

MGA *AD Hoc* Committee

for

Golf Course Improvements

(Player Perspective)

Committee Members:

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Introduction

The purpose of the MGA AD Hoc Committee for Golf Course Improvements is to capture and document the voice of the MGA and LGA member's recommendations and suggestions to assist the HGRD Long Range Planning Committee on future expenditures to the golfing facilities here at Herons Glen. The MGA and LGA are the two largest golf organizations established in the Herons Glen Community.

The voice of the MGA and LGA members reviewed the following areas for golf facility improvements: Playability, Pace of Play, Putting Greens, Tee Area's, Bunkers, Out of Bound Designations, Drainage, Course Beautification, Waste Area's, Cart Paths, Practice Range and Facility.

None of the recommendations and suggestions to the golf course by the MGA and LGA members are intended to change the course rating and slope. It is the memberships desire to maintain current course rating and slope.

Originally, the scope of our review was for 2021 renovations to the golf course, but as the committee started discussions, the committee discovered many of the improvement recommendations captured, do not need to wait till 2021. Many recommendations, if approved and budgeted, could be incorporated within a 5 year period. Major renovations are suggested for the 2021 timeline.

The following report consists of 2 parts: First a list of general recommendations for golf course improvements, followed by a hole-by-hole detail of specific changes including the practice facilities. For each recommendation we've identified the benefit to the golfing community as well as the approximate cost to implement.

It is our intention that this becomes a living document going forward and we recommend this gets reviewed on a semi-annual basis by both the HGRD and the golfing community.

General Recommendations

In priority sequence:

1. Fix sand dams around greens as recommended by the 2016 USGA Consulting Report and re-establish their original size that was defined by architect in 2006. Flatten tops of front greenside bunkers which over time have created a mound on front of greens
2. Redesign greens on holes #5, 7, 13, 16 and 17
3. Re-establish OB boundaries and cut grass longer in front of them. Also cut a straight line when mowing between stakes
4. Eliminate or greatly reduce the palmetto bushes in play
5. Establish #6 tees on holes as real tees and keep them close to cart path
6. Reduce bunker sizes and make them consistent
7. Dry out area in front of greens and fix wet fairways as recommended in 2016 USGA report
8. Consider relocating #10 green to the right to allow for fitness center solution
9. Provide an entrance to greens to bounce shots up. Not necessarily in center of green but provide a fairway entrance to the green
10. Let grass grow longer on the slopes to hazards and provide collection basin swale inside OB
11. Connect and enlarge tee boxes in runway fashion to allow more usage and variability.
12. Add flower beds near unusable areas on some tee boxes
13. Add more undulations in some greens and slope facing fairway
14. Vary relationships between tee locations and pin locations
15. Create a par 3 course by placing plates in fairway at appropriate locations
16. Add yardage plates on fairway sprinkler heads

Greens

The life expectancy of our golf course greens are approximately 15 years. As time goes by the greens tend to get smaller and settle causing subtle changes in shape. As players we appreciate the large well designed greens of our course. However there are two aspects of our greens that we recommend improving:

- Restore original size
- Redesign a select few

All 18 greens (and the practice putting green) are in the process of shrinking. When the course is restored, we would appreciate also restoring the original size of the greens to what they were after the 2006 redesign.

In addition 5 of the greens could benefit from professional redesign. In priority order these are:

1. #16 – The green on our most difficult hole could benefit from a wrap-around trap and a slight back-to-front tilt so every green-high hit does not go into the water.
2. #7 – The green and water hazard are not well matched. The wall is too low and the green is too high. A professional architect can fix this.
3. #5 – Over time the center of this green has sunk creating a front-to-back slope. Such a long hole needs a back-to-front slope to better accept long approach shots
4. #17 – It's virtually impossible to hit this green and have it not roll off the back and into the bushes. Since this is a blind shot, speed of play is a casualty as people look for balls and return to their cart to get the right club.
5. #13 – Green is wide and narrow with a gigantic trap in front. No way to layup between water and green.

Keys

In the following section a series of keys are used to facilitate sorting and filtering the information:

Group:

- T - Tee
- F - Fairway
- O - Out-of-Bounds
- H - Water Hazards
- B - Bunker
- G - Green
- P - Pace of Play/Playability
- M – Miscellaneous

Cost:

- H – High; Expensive
- M – Medium
- L – Low; Inexpensive

Benefit:

- H – High; Very Beneficial to Players
- M – Medium
- L – Low; Not Very Beneficial

For Example:

An item tagged as H (Benefit) and H (Cost) like restoring greens to their original size would require long range planning and budgeting. However an item tagged as H (Benefit) and L (Cost) like resetting OB stakes could possibly be implemented immediately.

| Group | Cost | Benefit | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|--|
| Golf Course Renovation Ideas | | | |
| - | - | - | Hole #1: Long & Narrow |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee – Make it a real tee box |
| T | L | H | Trim trees in front of tee box so they don't hang out |
| O | L | H | Reset OB Stakes |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | L | H | Allow grass to grow longer near water hazard and behind green |
| F | H | M | Fix Wet Fairway |
| G | H | M | Restore green size and shape to original plans |
| P | M | M | |
| | | | Provide swale before bulkhead near green so slow rolling balls don't always run into water |
| T | L | L | Add Flower Beds on Tee |
| P | L | L | Fix large drain on right of 150 so balls can't roll into it. Make it flush w/ground |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #2: First Birdie Chance |
| T | L | H | Trim Trees in front of tee box so they don't hang out |
| T | M | H | Create runway tees by merging tee boxes 1-3 into a single tee box so the length of the hole can vary |
| F | H | H | Connect ponds by a creek with a bridge over the creek for carts |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes |
| O | L | H | Don't put OB stakes at the bottom of hill on right. Change to red stakes if possible |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | M | Restore green size and shape to original plans |
| B | M | L | Remove bunkers but keep mounds to protect balls from water |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #3: Wide Fairway |
| F | L | H | Provide fairway entrance to green through greenside bunker. |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | L | H | Remove palmetto bushes and other vegetation on left side in waste bunker. |
| B | M | M | Reduce depth of greenside bunker |
| B | M | M | Address drainage problems in waste bunkers |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #4: Signature Hole |
| T | M | H | Add additional #3 tees left of #2 tees |
| T | M | H | Enlarge #3 tees by widening |
| T | M | H | Create runway tees by merging tee boxes 3-5 into a single tee box so the length of the hole can vary |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | M | H | Need bigger drop area. Maybe over water |

| Group | Cost | Benefit | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|--|
| Golf Course Renovation Ideas | | | |
| M | M | H | Widen cart path below #3 tees. Provide drive up from Avenida to cart path near guardhouse |
| M | M | M | Provide turn around area on cart path behind #3 tees so people can drive behind #3 tees |
| T | L | L | Add flower beds on lakeside of #3-5 tees |
| B | M | L | Remove large lip on bunkers in front of hole – possibly combine bunkers |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #5: Need to carry tee shot |
| T | M | H | Expand #3 tee box, eliminate slope in front of current box and shift left. Consider following USGA recommendation to add bulkhead on left side of tee. Fix bulkhead holding #3 tee box - dangerous |
| T | L | H | Relocate #4 tee markers to front of current #3 tee box |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee - move it closer to green and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| T | L | H | Trim Trees down right side of forever wild |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway - especially just over wild area |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes on right |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | M | H | Soften mound over greenside trap and level it with green |
| G | H | H | Restore green size and recontour it to slope back to front |
| P | L | H | Reduce depth of protected wetlands by 10-15 yards near fairway. To maintain the same amount of "wild" space add it on left of fairway |
| P | M | H | Provide swale (or longer grass) at bottom of hill on right so balls do not hit in play and "roll" OB |
| T | M | L | Eliminate #1 tee box, expand #2 and put 1 & 2 both where #2 is today |
| T | L | L | Add Flower Beds behind #3 tee |
| F | M | L | Level the drop area and possibly lower it so tee shots don't get caught there. |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #6: Solid Golf Hole |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee - move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes on left |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | L | H | Remove palmettos down right side off cart path and left side after fairway trap. |
| F | L | M | Address drainage between cart path and hazard off the tee |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #7: Joe Reda Hole |
| T | L | H | Make use of more teeing area for #3 tees (e.g. Use back of tee area for #3 tees) |
| T | L | H | Extend #4/5 tee box backward and use it as another set of #3 tees |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes on left |
| O | M | H | OB is too close to cart path on left. Re-sculpt hill left of green so balls don't trickle OB on left |

| Group | Cost | Benefit | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|---|
| Golf Course Renovation Ideas | | | |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | H | Restore green size and re-design green and surrounding areas instead of looking like a mistake |
| G | L | H | Sod in left side of bunker in front of green. Keep bunker to right of green |
| P | L | H | Don't allow ball to "roll" into water over bulkhead in bunker |
| F | M | M | Level and enlarge drop area |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #8: Short Tight Hole |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes and allow grass to grow longer as balls approach OB |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | L | H | Remove palmettos on left of fairway. Replace with pine straw or grass |
| G | L | H | Closely mow swale to right of green to make it a runoff area |
| G | M | L | Replace bushes left of green with pine straw |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #9: Best Par 5 on Course |
| T | M | H | Connect tees in runway fashion and use all of it for tees 1-5 |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee – move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| F | M | H | Re-establish fairway to right of cart path into driving range |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes and allow grass to grow longer as balls approach OB. Mow OB line without scalloping look between stakes |
| H | L | H | Allow grass to grow longer near and into water hazard |
| H | L | H | Pick up "Range" balls laying in weeds on right side of fairway |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | H | H | Remove bushes on edge of driving range and replace with rocks |
| P | L | H | Remove palmetto patches on left from 200 marker to green. |
| P | L | H | Remove shrubs behind green (across cart path) |
| F | M | M | Re-sculpt mounds left of 150 that cause balls to bounce OB from fairway |
| T | M | L | Extend Avenida crosspath right to #3 tees. Move flowers near new path |
| F | L | L | Fix large drain on left of 150 so balls can't roll into it. Make it flush w/ground |
| H | M | L | Cut greenside bunker in 1/2. Plant barrier trees to protect players on green |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #10: Good Handshake Starting Hole |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee – move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| F | M | H | Fix drainage left of fairway |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway - specifically the low area behind the sand traps |
| O | L | H | Move OB stakes behind green to edge of fitness center parking lot |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | L | H | Add swale behind green to catch balls that just roll over green. |

Group
Cost
Benefit

Golf Course Renovation Ideas

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| G | M | H | Re-sculpt collection basin on left side of green to collect balls from bouncing on cart path |
| G | H | H | Consider relocating green to make room for fitness center (dogleg right) |
| M | H | H | Consider relocating cart path between 10 & 11 to go past fitness center and through preserve for safety. |
| T | M | L | Provide cart parking near tee |
| T | L | L | Add flower beds near tee box |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #11: Flattest Green on the Course

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| T | M | H | Create runway tees by merging tee boxes 2-5 into a single tee box so the length of the hole can vary |
| H | M | H | Keep waste bunker, remove concrete from it |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| T | L | M | Move sand box to #10 hole |
| T | M | M | Possibly add #3 teeing area off entrance path so you hit over the pond to green - different perspective |
| T | M | M | Enlarge 4/5 tee boxes |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| O | L | L | Put OB stake on road to Odyssey Ct |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #12: Great Green

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| T | M | H | Create runway tees by merging tee boxes 1-3 into a single tee box so the length of the hole can vary |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee – move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | L | H | Dry out area in front of green |
| P | L | H | Let grass grow longer on right near water to catch errant tee balls |
| P | L | H | Remove palmettos and bushes on left of fairway in play from tee ball |
| P | H | H | Resculpt area between cart-path and road to slope balls back into play |
| B | H | H | Move fairway bunkers to right side to fairway to catch balls before going into hazard |
| T | M | M | Enlarge 4/5 tee boxes |
| G | M | M | Re-sculpt moguls between pot bunker in front of green and green |
| B | M | L | Eliminate waste/bunker on right of fairway - rarely comes into play |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #13: Tough Wind Hole

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| F | L | H | Enlarge and level drop area |
| F | H | H | Fix Wet Fairway |
| O | L | H | Reset OB Stakes |
| H | M | H | Restore greenside bunker to original plans (reduce right and left sides of bunker) |

Group
Cost
Benefit

Golf Course Renovation Ideas

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| H | M | H | Reduce depth of greenside bunker to allow people to lay up between bunker & lake |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | H | Shrink side of greenside bunker and have it protect the right third of green only. Extend green to make it deeper in place of bunker |
| G | L | H | Identify pin locations (flag colors) based on distance from 150 yard marker not cart path |
| P | H | H | Replace bushes on far side of pond with rocks so people won't look for lost balls |
| T | M | M | Expand tee area for #3/4/5 tees |
| F | L | M | Remove bushes near cart-path exit and make it playable ground for bailout |
| F | L | L | Keep fairway bunker |
| M | H | L | Replace black olive trees with sable palms on right side of green |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #14: Lots of Trouble

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| T | H | H | Expand teeing area and provide greater latitude for placing #3 tees and level the tee boxes as recommended in 2016 USGA report |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | H | Enlarge and re-sculpt swale to right of green so balls hitting there don't always bounce into lake |
| G | M | H | Reduce mound over greenside trap |
| P | L | H | Move drop zone to 50 yards from green and enlarge & level it |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #15: Nine Bunkers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| F | L | H | Widen fairway cut leading to green |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| P | M | H | Resculpt ground left of cart path so balls don't always run OB |
| G | L | M | Keep grass longer behind green |
| G | H | L | Restore green size |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |

Hole #16: Hardest Hole on Course

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| T | L | H | #6 Tee - move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| O | L | H | Reset OB stakes. Let grass grow longer near OB and cut it straight between stakes |
| H | M | H | Reduce length of greenside bunker on left. Cut back finger of the bunker in front of green. Narrow and shorten it. |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | H | Add bunker behind green |
| G | L | H | Remove Mexican petunias near green and replace with long grass swale |
| G | H | H | Reconfigure and redesign green with bunker around back and sides and slope towards fairway. |

| Group | Cost | Benefit | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|--|
| Golf Course Renovation Ideas | | | |
| G | M | H | Soften the backside of eyebrow - make it flatter with green |
| G | H | H | Move green towards tee to allow balls to go over green |
| P | L | H | Remove palmetto bushes to right of waste bunker - replace with pine straw. Remove concrete from waste bunker. |
| P | M | H | Re-sculpt ground inside OB stakes so balls do not roll down cart path and go OB |
| T | L | M | Level #3 tee box |
| G | H | M | Slope cart path away from bushes behind pool where we park carts near green so balls can't trickle down path and roll OB |
| H | M | L | Fix large drain on right of green so balls can't roll into it. |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #17: 2nd Signature Hole |
| T | L | H | #6 Tee - move it closer and near cart path. Make it a real tee box |
| T | M | H | Create runway tees by merging tee boxes 1-3 into a single tee box so the length of the hole can vary |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | H | H | Restore green size and redesign to slope back to front |
| P | H | H | Replace bushes around pond on right with rocks to speed up play |
| P | L | H | Remove bushes behind green and replace with pine straw |
| G | M | M | Take down mound over greenside trap and level it with green |
| T | L | L | Move #5 tees closer to cart path |
| H | M | L | Reduce left side of fairway bunker at 100 yards - not used |
| H | M | L | Eliminate leftmost greenside bunker |
| G | L | L | Add walkway up to green from bathroom parking - wood chips not concrete |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Hole #18: Scenic Finishing Hole |
| F | H | H | Fix wet fairway |
| F | L | H | Expand and soften golf cart exit area as documented in USGA report |
| G | H | H | Flatten collars around green - "Sand Dams" |
| G | L | H | Longer grass behind green |
| P | H | H | Remove bushes on fairway side of pond and replace with rocks |
| B | M | M | Reduce size of bunker behind green |
| G | M | M | Reduce lip of greenside trap |
| P | M | M | Add runoff space in palmetto patch behind green and mark remaining as hazard |
| T | L | L | Add flower bed behind #1 tees for beauty from road |
| H | M | L | Eliminate leftmost 2 bunkers from tee |
| P | L | L | Improve area used for finishing scorecards (Make use of shade trees) |
| ~ | ~ | ~ | |
| - | - | - | Practice Area: Needs Improvement |
| F | L | H | Utilize grass driving area more systematically. Don't just throw down divider boards. We could get much more use out of this by establishing a process |

| Group | Cost | Benefit | |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------|---|
| Golf Course Renovation Ideas | | | |
| F | H | H | Add a rough and fairway bunker practice area to left of current grass range - remove trees and bushes |
| G | L | H | Remove bushes between cart barn and chipping green to create more options |
| G | H | H | <i>PLEASE</i> - Add a bathroom! |
| G | H | H | Restore green size and shape to original plans |
| F | M | M | More and better water targets - Especially in the 50-150 range. Add some floating targets |
| F | L | M | Regularly clean out broken tees from slots in mats! |
| F | H | L | Add roof over mats to provide shade for some of them |
| G | L | L | |
| | | | Add flower areas on slope to practice putting green. Perhaps with Herons Glen in flowers |
| G | L | L | Do not use cupless flags are recommended in 2016 USGA report |
| M | L | L | Add Outdoor Permanent Scoreboard on Golf Ball building |