

The Renovation of Scioto CC:

Communication Strategies for Long-Term Projects



Robert B. Becker, CGCS
Michael J. Hurdzan, Ph.D., ASGCA
3 February 2014

Who is Robert B. Becker, CGCS?

Who is Michael J. Hurdzan, Ph.D.?

What is Scioto Country Club?

- Perennial member of all “Top 100 Courses” lists
- Nearly 100 years old
- Donald Ross original design
- Hosted 5 major championships
- Childhood course of Jack Nicklaus
- Capped and energetic membership

1926 USGA Open Championship – *Bobby Jones, Champion*
1931 Ryder Cup Matches – U.S. vs Great Britain – *United States, Winner*
1950 PGA Championship – *Chandler Harper, Champion*
1968 USGA Amateur Championship – *Bruce Fleisher, Champion*
1986 USGA Senior Open Championship – *Dale Douglass, Champion*

USGA RULES GOVERN ALL PLAY

Please repair all ball marks.

Four hours is sufficient time for a 4-ball match to finish 18 holes.

**Our individual and combined history
with Club gives us the benefit
of the doubt.....**

.....but does not eliminate doubt.

**We must effectively communicate our
plan to the membership.**



**Members
believe:
*“There is a
50% chance
that you will
improve the
course - and
a 100%
chance you
will screw it
up!”***

Decision Making Process At Scioto Is Typical:

- Committee investigates and recommends an idea
- Board must approve the idea
- Forwarded to membership for information and/or vote
- Board and/or committee manage implementation and funding
- Superintendent and Designer are tasked to get it done

**Therefore, we must
be able to
communicate our
ideas to both the
membership and
management.**

**Our information must
be easy to
understand yet
technically correct.**



First Step Was To Prepare, Present And Get Approval Of Master Plan For Improvements

- Architect should prepare and present the plans while Superintendent acts as a neutral, resource person to answer questions and get feedback.
- Once plans are approved Superintendent should work with golf professional and golf committees (men's, ladies, championship, etc.) to develop schedule of when to start, stop and open the improvements, with lots of contingencies for problems.
- Construction process begins and Superintendent becomes Owner's representative to document and manage the day-to-day process and interface with Architect and Builder.



Improvements Were To Done In Phases Over 4 Years In Late Fall:

- Phase 1: Fairway bunkers
- Phase 2: Greenside bunkers
- Phase 1&2: Fairway and rough mowing lines
- Phase 3: Selected greens, trees, and paths
- Phase 4: Learning center, water features and banks

*****But NO rebuilding of greens*****

Hole Number Five - 439 - 356 yards, par 4

An incredibly beautiful and natural hole that plays as well as it looks. All of the tees are well placed, but the golf car road behind the fourth green limits the backward expansion of the main tee. In addition, this path behind four greens causes problems for shots played over four green, and frankly, the path isn't necessary if an old path location is re-activated. This old path used to go along the left side of five tee then turn to the right and go down between the tees where it shared traffic between six green and seven tees. Putting a new path where this old path used to be opens up some interesting opportunities. This new "old" path makes access to the tees easier and doesn't confine all foot traffic to the back of tee. The back tee on five can be expanded back over the existing golf car path, and drainage along the left side of five tee can be improved.

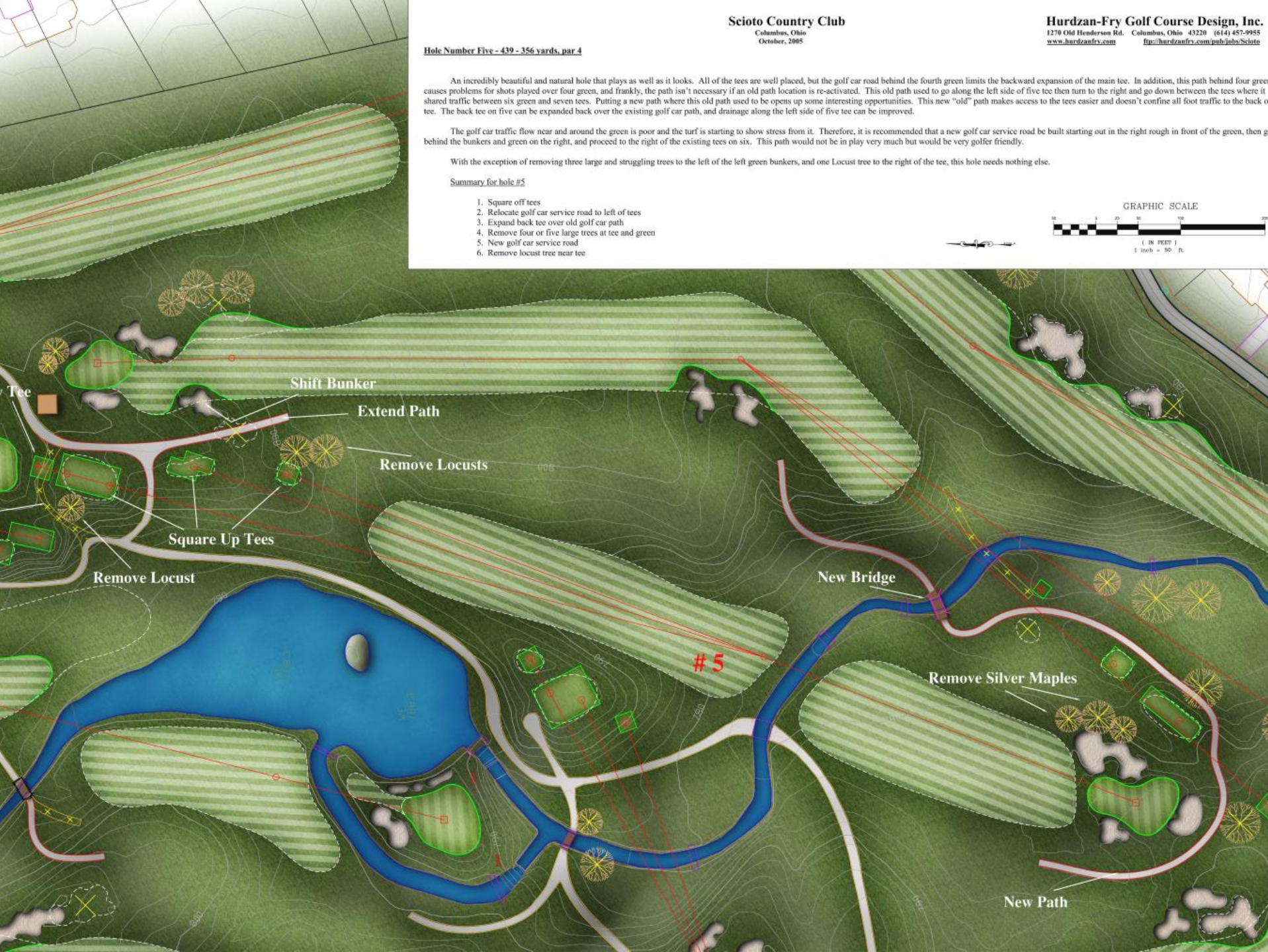
The golf car traffic flow near and around the green is poor and the turf is starting to show stress from it. Therefore, it is recommended that a new golf car service road be built starting out in the right rough in front of the green, then go behind the bunkers and green on the right, and proceed to the right of the existing tees on six. This path would not be in play very much but would be very golfer friendly.

With the exception of removing three large and struggling trees to the left of the left green bunkers, and one Locust tree to the right of the tee, this hole needs nothing else.

Summary for hole #5

1. Square off tees
2. Relocate golf car service road to left of tees
3. Expand back tee over old golf car path
4. Remove four or five large trees at tee and green
5. New golf car service road
6. Remove locust tree near tee

GRAPHIC SCALE



The Scioto Master Plan limited reconstruction to only 6 greens - the most severely sloped - despite the fact all were poorly constructed and agronomists have advised for 40 years they be rebuilt.

However, the Club wouldn't accept the resulting disruption of play.

**The First
Study
Showing The
Terrible
State Of The
Greens
(1973) - Was
Ignored***

**STUDY OF
AMENDED SOILS
ON GREENS AT
SCIOTO C. C.**

(WITH WRITTEN REPORT)

MICHAEL J. HURDZAN, Ph.D.
KIDWELL & HURDZAN
COLUMBUS, OHIO
12/73

***Just like dozens of other studies and reports from
agronomists and experts for the 40 years**

Undisturbed Soil Samples



Undisturbed Soil Samples



**How was the membership
convinced to close the course and
rebuild all of the greens?**

**Communications, demonstrations,
displays and every other means we
could think of!**

Communication Tools Included:

- Written reports and evaluations from outside experts
- Meetings with Green Committee and Board
- Meetings with special member groups - Ladies, Seniors, “A” Players, etc.
- Newsletter column written by Bob Becker
- Formal letters from design experts to various club committees
- Town Hall meetings with the Members
- Demonstrations and displays – cross sections of greens, drawings, removed materials from greens, computer graphs of sensors
- Golf Inc’s. “Renovation of the Year” award
- Photographs of before and after hole improvements
- Tidbits from golf magazines, newspaper and other sources

GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT'S REPORT

on

Bunkers and Greens

for



Prepared by:

Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design, Inc.
1270 Old Henderson Road
Columbus, OH 43220

September 2005

Process Began In 2005 With Scioto Green Improvement Experiments And Test Plots

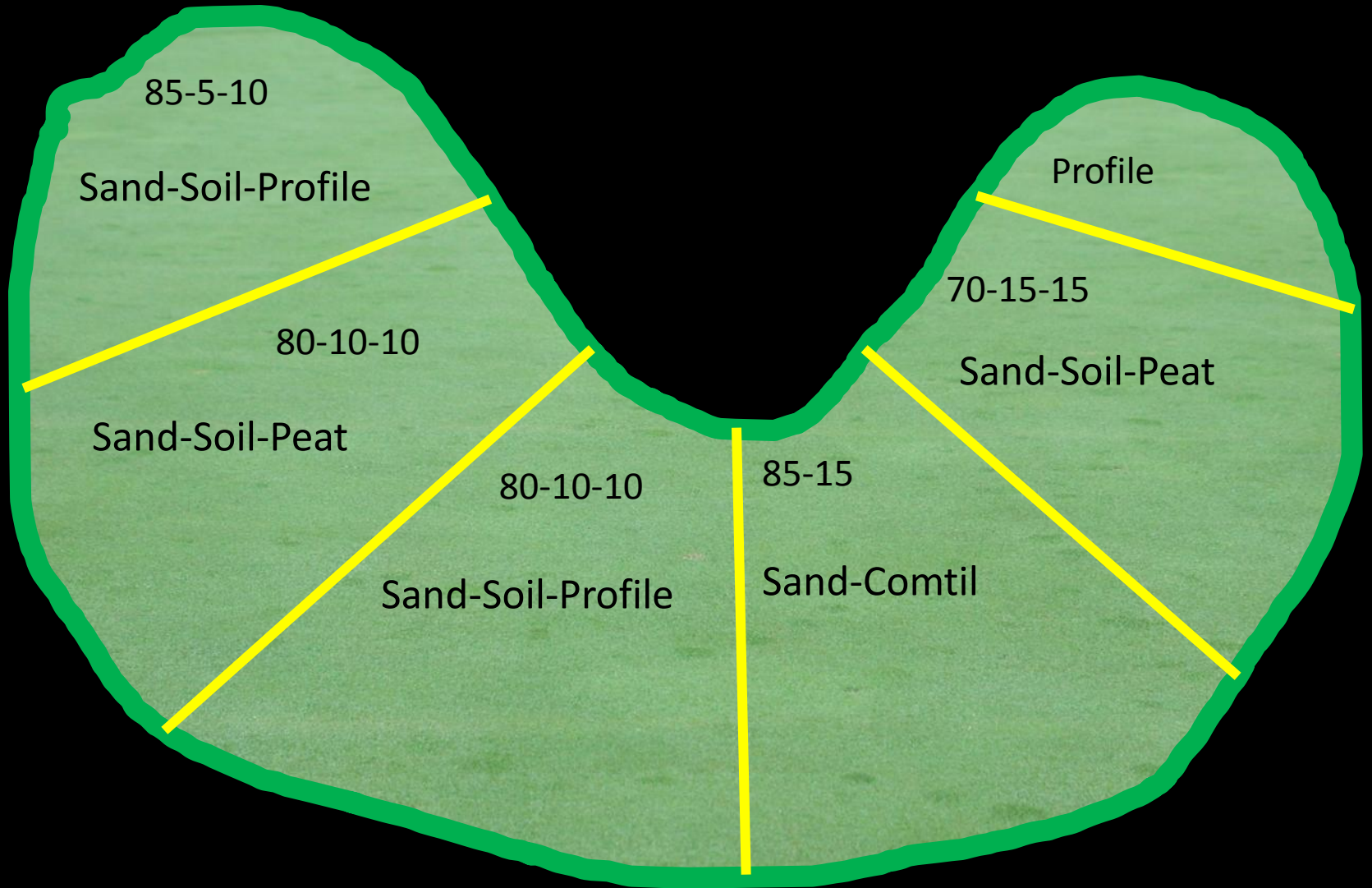
- Aerify and topdress
- Drill and fill
- Existing green drainage
- Vacuum and remote sensors

**Plus test plots for rootzone evaluation
and bentgrass observations**

A-4/G-2 50/50 Blend	A-4		Declaration	Independence	Dominant	
			LS-44	L-93	T-2 (ALPHA)	
			T-1	Penncross	A-1	
			G-1	A-2	G-6	
	G-2 New Seed Lot	G-2 Old Seed Lot	A-1	Declaration	LS-44	
			G-6	G-1	L-93	
			T-2 (ALPHA)	Penncross	A-2	
			Independence	T-1	Providence	



**Construction of New Test
Green w/ Various Root Zones**



Presentation to Special Committees



of

Scioto Country Club

Greens Evaluations

By

Michael J. Hurdzan, Ph.D.

March 2006

Scioto's Greens Timeline

- 1989 Greens conversion to Pennlinks bentgrass
- 1999 Greens conversion to G-2 bentgrass
- 2000 Tree removal to improve morning sun
- 2005 Drill & fill on #10, #11, & #16
- 2005 XGD drainage #10 & #16
- 2005 Advanced-aer #10
- 2005 RZ wireless moisture #7, #11, #16, & #10
- 2007 Greens reconstruction

Drill & Fill



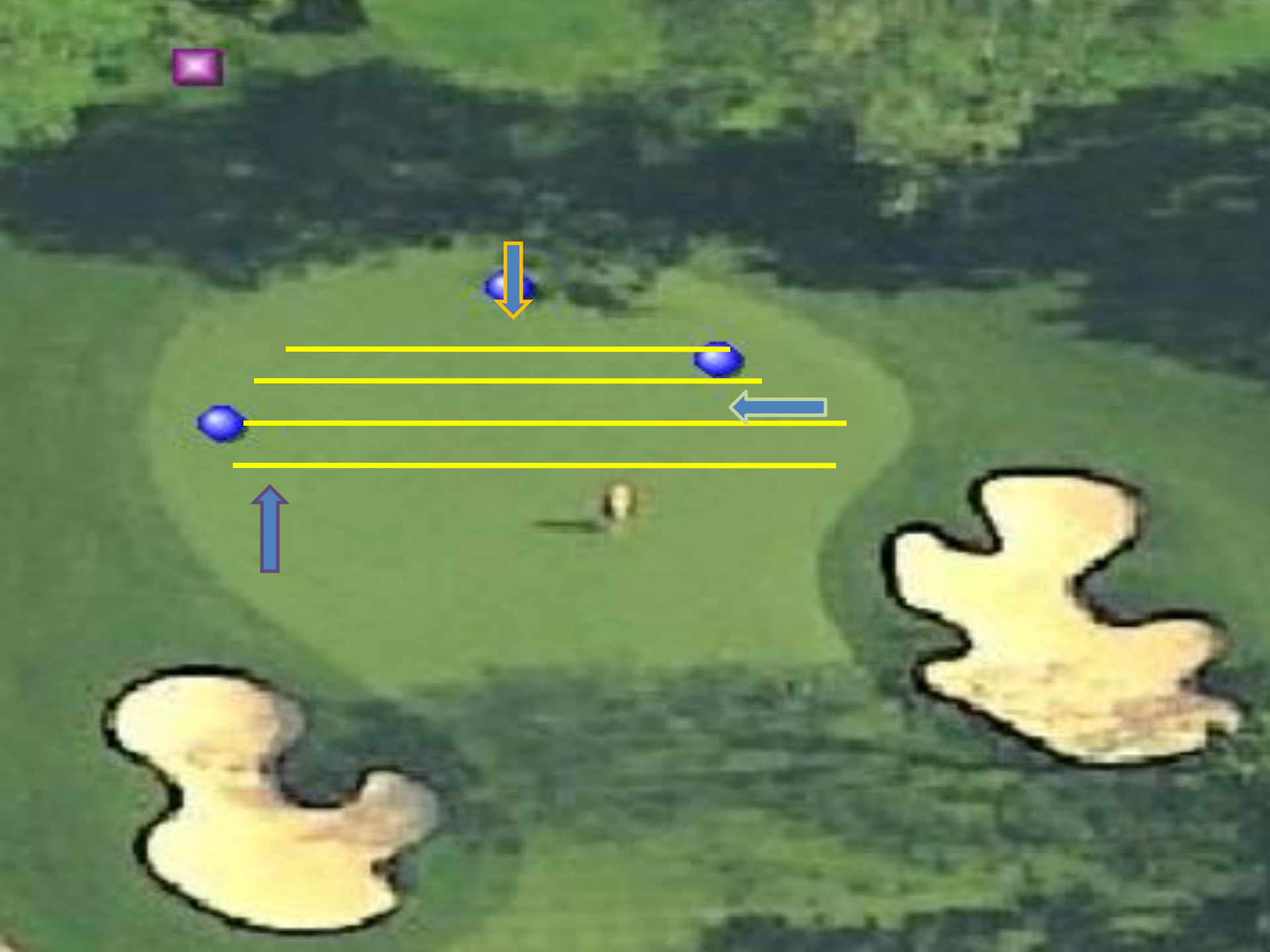


XGD Drainage



**Construction
Debris in #10
Green Found
Adding XGD
Prominently
Displayed**





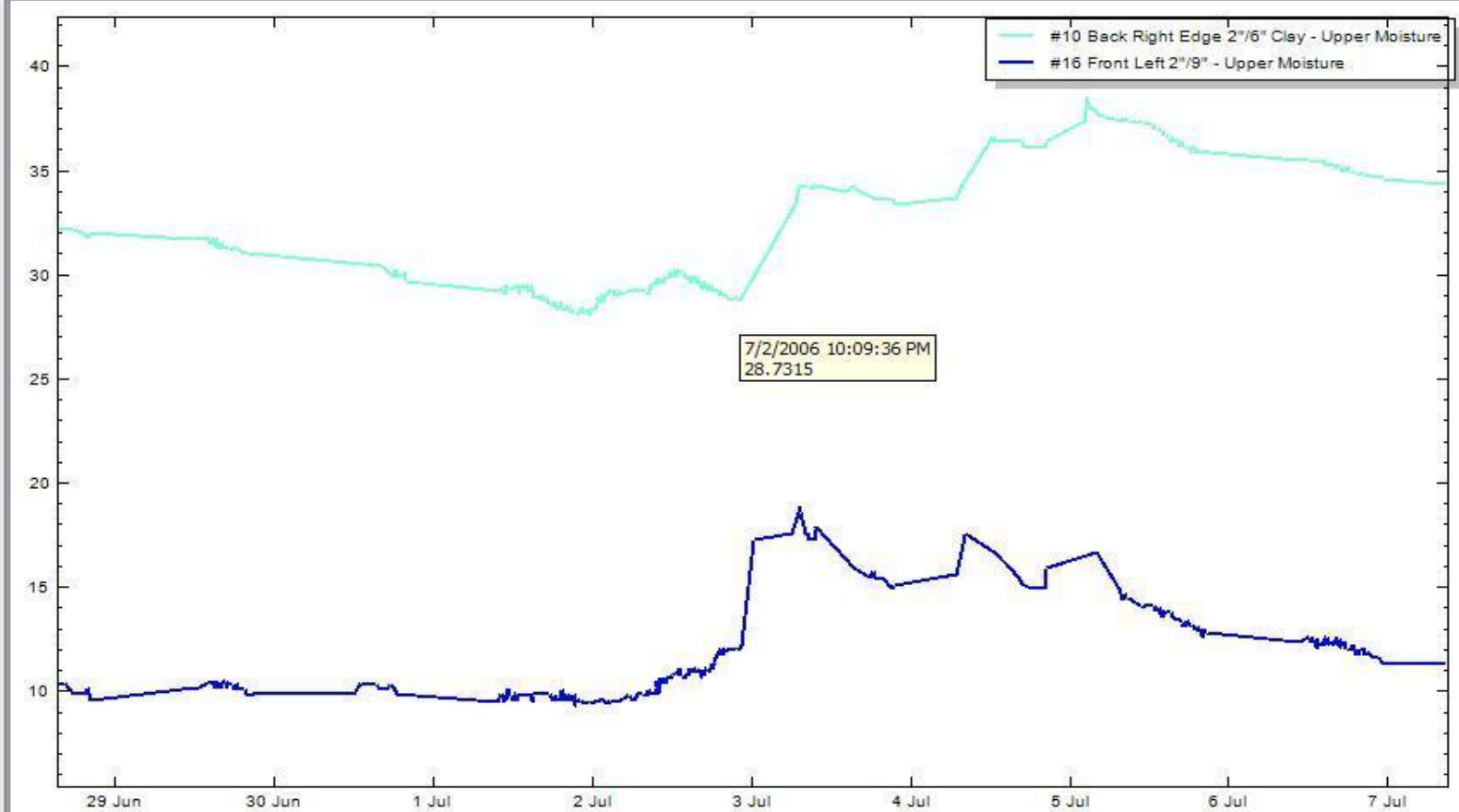


**Sensor data and observations from July
rains convince members to close the
course and rebuild all greens**



- ☐ #10 Mid Left
- ☐ #10 Back Edge 3" Sand 6"
- ☒ #10 Back Right Edge 2"/6"
- ☐ #7 Back Left 2/6 Clay
- ☒ #16 Front Left 2"/9"
- ☐ #16 Back Mid (Wilt)
- ☐ #11 Front Right 3/6 Clay
- ☐ #11 Back Right 3/6 Clay

Date: Live
 Sensor Location: Upper
 Start Date: 6/28/2006 9:31:01 AM
 End Date: 7/7/2006 9:31:01 AM
 Update





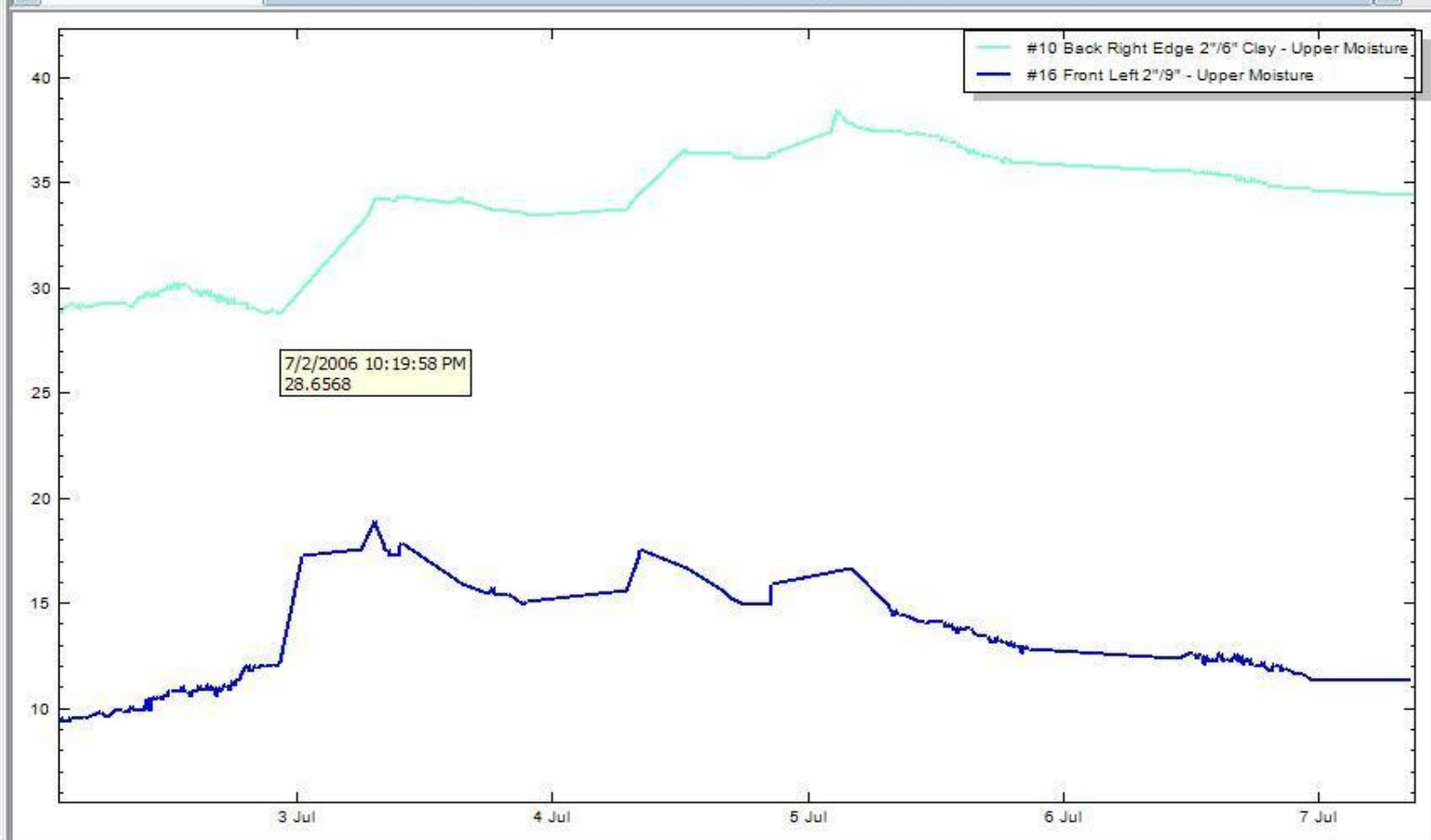
- ☐ #10 Mid Left
- ☐ #10 Back Edge 3" Sand 6"
- ☒ #10 Back Right Edge 2"/6"
- ☐ #7 Back Left 2/6 Clay
- ☒ #16 Front Left 2"/9"
- ☐ #16 Back Mid (Wilt)
- ☐ #11 Front Right 3/6 Clay
- ☐ #11 Back Right 3/6 Clay

Date

Sensor Location

Start Date

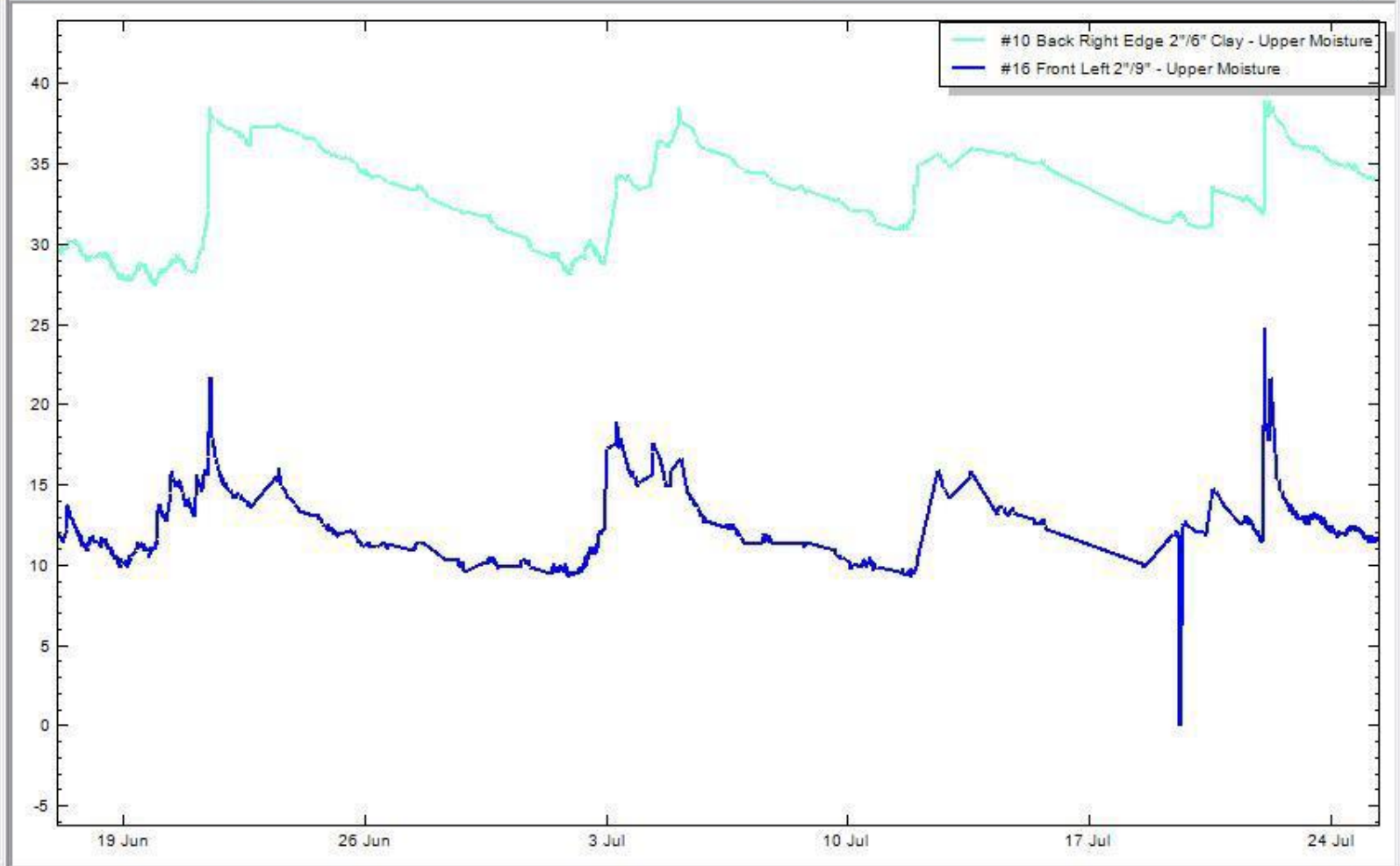
End Date





- ☐ #10 Mid Left
- ☐ #10 Back Edge 3" Sand 6"
- ☒ #10 Back Right Edge 2"/6"
- ☐ #7 Back Left 2/6 Clay
- ☒ #16 Front Left 2"/9"
- ☐ #16 Back Mid (Wilt)
- ☐ #11 Front Right 3/6 Clay
- ☐ #11 Back Right 3/6 Clay

Date: Live
 Sensor Location: Upper
 Start Date: 6/17/2006 1:31:01 AM
 End Date: 7/28/2006 9:31:01 AM
Update



Green's Plug (#16) Used As An Exhibit At A Board Meeting



Cross-section Of Existing Green w/ Buried Debris Used As Demonstration To The Board And Membership

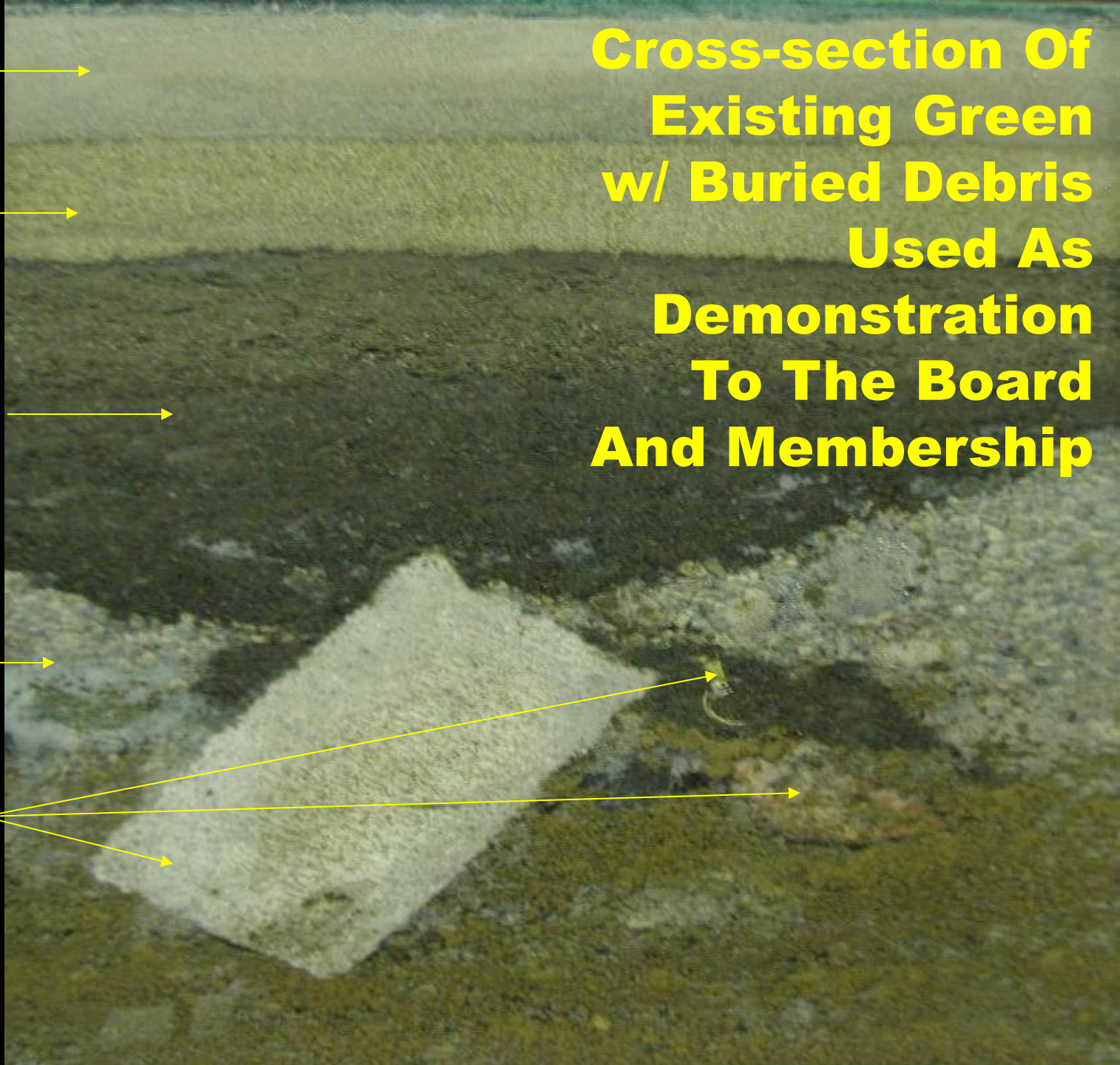
Top dressing since
1980

Problematic top
dressing from
'60-'80

High percentage of
silt, clay mix

Inconsistent
gravel layer

Construction
debris



USGA Green Construction Specifications

12 inches of sand, peat
and soil amendment mix →

4 inches of gravel →

Drainage, sub air
connector →



Scioto Country Club

Columbus, Ohio

May 29, 2007

Greens Slope Analysis

**Existing Conditions
For Review ONLY
Not Approved For Construction**

Hurdzan / Fry Golf Course Design, Inc.

1270 Old Henderson Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43220
(614) 457-9955 Fax (614) 457-2250
www.hurdzanfry.com

Hole Number Two - 459 - 395 yards, par 4/5

A golf hole made world famous by writer Dan Jenkins in his book *Eighteen Greatest Golf Holes in America*, the second at Scioto is one of everyone's favorites. The tees have been previously expanded and placement need no readjustment. However, it is recommended to square off and realign the back tee by resodding some edges. It is further recommended to use the bluegrass sod to separate and define this back path.

The golf car path and bridge are well located and in reasonable condition so nothing else is needed near the tee. However, extending the golf car path back at the green will help reduce the compaction where the path. Likewise, the trees on this hole are for the most part OK for now, with the only recommendations being to remove one or two large limbs from a tree in the right rough by the creek, and remove one dying Ash tree.

The fairway bunkers on this hole are key features, but as configured they more severely penalize the poor player than they do the better one. To mitigate this inequity, it is recommended that the front half (210 yards from the middle tee) be eliminated and grassed in, and the back edge toward the green be expanded out towards the fairway. The fairway edge would then be expanded and redefined by sodding to integrate.

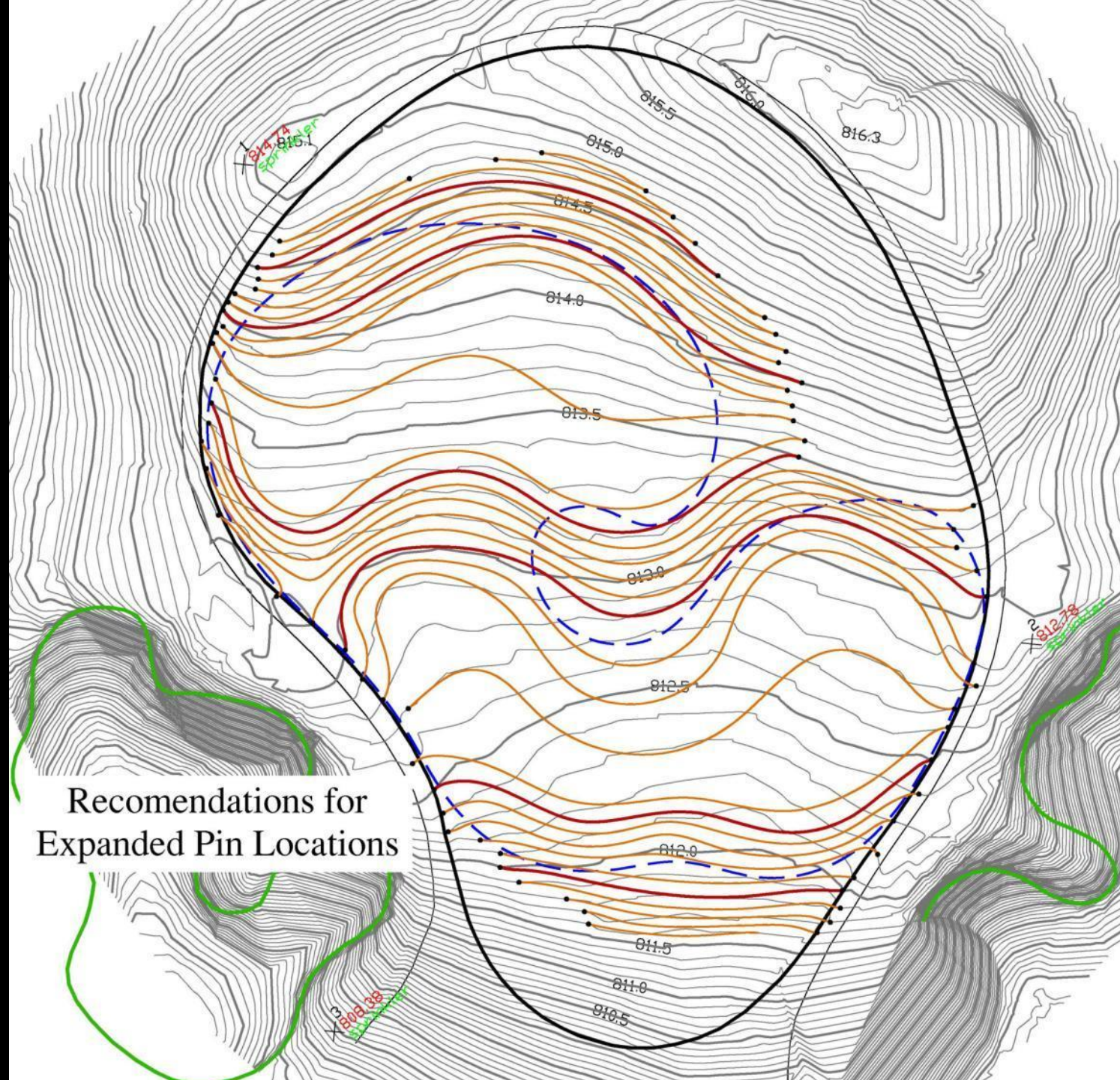
The second or far right side fairway bunker really doesn't challenge the good players off the tee, and if they land in it, the shot is fairly flat and easy compared to the first bunker, which is deeper and more re-built to correct drainage and install new sand, this second bunker should be made much deeper and menacing and expanded out toward the fairway. To carry over this new portion of the bunker from the back tee to the green is long enough to make the strongest players think twice before risking it. The fairway near this second bunker would narrow down the 24 yards wide further increasing the challenge of this longish par 4. (Current officials consider any hole up to 520 yards to be a par 4 for the best players in the game.)

Summary for hole #2

1. Square off the back tee
2. Remove some tree limbs near the creek
3. Remove an Ash tree in right rough
4. Shorten and soften first right side fairway bunker
5. Deepen and expand second right side fairway bunker
6. Redefine fairway contour around bunkers
7. Extend golf car service road



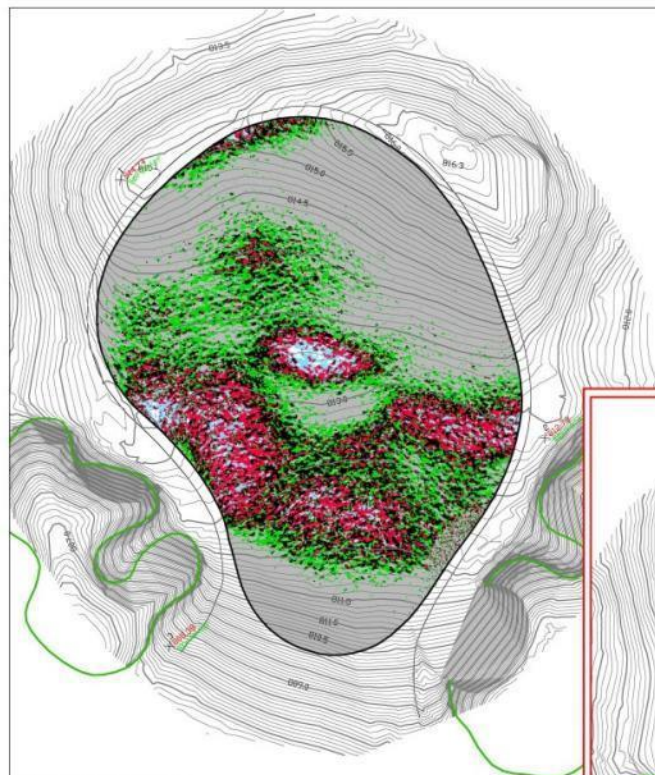




Recomendations for
Expanded Pin Locations

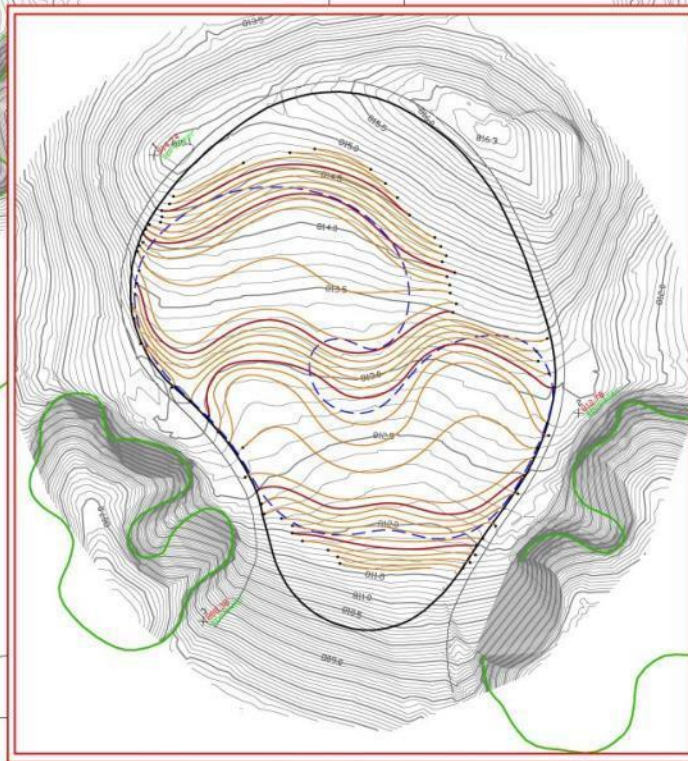


Slopes Table				5299 s.f.
Number	Color	Minimum Slope	Maximum Slope	S.F.
1		0.00%	1.00%	516
2		1.00%	2.00%	1067
3		2.00%	3.00%	323
4		3.00%	4.00%	120
5		4.00%	5.00%	230
6		5.00%	100.00%	3043

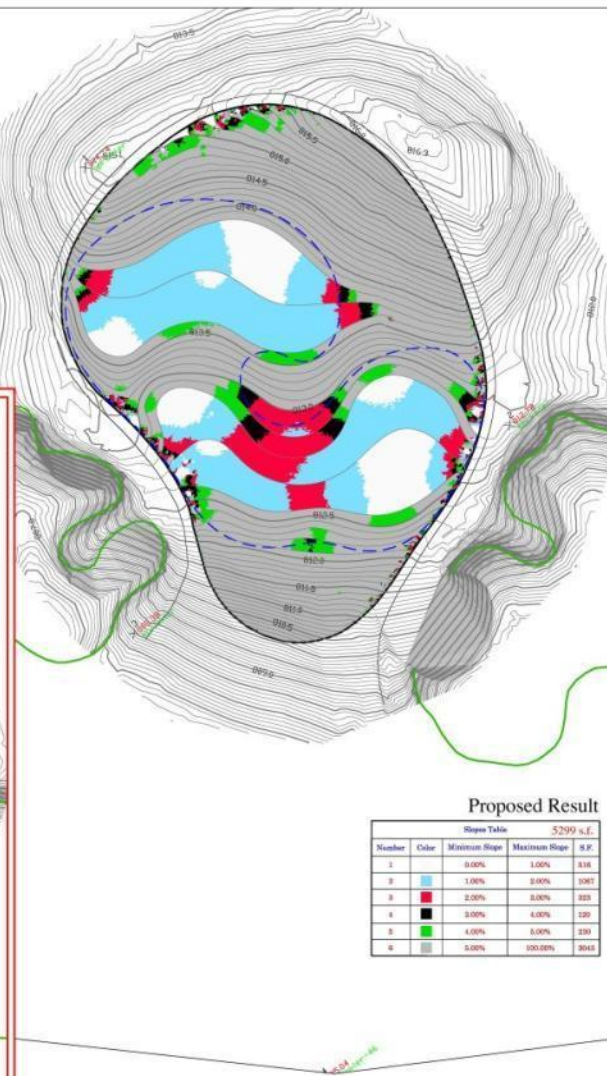


Existing Conditions

Slope Table 5299 s.f.				
Number	Color	Minimum Slope	Maximum Slope	S.F.
1		0.00%	1.00%	51
2		1.00%	2.00%	180
3		2.00%	3.00%	580
4		3.00%	4.00%	914
5		4.00%	5.00%	938
6		5.00%	100.00%	3038



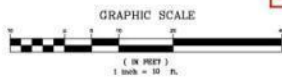
Recommendations for
Expanded Pin Locations



Proposed Result

Slope Table 5299 s.f.				
Number	Color	Minimum Slope	Maximum Slope	S.F.
1		0.00%	1.00%	518
2		1.00%	2.00%	1067
3		2.00%	3.00%	383
4		3.00%	4.00%	120
5		4.00%	5.00%	233
6		5.00%	100.00%	3843

Scioto Country Club
Greens Slope Analysis
Green #2
April 3, 2007



Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design, Inc.

1270 Old Henderson Road Columbus, Ohio 43220 U.S.A.

Phone - (614) 457 - 9955 Fax (614) 457 - 2250

www.hurdzanfry.com

Proposed Reconstruction Timeline

- Course closure July 9, 2007
- Core out 18 greens and putting green
- Drainage, gravel blanket layer & mix installation
- Seed no later than Labor Day
- Grow-in (10-12 weeks of good growing weather)
- Course to reopen sometime in May

Regarding The Rebuilding of Greens, 335 Eligible Voters Voted...

204



87%

29



Number 1 Green After Rebuilding



Number 18 Green After Rebuilding





GOLF COURSE DAILY REPORT

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Week of Oct 20, 2013

Starting

Monday, October 28th

Greens will be
aerified and sliced.

Today's Weather Conditions

Temperature: High 52 Low 38

Precipitation: A.M. 0% P.M. 0%

Winds S at 5 to 10 mph

Flag Location
#5

Course Conditions

Greens: Speed: 12.75

Fairways: Soft Firmness

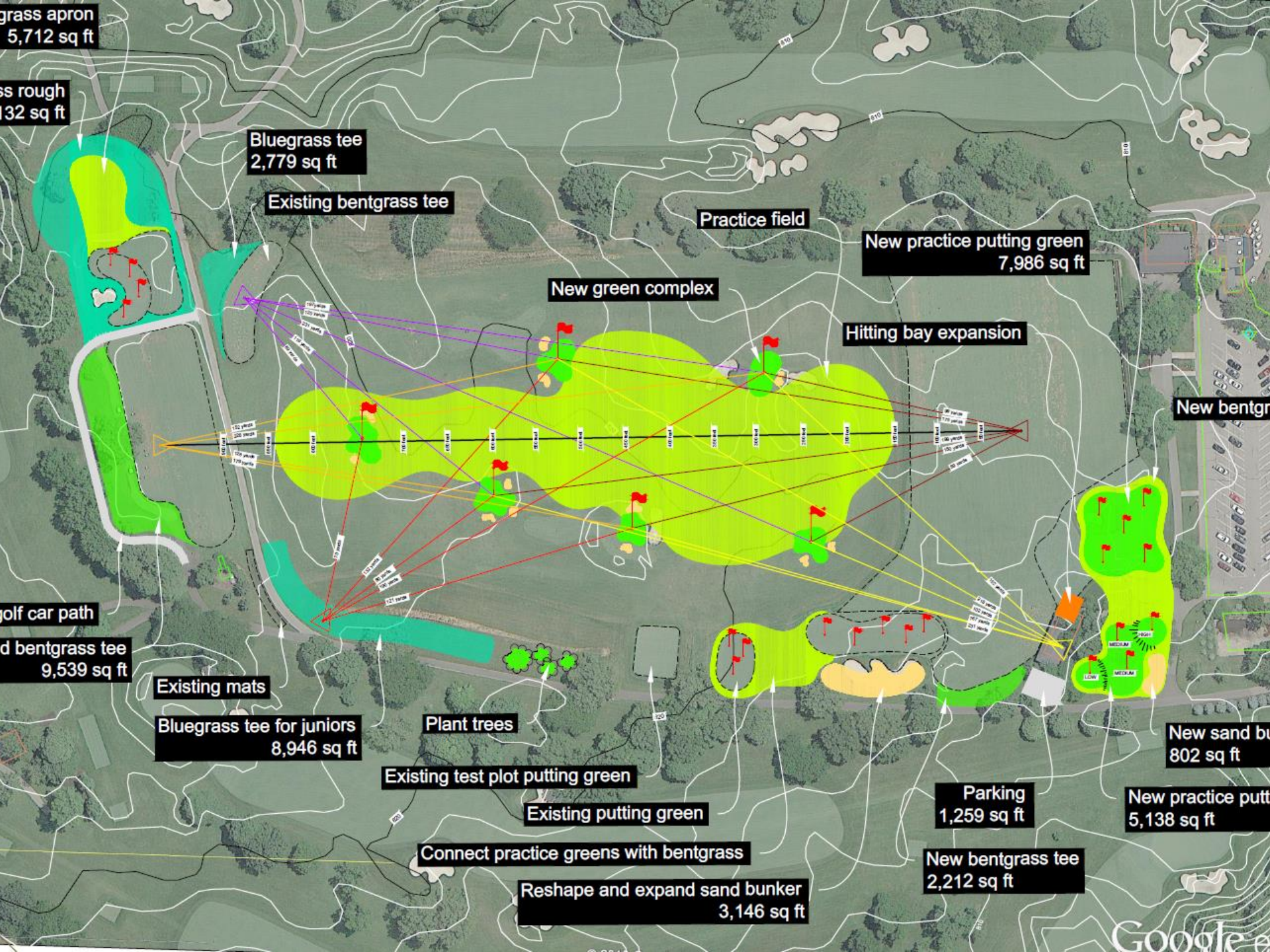
Bunkers: Hand Raked

Rough: 3 in

Please Replace Divots & Fix Ballmarks

For Information Regarding Pesticide Applications and Additional Course Information

Please Call (614) 486-8674 or email bbecker@sciotocc.com



Construction of a Putting Green



MOULTRIE



67°F 29.19inHg

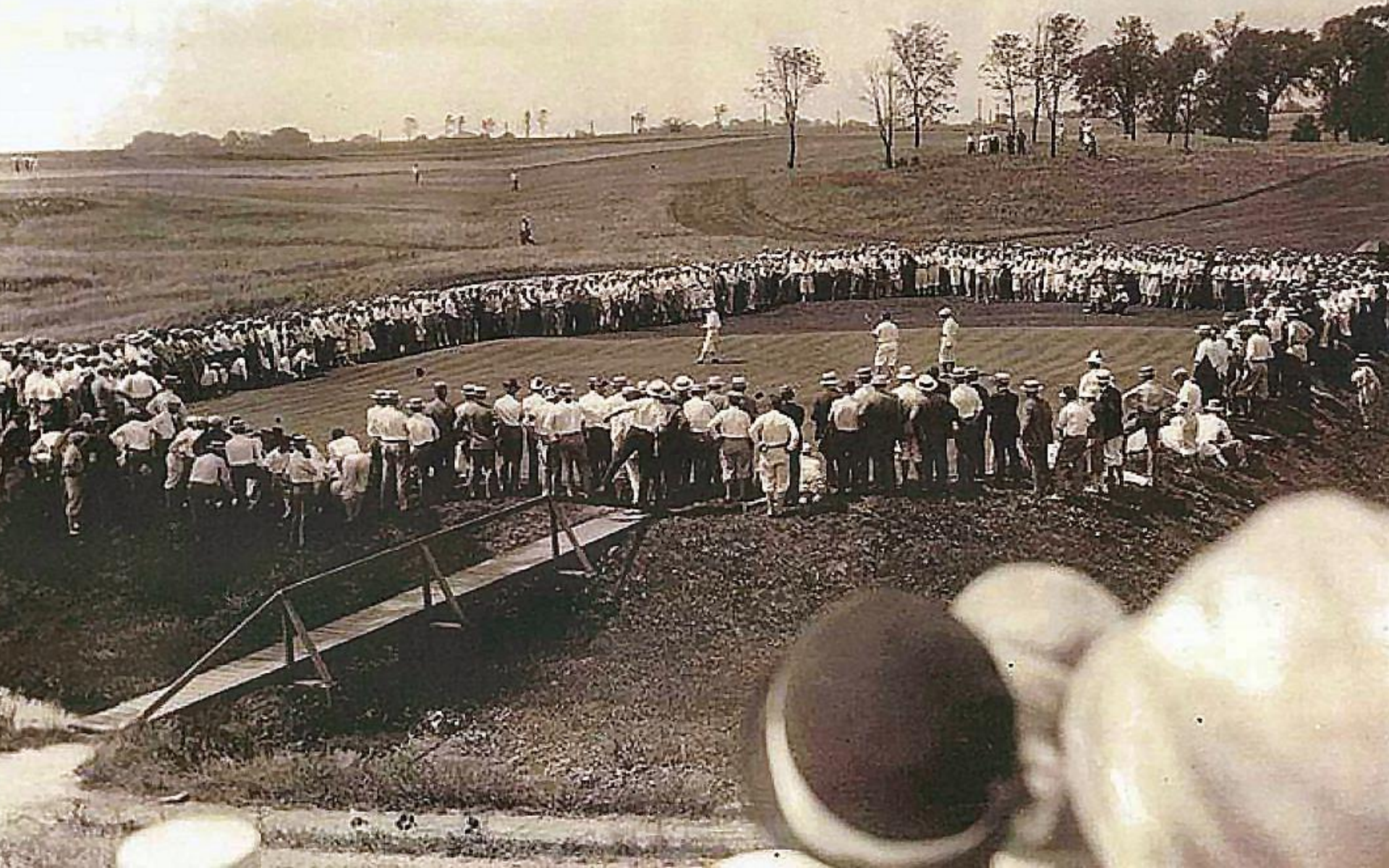
SCIOTO CAM

23 AUG 2013 07:20 am

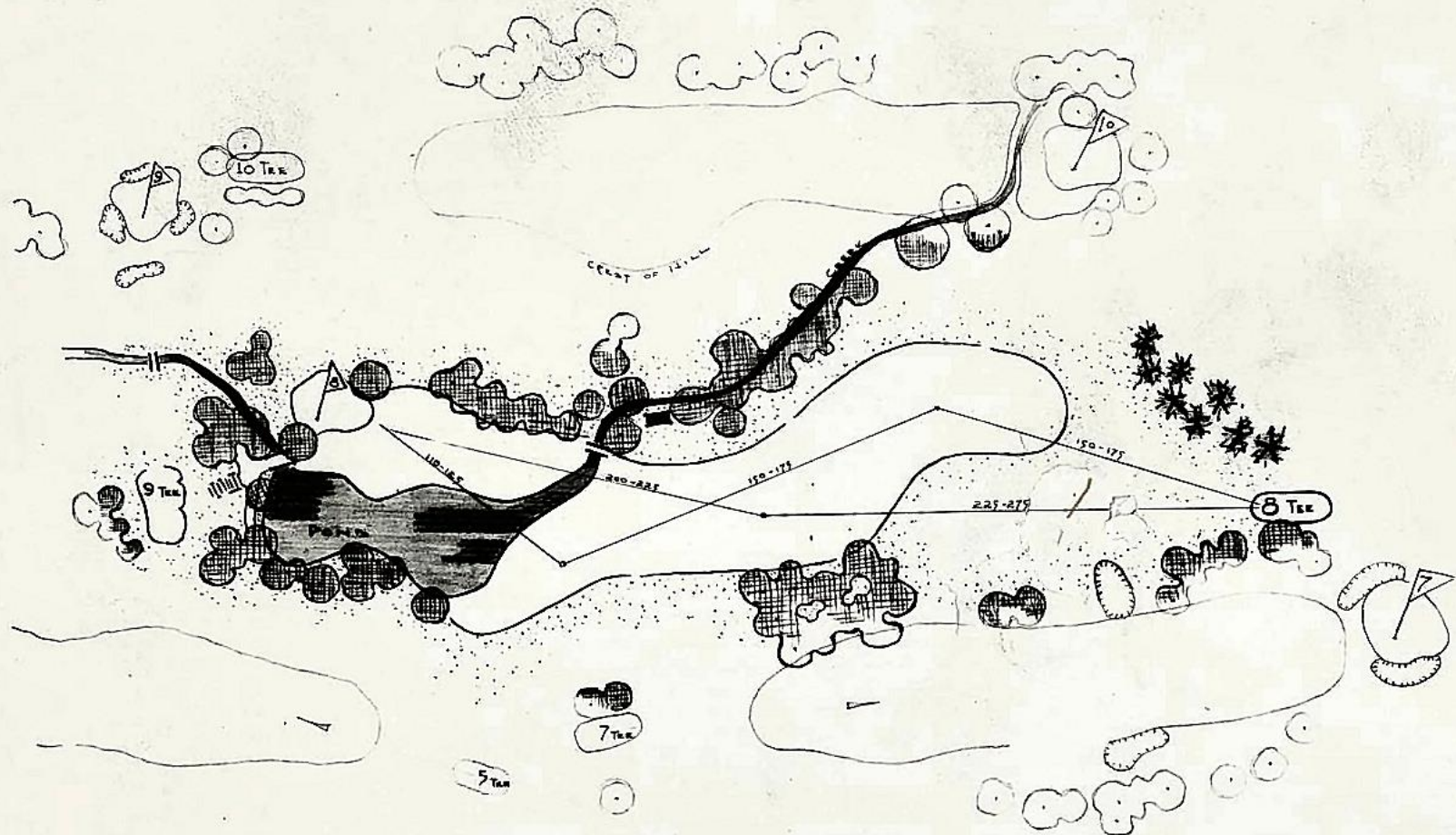
**Last major project was a water way
around right side of #8 green that some
members believed was a signature
feature, while others wanted it
removed.**

**This topic was even more hotly
debated than the greens!**

#8 Green 1926 US Open



1957 Plan To Add Lake



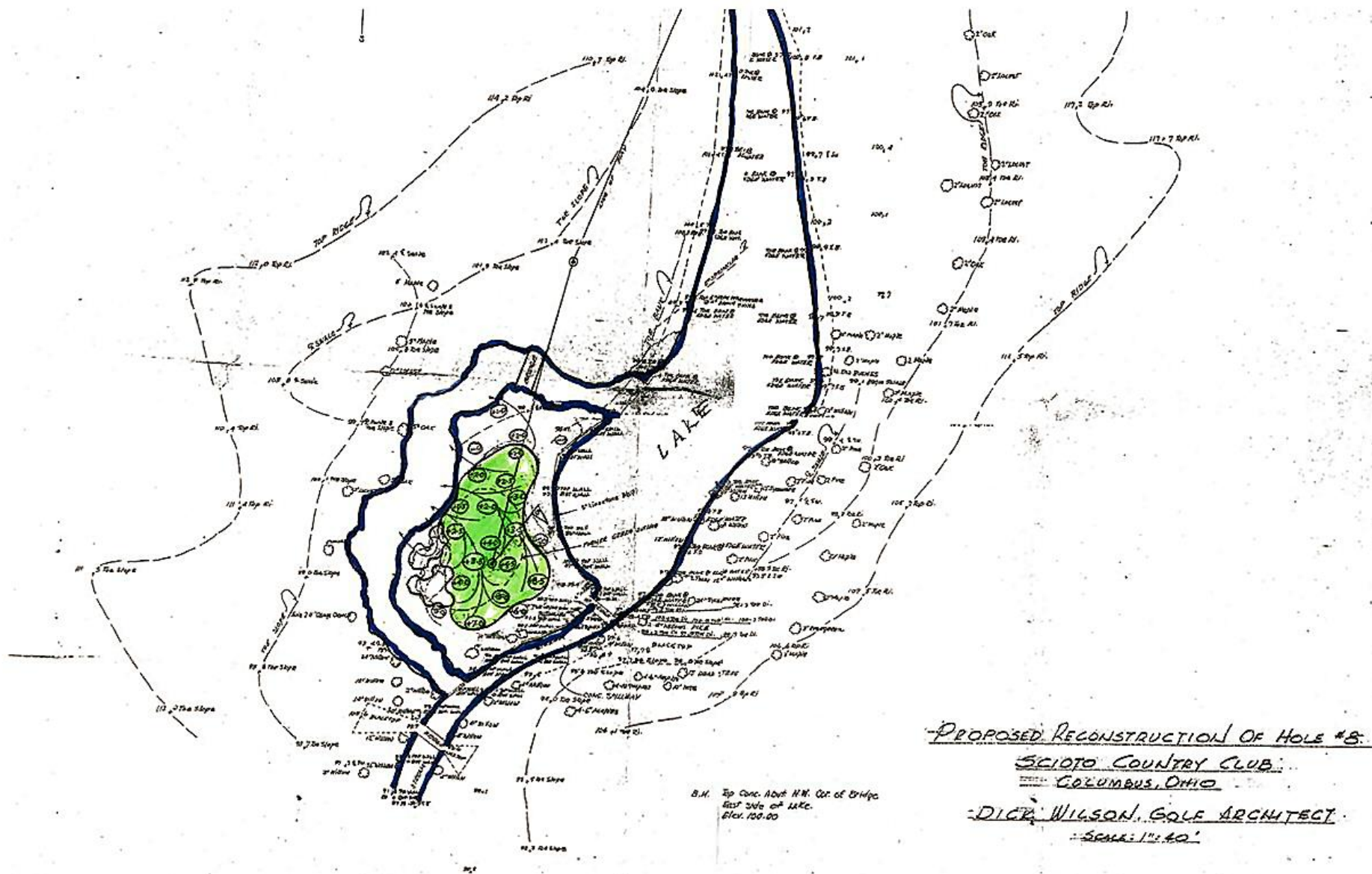
NEW NO. 8 GOLF HOLE SCIOTO COUNTRY CLUB

J.H. KLINKER
GREENS COMMITTEE

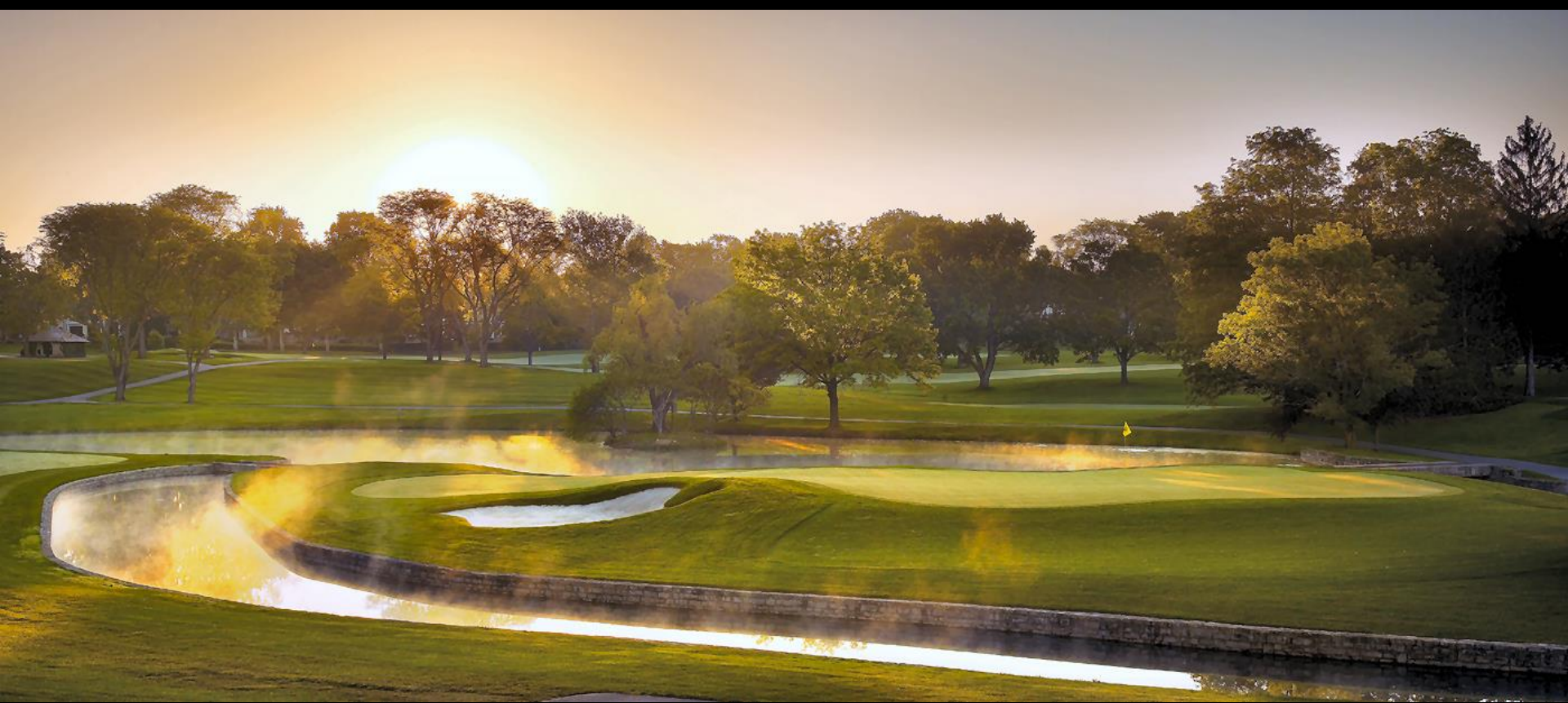
0 10 25 50 75 100
SCALE IN YARDS

MARION V. PACKARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Von Hagge 1962 Sketch



P.H. Jul 25 1962



The “Moat” Around #8 Green



Artist's Depiction of #8 Green – Minus The Moat



Regarding The Removal of the Moat, 335 Eligible Voters Voted...

193



33



85%

Reshaping The Lake At #8



Removal Of The Moat Begins



Removal Of The Wall Begins





**Very Challenging Working Conditions
In FULL View Of The Clubhouse**

Establishing A New Lake Edge



Building The New Lake Edge



After All Improvements Were Completed, Scioto Was Awarded 2016 USGA Senior Open





Ross 1916



Wilson 1961



Hurdzan Phase 1



Hurdzan Phase 2

An aerial photograph of a golf course green. A large, irregularly shaped green is situated on a grassy hill. A stone wall runs along the left and bottom edges of the green, separating it from a body of water. Several sand traps are located around the green. A path winds through the background of the green. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters at the bottom center of the image.

Questions?