

18th Hole Fairway Improvement Project

Location: The 18th hole features the Thief River as an obstacle separating the fairway and the green. An elevated blue tee box also crosses the river to reach the fairway. The floodplain of the Thief River covers all the 18th fairway, which has been frequently flooded in the past. On average, the course is required to re-seed the fairway every other year. Costing the course and its members at least \$1,000 in materials and labor each time. Plus, this makes the hole unplayable the way it is intended to be for some or all the summer, negatively affecting youth golf and cross-country programs, all member and non-member golfers, the courses income and all the organizations that use the course to raise money through events.



Project Description: The golf course has begun working on a solution to reduce the damage caused from the floods on the 18th fairway. The work will involve re-shaping the fairway and raising it up to four feet from its lowest points. This will significantly increase the chances that the playing surface will remain above high river levels, keep the desirable fairway grass intact, improve the golfing experience by allowing golfers to use the hole more often, and save the course money by decreasing the frequency of the staff having to re-seed the hole. Plus, this will improve the courses financial stability by attracting more out-of-town visitors and keeping more local golfers in town to play our course.

Progress Update as of 2/20/23:

Permitting – Approved and completed.

Delineation cost= \$1,000	Complete
Mitigation cost= \$18,400	Complete
Floodplain No Rise Certification cost= \$11,000	Complete

Construction – Mostly done with some touch up work required in the Spring before “Turf Establishment”.

Tree removal and earthwork= \$32,290	\$16,145 spent, rest due upon completion.
Turf establishment cost= \$6,000	\$0 spent, last step of project, need to raise more funds.

Funding – \$59,980 raised.

- Total projected cost= \$68,167.
- Current gap in funding= \$8,187.
- Ideally, we will fund the entire project through donations to avoid adding stress to the course budget and its members.

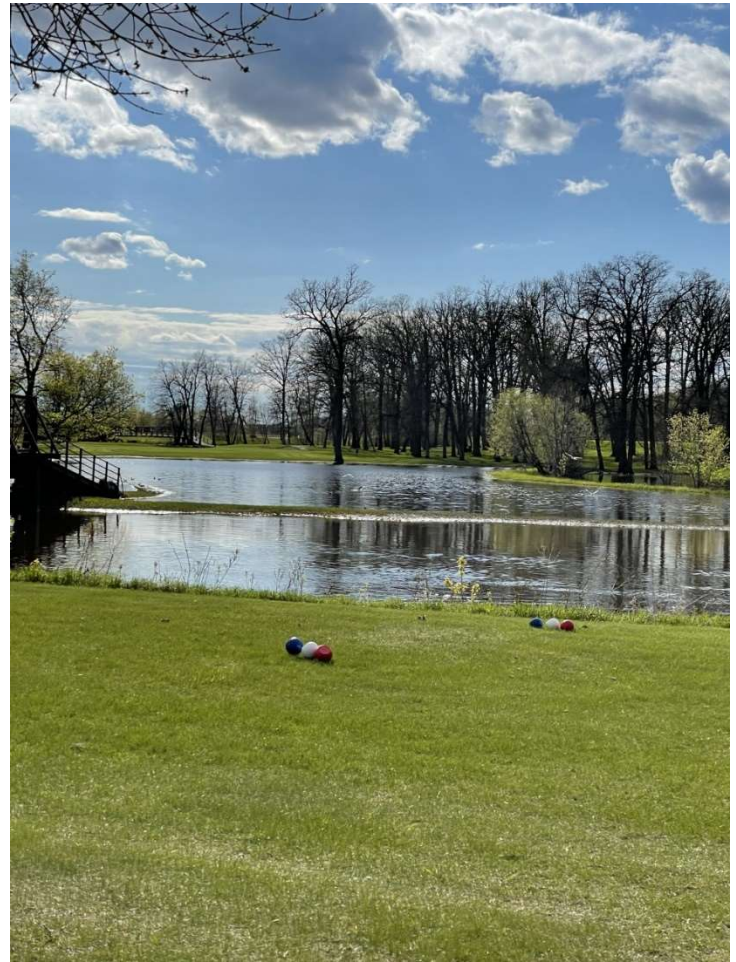


Hole 18 on 4/23/22 ^

Hole 18 on 5/22/22→

Notice the brim of land separating hole 18 and the river?

The intention of this project is to raise the fairway about three feet above that brim of land, so it is crowned. That way at this water level we would be able to see the fairway and water would run off it naturally post project. Greatly increasing the chances of maintaining the quality of grass and golfer's ability to play the hole even on the worst flooding years. Not only would this decrease the amount of time that the fairway is underwater, but it would also decrease the amount of garbage, sediment, mud, and etc. that ends up resting on the fairway and killing the grass. Therefore, saving the course money by not having to re-seed the fairway every other year. This would also seriously impact the courses financial stability on flooding years because when the course cannot open all 18 holes or when all 18 holes are not available to play at a quality level. Non-member and even member golfers are more likely to play at surrounding courses like Red Lake Falls, Crookston, Warren, Erskine, and etc. Consequently, the higher the quality of our course and the more often all 18 holes are playable, the more local and non-local patrons we can attract to play the course. Plus, the more often the course is fully playable, the more often it can host youth and fundraising events for local non-profit organizations.



These pictures are from June 7th, 2022. Notice the river levels have dropped but there is still water and sediment sitting on top of the mud that should be the 18th fairway? Also, notice that the grass around the fairway on the far side of the picture is green and healthy?



Due to the bowl nature of the 18th fairway, the grounds crew must pump the water off the fairway before they can clean it of debris. Once, that is complete they can then get to work with re-seeding it with an unknown timeline of when the hole will be playable again the way it is meant to be. They had to pump it dry and clean it four times this year alone.

To whom does the course provide value?

30 Junior Members	4+ Middle and Highschool golf events	4 Junior PGA Events
Hopefully adding a parent/kid night	2-4 Middle and Highschool cross country events	Friday morning Junior League
16 golf events that help raise money for local organizations	7 19 th hole events like weddings or class reunions	Monday Digi-Key League
Tuesday Women's League	Wednesday Men's League	265 total members
Plus, thousands of local and non-local non-member golfers each year		

Note, these numbers can fluctuate from year to year, but these are our current best estimates.

All donations are encouraged and appreciated. We intend to recognize our biggest supporters with a permanent plaque to be installed on hole 18 after the project is complete as a sign of gratitude. The below tiers of support are being recognized on the plaque.

Red= \$500-\$1500	White= \$1,501-\$4,999	Blue= \$5,000+
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All donation over \$500 should be made to the "Thief River Falls Athletic Association. PO Box 184, Thief River Falls, MN 56701" in order to be tax deductible. All donations under \$500 should be made directly to the golf course. Please write hole 18 project as the memo for all donations.

Thank you for your time and thank you to our current Sponsors!

Blue

Sayler Dental Lee Plumbing & Heating Dondelinger Foundation
Lunke Family Thief River Falls Athletic Association (Sports Boosters)
Hartz Foundation

White

Chad Broadwell

Red

Scott Fricke Drew and Brittany Erickson Ben Sayler Cory Anderson
TRF Mini Storage Brady Martz TRF Area Community Fund