

Emerald Lake Golf Course Committee Report 2023 and 2024 year-to-date

Our committee, and its many volunteers, continue to complete important improvements identified as priorities in the 2020-2025 Redevelopment Plan. The objective of the committee is to support the effort of ELRP and its staff to improve the physical state of the Golf Course, which is an important recreational asset for the whole region. The Committee augments, through volunteer effort, projects and activities that would not be achievable by staff alone. Our Vision is to make ELRP Golf Course the best family-friendly regional golf course in the province! Below are key activities undertaken by the committee in 2023, and to this time in 2024;

2023 Season

- We had a great turnout for the Spring Clean-up with 41 volunteers. Highlights included the removal of a huge volume of leaves from the golf course, with the support of a commercial leaf-blower loaned to us from Memorial Lake Golf Course.
- Our volunteers felled, limbed and removed four large poplars along Fairway 7, a long-term answer to decreasing leaf production on the course. Later in the month we removed the large trunks to the burn pit, and for use as firewood for those interested.
- Volunteers and committee members installed 2 of the remaining 3 artificial greens on June 10 and 11, a huge effort over the two days! Prior to that we completed preparation work on the bases including excavation, root removal, and levelling.
- In July we converted our final sand green on hole #3, to artificial turf.
- We also excavated and removed many huge roots along Fairway 7. This will help the condition of the course and protect equipment.
- We trimmed back the margins of the marshes on Hole number 1. This included removing a large number of smaller trees, reclaiming what was once part of the fairway for this hole.
- Over the summer numerous volunteers did smaller, but important tasks such as weeding the remaining sand greens and around the margins of the artificial greens. Their efforts were appreciated.
- Finally, a group of volunteers installed snow fencing around the greens in order to extend the golf course season past when staff are available to do this work, providing some great fall golf opportunities for the region.
- **Total Volunteer hours donated to the cause in 2023 was 720 hours.**

2024 Season-to-Date

- 20 volunteers took on the heavy task of the Spring Clean-up this year. Tasks included removing the protective snow fencing around all 9 greens, removing 10 large poplar trees around Green # 5, and between fairways #7 and #8, improving safety and playability of the course. Leaves and branches were removed and we also started the restoration of the eroding slope above Green #1.
- Volunteers completed slope stabilization around Green #1 with perennial planting, mulching and edging. This should arrest future erosion.
- We installed colored fairway markers to better inform golfers, enhance speed of play, and improve course aesthetics by removing old 150-yard markers.
- 17 volunteers completed landscaping around greens 2,3,4,5,7 and 8. This included adding topsoil to the green margins and trenches cut to intercept roots, followed by seeding.
- 15 volunteers removed and replaced the turf on Green 9, bringing it up to the standard of the other 8 greens.

5-Year Plan:

- We plan to continue the removal of poplars along fairways 5 and 7 as per the original design to allow the underplanted Spruce trees room to grow, and get rid of the roots which are a major issue on the fairways.
- We will also plan to improve the Tee boxes and golf paths

Our thanks to the many volunteers who donated both time and equipment to the effort

Judy and Todd Brandt, Committee Co-Chairs