

Roadrunner 2021 Project

Quail Creek Country Club
January 2021

Introduction

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- Quail Creek Courses built at different times
 - Aging putting greens and tees
 - Different irrigation capabilities
 - Quail/Coyote lack irrigation efficiencies
- Golf Course Task Force created five years ago
 - Managing process for updating courses
 - Consist of community members, QC golf associations, course superintendent and head golf professional
- Master Plan for all courses
 - Prepared considering input from all skill levels
 - Completed by Gary Brawley Golf Design in 2017

Overview

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- Roadrunner work is part of the Master Plan
- Roadrunner selected for work first
 - Requiring less work, time, and cost to rebuild
 - Will demonstrate what all three courses will look like
- Phase I completed late summer 2020 prior to closure for overseeding
- Phase II to be completed in May-September for course re-opening in October
- Funds sourced from golf revenue

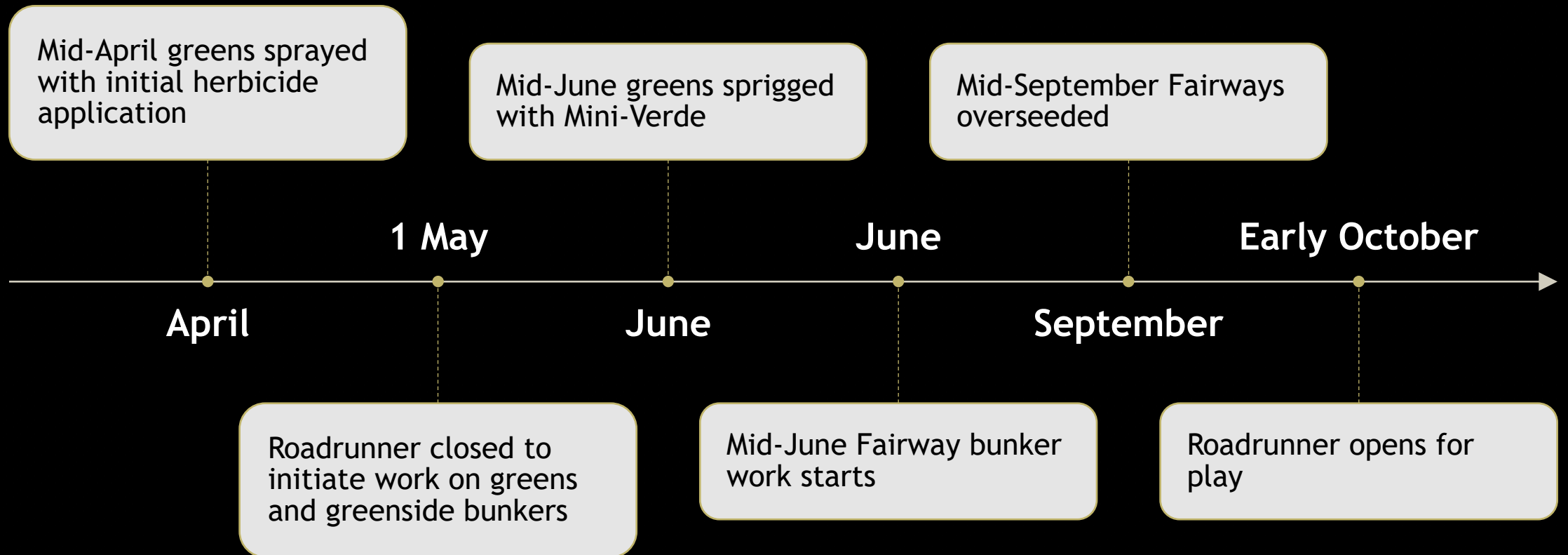
Roadrunner Phase II Work

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- Greenside and Fairway bunkers
 - Replaced with capillary concrete systems
 - 21 total bunkers
- Replace putting green surfaces
 - Greens turf to be sprigged with Miniverde Ultradwarf
 - The “no-till” method will avoid replacing greens base

Schedule

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Bunker Overview

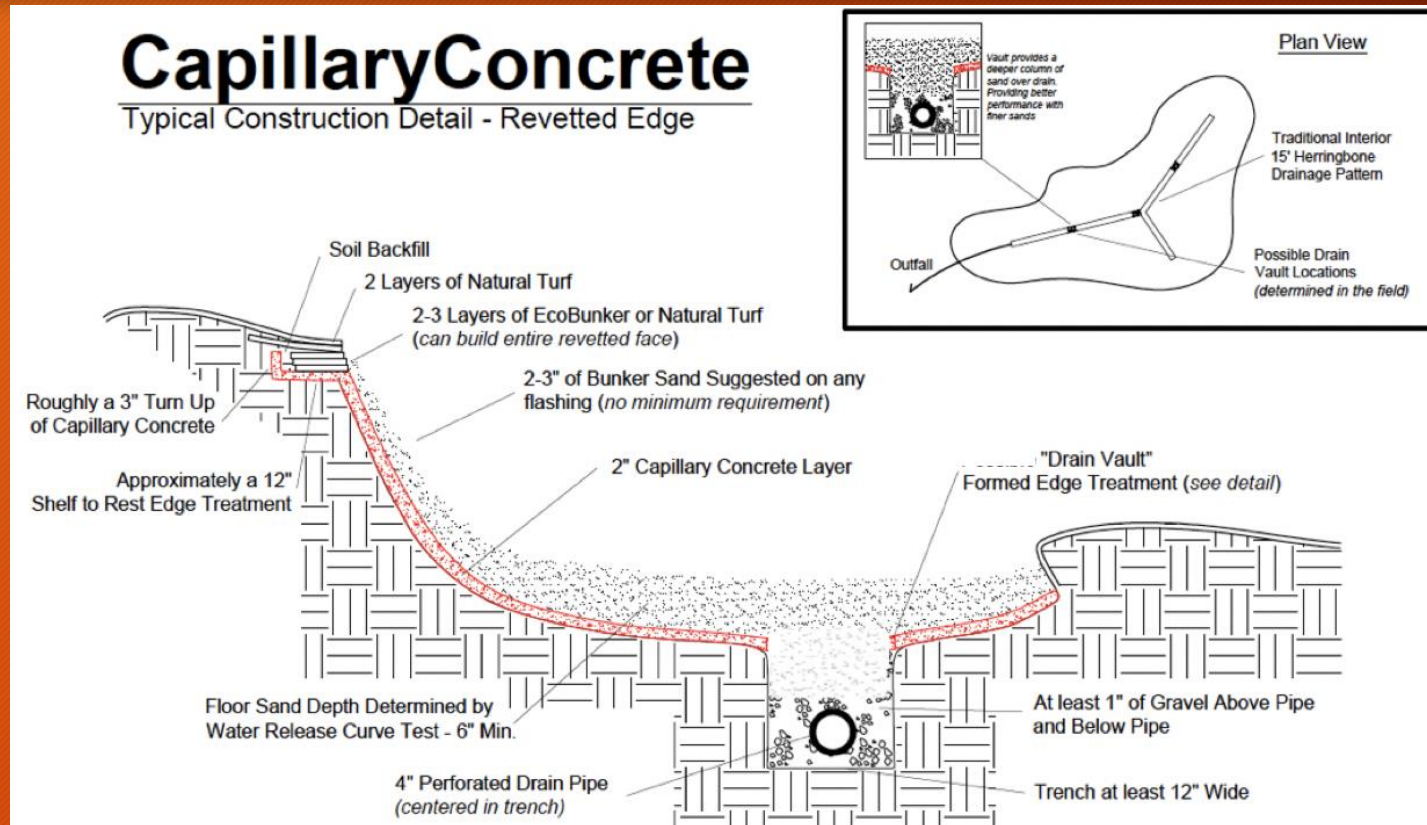
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- Capillary Concrete Bunkers*
 - Strongest and most durable material
 - Proven track record, 600+ courses worldwide
 - Successful in all weather conditions
 - Will last decades
 - Allows sand to be washed
- Recontouring and changing shape to:
 - Reduce maintenance
 - Improve playability

*Source: Capillary Concrete © 2020

Capillary bunker diagram

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Source: Capillary Concrete ©, 2020

Replace/Improving Greens

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- Current greens are Champion ultradwarf bermudagrass
 - Contamination from “off types” noted by USGA Agronomist, Brian Whitlark
 - Crabgrass/Goosegrass have invaded greens
 - Greens stressed from annual overseeding
- Miniverde ultradwarf bermudagrass was chosen
 - Tolerance for desert climate such as Southern Arizona
 - Withstands high levels of play
 - Validated by local experience and USGA

Quail Creek Greens Will Not Be Overseeded

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- All Greens moving forward will NOT be overseeded
 - Allow newly re-grassed greens to grow in
 - Provide consistency on all courses
- Recommended by USGA Agronomist Brian Whitlark
 - Supported by documentation in USGA Green Section
- Recommended by turf supplier Jimmy Fox of Evergreen Turf, Chandler, AZ
- Follows direction taken by other regional golf courses and Robson communities
- Decision NOT to overseed greens was NOT arbitrary
 - based on facts/research

Non-overseeded Greens Advantages

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- Improved Putting Quality
- Elimination of Transition Periods
 - 6 weeks of poor putting after overseeding
 - 12-14 weeks in the spring and summer transition
- Ease of Maintenance
 - Improved treatment of Crab/Goosegrasses through summer
- Wear Tolerance

Source: O'Brien and Hartwiger, 2007, USGA

Non-overseeded Greens Misconceptions

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- Greens Firmness - Overseeded are firmer
- More Thatch - Non-overseeded have more thatch
- Traffic Damage - Not experienced even on high play courses
- Ball Marks - Decreased or non-existent when not overseeded
- Winter Color - Colorants have improved and help protect the turf
- Green Speed - Managed through fall set up and winter maintenance
- Scarred Hole Plugs - Colorants and managing frequency of moving cups

Source: Whitlark, 2012, USGA

References

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- Capillary Concrete, 2020, www.capillaryconcrete.com
- O'Brien, Patrick, and Hartwiger, Chris, 2007, USGA Green Section, "Ultradwarfts in the Off-Season - A Winter Wonderland."
- Whitlark, Brian, 2012, USGA Green Section, "Non-overseeded ultradwarf greens can offer smoother and faster putting surfaces than their overseeded counterparts, but managing them in the winter can be tricky"
- Whitlark, Brian, 2014, USGA Green Section, "On-Site Visit Report", Quail Creek Golf Course, October 30, 2014

1) Why do the work on Road Runner when it is our newest course?

Answer: The Master Plan for Quail Creek Golf Courses addressed improvements to all three nine-hole courses. The Road Runner course required the least amount of changes and it was determined to perform work on that course first.

2) Why was work started on Road Runner so quickly?

Answer: The original plan of the Task Force was to present the Road Runner project to our community, and we had planned to start the work in 2021. However, there was revenue from golf, and we wanted to have that revenue used for golf course improvements. We divided the work to be done and performed the tasks that did not require shutting down the course first in 2020. The work will be completed in 2021, but that will require closing the RR course for a bit over 5 months.

3) What work will be done on Road Runner in 2021?

Answer: All of the remaining greenside bunkers and fairway bunkers will be renovated. That renovation involves re-contouring the bunkers to improve maintenance and installing capillary liners in all bunkers. Those liners are hard liners that allow water to pass thru. Also, removing steep faces on the bunkers will be done. All green surfaces will be replaced with the Bermuda ultra dwarf mini verde. That grass was developed to grow in our desert climate.

4) Will I be able to get a tee time during the time that Road Runner is closed next summer?

Answer: Our head golf professional is exploring many different options so that any negative impact on your ability to play golf here at Quail Creek will be as minimal as possible.

5) Will the new green surfaces be overseeded?

Answer: Based on an overwhelming amount of data, the mini verde does not require overseed. That agronomic decision will be applied to all three courses to provide consistency of our greens. When the Quail and Coyote courses are renovated, those greens will have mini verde as well.

6) Will the green surfaces next winter be all dirt?

Answer: No, the green surfaces will be all grass. The speed of the putts will be about the same as the current green speeds. Our superintendent knows the proper height for the greens.

7) Will the dormant greens be brown?

Answer: No, the pigments available for the dormant greens have improved significantly over the past few years. Our superintendent is well versed on the latest techniques. The greens may even look better than our current greens.

8) How often will the cups be moved?

Answer: The cups will remain in one location for a while longer than during growing season. They will be moved periodically to avoid excessive wear around the cup.

The End