



Originally built in 1952 as a regulation length 9 hole par 36 layout, Center City Golf Course was the first golf course in San Diego county. The course was redesigned in the early 90's by Ludwig Keehn into an 18 hole short course and became known as "Goat Hill" to locals.

Since July 1st 2014 Goat Hill Park has seen a dramatic improvement in course conditions and overall improvements which continues to this day. The management group is lead by local resident and golf industry veteran John Ashworth and his LinkSoul co-founder Geoff Cunningham.

In Winter 2021, the PermaEdge training staff went to Oceanside, CA to train and educate Ashworth's maintenance crew on proper bunker building techniques using PermaEdge.

The plan was to renovate several holes in order to learn the best skills for revetment work using PermaEdge. The objective was to reinterpret bunkers slightly, give them an improved aesthetic, and create a greater challenge to golfers.

EXCAVATION & PREPARATION

Work began on their Hole #10, with a greenside bunker. The area was re-shaped and the size of the bunker reduced. The staff was quick to pick-up the necessary foundation leveling and compaction requirements.

One challenge was excavating the wall angle. Many might think you excavate at a 90 degree angle. In actuality, excavation of the wall is always better when matched to the desired wall angle, in this case 65 degrees. When excavating the first of two greenside bunkers on Hole #7, the wall angle was considered and a closer shape was achieved.

The new challenge was establishing the bunker depth. On the first of the Hole #7 bunkers, the bucket went deeper than needed. Once existing drainage was located, quick work was made getting to the right elevation. With those lessons learned, the second bunker on #7 was excavated and shaped in no time at all.

MOBILIZATION

When working with new teams, getting all of the different tools, supplies, materials and equipment in the right place takes a little time. The Goat Hill staff put things together in short order.

It is always preferable to have what's needed as close to the bunker as possible. But every situation is a little different. On Hole #10, the working area was large, so everything was placed nearby. On Hole #7, the area was tight, so we elected to set-up the backfill process near the shop and shuttle loads to the bunkers as needed.

WORKING TEAM

As a basic guideline, a staff of four to five provides for the best efficiency and performance. Some of the roles involve more basic while two roles are more skilled – wall building (fitting) and finishing (raking and compacting). The Goat Hill staff picked up the roles quickly and went so far as to rotate roles as well.

As the work of wall building begins, each member of the team hones their skills and becomes more efficient. After a few hours, the team picks up both quality and speed. The first bunker is always approached with a quality focus. Improvements in efficiency and productivity are achieved in each bunker that follows.



BUILDING THE PERMAEDGE WALL

The PermaEdge Bunker System has been developed to be a long-term solution to natural turf revetment. As such, we train individuals on the proper methods for long-term integrity as well as proper aesthetics.

We chose to execute a “double set-back” method of fitting tiles, which better mirrors a natural turf look. Careful effort was made to learn final elevation shaping to get the look just right.

At Goat Hill Park, the staff worked diligently on all the skills, constantly checking for proper fitment, setback, and alignment. Over the four day build, skills and speed improved as expected.

John Ashworth was also able to be an active participant, working along side his team to build several great bunkers. As an additional benefit, each team member had the chance to learn and work each of the team roles.

TURF RE-INSTATEMENT

Once the walls were constructed, the finishing works includes bringing in growth soil, adding amendments as needed, fitting an up-side-down sod layer, final shaping, and trimming/fitting final turf.

The Goat Hill team did a great job with re-instatement, having the previous work area almost unrecognizable from the surrounding area.



WRAP-UP

After the PermaEdge Team had left CA and headed home, Goat Hill Park had a visitor the following week. Bubba Watson, who recently signed with LinkSoul, stopped by to challenge the course record.

Although we doubt he actually played into the bunker, John was able to get some photos and video of him playing from one of the new bunkers on Hole #7.

A special thanks to John Ashworth and his entire staff, with compliments on the job well done. We'll be making sure we follow-up on Goat Hill and stay abreast of all the improvements.

