

## Master Plan Overview

Time, nature and man have made many gradual changes over the last hundred years. Most holes share a common need for certain general types of repair and attention that should be performed so as to maintain and preserve the historic and links-style nature of this course.

- **The expansion of putting surfaces:** For years, the Fenwick greens have been shrinking. This is a common occurrence when triplex mowers are used. The collars need to be pushed back out, increasing the size of the greens and recapturing their original dimensions. Because the putting surfaces are so small, it is imperative for turf health that the green tops be as large as possible, which will help to reduce wear and compaction.
- **Bunker Renovation:** Over the years, the bunkers, most of which were added to the course after the late 1960s, have lost their original shape and, in some cases, intended effect. All the bunkers that should be retained need to be rebuilt over time. Because of the sandy soil of Fenwick, drainage will not need to be installed, but the visual qualities, playability and consistency of the sand hazards can be improved. In some cases, the recommendation is that the size, shape and location be altered. Those will be discussed on a hole-by-hole basis.
- **Trees:** Trees compete with turf for sunlight, water and nutrients. Undernourished turf is susceptible to disease and, as a result, requires more time and effort from the maintenance staff, as well as inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, which are expensive.

Historically, the Fenwick Golf Course had very few trees. Photographs from 1965 show there were no trees between the first and ninth holes, the fourth and fifth holes, or seventh and eighth holes. Rough served to define holes and hole corridors, as it should on a links-style golf course, where long vistas are an integral facet.

According to the Mission Statement: “Where trees serve no purpose or are not considered a ‘specimen tree’ they can be removed if it will mean improved turf quality and playability of the golf course. If tree planting is required, care must be taken to species and locations so that neither roots nor shade harm the turf of the golf course.”

Tree issues will be discussed on a hole-by-hole basis.

- **Fairway and approach mowing:** Just as with greens, fairways can migrate away from their original location, with two results. First, the entrance to greens can narrow over time and take away from the bump-and-run game. Second, as the area between fairway and bunkers increases, the rough serves to “defend” the bunker, as wayward shots stop in the long grass as opposed to finding sand. Fairways and approaches need to be contoured back to their intended positions.

It is crucial that the approaches be maintained firm condition so that the ground can be used. With small, firm greens, fairness and links-style play both require that golfers be able to bounce their approach shots onto the green if they choose or need to do so.

- **Red Tees**

The Fenwick Golf Course is considered a short layout when comparing the blue and white tee yardages to similar tees on other golf courses. However, from the Red Tees, Fenwick plays 2,378 yards and is comparable to the forward tees of Madison Country Club (2,415 and 2,740 yards) and the Red Course at Hartford Golf Club (2,502 and 2,556 yards).

One of the goals of good golf course design and of this Master Plan is to eliminate situations that make the layout too difficult for players who are best suited to the Red Tees. The goal, with these alterations, is to increase playability and enjoyment for them.

For example, the right fairway bunker on the ninth hole (a 453 yard hole from the Red Tees) is currently approximately 135 yards from the Red Tees. A golfer who does not have the ability to carry much further than 135 yards will require at least four more perfectly struck shots to reach the nine green, but in reality, five or six more shots on a par-5 hole. For this caliber of player, the ninth presents enough of a challenge. Making them play a fairway bunker shot because of a mishit drive is just making an already difficult hole even more difficult.

If there comes a time when a player who normally uses the Red Tees finds that length to be too easy, a move back to the White Tees, which at 2,607 yards is 239 yards longer, is encouraged.