disruptive to golf as possible. Starting around the end of September, we will do 2 rounds of core aerification, primarily focused on holes 8,9,10,15, and 18. Other marginal fairways like 1,5, and 6 can wait until we're closed to minimize disruption to golf. We'll pull out cores 5/8ths of an inch in diameter, at a depth of around 1.5 inches. These clay cores will be harvested with our brand new core collecting contraption and disposed of. We've already coordinated with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), who will be supplying us with around 40 semi truck loads of biosolids, which will then be used to fill in the newly created void, in turn amending the top 1-2 inches of soil profile with the absolute best of the best grass growing medium at our disposal.

We figure each round of coring disrupts between 15-20 percent of the fairways surface area, hence the 6 rounds, which will in theory take us to nearly 100% amendment over 18 months. In tandem with the coring, we will use this opportunity to introduce new seed and bentgrass varieties into these struggling fairways, with a goal of increased plant density and resiliency going into next season.

As is the case for any new job, this year has been an incredible learning opportunity. We learned how the golf course behaves through all types of weather, and have seen it change through the seasons for the first time. Some things were done well, and others will need to be addressed to provide an even better golf experience through the end of this season and into next. We're incredibly excited for the challenge and even more excited to see the golf course improve for years to come.

As always, I am incredibly grateful for all the support we receive - especially from the men's club. Thank you so much for all the work you all do to keep this place at the level it needs to be. Looking forward to seeing all of you on the course this fall, and excited to get out and play myself!

Best,

Evan Davis- Golf Course Superintendent