

# Rebirth by Renovation

## Glenview Park Golf Club Reopens To Wide Acclaim

By Neal Kotlarek



WHILE REGULAR PLAYERS ARE CERTAIN TO DISTINGUISH THE ORIGINS OF EACH HOLE ACROSS THE PROPERTY, THEY ARE EVEN MORE CERTAIN TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE FROM EVERY TEE TO EVERY LANDING SPOT TO EVERY BUNKER TO EVERY GREEN.



**Plug a tee in the ground** of the newly renovated Glenview Park Golf Club and you will immediately appreciate the art and science of golf architecture. Long recognized as a fun and challenging layout, the North Shore course was provided a drastic renovation by acclaimed local design firm Rick Jacobson Golf Design, who completed the work last summer. The assignment was formidable, as the project list included redoing and adjusting existing sand bunkers; adding some target sand bunkers for enhanced sightlines off the tees; providing much needed drainage improvements across the property; expanding tee areas; adding vegetation to improve aesthetics, regrading fairways where necessary; incorporating foliage and other landscaping improvements, and building a continuous cart path across the 6,133-yard 18-hole property.

Glenview Park GC reopened last July to wide acclaim by local golf writers; the renovated course basically looks and plays like a designed-from-scratch layout. While regular players are certain to distinguish the origins of each hole across the property, they are even more certain to recognize the improvements made from every tee to every landing spot to every bunker to every green.

"Our regular guests are ecstatic about the final result of the work," says Director of Golf Ron Cassidy. "Glenview Park Golf Club has been a beloved golf course in the community ever since the park district began managing it in 1955," he continues. "So we were very sensitive to maintaining the integrity of the course while improving every aspect of the playing experience."



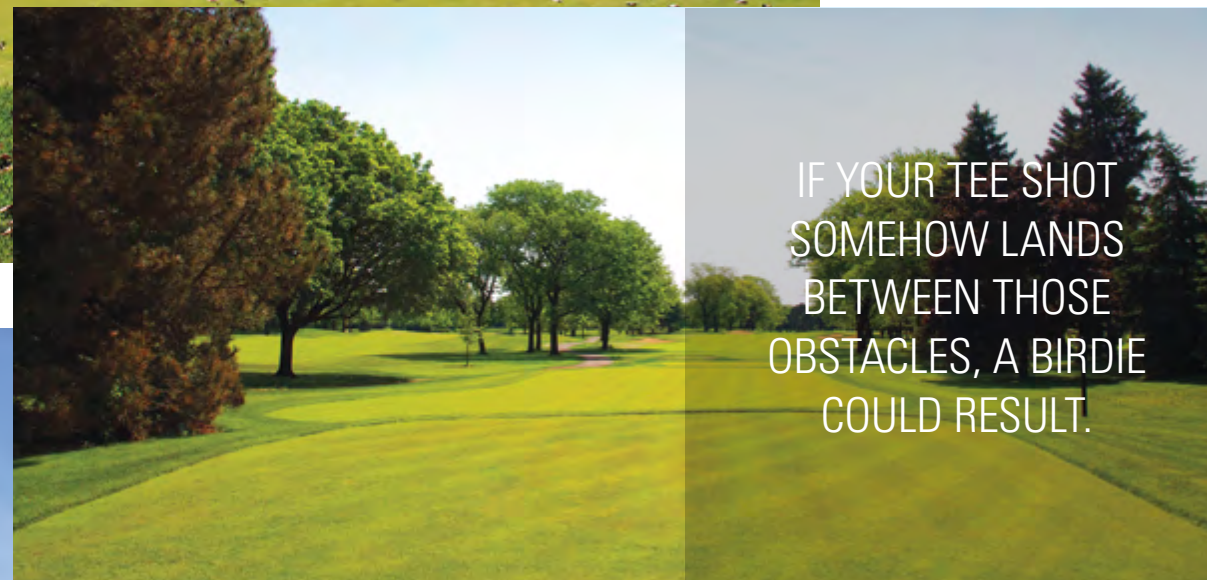
While players will notice the increased number of strategically placed sand bunkers and the larger tee areas, they will only notice the drainage improvements after a large storm drenches the course. The renovation work is expected to allow play to resume quickly following a healthy storm, whereas water buildup had previously allowed pooling to occur in lower parts of the course.

Jacobson states that storm-water management was an integral aspect of his company's renovation work. "Some fairways took on standing water after storms occurred," he says. "We created movement across those fairways and sought to improve storm-water management for both the golf course and the surrounding areas. We'll know we accomplished this mission by the turnaround time needed to get players out on the course following a significant rainfall."

Jacobson is particularly pleased with how the course looks after the renovation work was completed. "Our team was really happy with how some of the new fairway sand bunkers help golfers calculate their direction off the tee. Players who hit the ball a long way off the tee might have to go down a club or redirect their drives. Shorter players can use the bunkers as fairway targets." That strategy also helps even the playing field for higher handicap players going up against lower handicap players. The fairway bunkers will either capture long tee shots or force longer approach shots for players who have to lay up their tee shots.

One more noticeable change was the number of trees that needed to be removed from the property due to infestation by the emerald ash borer and by aging. "We were very sensitive about tree removal," Jacobson says, "but ash trees across the Chicagoland area have been devastated. The only positive that occurs from the infestation is that trees removed from green sites allow more air flow and sun to make the putting surfaces healthier."

The course begins with a delightful 302-yard par 4 that ostensibly is an easy birdie hole. But a green site pinched by two



sand bunkers on the left and a sprawling sand bunker on the right along with trees behind the shallow green will give pause to anyone looking to reach this green off the tee. Indeed, even from the fairway these aforementioned sand bunkers can make the approach shot no sure thing.

Why is the 420-yard No. 5 listed as the No. 1 handicap hole on the property? Probably due to the devious fairway bunkers to the left and right of the landing area along with the trees lining both sides. The long-iron or wood approach to the green is further tightened by a sprawling sand bunker to the left front of the green and two smaller bunkers to the front right of the putting surface. A par here feels like a birdie!

Like No. 1, the 10<sup>th</sup> hole seems a lot easier when looking at the scorecard than it plays off the tee. The par-3's 202 yards look even longer due to the large pond along the left side of the hole and two greenside sand bunkers on the right. If your tee shot somehow lands between those obstacles, a birdie could result.

The course's 322-yard finishing hole serves as an outstanding reminder of the thoughtful design work that went into the course's renovation. Mature trees reside to the left and right of the par 4 and a large figure-8 shaped pond protects the right side of the landing area. Three horseshoe-shaped sand bunkers protect an area short of the green and around the green, presumably for good luck. A large putting surface makes the flagstick more attainable, but that can also lead to three-putts, so take dead aim at the 18<sup>th</sup> and turn those horseshoe bunkers into good luck.

Do not leave the property without a stop for a cold beverage and a hearty sandwich at the Café at the Glenview Park Golf Club. The remodeled bar and dining area are extremely comfortable and provide big screen TVs to catch up on the day's sports scores.

Revisit an old friend, or travel to play what is essentially a new course. For tee times and more information, visit the Glenview Park Golf Club's website: [www.GolfGlenview.com](http://www.GolfGlenview.com).