



AMERICAN SOCIETY of  
GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

**DESIGN**

[www.asgca.org](http://www.asgca.org)

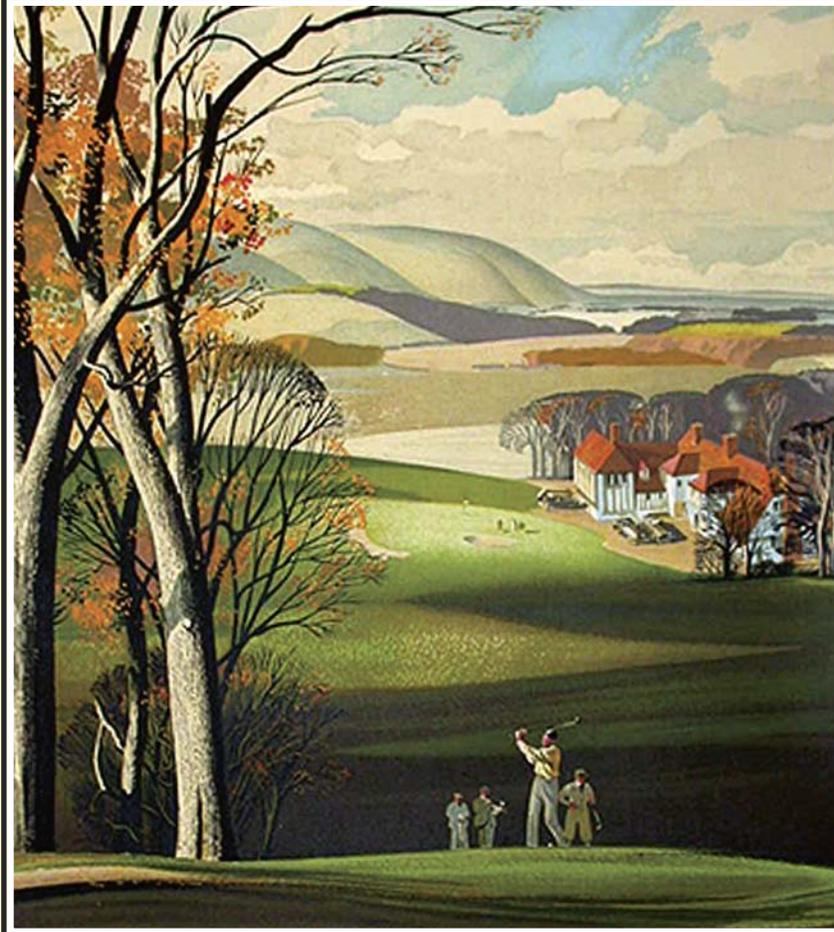
- Minimize irrigated turf for less water, pumping, fertilization & mowing
- Limit formal sand bunkers, favoring less costly landforms or other natural features
- Utilize native landscape plants and materials in non-irrigated areas to reduce water use
- Develop bunker surrounds in native grass to reduce labor time
- Create large tee decks for reduced wear — and less mowing time with larger equipment
- Minimize trees in turf areas to reduce mowing obstacles
- Develop softer green contours to facilitate triplex mowers instead of hand mowing
- Create capture ponds to store rainwater
- Specify path materials that reduce capital repair & replacement

# The Cost Factor

## TIPS & TECHNIQUES

### for REDUCING Annual

## MAINTENANCE COSTS



GCBA

**CONSTRUCTION**

[www.gcbaa.org](http://www.gcbaa.org)

- Utilize products that prevent washout during grow-in
- Opt for less pine straw/ mulch during building
- Specify effective irrigation control to reduce long term water use
- Develop wider access points to fairways for reduced cart wear
- Build softer slopes at tees, bunkers & greens
- Provide a path surface & routing that will encourage use
- Invest in drainage that keeps the course open



**MAINTENANCE**

[www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

*Always consider changes in maintenance programs after a careful analysis of short-term benefit vs. long-term impact.*

- Communicate the relationship between higher standards & cost
- Lessen bunker maintenance standards; delay replacement of sand
- Decrease mowing frequency
- Lessen cart path edging requirements
- Lessen top-dressing applications
- Increase early morning/ night time maintenance
- Minimize fertilizer, pesticide & other applications
- Reduce over-seeding rates and areas

Golf courses everywhere are seeking new ways to reduce operating expenses. In addition to measures by maintenance staff, there are areas to reduce costs that involve design and construction. The key is to lower operating expenses in a targeted way, preserving the positive asset and — at the same time — keeping golfers happy.

Like all businesses, golf course owners and managers must balance short-term expenses with longer-term expectations. While changes are often easy to justify in the short-term, the long-term effect of change must be fully understood. Proposed changes need to be discussed with players so they appreciate the relationship between cost and maintenance standards.

The ideas on this page are just ideas that will not apply to all facilities. Golf course decision-makers are encouraged to explore these and other concepts with the members of the ASGCA, GCBA and GCSAA — golf course architects, builders and superintendents who can help you understand trade-offs and set priorities.