

GROUNDS NEWSLETTER

April 2024

It's been great seeing play on the golf course the past couple of weeks. The extended forecast shows typical spring temperatures and rain next week. Our biggest hindrance seems to be precipitation for completing projects. We need dry weather to work with the soil properly.

I intended to send this newsletter last Friday, before the busy golf weekend, but other priorities changed my schedule. This update will include information you can use on your home lawn, expectations regarding course conditions, and spring projects.

CRABGRASS CONTROL

Whether you prefer to maintain your own lawn or hire a service it is time to think about applying a product for crabgrass control.

There are 2 products most commonly used to prevent crabgrass. Both products are available in a liquid (sprayable) or granular (spreadable) form. When in a granular form they are attached to fertilizer so you get the benefit of both in one application. These products can have several "brand names". I will provide you the name of the active ingredient written on the label.

1. **Prodiamine** - Prodiamine is likely the less expensive of the 2 products. When using prodiamine, you should apply now, if you haven't already. You can probably get control if applied in the next week. After this weekend I would use the following product.
2. **Dithiopyr** - When using dithiopyr, you can apply from now until around the beginning of May.

Prodiamine works strictly as a preemergent herbicide. It stops the seed from germinating. Dithiopyr works as a preemergent herbicide but it can provide post emergent control of juvenile crabgrass as well. This is why dithiopyr has a longer application range into the beginning of May.

IMPORTANT - These products will also stop desirable seed from germinating. If you have any areas in your lawn you want to seed this spring do not apply in that area.

If you have already applied a crabgrass control you can seed in the fall. The products lose effectiveness around July.

Lastly, if applying yourself it is important to read and follow the information provided on the label.

MOWING FREQUENCY

We follow a routine mowing schedule in the summer but this time of year mowing frequency is dependent on a few variables. I'll highlight one of those variables below.

Growth Rate (how quickly the grass grows and recovers)

SOIL TEMPERATURE (MARCH 17 - APRIL 16)



The graph shows soil temperatures from March 17 through April 16. Soil temperatures play a big role in growth and recovery. In general, 55 degrees is the “magic number” suitable for grass to become active.

We are just beginning to approach consistent 55 degree soil temperatures. Once the grass becomes active, it takes a couple weeks for recovery. Until then, we are extra cautious mowing and navigating the golf course with maintenance equipment and carts to reduce self-inflicted damage.

We take pride in creating the most enjoyable experience for our members and guests on a daily basis. We consider short-term and long-term effects of our decisions. You might find that the playing surfaces, including rough, are unmown on any given day over the course of the next few weeks. This may not be ideal in the short-term but it's with a long-term vision to have the best possible playing conditions into the summer. We are especially cautious when the golf course is wet and appreciate your understanding with cart usage.

SPRING PROJECTS

Grass Path Right of #8 Green (East)



We will be installing Traqmatz right of #8 green to provide a clean, stable and smoother ride as carts travel. Mats will also be installed on the walking trail up to #9 tee. Traqmatz are rubber mats designed to have grass grow through them while protecting the grass from traffic.

The mats in the photo, above, are not fully installed they are just sitting in place for the time being. This project will be completed within the next couple of weeks as we prepare for sod.

Cart traffic to the right side of the green will be blocked until the sod can fully establish. The photo below is an example of what the mats begin to look like after the grass starts to fill in.



Clubhouse Landscape

The landscaping outside of the fireside room will be updated. It is out of date and the aesthetics from inside of the clubhouse can be improved. We will design and complete this work with our team in-house.

There will be a week or two between removal of the old plants and installation of the new landscape. We will ensure the area is presentable through the process.

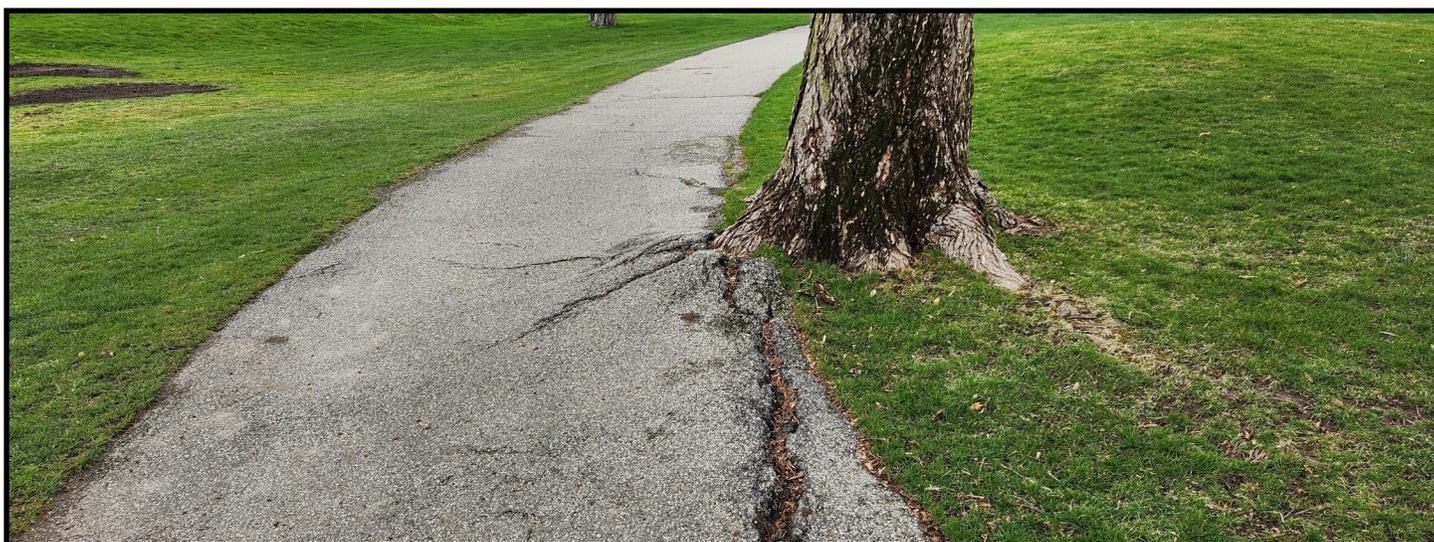


View from the window. Currently, this area is void of plants. A new landscape will improve this aesthetic.

Cart Path #10



A section of cart path left of #10 green will be slightly re-routing around the elm tree. The cart path is covering the tree roots. Re-routing the path will benefit the tree health and also eliminate the large bump for carts. In addition, the entire section of path from 10 green to 12 tee will be pulverized and re-surfaced.



#10 Fairway Expansion



Approximately 7 yards of fairway on the left of #10 was widened and recaptured by mowing. This will allow more opportunity to avoid the fairway bunkers on the right. The expanded area will blend into the rest of the fairway in a couple weeks.



The left side of the red line has been expanded.

Bunkers

There are several bunkers on the property with less than ideal sand depth. We will be adding sand to the bunkers throughout the spring. Our goal is to complete this project by June 1st.

You may encounter our crew working in bunkers as you play. We do our best to be out of the way and alert. Sometimes, it is difficult to balance avoiding golf and completing our tasks at the same time. We appreciate your cooperation and ask that you ensure our crew is aware before you hit your approach shot.



We prefer to hand rake bunkers but the machine will be used for the next couple of weeks so we can reallocate labor to other projects.

If you have questions regarding this information or anything else please feel free to contact me.

Andy Gianino

616.949.0810 ext. 444

gianinoandy@gmail.com