



CITY OF CONCORD

Report to Mayor and City Council

DATE: October 27, 2021
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian G. LeBrun, Deputy City Manager - Finance
SUBJECT: FY 2022 Beaver Meadow Tree Project

Recommendation

Approve this report for Phase I of the Beaver Meadow Gold Course Tree Project.

Background

In September 2019 the City Council appropriated \$7,100 to contract with the United States Golf Association (USGA) to prepare a grounds report for Beaver Meadow Golf Course. The report was received in November 2019 and focused on Trees and Turf Conditions. As part of the 2022 capital budget, City Council approved \$100,000 for a tree project in conjunction with the USGA agronomist report. In October 2021, the Golf Course Advisory Committee approved the tree project as presented by the Beaver Meadow Course and Facility Manager.

Discussion

The Beaver Meadow Course and Facility Manager prepared the following detailed description of the three phases of the Tree Removal Project (CIP #235). These phases are in conjunction with the USGA Agronomist report received in November 2019. The tree removal project will thin and eliminate trees and underbrush on the course, improve sunlight and air movement to enhance turf and overall course conditions. Work plan and map below:

Beaver Meadow Golf Course Course and Facility Manager

Beaver Meadow Golf Course Tree Removal Proposed Scope of Work

The purpose of this proposal is to set forth a plan, using the USGA site visit report, to remove an extensive amount of trees course wide that are adversely effecting turf conditions, and to improve the aesthetic appearance as well as the playability of the golf course. In this proposal,

as per the USGA's recommendations, large areas of trees will be removed by a professional logging company leaving only minimal select specimens chosen with care to maintain the integrity of the course design and layout. This will be accomplished with the aid of the City Forester to select viable trees that will thrive when tree lines are cleared. Smaller areas, hazardous trees, and individual standing dead trees will be removed in a coordinated effort with the City Forester and The City of Concord Tree Crew through plans previously discussed. The goal is to utilize approved CIP funds to strategically remove the large areas over the course of the next two off seasons to minimize impact on playing conditions and stretch the scope of work to avoid sudden drastic changes to the course's appearance.

Phase 1 (winter '21/'22)

-Utilize approved logging company for city wide tree removal bid if possible (or hire a separate logging company through new RFP procedure if scope of work does not fit bid) to remove large forested area ranging from the **#2 tee box** back to the **#17 tee box** on the other side

- The USGA report has noted the trees to the left of the #2 tee box and directly behind the tee are shading the tee box and restricting air movement significantly contributing to excessive moisture and turf decline on the second tee box as well as the adjacent portion of the 16 fairway.
- This same forested area is also shading and restricting sunlight and airflow to the #17 tee box on the backside.
- All trees directly to the left of #2 tee box will be removed to eliminate excessive poor growing conditions on tee and surrounds.
- Given the distance recommended by the USGA to push the tree line back from both these tee boxes and the condition of the interior forest it is my recommendation that this area be completely removed up to 20 yards in front of 17 tee box and from the 150 yard marker down on 16 fairway leaving only a selected few healthy trees. If any are designated as such by the City Forester.
- The remaining forested area will have trees on the perimeter removed that are overhanging #17 fairway and behind #1 green to eliminate shading and root competition issues.

-MITIGATION

- Area the length of #17 tee and 150 yards back up #16 fairway will be stumped and planted with fescue grasses and wild flower blend to match work done on #13/14
- Area extending from 20 yards forward of #17 tee and behind #1 green where healthy trees are left will have stumps flush cut, ground where possible, and not removed to protect root zone around trees to be left. All low growing brush will be removed and trees that are left will be pruned to provide adequate air flow. Area will be maintained and mowed with brush cutting equipment regularly until desirable, already existing ground cover is able to establish itself. It may also be beneficial to plant rhododendrons in this area as they will be visually appealing and will thrive in the dappled sunlight created by the canopy that is left.

-Utilize approved logging company (or other selected logging company) to remove selected portions of forested area to the right of **#17 tee box, behind #10 green and adjacent to #11 tee**

- The USGA report recommends this forested area be pushed back 30 yards from the left side of the #11 tee box as well as all trees overhanging the right side of #17 tee.

- All trees 30 yards back from the left side of #11 tee, all overhanging trees to the right of #17 tee will be removed and stumps will be dug and/or ground.
- At this time, I would also recommend removing the trees to the right of the #11 tee box. The majority of these trees are over hanging the tee box and the USGA report recommends “remove any tree overhanging the tee box”. If it is possible four to five trees will be left that are not overhanging the tee box for aesthetic purposes.

-MITIGATION

- In consulting with Ron Klemarczyk (City Forester) it was brought to my attention that stumping in interior portions may not be an option without special permitting and great care due to existing wet conditions. It will also be difficult to prepare the area adequately for seeding. It is my recommendation to have stumps flush cut to the ground and this area be maintained with brush cutting equipment until desirable, already existing ground cover establishes itself.
- All interior portions where trees are left will have low growing brush cleared and trees pruned to improve air flow.

-Utilize approved logging company to remove small grove of trees behind 16 green

- The USGA report recommends removing these trees to open a full view up 16 fairway from 14 fairway. Removing these trees will also continue to keep a consistent look throughout the whole area.

-MITIGATION

- Stumps will be removed and area will be mowed with regular mowing equipment at the maintenance interval consistent with the existing green surround.

-Remove trees to the left side of #5 green

- The USGA report recommends all of the white pines be removed to the left of the green as they are affecting play, shading the #5 and #6 green as well as the #6 fairway.
- Through observation it has also become apparent that this grove is also deflecting both the green and fairway irrigation directly down to the left side of #5 apron contributing significantly to the soggy wet condition of this area.

-MITIGATION

- Stumps will be removed and existing ground cover will be left to naturalize the area as it will grow tall and create an aesthetically pleasing zero maintenance area.

-Utilize City Tree Crew to remove single hazardous trees throughout golf course.

Phase 2 (winter '22/'23)

-Utilize approved logging company (or other selected logging company) to “significantly thin” all tree lines between #10 and #18, #18 and #1, #1 and #2, #2 and #16, #16 and #15 fairways

- It is the USGA’s recommendation that all these tree lines be significantly thinned leaving only 6-10 trees in each
- They are all blocking valuable morning sunlight and restricting air movement contributing significantly to poor conditions across these fairways.
- With these tree lines we will also be able to move cart traffic over to the newly opened areas relieving areas directly in play of cart damage.

-MITIGATION

- All areas will have stumps removed and existing ground cover will be left to naturalize and frame these holes. In areas where existing ground cover is not adequate fescue grass blends will be planted.
- Cart paths will be moved off of in play portions of the hole and routed through newly opened areas alleviating excessive cart wear.
- **Between holes #15 and #16 Phil Davis and I have discussed the opportunity to construct a double wide crushed stone cart path to move traffic out of perennially wet spots on both holes and significantly reduce damage to these areas that are an issue every year.**

-Utilize City Tree Crew to continue removal of single hazardous trees

Phase 3 (ongoing)

- Work in-house remove very small trees listed in the USGA report on the left side of #4 fairway that are blocking the view of the green
- Work in house to remove the 3 small Dogwood trees and one single Maple on the corner of #4 fairway as per the report's recommendation

During Phase 1 and 2 we will be working in-house to remove low hanging limbs along all tree lines between #'s 4 and 5 fairway and #'s 7 and 8 while they are awaiting removal of single problematic trees to improve playing conditions in the meantime.

The USGA report also lists removing trees on holes #4 through #9. These trees are having less of an impact on both turf and playing conditions. The report recommends mitigating these areas by removing up to only 5 trees at a time and planting single specimen trees in areas removed. It is my feeling these areas can be addressed after the large-scale logging operations of phase 1 and 2 have been completed, mitigated, and “digested” by the golfing public so as to minimize the shock factor of the scope of work in each of those phases. I also feel that through work in-house limbing up these tree lines and coordinating with the City Tree Crew to remove hazardous trees and limbs we can greatly improve appearance and playability along these holes while we await maturity of areas in phase 1 and 2 and formulate a strategic plan over the course of the time recommended by the report to finish the job.