

Rogers raises the scale of bunkers at Ruth Lake

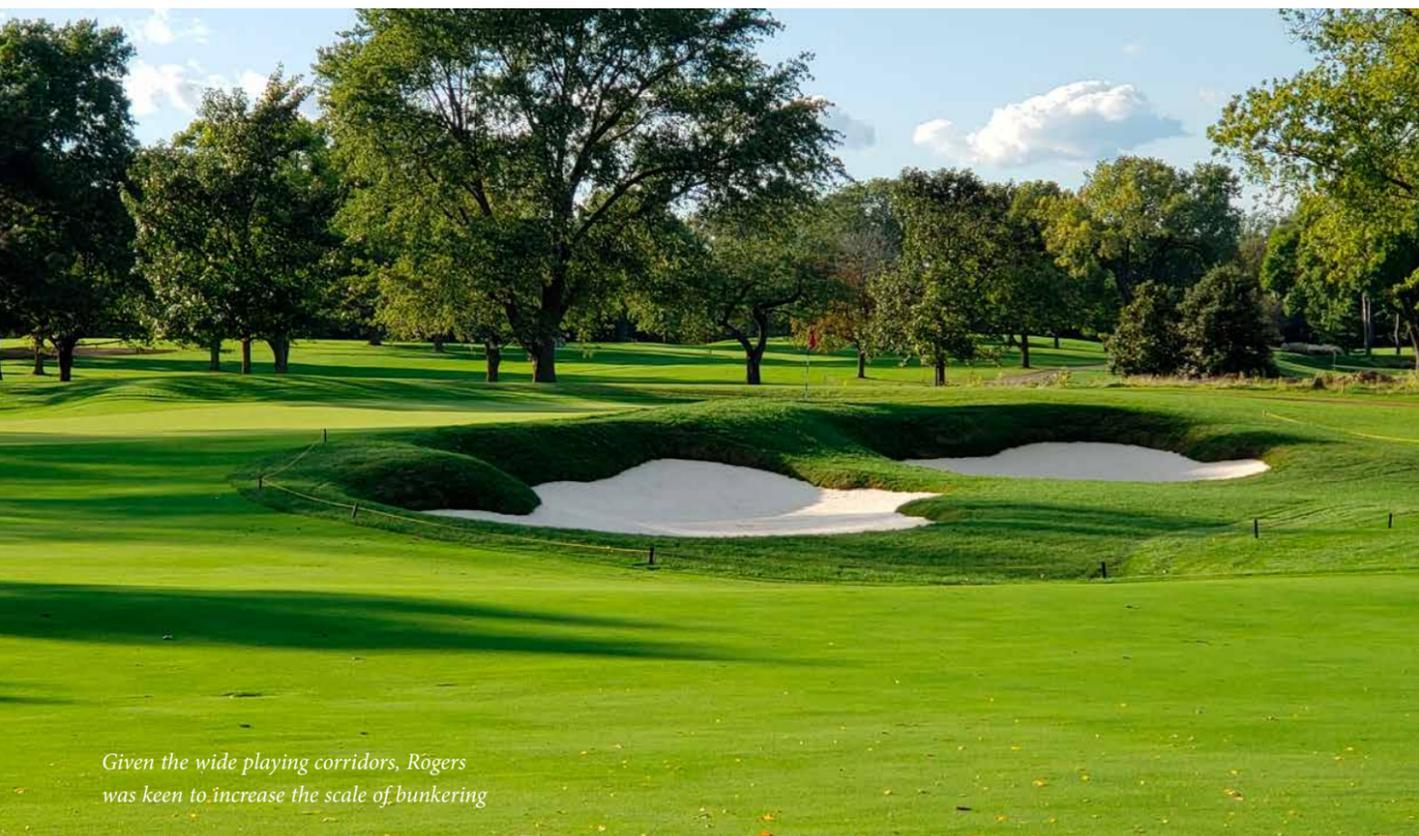
Drew Rogers has completed a bunker renovation project on the layout at Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale, Illinois.

“The direction by the club was really ignited by the need to address infrastructure deficiencies – poor drainage, erosive edges and faces, contaminated sand, and also some loss of architectural integrity,” said Rogers.

“We assessed the architectural intent and effect of the bunkering, both in their strategic placement and overall design aesthetic and style,” said Rogers.



The new cross bunker on the par-five fifth hole



Given the wide playing corridors, Rogers was keen to increase the scale of bunkering

Photos: Drew Rogers

“What resulted was a net decrease in bunkers, but also much stronger integration with fairway edges and green collars.

“I also felt that the scale of the bunkers was particularly weak, given the wide playing corridors that frame the holes. The bunkers just seemed oddly out of proportion, which we addressed.

“We even managed to convince the club to consider a redesign of their eighteenth green complex, and by the time we finished the bunker project, the club had completed a successful vote of approval, which enabled us to move forward.”

Rogers was joined on the project by contractor Leibold Irrigation, bunker liner from Better Billy Bunker and sand supplier ProAngle. Aside from some temporary hole closures, the course remained open throughout construction in September and October.

Rogers said: “The project could not have gone smoother! We were blessed with good weather and an all-star team, including superintendent Dan Marco and his staff, who executed much of the turf stripping and the re-sodding of the completed work areas. A top shelf job management effort was done by Bill Michalski with Leibold Irrigation, including some great shaping by Eric Graudszus and really attentive details by their crew overall.

“I’m pleased that we were so efficient and budget conscious with the work and credit goes to the entire team for prioritising both of those aspects, along with exceptionally high-quality standards. I cannot point to a single hole where our work has not made a dramatic improvement, which has been emphasised by all the great feedback we’ve received from the membership.”

GOOD READ

“All clubs benefit from solid long-range planning programmes”

The latest issue of *By Design* magazine – produced for the American Society of Golf Course Architects by the team responsible for *GCA* – focuses on golf clubs that have successfully adopted a phased approach to renovation work.

“All clubs benefit from solid long-range planning programmes,” said Drew Rogers, who is under way with a thoughtful resurrection of the original Donald Ross design at Kenosha Country Club in Wisconsin. “It’s important for the club to understand where they’re going and why, so they can remain steadfast, focused, consistent and fiscally responsible. By having a solid plan adopted and in place, it becomes the roadmap that is deferred to, no matter how many times the faces change. After all, if the club makes an investment to develop such a plan, it’s like throwing that money away to go in a different direction.”

Others to contribute to the feature topic include Tim Liddy, Kevin Atkinson, Tom Clark, Chris Wilczynski and Dave Heatwole.



To read more, download the latest issue and subscribe to *By Design* via www.asgca.org