

TRA Golf Course Conditions Report

November 11, 2018

By Tandy Bailey

This report is to summarize the efforts made to turn the golf course conditions around this last year. It takes a program of continuous effort to make improvements to all areas of a golf course and changes cannot be fixed in one season.

In 2017:

- Aeration had not been done to the greens and course in the last few years due to not enough help and employees quitting or being let go half way thru season.
- We did not have a complete year of chemical applications to the golf course and greens.
- Budget restraints were very tight from low number of members and sales.

This year/2018:

- Troy Pedersen (State Licensed Applicator) was put in charge of applying chemicals and taking care of greens for the season as best as he could as time allowed. We were very lucky to have Troy volunteer his time (more than planned) to help get this golf course going to where it needs to be.
- We also started the year off with a very dry and cold winter and the greens did not have proper winter shut down (i.e. chemicals and topdressing).
- In addition, we had a very wet and cold spring early which lasted into the summer. This made it hard to get fertilizers & chemicals down due to weather and timing (temps and wetness).
- We did get chemicals and aeration done throughout the year but was delayed at times due to weather.
- Applications are and will be going down to get a handle on crabgrass/ dandelion/ seasonal weed takeover. This is not an overnight fix and will take several applications to combat these issues.

- Full aeration (pulling plugs and fertilizing) was done on all greens. Tee boxes were also aerated before winter. Top dress and chemicals have also been applied to greens for the winter.
- In the middle of the year, there were a lot of bad spots on the greens but those problems appear to be resolved.
- We had a ton of volunteer work! Special thanks to Dave Mass for all his volunteer hours -- everything from help with chemicals, maintaining equipment, repairing equipment, and countless hours working on the irrigation system -- and all other aspects of being Board President that members do not see. Many board members spend their volunteer time repairing equipment and working on the course, which saves the TRA a lot of money.
- Because of all the volunteer help at no charge to the TRA, we were able to purchase some much-needed equipment to help maintain the golf course for the future. Items purchased include a very good, slightly used rough trim mower (zero turn John Deere) which will make it easier and faster to get roughs mowed to help eliminate playing out of links style grass. A used fairway mower was also purchased to be able to have equipment ready to go at all times and eliminate down-time. Maintaining the golf course is a full-time job, and board members cannot always be expected to pick up the slack.

We believe this next year (weather permitting) that our course conditions will be much better. Troy Pedersen has offered to do chemicals applications again this next year and we appreciate his expertise in this area. We will look to get our seasonal help established soon so we can move forward in maintaining the golf course for 2019.