

Turf Talk: Bunker Updates

Bunker project update: hole 11, hole 17

The bunker project that was requested by the Golf Committee and approved by the HOA Board has been completed at Cottonwood. The greenside bunkers at hole 11 and the front right greenside bunker at hole 17 were in the TEST. They are currently being evaluated to see how they are maturing after the work was completed. My guess is that golf maintenance will need to incorporate a combination of all 3 tests going forward. Every bunker on the golf courses will need to be evaluated to determine the extent of work required to improve the bunker conditions.

The bunker work was done 'in-house' which resulted in its own challenges. There was an expectation that the entire project would be completed in 3 weeks. The project was completed in 6 weeks. There was a learning curve....1) A majority of the team had never performed this type of renovation work 2) the work was performed ONLY after the golf course was prepared for play and 3) there were some slight delays in getting drainage materials. Going forward, if performing bunker work 'in-house,' the team will get more efficient, but it will certainly take us a little longer than an outside company.

1. Hole 11 (left greenside bunker): old, contaminated sand was removed, reshaping of bunker floor, drainage installed, NEW sand installed.
2. Hole 11 (right greenside bunker): old, contaminated sand was removed, reshaping of bunker floor, drainage installed, OLD-contaminated sand reinstalled.
3. Hole 17 (right greenside bunker): old, contaminated sand was tilled to a depth of 12" (actual sand depth was nearly 16+ inches) using hand shovels and turning sand over.

Since initial work at hole 11, the team has been 'repositioning' sand throughout the bunkers at both golf courses. Repositioning sand... what does that mean??

As some of you have seen first-hand after reviewing bunkers with Golf Maintenance in the field, there is plenty of sand in the bunkers. The team is using the sand that is in the bunkers and 're-positioning' it to areas within the bunker to create a more uniform sand depth throughout. What this is doing is softening the compacted, contaminated sand that is 2-3" below the initial surface of the sand. How do the bunkers get contaminated? The simple answer is weather. Imagine if you didn't clean your pool for 10-15yrs.

It is our goal to work on the bunkers at least one-two times per year. This work is currently happening during the closure days of Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There will be less opportunities for this work during the winter season and double shotguns. Understand, there will be bunkers that will need to have drainage installed and NEW sand. It is our expectation that determining which bunkers require priority for drainage and NEW sand will become more evident as the team gets through this initial work. There is still a long way to go but initial feedback of bunker conditions has been positive.

Next Up: Supply Chain/Financial impact