



grounds newsletter

We are about halfway through the 2023 golf season. I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and hitting it straight! Mother Nature has taken us from one extreme to the other in terms of precipitation. Between April 5 - June 24 we were approximately 7.75" of rain below average. There had been 2.25" of rain, within that timeframe. From June 24 - July 17 we have received 7.1". Based on those totals, if I had to bet, I'd say we are going to have another period of dry weather sometime in the near future.

Some rain does help with turf quality but we prefer dry conditions. Water can always be added with our irrigation system and hoses but it is much more difficult to take it away without substantial infrastructure. There is a much greater chance of disease or the grass dying from being too wet rather than too dry.



Water covering #5 fairway (Thursday July 13). This is almost the worst I've ever seen #5 in terms of water crossing the fairway. The worst being during the MI Amateur in 2021. The amount of water is due to how fast the water can exit the property and not due to drainage on #5 fairway itself.

NATIVE AREAS

One of our main objectives this year is to eradicate weeds and briar bushes from our unmown native areas. Part of the eradication process involves manually removing material and the other part is controlled through use of selective herbicides.

You will notice certain areas in the native throughout the season that are bare soil, such as left of 5 green. This is an intentional part of the process. We will seed these areas to grass in the fall. I anticipate this process taking a couple of seasons before the grass is fully established.





COMPLETED PROJECTS

Cart Path Edges



Sodding the right side of #2 tee.



#2 tee before and after



#2 tee before and after



We installed pavers at the corners of the cart staging area as a long term solution to the grass continually dying from a heavy cart traffic area. The pavers previously made up the patio where the tent is now located on concrete.



Pavers and sod installed to the left side of #9 green.

#8 Dredging and Drainage



Excavator dredging the ditch left of #8. We are happy with the increased volume of water this ditch can hold after rain events.



The bottom photo is the collection area where water from the clubhouse, #1, 2, 3, 8, and 9 enters through a pipe. The water then exits through a different pipe into the marsh right side of #7



We removed and replaced the drain pipe left of #8 fairway. The old pipe was exposed on the surface and separating due to years of freeze thaw cycles. This is the same inlet pipe from the previous page draining the clubhouse, #1, 2, 3, 8, and 9. The top photo is before and the bottom after we completed the project.



The excavator installing the new corrugated pipe to the right of the photo. The old concrete pipe is in sections on the left side of the photo. The new pipe is 2" bigger in diameter which will allow for slightly more water flow through this portion of the system.



Planting Trees Next to I96



The road commission removed several trees between our property and I96 to build a new on ramp. After the trees were removed we were left with an open view to the highway. We installed plants on our side of the property to screen this view.

The intent with the selection of plant material and design was to blend into the surrounding landscape.