

Ticonderoga Renovation Update, July 10, 2017

As we all know, we have had somewhere in the vicinity of 22-23 inches of rain since April. While this has hampered play, cut down on our ability to always use carts, and has even shut the course down a few times (most notably over July 4th weekend), there is good news that should be noted. All the new work has come through with flying colors:

- The old 10th and 16th green would have been under water. They weren't close to the high water mark.
- All new drainage has operated as it should. After the latest deluge, Steve is even adding a few more drains.
- The new greens were terrific. It was interesting to compare old and new #17 side by side. The old was a full sponge while the new #17 was firm and ready to play nearly immediately.
- All new tee boxes were fine.
- The new bridge was several feet above the high water mark.
- George walked the 15th fairway on Sunday morning after the storm. It was in perfect shape.

The bottom line is that we can all see exactly why this work needed to be done. We can also see what remains necessary to be done, as #4 and #7 were very much under water. The current 11th hole was also a mess. All of the old, existing greens were full sponges and took time to become playable. When they did become playable, ball divots left significant depressions and sprayed mud.

As we have headed into July and August, we felt this would be the ideal time to update all of you on what remains to be done on the course. For the sake of good order, we will go hole by hole around the course:

-Hole #1 – This hole will be basically left as it is. We will improve the forward tee box. At some point in the future, we may improve the green with a better method of drainage, but the hole will basically not change.

-Hole #2 – The tee boxes will be redone. There will be a new green built and it will be shifted to the high grass area near the existing 3rd tee box, essentially changing the hole to a soft dogleg left.

-Hole #3 – This hole will be eliminated. It is in a somewhat dangerous location adjacent to 9N. We are also creating space. This space will provide both a clear and safe pathway to the range. It is our hope to create better synergy with the range and perhaps even figure out a way to improve the range layout.

Hole #4 – This will become the new 3rd hole. The tee boxes will essentially remain where they are or very close to it. The forward tees will be improved and all the tees will be redressed. The critical work will involve redoing the green and adjusting the hill before the green. The goal from the beginning was to preserve the character of the hole, preserve the "island" type green and lessen the danger of maintaining/mowing the hill. The "island" itself will be raised 6'-8' feet and the actual green will be brought slightly forward as it needs to be once the ground is raised. The hill will NOT be eliminated, but it will be softened. There will be a portion carved out of the middle. The sides will be softened. The landing area on the west side of the hill will be slightly expanded to accommodate the brook should it rise in poor weather. The end result should be a significantly raised green out of the flood plain, an approach that enables players who have hit good shots to see at least the flag and possibly the green to which they are playing, and a safer area that Rick and his crew have to maintain.

-New Hole #4 – This will be a par 3 and will be roughly 150 yards. The tee boxes will be new and will be slightly north of the current back tees for the current fifth hole. The new green for this hole will be in the area of the hill on the left side of the current 5th hole.

-New #5 – The green for this hole will be the same green that is now the 5th green. But, this hole will become a par 4. You will come off the new 4th green to new tee boxes north of the current 5th fairway. The tee boxes will basically come out of a chute in the woods adjacent to our current 5th fairway.

-Hole #6 – This hole will essentially stay the same. We will improve the green. This will be a much quicker process and will involve peeling the current top off the green and preserving it. The green area will then be shaped in a manner that makes it all usable for a cup. As you know, there are currently few “cupable” areas on the 6th green. The current topping will then be reused. The process is not anywhere near as long as building a whole new green.

-Hole #7 – You have seen the new temporary green. Shortly, we will be using this. It is necessary to raise the fairway approaching the current 7th hole and greatly eliminate the ability of the brook to completely wash out this fairway. Some of the fill for the fairway will come from the hill between current #4 and #7. We won't know how much more fill we will need until this process starts. In addition, there will be another pond (not as large as the new pond on #16) that will be built on the right side of the 7th fairway approaching the green. This is the area where the willow trees were cut. The fairway will be narrowed as you approach the green. You can see all this on the map at the pro shop. The tee boxes for the 7th will be improved. The green will likely remain where it is. If it remains exactly where it is, we may utilize the same process as on #6. Obviously, if the location shifts at all, the green will be rebuilt. As with #6, the end result will be more “cupable” areas and a much improved green.

-Hole #8 – This hole will essentially remain as is. There will be some redressing of the tee boxes. As with #1, we may improve the drainage at some point.

-Hole #9 – The location of the tee boxes will likely remain the same. They will be redressed/improved. The green will either go through the same process as #6, or it will shift slightly and be rebuilt. The end result will be a fairer green with more “cupable” areas and much improved drainage.

-Hole #10 – The new green is great. This fall, we will improve the tee boxes.

-Hole #11 – You can see a couple of new tee boxes already built with sod surrounds. This is just south of the new 10th green. The forward tees will be where the current rear tees for the current 12th hole are. The 11th hole will cross the brook, go up the hill (which will be redressed) and tie into the current 12th fairway. It will approach the new 11th green, which has been built where the old 14th rear tees were. This green is done, but the back of the green still has drainage work and seeding to be done. The new 11th will be the longest hole and will be a par 5.

-Hole #12 – The new 12th hole has rear tees that are where the current 13th tees are located. The forward tee boxes have been built and the surrounds sodded. The new 12th green has been built and you can see it along the east side of the 14th fairway. The new #12 fairway will be redirected this fall toward that new green. You can see some the mounding work just off the current #13 green which will serve as the boundary of the new 12th fairway. There is still some dressing/seeding to be done at the back of the new 12th green.

-Hole #13 – This is a new par 3 being built in the woods west of the current 14th fairway. It is basically done, but still needs a bit of drainage work, irrigation installation, and needs to be sodded and seeded. This hole is actually much farther along that it looks and will be completed this summer. The distance from the back is roughly 160 yards.

-Hole #14 – Once you finish the new 13th, you will exit the green and follow the new cart path around to new #14. The rear tees come out of a chute down in the southwest corner of the property. The forward tees will be built at the top of the hill of that chute. The hole will be 450 yards from the rear tees. The hole is essentially finished and has been seeded. Sod will surround the green later this week.

-Hole #15 – This is basically done from tee to green and we are seeing the grow in. There is a cart path work that will be done from the new 14th to the back tees of #15. There is a bit of drainage work to be done in one of the bunkers.

-Hole #16 – We are playing the new green. The new rear tees are done and will be used next season. The ladies tees need to be built. There is some finishing work to be done south of the green and near the new bridge. This is largely “appearance”, but important work.

-Hole #17 – This is complete. There is still cart path and cosmetic work that needs to be done around the back of the tees and leading to the 18th.

-Hole #18 – The tee boxes are complete and we are seeing the grow in. The new 18th green will be built on the shelf below the current green and will be built this fall.

As ALWAYS, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to come and chat about it to either Judy, George, or Paul Brauner. We encourage that.