

Richmond Country Club at the Forefront of the “Green” Initiative

If you think a golf course is all green, you’ll have to start thinking differently real soon. Conservation, recycling, preservation, regeneration doesn’t just come naturally, and at Richmond Country Club plenty of effort is going into making itself the new “green”. How do you do that on dozens of acres of trees, flowers, grass...and golfers? Carefully and slowly.

Every year trees are cut down, blown down, or just die. Past practice was to haul them away. Now, at RCC, they’re ground up and used for mulch to help make the flowers grow weed-free, while beautifying the area.



Some of the trees are being transformed into attractive, rustic benches on appropriate tee boxes. But flowers, fairways, greens and everything growing need water; and water is often in scarce supply. At RCC, rainwater fills the three major ponds to provide water needed for irrigation as they flow from one to another and are then directed to the areas needed to keep the course beautiful



To keep the fairways and greens in their top condition requires fertilizers and insecticides. Not all are eco-friendly. So RCC is working with the Environmental Institute of Golf and the Golf Course Superintendents Association to learn what's right and wrong in their effort to go "green". No standards currently exist for determining that a golf course is "green". There are few easy answers. But until you ask the questions and take action, nothing happens.

The green initiative is not reserved just for the golf course. At RCC changes are taking place in the Club House and at the new Aquatics Facility as well. Thermostats are programmed based on a seven day weather forecast to conserve energy. Long-life, low energy fluorescent bulbs are being transitioned to replace the older bulbs. Everything is recycled and all organic debris from the kitchen and shredded paper from the office are turned into compost to use on the golf course. No chlorine is used in the aquatics area.

The iMPACT Classic golf tournament at Richmond Country Club, August 14 – 16, will be the first "green" tournament on the Duramed FUTURES Tour. All tickets will be printed on recycled paper. Special recycle bins will be provided for plastic and aluminum drink containers. The Pro-Shop sells caps and shirts made of recycled plastic and polyester. And yet, all of this effort is just a start. Richmond Country Club is learning to do things right to conserve energy while the professional women golfers exert their energy to win their card on the LPGA tour. Next year the tournament will be even "greener"!