

Links Report – March 20, 2026

The 2026 golf season has begun, and the Links Crew are hard at work maintaining the golf course. On behalf of the Links Crew, I would like to welcome back our returning members and public golfers alike, as well as any new golfers we have joining us for the 2026 season. We wish you all the best for this 2026 golf season – may your tee shots be long & straight, and your birdie putts be abundant.

The Links Crew has several ongoing turf maintenance projects – including but not limited to the continuation of our bunker renovations, the installation of a new artificial driving range tee area, irrigation pump reinstallation, irrigation system “charge up”, irrigation repairs, ordering/receiving parts & products we require for this year, interviewing prospective staff members, training new staff members, repair & maintenance of equipment, & daily maintenance of the golf course.

Irrigation Pump Reinstallation

For much of last year, one of the two main VFD pumps that allows our irrigation system to pump water/operate sprinkler heads was malfunctioning. The pump repair company has assured us that the issue with the pump has been resolved. This pump was reinstalled earlier this week. Once we resolve an electrical issue with our pump control panel, we will be able to fill the system with water and then test the pump. The Links Crew aims to complete this next week.



Hole #11 Tee Update

When I began as Superintendent here at Rivershore, the “white tee” deck on Hole #11 didn’t have any turf remaining on its surface. The Links Crew began the task of levelling out the surface of the tee deck, then growing in the tee from seed in September of 2024. The grass grew in last year but wasn’t quite dense enough to introduce play on in 2025. The Links Crew has recently given that tee deck it’s first cut of the season, followed by a topdressing of sand, and sweeping in of the sand, to further encourage denser turf growth as we expect growth to begin over the next couple of weeks. The goal is for this tee deck to be open for play sometime during the spring.



Irrigation Repairs

The Links Crew has completed the replacement of a few of our irrigation valves that were no longer functional. This will help us in the future by being able to isolate smaller areas of the golf course in the event of irrigation failures/breaks. Once we charge up the irrigation system, more weak points will inevitably be exposed, and more repairs will follow. This is to be expected when you're working with a 45-year-old irrigation system, and the average life expectancy of PVC pipe underground is approximately 25 years.



Bunker Renovations

The Links Crew is also continuing to work on bunker renovations on Holes #3, 6, 14, & 15. The bunkers on Hole #14 are back in play, but there is still a bit of drainage work to finish up there leaving the right green-side bunker. Hole #3 is the next on the list. This project will commence again once we have irrigation water to wash sand, the range tee project has been completed, and more staff join our crew in April & May. For the time being, any of these bunkers under renovation are considered “ground under repair” and golfers hitting into them should take relief accordingly. Hopefully everyone is enjoying the much-improved bunkers on Hole #14 and can look forward to the others on the list performing similarly in the not-so-distant future.



Cart Path Edging

During some of our colder mornings, often during frost delays, the crew has been working on edging cart paths in areas where they were badly grown over. This happens over time and gives golf carts less space to travel. When this occurs, the tendency is to drive partially on the rough grass, which wears out/turns to mud with consistent traffic. The photo below is an example of cart path edging, done next to Hole #9 blue tee. As you can see, we have reclaimed a good amount of cart path, so now carts can stay on the path and reduce the wear on the rough on the inside corner of that area. Another friendly reminder to keep/park golf carts fully on cart paths (no two wheels in the rough) at tee and greens complexes. If another cart does happen to need to get by, they can then drive in the rough in that rare case, instead of putting wear on the turf every time you park by putting two

wheels in the rough. This practice is known as “Canadian Parking” and it’s intended to be courteous to other golfers, but it’s not courteous to our turf. It’s rare that another cart will need to pass you, and in that instance, they can be the one driving around/putting some wear on that turf in that case. Eliminating “Canadian Parking” habits will greatly benefit the overall condition of our turf.



Arnie

Lastly, I just wanted to give those who are interested an update on our shop cat – Arnie. He’s doing great. He recently had his nails cut, and he’s living his best life along with keeping the rodent population in the maintenance shop area very low. At 10 years old he’s no “spring chicken” anymore, but like a fine wine...

Below is a photo of Arnie sunbathing in this recent warm weather.

