

February 2016

BY DESIGN



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Special Edition for the Fourth Annual ASGCA Design Excellence Recognition Program

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Welcome to this special edition of *By Design* magazine, devoted entirely to the fourth annual American Society of Golf Course Architects Design Excellence Recognition Program recipients.

The Program continues to grow and develop each year. And this year, the projects highlighted show the positive impact a well-designed facility continues to have for golfers and entire communities.

Over the following pages, you'll be able to learn more about these projects, and how the nine clubs worked with ASGCA members and other partners to address their design challenges.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to these tremendous golf facilities, as well as the golf course architects who provided their talent and expertise along the way.

Similar challenges to those presented here are faced by clubs throughout the United States and beyond. Perhaps the positive solutions delivered by ASGCA members can provide inspiration for projects at your own club.

I hope you enjoy the read!



Steve Smyers, ASGCA
President
American Society of Golf Course Architects

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BY DESIGN

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COVER



Rockwind Community Links in Hobbs, New Mexico, is delivering a great golf experience and other recreational activities for the entire community. For more information, see page 13. Photograph by Tony Roberts

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Design excellence

The fourth annual ASGCA Design Excellence Recognition Program highlights some of the most innovative golf design projects to have been completed in the past year.

While one club is having to cope with extremely limited water resources, another may be trying to deal with too much water. The challenges that face golf course owners and operators are varied and complex,

and it takes experience and expertise to find the most appropriate solution for any given situation. Since the founding of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1946, its members have been working alongside golf developers and

existing clubs to design golf courses that meet their objectives and deliver positive results long into the future. This year, nine projects from across the United States have been selected to highlight excellence in golf design among ASGCA members.



Plaques for ASGCA Design Excellence Recognition Award Program recipients are provided by Morell Studios. Morell Studios has enjoyed over 40 years of experience providing museum quality custom awards, plaques and trophies to prestigious clubs and corporate organizations. www.morellstudios.com



Bringing back the buzz

New master plan transforms Atlantic Beach club

In its heyday, Selva Marina Country Club offered members the finest services and amenities, including golf, tennis, a pool and dining. It hosted the first Greater Jacksonville Open, welcoming competitors like Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus.

But in recent years, the club had declined into near failure. Poor quality irrigation water had made it difficult to grow healthy turf, and the loss of golf members created a downward spiral that meant the club was unable to maintain facilities to an acceptable standard.

Remaining members were passionate about returning the club to its former glory, befitting its prime location five blocks from the Atlantic Ocean in the pristine beach town of Atlantic Beach, Florida.

The club did have extra land available, so it solicited proposals from local developers to buy and develop a portion of the property, while providing

a new golf and country club package.

The winning development team, Atlantic Beach Partners, sought the expertise of Erik Larsen, ASGCA, to create a new master plan for the club. Larsen's plan completely rearranged the property. 178 residential lots were created on a 55-acre tract in the center of the existing golf course, around which a new course was routed. New golf practice facilities and a revitalized clubhouse, tennis and pool area would complete the development, which would open with a brand new identity—Atlantic Beach Country Club.

The new golf course was designed to require significantly less water. Roughs comprise drought-tolerant grasses and native plants, meaning that the irrigation system need only cover tees, fairways and greens—with re-use water supplied by the city. Larsen has cleverly re-routed the course over a smaller area—down from 180 to 125 acres—without compromising the golf experience.

The renovation has been a huge success, quickly reaching the development team's cash flow and new membership projections. More than 90 percent of the lots have been sold and membership numbers have risen from 200 to over 670.

"The facility is absolutely buzzing with activity every day and night," says Larsen. "The course is getting high praise from the several PGA Tour pros who live in the area, while also providing really fun golf for members. The positive vibe of the place is just a terrific feeling and accomplishment, especially remembering its desperate condition two years ago."

"It demonstrates how this infill-neighborhood approach can help revive golf facilities around the country," he adds. "This model is good for golf."



Atlantic Beach CC

Location: Atlantic Beach, Florida

Golf course architect:

Erik Larsen, ASGCA, Larsen Golf, Inc.
www.larsengolf.net

Project summary: An ambitious new golf and residential master plan transformed the once-grand but failing Selva Marina Country Club into a thriving, walkable community with a new identity, Atlantic Beach Country Club.

Partners: Atlantic Beach Partners (development team); Kelly Elmore (landscape architect)



Photos: Marty Moore

Using water wisely

Design changes lead to dramatic water savings at Birnam Wood

With California in a four year drought, golf courses throughout the state are facing significant reductions in water allocation. Elite Santa Barbara club Birnam Wood was no exception, finding its allocation cut by 60 percent, from a maximum of 400,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 150,000 gpd.

With the possibility of the drought lasting decades, the club turned to Dr. Michael Hurdzan, ASGCA Fellow, of Hurdzan Golf Design for a water conservation solution that would be fully sustainable.

Hurdzan Golf Design adopted a scientific approach to the problem called 'Precision Turf Management,' hiring a team of experts comprising: Dr. Bob Carrow from University of Georgia for soil and water conservation consultancy; Dr. Van Cline from Toro, who undertook precision GPS/GIS mapping of soil moisture, soil salinity, topography relief, compaction and turf quality on five foot centers; and Mike Huck, a Certified Golf Course Irrigation Auditor (CGCIA).

Working closely with Superintendent Marty Moore, the team thoroughly mapped and analyzed the entire golf

course for opportunities to conserve water and enhance turf quality. They also worked alongside the club's Green Chairman Andy Powell to identify patterns of play among golfers.

Having gathered and analyzed this information, 25 of the 75 acres of irrigated turf were identified as less essential, and subject to removal.

A separate study was then conducted to identify the best material to replace this turf, with pine straw from Georgia chosen to replace it, something almost no other California golf course has used.

Concurrently, a third study saw test plots constructed with various warm season grasses to see which would perform best with the Santa Barbara soils, climate and water quality, with the limited water sources in mind. After six-to-eight months of observation by the team, Santa Ana Bermuda grass was selected for the fairways and 419 Bermuda grass for roughs, with the entire 50 acres of remaining turf regrassed accordingly.

"The members love the new look," says Hurdzan. "The playing surfaces are vastly improved, and the course can be sustained with the limited current and future water supplies."



25 acres of turf have been replaced with pine straw

Birnam Wood GC

Location: Santa Barbara, California

Golf course architect:

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, ASGCA Fellow,
Hurdzan Golf Design
www.hurdzangolf.com

Project summary: With drought in the southwest United States forcing golf courses to reduce turf areas, Birnam Wood GC took a highly scientific approach to identifying a water conservation strategy that would be 100% sustainable.

Partners: Dr. Robert Carrow, University of Georgia (Ret.); Dr. Van Cline, The Toro Company (Ret.); Michael Huck, Irrigation & Turfgrass Services; Marty Moore, Superintendent, Birnam Wood GC; Andy Powell, Birnam Wood Green Chairman



A great collaboration

Team effort delivers a win/win for golfers and residents

Flood damage in the village of Glenview, Illinois—a northern suburb of Chicago—resulted in a ‘call to action’ from residents, to mitigate the potential for future flooding.

60 percent of the village is built to ‘old standards’, with no water detention accounted for, no overland flow paths planned and limited storm water conveyance. The village had limited open space for storm water detention so was faced with costly alternatives.

At the same time, the Glenview Park Golf Club had no master plan, and had not seen any significant enhancements in many years, so was faced with deteriorating conditions. Poor surface drainage on fairways led to excessive wear and tear on turf, and bunkers frequently held water.

A strategic alliance of government departments and professionals from multiple disciplines collaborated to prepare a storm water management system design that was to be integrated into the golf course, providing the detention area that the village needed while also giving the club an opportunity to improve playing conditions.

Rick Jacobson, ASGCA, was hired to prepare a new golf course design that

would intricately weave a storm water management system into the non-play areas of the golf course.

A series of grass swales, pipes, detention ponds and natural vegetation conveyance swales helped to enhance water quality, while supplying an additional 15.3 acre feet (nearly 5,000,000 gallons) of additional storm water detention and reducing the discharge release rate for a 100-year storm by over 70 percent.

Excavation material from the detention basins was used to create positive surface drainage on fairways and subtle new landforms that delivered an improved parkland golf course aesthetic. Construction techniques applied to bunker renovation improved subsurface drainage and sub-base stabilization, while accentuating the dramatic visual appeal of the new strategically-placed bunkers. The introduction of native areas was part of a long term strategy for sustainability through the reduction of manicured turf and subsequent reduction of overall maintenance requirements.

“This collaboration resulted in a win/win for golfers and village residents,” says Jacobson. “A holistic approach to master planning delivered positive results for all parties.”



The 15th hole at Glenview Park before and (main pic) after renovation



Glenview Park GC

Location: Glenview, Illinois

Golf course architect:

Rick Jacobson, ASGCA,
Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc.
www.jacobsongolfcoursedesig.com

Project summary: At the Glenview Park municipal golf course in the northern Chicago suburbs, a single project achieved the dual objectives of improving playability and flood management for the village of Glenview.

Partners: Gewalt Hamilton Associates (engineering); Kemper Sports (management services); Wadsworth Golf Company (construction)



Access for all

LA course upgraded for Special Olympics

The City of Los Angeles was selected to host the Special Olympics World Games, to be held in August 2015. The golf events would take place at the city's Wilson and Harding municipal courses in Griffith Park, classic era designs by George C. Thomas.

Neither course was compliant with accessibility guidelines set out by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Cart path access to tees and greens had been compromised by decades of additions that involved curbs, walls and stairs.

In order to get ready for the Special Olympics, the host city needed a solution to rectify the access issues and, at the same time, build forward tees to allow yardage to be more flexible and meet the criteria of the Special Olympics golf format.

Complicating the assignment was a limited budget and minimal cart path

coverage—more than six miles of new paths would be required.

Forrest Richardson, ASGCA, developed a master plan for both golf courses, with a focus on preparation for the Special Olympics. In preparing the master plan, care was essential to preserve the classic design features of the courses, making additions appear as if they were part of the original intent and design.

Goals established to guide the work included: conforming to ADA accessibility guidelines; constructing new paths to work with existing paths and routing them out of distant views where possible; constructing new tees to appear as original; attaining a forward yardage length of approximately 5,000 yards at each course.

The project saw paths added to 31 golf holes, 68 existing tees re-leveled or rebuilt, and 28 new forward tees constructed.



Griffith Park GC

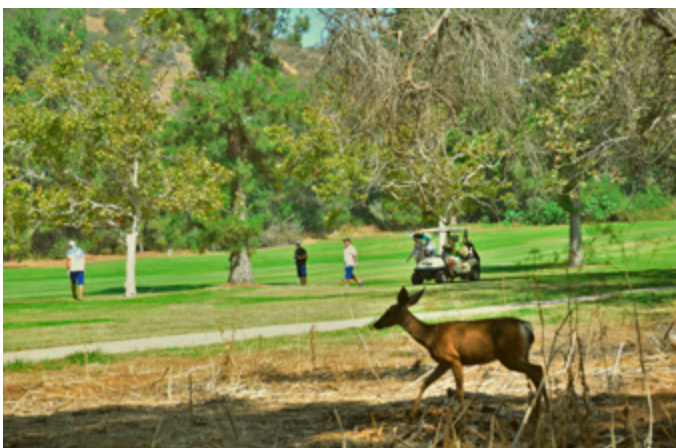
Location: Los Angeles, California

Golf course architect:

Forrest Richardson, ASGCA,
Forrest Richardson & Associates
www.golfgroupltd.com

Project summary: In preparation for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, the golf courses at Griffith Park in Los Angeles needed to be updated to meet event requirements and conform to standards for accessibility, while preserving their classic design features.

Partners: City of Los Angeles (James Ward, David Takata, Bob Davis); American Landscape (construction); Mark Fine, Design Associate





Delivering results

Design overhaul transforms appeal of Virginia club

Severe design features were making life difficult at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia. They required a high level of maintenance, and meant the course was too difficult for the majority of golfers. Each round was averaging over five hours to play, which limited the number of golfers that could be accommodated each day and left the club in a loss-making position.

At the same time, families wanted additional recreation options beyond golf, but few were being offered.

To address these problems, the club enlisted Lester George, ASGCA, and a new master plan was created. This would see the removal of more than 700 trees and bushes that were cluttering the course and obstructing views, and the removal and redesign of dozens of bunkers. The fairway area was increased and rough areas were lowered or converted to mulch. Protective and saving bunkers were added, and cart and walking paths were re-routed to improve the flow of golfers around the course. In addition, new wells were drilled to avoid the reliance on public potable drinking water, increasing water efficiency and sustainability.

The changes combined to make

the course much more playable, and reduced round times by an average of 55 minutes, yielding a revenue increase of \$3,000 per day.

The new design also made way for new facilities at the club, including a golf teaching academy and a clubhouse addition for corporate and private events. The bunkers on the driving range were filled so the area to be used for concerts, fireworks, soccer—even frisbee golf. There is a new lawn area that doubles as a croquet course and adds space for weddings, social events, and other outdoor activities. The facility also includes the only par-three course in the country offering regulation golf cups, 8-inch beginner cups and FootGolf on every hole.

The changes have transformed Independence Golf Club into a popular, playable and profitable facility. “One of the conundrums owners and managers of golf courses often find is that they don’t see how they can make alterations to their courses that improve strategy for more experienced players while catering to beginners who are just learning the game,” says George. “The paramount goal of the renovation at Independence was to create a golf course that golfers of all skill levels would enjoy.”



New bunkering has improved playability, for example at the 11th hole, shown before and (main pic) after renovation

Independence GC

Location: Midlothian, Virginia

Golf course architect: Lester George, ASGCA, George Golf Design, Inc.
www.georgegolfdesign.com

Project summary: Independence Golf Club was faced with three problems—pace of play, playability and sustainability—all of which affected the bottom line. A new golf course design has addressed each of these issues.

Partners: Giff Breed, Owner/Operator; Dan Taylor, Golf Course Superintendent; Landscapes Unlimited (construction); B. K. Katherman (building construction); Balzer & Associates (building architect); Smith Turf & Irrigation (irrigation); George Frye, TransGolf (grassing)



Photo: Albanese & Lutzke

Respecting the past

Historic club restores original designer's intent

The centerpiece of Lochmoor Club is its Walter Travis-designed golf course, which opened for play in 1918. But as the years passed, much of its original design character has been lost, as a result of maintenance practices, the evolution of club and ball technology, and changes made by well-meaning but under-informed greens committees.

The club's leadership wanted to restore the original Walter Travis design integrity of the course, while keeping it relevant to today's players and equipment, as well as addressing their practice range and short game area, which were both in need of attention.

Paul Albanese, ASGCA, proposed a 'hybrid' remodeling plan, a concept which melds the principles and design philosophy of Golden Age designers such as Travis with the expectations of modern golfers.

With no original design drawings available, Albanese procured aerial photographs from 1937 (the oldest on record), to understand the essence of the original design. He also conducted extensive research into the work of Travis, studying his biography and accessing resources from the Walter Travis Society.

An iterative hole-by-hole design process followed, which incorporated the original Travis



design philosophy into design solutions that address contemporary golf requirements and constraints.

The club now has a long term master plan which will provide a reference for all future design changes, enabling the course to evolve in a coherent, consistent and integrated manner.

The club implemented part of the master plan in the fall of 2015 with the remodeling of all of the bunkers throughout the course. The project was completed on time and under budget, and the entire membership is proud of the work. They are looking forward to continuing with other elements of the master plan in the near future.

Lochmoor Club

Location: Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

Golf course architect: Paul Albanese, ASGCA, Albanese & Lutzke
www.golf-designs.com

Project summary: Historic photography and documentation provided the foundation for a renovation of the Walter Travis-designed Lochmoor Club, bringing it up-to-date while adhering to the principles of the original 'Golden Age' design.

Partners: Sandtrapper; ADS Drain Tile; East Jordan Ironworks; Fairmount Sand



Growing the game

Comprehensive renovation helps attract golfers

With a long tradition of excellence and enjoyment for its members, Oaks Country Club wanted to enhance its position as one of the premier clubs in Oklahoma, by improving all aspects of its golf course, while remaining true to its historical design origins.

Designed in 1921 by A.W. Tillinghast—the architect of some of the United States’ best known courses, including Winged Foot, Baltusrol and the Black course at Bethpage State Park—the golf course at Oaks Country Club had a strong design core that had been somewhat lost over the years.

In formulating a renovation plan, Bill Bergin, ASGCA Associate, examined aerial photography of the course from the 1950s, base contours of the original greens, and bunker styles of many Tillinghast designs.

On the greens, a poorly performing soil profile was inhibiting root depth and hindering the health of the turf. “They were on ‘life support’ for the past few years,” says Bergin, “and had reached the point where they had to be rebuilt.” New putting surfaces were constructed, modeled on the original Tillinghast contours.

The number of bunkers on the course changed little, but previously they had consistently bracketed each hole. Bergin introduced more diversity to the green bunkering, and seven fairway bunkers now come into play on par fives and short par fours. The bunker style of Baltusrol and Winged Foot was emulated, with a blend of grass faces and modest sand flashing for visibility.

Additional spacing between teeing areas was introduced, increasing flexibility of the overall yardage of the course, which can now play from 500 yards shorter to 300 yards longer than it could before the renovation.

Drainage was also improved, cart paths were moved out of view in numerous locations and fairways were regrassed and restored to their original widths. The net result is a course that is playable for all levels of golfers, with vastly improved strategy and aesthetic appeal.

Improved practice facilities and a new ‘pitch and putt’ course, open to non-golfing ‘social’ members of the club, providing excellent opportunities to introduce new players to golf, helping to grow the game.



Oaks CC

Location: Tulsa, Oklahoma

Golf course architect: Bill Bergin, ASGCA, Bergin Golf Designs
www.bergin golf.com

Project summary: To restore the design integrity of its golf course, Oaks Country Club undertook a comprehensive renovation that covered tees, greens and everything in between, as well as new facilities to help grow the game.



Photos: Tony Roberts

A course for the community

City residents benefit from overhaul of public course

With a golf course that was operating inefficiently, facing rising expenses and falling player numbers, the city of Hobbs in New Mexico needed to make a change.

Conditions at the golf course, which was situated on flat and featureless land with extensive caliche rock, were deteriorating. Exhaustive irrigation repairs were frequently required, demanding increasing investment in man-hours, and there were further problems relating to turf quality, water conservation and resource requirements.

Local pride and enthusiasm in the golf course all but disappeared while ongoing struggles mounted. However, the mayor and city council were striving to improve quality of life and availability of recreational facilities for the community.

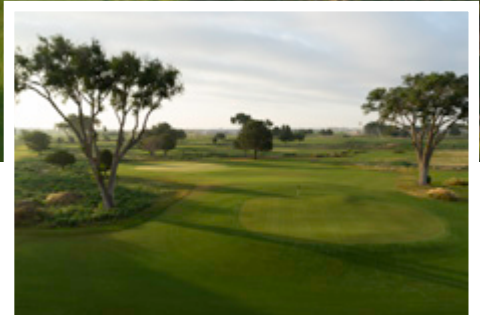
Andy Staples, ASGCA, introduced the city to the sustainable design philosophy of a 'Community Links,' whereby the golf course would be an asset for all of residents, including non-golfers, and would use resources efficiently, particularly important in a region where water is precious.

In collaboration with the community and project partners, Staples proposed

a solution that greatly improved the existing golf course while expanding the facility to attract more kids and families. This included the integration of walking trails, picnic areas, expanded outdoor public-use space, revitalized beginner golf programs, and a First Tee junior golf program. A new nine-hole par-three kids' course was added, and the practice facility was expanded.

Additionally, the 18-hole course was completely upgraded through rebuilding all bentgrass greens with California construction methods, introducing new grass-faced, sand-bottom bunkers and new natural flowing tees. By sand-capping all the turf areas, it was possible to use drought-tolerant, cool season dwarf bluegrass and fescues, helping to reduce the water requirement to the fullest extent possible.

The irrigation system was completely rebuilt with 100% HDPE pipe, which determined priorities for high play areas versus the non-maintained landscape. The new five-acre lake, designed to retain 14 million gallons of effluent water, is a feature of the public-use space near the clubhouse, benefitting the entire community, and enticing residents to take interest in the game.



Rockwind Community Links

Location: Hobbs, New Mexico

Golf course architect: Andy Staples, ASGCA, Staples Golf Design
www.staplesgolfdesign.com

Project summary: A deteriorating city-owned 18-hole course was redesigned as a 'Community Links,' a centerpiece for the entire community, focusing on kids, families and beginner golfers.

Partners: Design Office (landscape architecture); Greenscape Methods (irrigation design); Rain Bird (irrigation); Watertronics (pump station); Wadsworth Golf Construction (construction)



Photo: The Preserve at Boulder Hills

A unique experience

Rhode Island resort celebrates outdoor life

When the owners of the Foxwoods Country Club in the village of Wyoming, Rhode Island, decided to build a new 36-hole complex closer to their casino resort, the course was closed and lay fallow for six years.

It was then bought by the developers of The Preserve at Boulder Hills, whose vision was to create a four-season sporting retreat and game reserve. This was to incorporate numerous recreational elements, including fly fishing, rock climbing, off-road biking, bird hunting fields and a range of cabin accommodations.

Once these elements had been designed into the rugged property, 60 acres remained for golf. The owner hired Robert McNeil, ASGCA, to provide a solution that would complement their vision for the resort.

Having considered a number of executive and nine-hole layouts, McNeil proposed an 18-hole par-three championship course. “It fit perfectly with the varying elevations of the property,” says McNeil, “embracing the natural rock outcroppings and flowing meadows of the site. Each hole would be memorable and rest within its own setting—with no two holes having remotely the same look.”

Although some of the logistical elements of the previous routing

were utilized, all the course work was new, with construction developed from hand-drawn sketches and field directives moving the work towards the final product.

In order to achieve the design objectives to produce a sustainable, indigenous golf course, all materials were generated from the existing site. Rootzone mix from the existing tees and greens was harvested, screened and reused. Bunker sand was obtained from a large sand vein within the property where a new fishing pond would be located. And gravel from the site provided all green and course drainage material.

The result is a course that completely embraces the sporting character of the property. To get to the first tee, golfers embark on a 10-minute cart ride that encounters rock climbing faces, natural meadows, a roaming range and fly fishing ponds. These other uses were deeply integrated into the golf course development. For example, vegetation was introduced to create big game feeding meadows and small game fields which are part of the golf experience as players travel through the property, while fly fishing ponds also serve a function as strategic features on golf holes and a self-sustaining water resource for irrigation of the course.



The Preserve at Boulder Hills

Location: Wyoming, Rhode Island

Golf course architect: Robert McNeil, ASGCA, The Northeast Golf Company
www.northeastgolfcompany.com

Project summary: With developers wanting to incorporate a wide range of leisure and sporting activities on their property, an existing golf course was converted to an 18-hole par three course, constructed entirely from materials that existed on site.

Partners: NMP Golf Construction

In its first few months of operation The Preserve at Boulder Hills attracted a healthy membership and much local and national attention. It hosted the Benrus Open in 2015 and is set to welcome the PGA Seniors Legends event in 2017.

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