



Roger Glen
Board President
Golf Committee
Board Liaison

POLISHING OUR GOLF COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

It is my pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors approved Project Emerald at their September board meeting. The vision for this project began five years ago and, with the work of several committees and the input of Lochland's membership, the improvements to our golf course will begin on August 1, 2015. The course will remain closed until early April 2016, with the exact date dependent on weather conditions. This will give the ground crew staff sole

possession of the course to make improvements to greens, tee boxes, bunkers, and fairways. This all began with the "Gas and Grass" project, which was an effort to improve our greens. After the Board approved that project, recognizing that the course was going to be closed to the membership anyway, the concept of making other improvements to the course at the same time developed. Project Emerald includes the following course improvements:

- 1) **The greens will be completely renovated.** The chemicals to kill the present grass were purchased three years ago. Once the grass on the greens is gone, they will be re-seeded with a much heartier grass hybrid that will better withstand harsh Nebraska weather conditions, resist the reinfestation of poa annua, and will require less water and chemicals to maintain.
- 2) **The fairways will also be completely replaced with a new variety of grass** that is aesthetically pleasing and resistant to disease. After renovation, the fairways will require less water, tolerate winter kill better, and be more resilient to cart use.
- 3) **The tee boxes will be improved.** Many of the tee boxes will be enlarged, increasing the area in which the ball can be teed, and other tee boxes will be leveled. A new variety of grass will be planted to match the new fairway grass. An emphasis will be placed on the forward tee boxes, which need much improvement, including elevating some, making some bigger, and adjusting the location of others to make some holes more reachable in par and to make the course a par 72 instead of a par 70.
- 4) **Bunkers will be completely rebuilt.** They will have deeper, defined edges that will keep sand in the bunker, allowing for better maintenance of the bunkers by the grounds crew, such as edging and turning the sand, and improving consistency of play. The drainage systems in the bunkers will also be improved.

Over the years, Lochland has made renovations to the club house, pool, and tennis courts. This golf course renovation is just the next step in bringing the best club experience possible to our membership. Over the next few months, many decisions will still be made regarding some of the aesthetics of the restoration project. If you have any ideas

regarding this project, please be sure and talk to members of the greens and golf committees.

The Lochland membership needs to be applauded for undertaking this project, a project that will make our course one of the premier courses in our state for years to come.

TEST PLOT UPDATE: The Grass IS Greener!



Just over one month ago the test plot on #12 fairway was seeded with the variety of grass that will be used to completely reseed our fairways during PROJECT EMERALD. The mix is 10% Rye and 90% Kentucky Low Mow Blue Grass. Two types of grass seed is used because one variety is perfect for early and late season growth and the other is great for growth during the hot summer months.

You will notice that the fullness or the grass and the growth rates throughout the plot are not consistent. This is because our Grounds Crew and the UNL Turf Grass program are using the plot to test the poundage of seed that will work best in our growing conditions. By conducting this test during the same time of year that PROJECT EMERALD will take place, we will be better educated next fall when it comes time to plant.

One-Month Fill In by Poundage



1lb. per square yard



2lbs. per square yard



3lbs. per square yard

The true test will come next season. Although 3 lbs. per square yard appears to look best at this point, the decision on pounds used per square yard will be made in the spring when both grasses have had a chance to fill in the plot area.