

Master Plan Summary

There are several major areas of focus for this Strategic Master Plan: bunkers, trees and fescue, tees, maintenance and proper agronomy to maintain firm fairways and approaches.

Bunkers. Bunkers need to be reshaped and reduced in size at the greens on the first, third, seventh, eighth and ninth holes as well as fairway bunkers on the second and eighth holes.

Bunkers need to be eliminated on second (rear greenside), fourth (right front), and seventh (rear greenside).

Bunkers need to be relocated and reshaped on the second (left and right greenside), fourth (two left greenside), fifth (right fairway and left front greenside), sixth (right and left greenside), ninth (fairway).

In addition, mounds next to the 3rd and 5th greens will be eliminated.

Trees and fescue. According to the “Fenwick Golf Course Statement of Purpose” adopted by the Board of Warden and Burgesses, “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.”

The most immediate need to improve the playability of the golf course is to eliminate the two clusters of trees that are approximately 40-70 yards short left of the 4th green and to eliminate the large maple that blocks the left side of the 7th green.

Going forward, as trees on the course die or are removed, they will be replaced with areas of fescue as long as it does not interfere with normal play.

As these areas are permitted to grow, it is also imperative that the grass be more of the “wispy” type that is visually attractive but allows the ball to be found and played with some difficulty but not more than a “half-shot” penalty.

Tees. It is understood that on every golf course every tee, over time, will shift and become un-level and/or bumpy. There is little that can be done to prevent this occurrence. As a result, the tops of tees must be leveled on a regular basis. Most of the tees at Fenwick have gone too long without work and need to be improved. In some cases, the maintenance staff can do this. In others, it might be wise to employ a golf course construction company to perform the task.

Equipment and maintenance. In order for Fenwick to be maintained as a links-style golf course and for the historic design characteristics to be recaptured and retained, the golf course superintendent must be outfitted with the necessary equipment. That includes walking greens mowers in conjunction with triplex greens mowers.

Walking mowers need less area to turn than triplex mowers, and as a result, areas of greens that have become collar or rough can be returned to putting surface.

Proper Agronomic Conditions. Any strategic plan must keep in mind that the proper condition of the greens and approaches is firm. It should also be understood that the superintendent is charged with maintaining fairways that are unirrigated, which inherently brings with it many challenges. To that end, the superintendent should be allowed instructed to maintain fairways and approaches in firm condition and to hire agronomic consultants if he/she deems that necessary in order properly maintain Fenwick as a links-like golf course.

Throughout the implementation of this Strategic Plan, the involvement and participation of the Superintendent is crucial.