



Butte des Morts Country Club

Course Improvement Planning

Hole 11

Appleton, Wisconsin - USA

February 2024



Dusenberry Design



Introduction

As shared in the message from Club President Paul Roth in recent weeks, the attached imagery is being presented to introduce some of the improvements being considered in the preliminary stages of golf course improvement planning at Butte des Morts Country Club.

The improvement planning has kicked-off and an initial step is defining clear goals and objectives that guide recommendations for hole-by-hole and overall course improvements. A committee has been formed to work with Dusenberry Golf Course Design to further define and refine these goals and objectives. This is an important phase to define the “Why?” and the desired outcomes. This planning process will progress over the next 6-8 months with regular communication to members via the monthly newsletter, and a few informational presentations with varied topics;

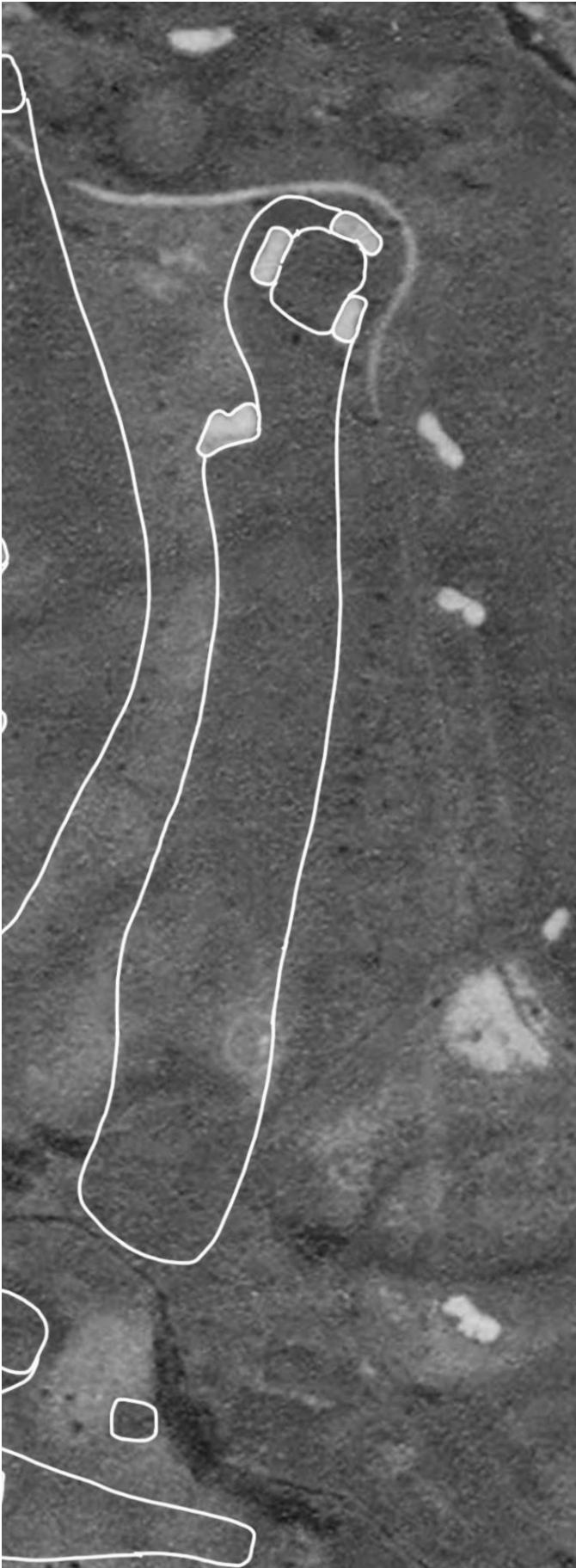
- Butte des Morts CC design history
- Golf course design philosophy of Golden Age courses (1920's-30's) Why is this relevant today?
- Playability and variety in course design
- Industry trends

Hole 11 has been selected in this presentation as an introduction for two reasons. First, illustrative 3D views are great tools for communicating proposed improvements. They bridge the gap between discussion and description and “what will these improvements look like?” This is a useful visualization for existing members, but it is also a marketing tool for potential members. Second, hole 11 was an example hole presented by Dusenberry Design during the golf course architect selection process to help illustrate a design approach, philosophy, and methodology; and how that may be applied to Butte des Morts CC. All of the improvements proposed have clear reason and purpose. Nothing is arbitrary. Improvement plans that deliver inspired golf experiences are equal parts practical and artistry.

Appropriately, Butte des Morts CC is celebrating its Centennial anniversary this year. Inspired course improvement planning becomes particularly relevant for an appreciation of Butte des Morts CC's history and future.

- Matthew Dusenberry, Golf Course Architect

Hole 11 - 1938 aerial with white line-work marking tees, bunkers, fairway, and green.



There are two aerial photos from 1938 that will be referenced as part of course improvement planning. The intent is to understand the original design of the golf course and how those design features have changed over the years. This is not a restoration, but the Golden Age design principles of 1920's Butte des Morts are often still relevant for the majority of golfers today.

The Golden Age design philosophy primarily embraced Strategic Design. A few principles outlined below:

- Provide width and give players room to play.
- Width improves playability and recovery opportunities. Improves strategy (on well designed holes).
- Provide an open playing field with hazards that allow players to find their own way from tee to green.
- Reject the idea that there is one correct way to play the hole to successfully make par. Most interesting holes provide many lines of play, not one clear path from tee to green.
- Accept that there is more strategy in wide fairways with creative green complexes than narrow fairways with many penal hazards.
- Reduce and limit use of long mown rough grass as a hazard.
- Well-designed golf features indicate strategy that is not always obvious, rather, it is revealed through repeat play.



Hole 11 - Aerial photo of current layout



The aerial photo attached illustrates existing conditions. If you toggle back-and-forth in the PDF pages it will dramatically illustrate the changes that have occurred on hole 11 (and the entire golf course) over the last 100 years.

- Substantial narrowing and straightening of the fairway.
- Many trees planted.
- Green size has shrunk and shape has become circular, losing the left to right rectangular shape with corner pin areas.
- Cross-bunker has been removed in the approach
- One forward tee has been added.
- Same overall distance of the hole.

The golf course has lost width, variety, strategy, views, player enjoyment, and overall memorability.

The improvements on the following page look to recapture these Butte des Morts CC attributes.



Hole 11 - Plan View of Proposed Improvements



Greens have shrunk and become more circular, resulting in loss of pinnable area, strategy, variety, short game interest, and aesthetics. The improvement plan proposes to recapture the green surface and shape. Inspired by the 1938 aerial photo. Resulting in improved variety, pinnable area, strategy, short game interest, agronomy, and aesthetics.

The improvement plan proposes removing trees to recapture fairway width and improve strategy, aesthetics, strategy, playability, and turf conditions.

Bunkers have been removed that appear on the 1938 aerial, notably in hole 11 approach. Improvement plans restore this bunker and shifts toward the centerline. This position provides interest on this longer par-4 by giving consequence to a drive on the left side vs. right side of the fairway. The bunkers combined with green orientation provide interest, strategy and memorability to the approach shot and drive.

Note the open approach to the green allows for golf shots to be played along the ground. This is an attribute of golf courses of this era and is a central design element for presenting a playable golf course for many skill levels to enjoy. Conversely, forced carries with no run-up opportunities (exceptions are par-3 holes) have a greater burden on the high handicap golfer than the avid expert player.

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The proposed improvement plan includes more open fairway and rough areas (after tree removals). This provides the opportunity for addition of distinct character mounding that is representative of golf courses of this era. The mounds present a challenge and affect errant shots and are a desirable alternative to costly bunkering. Additionally, sand bunkers are inequitably difficult for high handicap vs. low handicap golfers. Note that the character mounding is carried through at an angle from the rough near hole 8, through the fairway, and into the right rough on 11.

Lastly, the course improvement plan will look to improve variety and playability by adding tees. The course needs to be both shorter and longer. Forward tees are needed as much as additional back tees.

On hole 11, the back tee is combined and expanded. An intermediate tee is added, and the forward tee enveloped into the expanded fairway (still at the top of the slope). With the cart path proceeding up the right side of the teeing grounds, there is also consideration to moving the forward to tee to the right edge of the fairway for ease of access, improved angle, and improved safety.

The following pages include some preliminary CGI Renderings of the proposed improvements for Hole 11.









