

November 2025 Superintendents' Journal

We made it through another summer of crazy weather, with three hurricane near misses, record rainfall events, and numerous days of golf course closures due to standing water and flooding. We managed to complete two of our most important summer projects considering the brutal weather with only a few setbacks.

Green #7 Expansion and surrounding area renovation



Green #12 New green area surrounding area renovation



From the second week in August through the end of October came the bulk of our bad weather. Holes #14,17,1,2,4,5,8 and the driving range experienced the worst of the flooding. Extended cloud cover, extreme rainfall totals and an increasing water table have made for extremely wet conditions, interfering with our cultural practices, agronomics, and general upkeep and maintenance of our golf course.

Pic #1 Fairway flooding



Pic #17 Fairway flooding



Done with the rainy season and a welcome return of the dry season. Sunny skies are back and rainfall totals have decreased and our course has begun to dry out. Thankfully our turfgrass has responded to the improved weather, so late season fertilizers have been applied to help encourage growth and maintain essential available nutrients in our soil for further turfgrass support.

While our turfgrass recovers and fills back in, golf cart restrictions have increased. Please pay attention to course condition reports emailed to our membership by our Head Pro John Bolton. These restrictions are put in place at my discretion, to protect our turf grass, control wear from cart traffic and to ultimately provide the very best golf conditions for our membership.

Perennial Rye Grass will be overseeded into our Bermuda Turfgrass starting the third week of November. As a result of the poor late summer weather and the quality of our 50 yr old native bermuda, overseeding application rates have increased to improve and provide quality turfgrass throughout the winter season.



Pic. Overseeded East driving range tee

The East, West driving range tees, and chipping green approaches have already been overseeded. All remaining tees and select fairways will be overseeded by the first week in December .

Golf cart restrictions will change while our overseed germinates and grows in. Please adhere to these restrictions when posted and stay off the turfgrass with our golf carts. The first three weeks of overseed germination are the most important in securing a solid stand of turf throughout our winter season. Once the overseed has germinated and established itself, cart restrictions will be reduced.

I am incredibly honored to be your Superintendent of Riverbend Golf Club. I take great pride in my job and expect nothing but the best from my entire staff to continue to provide the best golf conditions possible for our membership. Welcome back to all our returning members and guests. Thank you for all your support and enjoy your beautiful golf course.

Respectfully, GCS Jeff Heward