City golf operation provides variety, self-sufficiency

Golf

City of Loveland

Different strokes for different folks
Loveland's golf program fits that cliche both literally and figuratively. Every player's stroke is a bit different and the City's golf program offers a wide variety of opportunities to fit the style, timeframe and budget of the many thousands of golfers the program serves.

Loveland's courses themselves embrace the concept of variety — each very different and supportive of different golfing experiences. On the courses, players may walk or use a cart.

Golf in Loveland is big business and Loveland's municipal courses and golf programs are operated like a business. Its revenues cover all its expenses and improvements. No tax money is used. If you don't play, you don't pay.

The golf operation is an Enterprise Fund. An Enterprise Fund within Loveland's city government means that the operation pays for itself totally through the revenues it generates for its use. Like the fees residents pay for the electricity and water they use, golfer's fees for using the courses, carts, lessons, driving range and the like pay for the operation, maintenance and improvements of the courses and program offering experiences.

Roger Lyck, Loveland Golf, says about $4 million a year. Costs total about 80 percent of that. The remaining "profit" is saved for equipment replacement, major improvements and to cover cart paths, bridges, irrigation and pumping system replacement, and improvements to buildings such as the long-awaited replacement of the clubhouse at the Mariana Butte course.

Like a business, golf's customers pay golf's bills. Taxpayers who use the City's tennis courts or library don't help pay for golf. Likewise, players teeing off on the 7th hole aren't helping fund the library or tennis. But they are helping enhance Loveland's recreational offerings, bringing visitors and their wallets into town, and perhaps more than they'd like, supporting the international golf ball hole aren't helping fund the library or tennis. But they are helping enhance Loveland's recreational offerings, bringing visitors and their wallets into town, and perhaps more than they'd like, supporting the international golf ball replacement of the clubhouse at the Mariana Butte course.

Mariana Butte clubhouse will be an upscale grill-style restaurant with 30 seats and 8 chairs, total.

New clubhouse soon at Mariana Butte

When the Mariana Butte golf course opened, the foundation and flooring base for the clubhouse were constructed, but the final phase of the clubhouse was never completed. Now, 16 years later, clubhouse construction will soon begin, replacing the current "temporary" double-wide modular building. Using the existing foundation that houses the golf cart storage and maintenance area on the lower level, the new clubhouse is expected to be completed this fall. The new clubhouse construction will begin in the spring of 2018 and be completed by the fall.

Another addition to the course is a new practice putting green, which was recently completed. The putting green is located next to the 18th hole and is open to the public.

The new facility will cost about $2 million, to be paid for with existing funds from the golf course. During construction, a temporary pro shop and snack bar will be set up at the site.

Loveland's courses quite dissimilar

Aside from their superb condition and value for the golfer's dollar, Loveland's three courses have little in common. And that's intentional.

The Olde Course, the most popular, is the most traditional in character. Considered the "Grande Dame" of Loveland golf, its fairways and lined fairways lead to small, tight greens. Six ponds and an island green on hole #14 make accuracy an important asset.

Formerly the Loveland Municipal Golf Course since it began operation in the 1960s, the name The Olde Course at Loveland was officially adopted in 1995 to differentiate it from the new course — Mariana Butte — that opened in 1992. Set against a backdrop of foothills and alongside the Big Thompson River, challenge and mountainside aesthetics characterize Mariana Butte. Major elevation changes, it's 4.5 star rating (none higher in Colorado), breathtaking vistas, the voices of coyotes and frequent appearances by elk, deer and other friendly neighbors combine to provide the "wow factor" that has brought Mariana Butte a resort-style reputation.

The course attracts players from far beyond Loveland. About 70 percent of the golfers are out-of-towners. The 9-hole, par 3 Cattail Creek course gets plenty of play from beginners, youngsters and players working on their short game. Water is a factor on four holes on a course that's popular for walking and for a quick break from the day's routine.

Tee times can be reserved on all courses for up to eight days, beginning at 7 p.m. the day before the day's routine. Tee times are made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

New clubhouse soon at Mariana Butte

When the Mariana Butte golf course opened, the foundation and flooring base for the clubhouse were constructed, but the final phase of the clubhouse was never completed. Now, 16 years later, clubhouse construction will soon begin, replacing the current "temporary" double-wide modular building.

Using the existing foundation that houses the golf cart storage and maintenance area on the lower level, the new clubhouse is expected to be completed this fall. The new clubhouse construction will begin in the spring of 2018 and be completed by the fall.

Another addition to the course is a new practice putting green, which was recently completed. The putting green is located next to the 18th hole and is open to the public.

The new facility will cost about $2 million, to be paid for with existing funds from the golf course. During construction, a temporary pro shop and snack bar will be set up at the site.

Golf: If you don't play, you don't pay

Except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and a few snow days, Loveland's three courses are open for play. And every year, more than 130,000 rounds of golf are played.

Golf in Loveland is big business and Loveland's municipal courses and golf programs are operated like a business. Its revenues cover all its expenses and improvements. No tax money is used. If you don't play, you don't pay.

The golf operation is an Enterprise Fund. An Enterprise Fund within Loveland's city government means that the operation pays for itself totally through the revenues it generates for its use. Like the fees residents pay for the electricity and water they use, golfer's fees for using the courses, carts, lessons, driving range and the like pay for the operation, maintenance and improvements of the courses and program offering experiences.

Roughly speaking, Loveland golf generates about $4 million a year. Costs total about 80 percent of that. The remaining "profit" is saved for equipment replacement, major improvements and to cover cart paths, bridges, irrigation and pumping system replacement, and improvements to buildings such as the long-awaited replacement of the clubhouse at the Mariana Butte course.

Like a business, golf's customers pay golf's bills. Taxpayers who use the City's tennis courts or library don't help pay for golf. Likewise, players teeing off on the 7th hole aren't helping fund the library or tennis. But they are helping enhance Loveland's recreational offerings, bringing visitors and their wallets into town, and perhaps more than they'd like, supporting the international golf ball replacement of the clubhouse at the Mariana Butte course.

Mariana Butte clubhouse will be an upscale grill-style restaurant with 30 seats and 8 chairs, total.

New clubhouse soon at Mariana Butte

When the Mariana Butte golf course opened, the foundation and flooring base for the clubhouse were constructed, but the final phase of the clubhouse was never completed. Now, 16 years later, clubhouse construction will soon begin, replacing the current "temporary" double-wide modular building.

Using the existing foundation that houses the golf cart storage and maintenance area on the lower level, the new clubhouse is expected to be completed this fall. The new clubhouse construction will begin in the spring of 2018 and be completed by the fall.

Another addition to the course is a new practice putting green, which was recently completed. The putting green is located next to the 18th hole and is open to the public.

The new facility will cost about $2 million, to be paid for with existing funds from the golf course. During construction, a temporary pro shop and snack bar will be set up at the site.