



Copper Point Fall/Winter Turf Care Report 2015

It's getting near the end of November and the snow has begun to fly. This pretty much wraps up everything we can do outside on both courses, aside from plowing and a couple clubhouse related projects. We have had a very productive fall in the maintenance department and managed to get a quite a few projects completed. Members and customers will be happy with what is taking place on both courses. I would like to thank all of our staff in the turf care department on a successful season. They did a great job this year as we continue to push forward and continually improve both courses.

We have completed the bark mulch project on the Ridge course, cleaning up a few areas around the course that would just not grow high quality turf and make them more visually appealing. These areas had 3" of earth removed, and weed barrier stapled onto the surface. Garden edging was then stapled into the lips to prevent turf and weeds from creeping into the areas. After the preparation was complete 3-4" of medium sized Fir Nuggets were added to each area. This was the first phase of cleaning up some areas on the Ridge course. At this time, they are "in play" but we have talked about adding a local rule to the score card for next season.



For the first time, we have completed a wall to wall aeration, meaning we punched holes from tree line to tree line on both courses, as well as removing all the cores. This should give all of our turf a much needed breath and a chance to be even stronger in the spring. I'm sure a few of our staff are glad it's over, being that it took over 5 weeks and two tractors to aerate the roughs and fairways. Every tee deck, fringe, and approaches were aerated with walking aerators and hand shoveled by the crew (if anyone is looking for cores for their yards, we have A LOT!). Next season we intend to begin an aggressive topdressing program on all our tee surfaces, to regain a truly level surface.

In addition to our extensive aerating, we removed brush and cleaned up several areas on the Point course. Some of the areas were to speed up play, and ease in finding golf balls. These areas include, left and right side 3 on the point, right side of 14, and left side of 18 by the 100 yard marker, left side 11 from the 100 and in, right side 9 from the tee shot. Cleaning these areas up isn't only for pace of play, but to open air movement up in areas. 5 green surrounds on the Point have been opened up and

thinned out (2, 6, 11, 13 and 16). Increasing the amount of air and sunlight these greens and green surrounds get will help to form stronger and healthier turf. Each of these greens have trouble with holding excessive moisture for longer periods of time due to lack of air and sun. Plenty of brush and debris has come off the Point course this fall and this has added visually to the look of several holes. It might make a miss slightly easier to recover from!

After meeting to talk about future projects and a 5 year plan for improving both properties, we decided to transplant several trees out on the Point course. Over the next 5 years, mature, transplanted trees will be popping up in several areas on the point course. This year we decided to move 6 trees in between 4 and 5. This will help to break up the two holes and give them some separation. 4 trees were added to the right side of 4 green (two of which replaced dead existing trees) and 2 on the right side of 5 green, about 50 yards out. With the help of a local tree spade we were able to take the 6 trees from the property (ranging in height from 10' to 17' tall) and transplant them on 4 and 5. We were able to remove the tree, bag and burlap them, then put steel meshing around the root ball for transport. These more mature trees will tie into the existing area much faster than previous blue spruce. After using a mini excavator to dig the holes, we filled the remaining area with a sand and compost mix to ensure their survival. Over the next few years, more will be added to these areas, as well as along the fence line on the left side of number 4.



Last year we resurfaced the right side of number 8 on the Point and tied the turf into the existing cart path. After the addition of irrigation heads along this turf, that area can stand alone with nightly watering and this cleaned up the tee shot on number 8. This fall we decided to do several different projects to our starting hole on the Point course. Firstly we added a sprinkler head next to the white tee deck to ensure proper coverage to the deck as well as the walk on. This may seem easy to simply “add” a sprinkler head, but it is time consuming and can be expensive to be done properly. This process is not like adding a sprinkler in your yard. Every irrigation head on both courses has wires going from a satellite controller to the head itself (in some cause has over 1000’ feet of wiring). This is to insure that our irrigation system is completely automated and runs as we have it programed from a centrally located computer in the maintenance shop. So the addition of one head can mean grouping it with another head, or in most cases running new wires to the satellites. After wiring is mapped out, pipe must be trenched and tied into existing piping system on the golf course. This can range from pipe sizes from 1-4” in diameter (Typically 2”). Once the pipe is laid and ran through a new trench, the sprinkler can be added and adjusted to where we need it to cover. We bed all our new lines with construction sand and remove the clay and rock that come out (often more rock then clay). The area is cleaned up and the existing sod replaced to look like nothing ever happened. All in all we have added 6 new irrigation heads to the first hole this fall.

We removed the abandoned stretch of cart path in from of the copper tee deck and will be sod/seeding it in the spring to clean up the entrance to the fairway on this hole. Two irrigation heads were added to the left side of the tee shot landing zone to keep the left green and clean up the appearance of the hole from the first tee. These areas shouldn't effect play in the early part of the season.

The largest of the projects we undertook this year is the stripping and tie in of the right side of the hole from the 100 yard marker to the back of the green. Roughly 10,000 ft² of turf were removed as well as all the trees in the green surround, to replace the fescue turf with Kentucky bluegrass and add irrigation to support is growth. Since the cart path from tee to green were added after we opened, they are bordered by fescues. Originally the edges of the entire Point course was seeded with fescue blends to tie them into the surrounding native land, then fairway and rough were seeded with bluegrass and a perennial rye blend. The fairway and rough grass can handle the extensive cart and foot traffic, whereas fescue is a much more delicate turf variety. By adding new cart paths, we forced all the cart traffic through the fescues causing damaged and worn grass, especially in early and late season. Over the next 5+ years you will see all of these "high traffic" areas being stripped and replaced with traffic tolerant grasses. Adding irrigation to support this turf is key in the entire process. On number one we took the opportunity to re shape a portion on the "walk on" and green surround to make it more inviting and open it up. With the addition of 3 new heads to water this area, it will drastically improve the look and play of our first hole. The turf care department spent several weeks stripping the area and re-shaping it. We also had time to trench in the irrigation and wire runs. By the time we open, it will be prepped for sod with the addition of 2" of new topsoil. This may be an inconvenience for the first several weeks. We will have to patiently wait for the sod farms in Alberta to thaw out so we can finish the re surfacing, but I promise it will be worth the wait. The combination of all these project should make the first hole on the Point visually more appealing and play much better.



Winter is here and we have a light blanket of snow on the turf, so now we move indoors to keep busy with all kinds of preparation in the maintenance shop over the coming months to ensure that our facility and equipment is ready to put in another season of maintaining high quality turf. Thanks to everyone who helped out this year and enjoyed the product Copper Point Golf Club promises to put out every season. We hope everyone stays warm over the colder months and look forward to seeing everyone out on the course bright and early in the spring.

Thank you

Mike Knowles

Superintendent, Copper Point Golf Club