

Master Improvement Plan
LAKE WILDWOOD GOLF CLUB
Penn Valley, California

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Lake Wildwood Golf Club is now in its fourth decade of operation and has reached a stage where a comprehensive review of the entire course is appropriate to assess its direction for the future. The individual components of a golf course have life cycles that require upgrading and replacement over time to provide the quality playing conditions expected of the membership. In addition, the evolving make-up of the membership combined with the dramatic changes that have occurred in the game of golf since the opening of the golf course in 1973 provide additional elements to be considered in this process. A master plan working group was formed consisting of a broad cross section of the membership along with the golf course management team. A series of guiding principles and key objectives was developed by the group to provide direction for this process.

Guiding Principles

- **Enhance enjoyment of all golf skill levels and improve overall quality of the golf experience.**
- **Increase course playing capacity.**
- **Preserve the classic design of the course.**
- **Enhance overall golf course maintainability.**
- **Address liability and safety concerns.**
- **Improve shot values, playability and aesthetics.**

Key Objectives

- **Identify and mitigate areas of poor drainage.**
- **Evaluate sand bunker placement, size and playability.**
- **Evaluate teeing grounds for adequacy considering size, placement and turf and soil conditions.**
- **Evaluate green complexes for adequacy considering size, placement and turf and soil conditions.**
- **Develop one landscape “look” in a manner which fits course character with proper tree planting.**

This narrative accompanies the graphic “Master Improvement Plan” to assist in clarifying the various issues and proposed solutions. There are ten primary areas addressed: the tees, the bunkers, the greens, addition of fairway mounding, the practice

facilities, the fairway drainage, the irrigation system, the trees, the cartpaths and the establishment of native grass areas. Each of these items will be discussed in general, followed by a detailed hole-by-hole discussion and finally a discussion on implementation.

TEES – Lake Wildwood suffers from a common ailment with many older courses, that being a lack of adequate teeing surfaces. There is a wide range of golfing ability in the membership primarily in the distances that tee and approach shots can be hit. Distance is by and far the number one issue in terms of the ability to enjoy the golfing experience as it relates to a particular player's ability. Having the possibility to reach every hole in regulation as to par should be made available to all players. Never being able to reach a hole in regulation on even your best day can be very discouraging. Presenting teeing options to accommodate this thus becomes a priority. Additionally, the ability to spread out play over a wider area is critical to the ability to maintain quality playing conditions.

On the vast majority of the holes the length variances from back to front on the existing tees are only 30 yards. On those holes where greater variety exists those ranges get up to 50 yards at the most. It is common in modern design to have variances on a particular hole in the 80 to 100 yard range. This problem has been a topic of discussions for some time within the membership. The development of a forward tee program was initiated in 2003, thoroughly discussed, specific locations and sizes reviewed and a set of plans and specifications were developed in 2004 to implement this program. A total of ten new forward tees were outlined on holes # 3, # 4, # 6, # 7, # 8, # 10, # 12, # 13, # 14 and # 15. All of these new proposed forward tees are incorporated into this plan.

There have been some challenges experienced in the new forward tee discussion primarily centered on what to distinguish them by and the fact that distances between the existing tees and these new proposed forward tees appeared so vast. Even though they would have a much more enjoyable golfing experience, many feel this to be a bit condescending to be asked to move so far forward. Moving beyond the existing "Red" tees and their unfortunate "gender" connotation as the "women's" tees further compounds the problem. The goal is to develop teeing options for all levels of play that have no relationship to gender. There are increasingly wide variances in playing abilities amongst women just as there are with men and the ability to play the tees of your choosing should apply to all. Additional teeing options are proposed to be developed between the new proposed forward tees and the existing to bridge this gap and provide options that are appropriate for the broad spectrum of the membership. Additionally, par is proposed to remain constant on every hole from each set of tees, thus teeing options have been adjusted to account for this. Having a particular hole be a different par from a different tee further complicates the entire discussion about moving play to the appropriate teeing ground to match your playing abilities and thus enjoyment of the game of golf.

The current course is somewhat short from the back tees by today's standards at 6,522 yards from the Blue tees. Additional lengthening options have been addressed in this review where possible. Conversely 5,748 yards from the Red tees is considerably long. Once the new tees are implemented and the course is re-rated, the proposal is to switch the current tee designations to get the membership past this issue. The back tees

are listed as “Gold”, the next set up the “Blue, then “White”, with the forward tees designated as “Red” on the plans. Getting completely away from color designations is another option. Bottom line, there is a widely divergent mix of playing levels within the membership that is not being adequately served at this time and these proposed tee additions and re-naming are centered on correcting that deficiency.

Traditional rectangular tees are proposed in the additions and reconstructions which aid in proper alignment to the target areas and fit with the overall “classic” design approach for Lake Wildwood Golf Club.

BUNKERS – One of the essential elements in the strategy and aesthetics of a golf course is the use of bunkering to define the shot required, to defend pin placements on the green, and to add visual drama and beauty to the golf course. The technological changes that have occurred in the game of golf since the inception of Lake Wildwood are dramatic, with tee shots in particular traveling further than was ever conceived in the early 1970’s. Many of the current fairway bunkers have become obsolete and only come into play for the shorter hitters. To respond to this increasing length, an assessment of the bunker placement and strategic positioning is appropriate to present a golf course, which now is “short” in overall length by modern standards, as a fair test of golf.

The existing course has a total of 57 bunkers which are predominantly centered around the greens. In fact there are only a total of 8 fairway bunkers on the entire course in the current layout, most of which only come into play for the shorter hitters being situated in the 210-230 yard range from the back tee. These bunkers are slated for removal with replacements at the appropriate distances to come into play for the longer hitters while providing visual definition and aesthetics for all levels of play. In other areas fairway bunkers are proposed to be removed as the existing landforms and stands of trees sufficiently define the shot. Many of the greens are “over” bunkered especially a number of the bunkers situated behind the greens and are proposed to be reduced in number to provide greater variety in the recovery shots.

All bunkering on the course has been assessed in this process for rebuilding, removal, relocation or addition and are proposed to be developed into a cohesive, “classic” style with sweeping faces and descending grass noses in keeping with the timeless traditions of golf. The total number of bunkers is proposed to be reduced to 49 from the current 57 with 25 removed, 25 rebuilt, 17 added and 7 to remain as is. Artistic bunkering that is well positioned and elicits strategic challenge while adding aesthetic beauty to the golf course will be the element that presents Lake Wildwood Golf Club as a refreshed golfing experience to the membership.

GREENS – Greens are the heart and soul of a golf course. The quality of their playing condition is the primary consideration of the members and the primary focus for the maintenance staff. The existing greens are the originals which opened for play in 1973. Generally speaking, properly constructed USGA greens have up to a 30 year life expectancy. In general the greens appear to have been properly constructed and have performed well over the years with a few notable exceptions. On-going maintenance practices have assisted in overcoming any deficiencies that the greens possess, but the

substructure of the drainage system and the seedbed mixture is the lifeblood of greens and they are increasingly showing signs of age that can only be corrected by reconstruction. The greens on holes # 2 and # 3 have been particularly troublesome in recent years and should be at the top of the list in consideration for replacement.

The recommendation is to reconstruct all of the greens to complete USGA standards. There are several vastly superior varieties of bentgrasses that have come into the market in the last decade. The newer varieties are denser, upright growers, which thrive on less water and nutrients, thus allowing them to out-compete *Poa annua*, as well as providing a superior putting surface.

FAIRWAY MOUNDING – When Lake Wildwood was constructed in the early 1970's the only golf course features created for the most part were greens, tees and bunkers. This was a common standard for golf course construction during that era. The natural characteristics of the remainder of the site generally remained as found. Hilly areas remained as such and flat open areas did as well. Modification of those landforms to add visual definition, enhance drainage, soften or enhance slopes, which has been standard practice in the golf course industry for the past twenty years, was simply not undertaken in most cases primarily due to budgets. Lake Wildwood was developed in this “minimalist” manner and has since relied primarily on tree plantings over the years to provide the desired definition to the holes. In addition to fairway bunkering, the addition of mounding can add considerable interest and definition with minimal costs associated.

The addition of fairway mounding is proposed in select locations which serve to add visual definition to the holes, visually screen cartpaths and roads beyond and deflect errant shots from finding a worse fate. This mounding combines with the proposed new fairway bunkering to add considerable visual definition to the golf course and add to the strategic interest and challenge. Currently on many of the par 4's and par 5's, trees are the only definition to the holes off the tee and on approach shots. Trees come and go whereas landforms remain throughout the life of the golf course. The type of mounding envisioned would range in the 4 – 8 foot tall range with gently sloping side slopes to blend with the existing terrain. They are very easy to develop requiring essentially only imported fill and shaping by a golf course feature specialist. They can be situated in most cases to avoid the existing irrigation system. New fairway mounding is proposed on # 1, # 4, # 6, # 7, # 12, # 15, # 17 and # 18. In addition mounding is proposed behind the greens on # 1, # 8, # 13 and # 14 to aid in visually back dropping the green and screening roads and cartpaths beyond.

It is recommended that mounding additions on a specific hole be conducted at the same time as any fairway bunkering on that hole as the two work together strategically and for visual definition.

PRACTICE FACILITIES – The practice facilities have been addressed throughout the life of the club and in general are in good shape. The practice range tee has been reconstructed in recent years, the putting greens addressed and the new chipping facility with Tour Turf targets and tees constructed in 2003. The primary items in need of

attention are the target areas in the practice range and separation of the range from adjoining golf holes # 1 and # 2.

Practice ranges have evolved since the inception of Lake Wildwood, from merely hitting into a large field of turf, to incorporating elements in the target area that are more reflective of the challenges posed on the golf course that allow players to work on more precision shots during their practice sessions. Development of target greens including bunkers allows for “real” targets in terms of scale and landform versus a mere colored flag situated in a large turfed area. Four target greens are proposed, staggered at different distances, with a single bunker proposed to be developed at three of those greens.

A real conflict currently exists with hole # 1 paralleling the left side of the range with hole # 2 beyond the far end and only a smattering of trees being the separation between the two uses. The downhill nature only adds to this problem as errant shots more easily travel off line into the adjoining golf holes. The addition of fencing and or netting has been pursued by the club in the past with conflicts with homeowner standards precluding as such at this time. One solution that can add tremendous visual definition to the range and assist in the separation of uses would be the planting of dense groves of Redwood trees down the entire left side of the range and across the end to provide in essence a “living fence” between the range and the adjoining golf holes. The addition of these trees would be recommended even if there was a fence to soften the harsh visual nature of fencing for both the golfers and the surrounding homeowners. Redwood trees are unique in that they are relatively fast growing, yet deep rooted and long lived. They can easily grow to be over 100 feet tall with dense foliage that serves to knock down errant shots. A total of 81 Redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are depicted on the plan and implementation of this program is encouraged to start this year as real benefits will not be seen until after several years of growth.

FAIRWAY DRAINAGE – The overall gradients of the fairways and roughs generally remain intact from the course’s inception in 1973. Standards of quality, construction methodology and budgets in golf course construction were far different then than they are today. Generally speaking, only greens, tees and bunkers were developed and the remaining landform was whatever existed. Hilly areas remained as found and flat areas that were poorly drained remained as well. Surface runoff was the norm with minimal amounts of drainage piping installed. The lay of the land was what it was and the resulting seasonal dry and wet areas as a result were tolerated. Lake Wildwood Golf Club was largely developed with this approach.

The entire course was analyzed in this process for both existing surface gradients and distances runoff is expected to move to reach an outfall. Generally speaking, surface gradients less than 3% are considered insufficient in modern golf course design. These areas do not sufficiently move runoff water, which over time leads to saturated conditions. Generally speaking, virtually all of the golf course contains sufficient surface grades to provide for adequate runoff and thus do not pose a problem.

The challenge at Lake Wildwood lies in the distances that runoff is required to move across the golf course, regardless of the surface gradients. In modern design, runoff is generally captured and directed to a collection point at distances of 200 feet maximum. There are numerous areas on the existing course where runoff is required to travel 3 to 6

times these desired distances across the course itself. Compounding this situation is that many of these areas are also transporting additional runoff water collected from the surrounding development above these same areas further compounding the problem. The result is low areas that become overly saturated resulting in poor playing conditions. Many of these areas occur in fairway landing areas and green approaches further compounding the problem.

The proposed solution to this situation is the addition of subsurface drainage piping combined with surface inlets to capture this runoff and direct it across the fairways to desired outlet points. Specific areas identified include fairway and rough areas on # 2, # 5, # 6, # 7, # 10, # 12, # 13 and # 17. This system is proposed to be sized to collect the “nuisance” water after a storm situation recedes, with heavy storm flows still running across the surface after system capacity is reached. This allows for getting the course back into acceptable playing condition after a storm event without creating excessive costs with large pipe sizes.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM – The current irrigation system for Lake Wildwood Golf Club has been updated in stages over the life of the course. However, the mainlines, which are the heart of the water delivery system, remain in place from the original installation in the early 1970’s. Thirty years is considered the outside limits of life expectancy for this piping and signs of stress, with leaks and breaks, have begun which will increase over time. Mainline breaks have the most damaging affect on a golf course as entire sections of the course must have their water supply shut down to make repairs.

The lateral pipelines off of the mainlines were replaced in the mid 1980’s, some 15 years after initial installation. Their life expectancy is also in the thirty year range at the outside limits and they would need to be replaced in the same process as the mainlines.

The irrigation control system and heads were replaced for the second time in the mid 1990’s. These components generally require replacement in the 10-15 year range and have already been replaced twice during the first 25 years of the courses operation. They too would be replaced with the remainder of the system.

Thee irrigation pump station was replaced in 1998 and would not require replacement when the remainder of the system is replaced in the next few years. Life expectancies on pump stations are in the 15 – 20 year range.

The summation of all these parts points to a replacement of the entire irrigation system, excluding the pump station, in the near future.

TREES – Lake Wildwood Golf Club was developed in the midst of the predominantly native Oak hillsides of Sierra foothills which dominated the landscape in the surrounding hillsides and in many areas of the golf course itself. The surrounding residential community is now nearly built out, other plant varieties have been introduced, yet this dominant native Oak landscape theme remains throughout the entire development. Over the years, a number of non-native trees have been introduced to the golf course landscape with Italian Cypress and Mulberry trees being the prevalent varieties that stand out in contrast to this landscape. The Italian Cypress were introduced primarily as 150 yard

markers with one planted on either side of the fairway which was common practice in those days. Unfortunately there were apparently a number of extra Italian Cypress still available and many were planted as individuals directly behind greens for some reason. These trees are appropriate in a formal garden setting or in a dense urban area, but in a large scale native landscape like Lake Wildwood they sorely stand out as being completely out of place. They are so egregious in their appearance that they actually distract from the landscape versus enhancing it. All 31 are slated for removal from the golf course. On many holes they have already disappeared as 150 yard markers. This one step alone will have more bearing on enhancing the aesthetics of the golf experience than virtually anything else that is outlined.

Mulberry trees were another introduced species to the golf course that are inappropriate in this setting. They are fast growing, shallow rooted, low branching, high maintenance, short lived trees. Golf course trees require certain growth characteristics including deep rooting and high branching to allow for the ability to maintain quality turf conditions and allow for play from under their canopies. Several Mulberry trees are identified in the plan for removal that are currently impacting play. Over time as they deteriorate, they should be removed and replaced from the palette of Oak trees.

The proposal over time is to return to the original roots of Lake Wildwood Golf Club that are still the highlights of the club today, with a significant number of native Oak trees reintroduced, especially on site lines where hillside backdrops are prevalent, in order to return to the golf course landscape blending into its surroundings. These trees are deep rooted and long lived and will add immeasurably to the unique qualities of the golf experience at Lake Wildwood. A total of 98 new Oak trees are depicted on the plans. The native varieties that should predominate the plantings should include Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*), Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*) all of which can be found on the property. In addition some of the introduced Oak tree varieties have performed well and could be considered in limited numbers in manicured turf areas where a large spreading tree would be appropriate and some Fall color can be obtained such as Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*).

Trees are living things that have their individual life cycles. Planting new, caring for the existing and removing old will always be part of the management of a golf course. The removal of the identified non-native species that have been introduced and enhancement of the native Oak landscape will add immeasurably to the overall aesthetics of the golf course and enjoyment of the golf experience.

CARTPATHS – A full length, six foot wide, concrete cartpath system was installed in the early 1980's on all but holes # 13 and # 14. In general they remain in good shape and should hold up well for several more years. There are several areas slated for relocation to accommodate proposed course modifications. Thirty years is generally the outside limits of life expectancy for concrete paths and thus with them now some twenty years old, consideration will need to be made for their replacement in future years when they begin to deteriorate. Holes # 13 and # 14 remain primarily in asphalt which has deteriorated and are in need of replacement with concrete.

As areas are repaved or replaced, consideration should be given to implementing eight foot wide concrete carpaths which have been the industry standard for many years. Paths of this width meet the needs of the maintenance equipment and golf cart traffic. Six foot wide paths invariably receive wear on the adjoining turf in many locations as they are not sufficient to contain all the traffic they receive. Quality turf conditions can be maintained along eight foot wide paths which simply is not possible throughout the golf course with six foot wide paths.

NATIVE GRASS AREAS – There exists numerous areas throughout the golf course that are out of play and are proposed to be converted to native grass areas. Many of these proposed areas do not have irrigation coverage and thus transition out to barren areas as the summer months arrive. The current process has been to mow these areas down to the ground once they have dried out resulting in an unsightly barren appearance.

The proposal is to convert these areas to native grasses and allow them to grow to their full height providing texture and color contrast to the adjoining maintained turf. These areas also provide beneficial wildlife habitat in a community well known for being good stewards with the flocks of wild turkey and herds of deer that inhabit the property. Aside from these benefits, converting these areas removes them from any active maintenance, thus reducing costs.

Implementation would begin in the fall as the rain season commences to outline the areas and maintain a mow line on the perimeter to define the areas. Irrigation heads that currently exist inside these areas should be removed and heads that are situated along the perimeters should be converted to part circles to confine coverage to the maintained turf. The proposed outlines follow irrigation coverage where possible to assist in this. In areas adjacent to homes, a minimum 20 foot buffer of mowed turf is proposed to be maintained between the property line and the golf course. The majority of these perimeter mowed buffer areas are currently devoid of irrigation coverage and consideration could be given to installation of part circle irrigation heads along the property boundaries throwing back into the golf course in these specific areas adjoining native grasses. Over time, a blend of native grasses including *Meadow Barley*, *California Brome* and *Anderson Wild Blue Rye* can be seeded into the native areas to assist in their conversion and appearance. Wildflowers can be added into these areas as well if desired. Cultivating the areas and applying seed in the fall will allow for the winter rains to germinate the seed and have them flourish in the spring.

A total area of over 12 acres has been depicted on the plans which would remove a significant amount of acreage from both irrigation coverage and on-going maintenance.

Hole by Hole Proposals

The following describes in greater detail the primary items proposed on each hole as shown on the plan:

Hole # 1 (304 yards, par 4)

- Expansion of the two back tees to increase teeing space and improve alignment to the landing area.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Addition of mounding both left and right of the landing area to define the fairway and deflect errant shots away from the carpath on the left and practice range on the right.
- Reconstruction of the two bunkers fronting the green to enhance their visual appeal and playability.
- Removal of the two bunkers behind the green to be converted to mounds to aid in green definition.
- Removal of the three Italian Cypress trees currently back dropping the green. To be replaced by a grove of native Oak trees to visually blend with the naturally wooded hillside beyond and add separation to hole # 2 back tee.

Hole # 2 (349 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a 5-6 ft. hedge between the road and back tee to create separation and privacy for the golfers.
- Removal of the Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Addition of drainage piping with catch basins to capture surface runoff across the fairway between the landing area and green.
- Reconstruction of the green complex. This green has been a particularly poor performer in recent years and is in need of replacement.
- Addition of Oak trees right of the green to add visual definition and separation from the expanded turf nursery on the right.

Hole # 3 (165 yards, par 3)

- Removal of the overgrown “hedge” behind the back tee and replacement with appropriate shrubs that can be maintained at a 5-6 ft. height to create separation from the road and privacy for the golfers on the tee.
- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Reconstruction of the green complex. This green has been a consistent poor performer in recent years and is in need of replacement. Proposed to be relocated back to add some 10 yards to the hole thus creating some variance in length with the par 3 holes on the course. Back left portion of the green proposed to be situated at the top of the slope looking down at the lake below after removal of two Oak trees currently in the slope.

- Existing stairs to be removed which conflict with play in the new green location.

Hole # 4 (512 yards, par 5)

- Addition of a new tee in front of the current back tee to provide an option for the same hitting out of a “chute” feel to the tee shot that occurs from the back tee. Requires re-routing of a portion of the channel around the right side of this new tee.
- Expansion of the current middle tee to increase teeing options as well as reducing wear to this heavily used tee.
- Addition of a new forward tee beyond the lake. (2004 plans)
- Addition of mounds along the cartpath short right of the first landing area to assist in screening the cartpath and deflecting errant shots away from the path.
- Addition of a new fairway bunker on the right side of the fairway beyond the landing area (285 yards from back tee) to add visual definition as well as strategic challenge for the long hitters on this wide open tee shot.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Addition of mounding with Oak tree plantings on the right side of the fairway between the first landing area and the green. Adds visual definition to the hole as well as aiding in screening the cartpath from view.
- Addition of a new fairway bunker on the left side of the hole some 70 yards short of the green. Adds visual definition to the hole as well as strategic challenge to the lay-up second shot on this uphill par 5.
- Conversion of the large out of play open area right of cartpath into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, increases wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Removal of the existing bunker short right of the green to be replaced with mounding and Oak trees to define the hole and aid in screening the cartpath and #5 tees.
- Removal of the Italian Cypress tree right of the green which detracts from the natural wooded hillside beyond.
- Reconstruction of the two bunkers fronting the green to enhance their visual appeal and playability.

Hole # 5 (474 yards, par 5)

- Addition of drainage piping with catch basins to capture surface runoff across the fairway beyond the landing area. Drainage system begins in two locations in the existing swales left of the hole combining in a single drain line that traverses across holes # 5 and # 6 to outlet right of # 6 tees.
- Addition of a grove of Oak trees right of the landing area to add visual definition and strategic challenge to this short par 5.

- Addition of a new fairway “carry” bunker on the right half of the fairway some 70 yards short of the green. Adds visual character and strategic challenge to both those attempting to reach the green in two shots as well as those laying up.
- Reconstruction of the two left side green bunkers into a single large imposing bunker. Places a real premium on the approach shot for those attempting to reach the green in two shots on this short par 5.
- Addition of a new “pot” bunker guarding the front right of the green.

Hole # 6 (434 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Addition of a new middle tee between the existing tees and the new proposed forward tee to provide a range of teeing options.
- Removal of three Mulberry trees located in front of and beyond the right side fairway bunker that are restricting visibility and impeding play.
- Reconstruction of the right side fairway bunker to improve visual appeal.
- Addition of a mound on the left side through the landing area to aid in defining the tee shot.
- Addition of drainage piping and catch basins across the fairway beyond the landing area. (Continuation of the drainage system beginning on hole # 5)
- Reconstruction of the left side fairway bunker to create a true “carry” bunker some 30 yards short of the green. Adds visual appeal and strategic challenge to the approach shot to this green.
- Removal of the lone Italian Cypress tree directly behind the green that distracts from the natural wooded hillside beyond.

Hole # 7 (410 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Addition of a new middle tee between the existing and new proposed forward tee to provide a range of teeing options.
- Addition of drainage piping with catch basins in the swale in front of the existing tee. (Conclusion of the drainage system beginning on hole # 5)
- Addition of a group of Oak trees right of the cartpath at the beginning of the fairway to add visual definition to the hole.
- Removal of the Italian Cypress 150 yard marker tree on the right side of the hole.
- Addition of a new fairway “carry” bunker on the left side of the fairway to challenge tee shots attempting to cut the dogleg. (240 yard carry from the back tee) Requires removal of the existing left side Italian Cypress 150 yard marker tree and an adjoining pine tree where the bunker is proposed to be located.

- Addition of drainage piping with catch basins to collect surface runoff beginning left of the green, traversing down the left rough and crossing the fairway at the landing area.
- Addition of a new “target” bunker on the right side of the hole through the landing area to define the tee shot and together with the new proposed left side “carry” bunker add visual interest and strategic challenge to the tee shot. (Located some 295 yards from the back tee)
- Addition of a mound on the left side of the hole between the landing area and green to add visual definition to the fairway in this open area.
- Relocation of the green behind the existing adding some 20 yards to the hole. Existing right front greenside bunker to be reconstructed to create a “carry” bunker for the green approach some 20 yards short of the proposed relocated green. Together with a new right front greenside bunker on the proposed relocated green adds considerable visual appeal and strategic challenge to the hole.
- Removal of existing left greenside bunker to open up a fairway approach into the new proposed relocated green.
- Removal of the lone Italian Cypress tree left of the green that detracts from the natural wooded hillside beyond.
- Addition of a grouping of Oak trees behind the green to add definition to the green while blending with the wooded backdrop and softening the view of the homes behind the green.

Hole # 8 (405 yards, par 4)

- Removal of the two Italian Cypress trees located on either end of the back tee.
- Extension of the back tee to gain some additional yardage.
- Restoration of the current forward tee to gain additional teeing options.
- Addition of a new forward tee (2004 plans)
- Conversion of the out of play area right of the tees into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, increases wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Removal of the right side fairway bunker situated some 210 yards out from the back tee. Addition of a group of Oak trees in the removed bunker location to define the tee shot. Fairway proposed to be expanded up the slope towards the former bunker to allow tee shots to work down off the slope.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Re-grading of the fairway as it transitions down to the creek crossing to make it receptive to holding either long tee shots or lay-up shots.
- Expansion of the creek towards the green with sporadically placed boulders in the far slope to accentuate this dramatic feature that contains the natural waterfall to the left. Brings the creek into view from the landing area.
- Addition of a new right front greenside bunker to define the green and capture errant shots from traversing right of the green onto the cartpath and then out of play.

- Removal of the back left greenside bunker to be replaced with a mound with Oak tree plantings to aid in a more enhanced backdrop to the green and create screening and separation from the road.

Hole # 9 (155 yards, par 3)

- Addition of a 5-6 ft. hedge between the road and back tee to create separation and privacy for the golfers. Extension of this hedge proposed down the left side of the tee to create screening and separation from the driveway of the adjoining home.
- Removal of the railroad tie wall and combining of the current back and forward tees into one large teeing space at the same level to increase teeing area on this par 3.
- Reconstruction of the left front greenside bunker to enhance its visual appeal and playability.

Hole # 10 (400 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Addition of a new middle tee between the existing tees and the new proposed forward tee to provide a range of teeing options.
- Addition of drainage piping and catch basins to capture surface runoff across the fairway between the tees and landing area.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Reconstruction of the left side green bunker to enhance its visual appeal and definition of the green.
- Removal of the back right greenside bunker. To be filled to match the slope coming down towards the green.

Hole # 11 (170 yards, par 3)

- Addition of a 5-6 ft. hedge between the road and back tee to create separation and privacy for the golfers.
- Addition of a single Oak tree in the open area between the cart crossing and the back tee.
- Expansion of the back tee to create additional teeing area on this par 3.
- Addition of a new forward tee to provide additional teeing options.
- Reconstruction of the green complex extending the green back, adding some 10 yards to the hole. Group of three frontal bunkers proposed in the surrounding slopes to define the green and capture errant shots from a worse fate.
- Relocation of a segment of cartpath to accommodate the new green location.

- Conversion of the out of play area right of the cartpath into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, increases wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Add a group of Oak trees in the native area to further enhance the visual definition of the hole.

Hole # 12 (382 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new forward tee (2004 plans)
- Addition of concrete cartpath from the existing path over to the new forward tee to provide access to both the tee and the irrigation pump station.
- Conversion of the out of play area right of the cartpath adjacent to the tees into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Addition of drainage piping and catch basins to capture surface runoff across the fairway between the tees and the landing area.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Removal of the left side fairway bunker to be replaced with a series of mounds planted with Oak trees. Mounding and trees serve to define the fairway and deflect errant tee shots away from the lake.
- Removal of the existing clumps of ornamental grasses and installation of a stacked rock wall across the entire green side of the lake from the dam to the bridge to stabilize the slope and create visual definition of the water hazard.
- Removal of the front right greenside bunker as the slope up from the rock wall will tie into the green in this area.
- Reconstruction of the left greenside bunker to enhance its visual character and definition of the green.
- Addition of a lone Oak tree in the slope back right of the green to enhance the visual backdrop.

Hole # 13 (403 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new back tee which adds some 30 yards to this currently short par 4 providing additional play options.
- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Relocation of the cartpath beginning at the new forward tee up until tie-in with the existing concrete cartpath some 100 yards short of the green. This section is old asphalt path that has been slated for replacement. Cartpath proposed to be relocated some 30-40 feet up the slope on the left to remove the cartpath from play of the hole.
- Expansion of the fairway left up the slope beyond where the existing cartpath to be removed is located. Similar reduction of fairway on the right side to move the fairway off the slope down into the swale right of the hole. The shifting of the entire fairway to the left makes for a much more playable hole.

- Addition of drainage piping with catch basins to capture surface runoff across the fairway between the landing area and the green.
- Removal of the dense Juniper shrubs that come into play short right of the green which capture errant shots resulting in lost balls.
- Removal of the group of four Mulberry and Maple trees short left of the green that are impeding play.
- Reconstruction of the bunker on the front left of the green and addition of another bunker in the area where the trees were removed to add visual interest and strategic challenge to the hole.
- Addition of a “pot” bunker guarding the front right of the green.
- Removal of the elongated bunker behind the green to be replaced with mounding to screen the cartpath and deflect errant shots back towards the green.

Hole # 14 (470 yards, par 4)

- Addition of a new back tee in the slope behind the cartpath. Adds a unique teeing option as well as some 40 yards of additional length.
- Removal of the lone Oak tree directly behind the existing back tee to allow for extending this tee back to create additional length and playing options. Adds some 10 yards in length from this teeing area.
- Cartpath from the tees to Lake Wildwood Drive has been slated for replacement from asphalt to concrete.
- Addition of a new forward tee. (2004 plans)
- Removal of the two fairway bunkers in the slope above and left of the landing area. Fairway to be extended some 30 feet left up the slope where the bunkers are removed to present a far more receptive tee shot on this longest of the par 4's. Similar reduction in fairway off the side slope down the right side of the hole where balls currently traverse down the slope into the swale. The shifting of the entire fairway to the left makes for a much more playable hole.
- Conversion of portions of the out of play low swale area between # 13 and # 14 into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Relocation of the bridge crossing the creek to the left out of the line of play.
- Relocation of the cartpath beyond the new bridge location away from the green allowing for the creation of an expanded fairway approach into the green.
- Removal of the large tree located in the creek bank that is conflicting with visibility into the right side of the green.
- Reconstruction of the right front greenside bunker to enhance its visual appeal and definition of the green.
- Removal of the lone Italian Cypress tree located behind the green which detracts from the visual backdrop.
- Removal of the three bunkers located behind the green to be replaced with mounding to define the green and screen Lake Wildwood Drive beyond.

- Two oak trees added back right of the green to add to the visual backdrop of the green and assist in screening the road and home beyond.

Hole # 15 (550 yards, par 5)

- Extend back tee back to provide additional teeing options on this par 5.
- Add grouping of Oak trees in the slope behind the back tee to create separation from Lake Wildwood Drive and serve as a visual backdrop to # 14 green.
- Remove existing Italian Cypress tree located left of the back tee.
- Extend the current forward tee towards the fairway gaining some 30 yards in teeing area to provide additional teeing options.
- Addition of a new forward tee.(2004 plans)
- Removal of the existing right side fairway bunker located some 220 yards from the back tee. Fairway to expand over into this removed bunker area.
- Addition of a new fairway bunker on the left side beyond the first landing area (290 yards from the back tee) to add visual definition as well as strategic challenge for the long hitters off the tee. Section of cartpath relocated to accommodate this bunker.
- Conversion of the out of play area between #15 and #16/#17 tees into a native grass area. Adds visual contrast, increases wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Groupings of Oak trees proposed on both sides of the hole from the first landing area to the green to provide visual definition.
- Addition of mounds on the left side of the hole between the first landing area and green to provide visual definition to the hole as well as screening the cartpath from view. Section of cartpath relocated to accommodate these mounds.
- Lowering of the raised area in the fairway to enhance visibility into the second landing area and green.
- Removal of the group of trees right of the raised area to be replaced with a large fairway bunker. With the trees removed the green becomes visible over this new bunker from the first landing area providing dramatic visual character and strategic challenge on the second shot of this par 5.
- Addition of a new fairway bunker through the second landing area on the left side of the fairway to visually define the end of the fairway as it sweeps to the right towards the green. Section of cartpath relocated to accommodate this bunker.
- Removal of three Italian Cypress trees located left, right and behind the green that detract from the visual appeal of the hole.
- Reconstruction of the two right front greenside bunkers into one large dramatic bunker that blends visually with the new right side fairway bunker adding visual definition and strategic challenge to the green.
- Removal of the existing bunker located some 15 yards behind the green. Filled to become mound to aid in definition of the green.

- Group of Oak trees proposed behind the green to add visual definition and soften views of the homes behind the green.

Hole # 16 (173 yards, par 3)

- Restoration of the former tee in front of the back left tee. Adds additional teeing space and play options on this par 3.
- Addition of groupings of Oak trees on the right side both in front of and behind the existing grove of oaks to add visual definition to the hole.
- Reconstruction of both the left and right greenside bunkers to enhance their visual appeal and definition of the green.
- Expansion of the green back right to create a usable and very interesting pin position.
- Removal of the lone Italian Cypress tree located directly behind the green that distracts from the visual appeal of the hole.

Hole # 17 (455 yards, par 4)

- This hole has been played as a very short par 5 and has been “creatively” listed as 471 yards from the back tee. Reality is this hole measures 455 yards from the back tee, a solid par 4 length, when measured by the same standards as the other 17 holes. What has occurred over the years in an attempt to address the lack of length, has been a series of attempts to “trick-up” the hole by narrowing the fairway off the tee with a grove of trees planted down the right side and the addition of a Mulberry tree to the right and a fairway bunker left to squeeze down the approach to the green and force a lay-up shot for most players. The proposal is to convert this hole to a par 4 which is appropriate for its length and make modifications from tee to green in accordance.
- Addition of two new forward tees to accommodate all skill levels to play this hole as a par 4.
- Addition of three mounds down the left side of the hole adjacent to the cartpath to assist in defining the fairway and screening of the cartpath.
- Addition of several Oak trees down the left side to add visual definition to the hole and assist in softening views of the adjoining homes.
- Removal of the grove of trees that have been planted in recent year’s right of the landing area. A new fairway bunker is proposed some 250 yards from the back tee in the area where the trees would be removed to define the fairway and add strategic challenge to the tee shot.
- Fairway to be expanded to the right towards the new bunker to create a receptive landing area for the tee shot.
- Filling of the low swale in the midst of the landing area to improve playability. Surface runoff to be captured in the area left of the cartpath with a catch basin connected to the existing subsurface drainage that passes under this fairway area to be filled.

- Addition of a fairway bunker on the left side, well beyond the landing area, to add visual definition to this dogleg right hole. Located some 330 yards from the back tee.
- Removal of the existing fairway bunker short left of the green to allow for more receptive approach shots into the green.
- Removal of the lone Mulberry tree that is impeding visibility into the right side of the green. Grove of large Oak trees located right of this tree serve to define the hole.
- Removal of the two small bunkers left of the green to be replaced with mounding to define the green, deflect errant shots back towards the green and screen the cartpath. Fairway approach to be enlarged towards these mounds to open up the entrance into the green.
- Reconstruction of the existing right front greenside bunker and addition of a second companion bunker to create a visually dramatic approach into the right side of the green.
- Addition of three Oak trees in the slope behind the green to enhance the visual backdrop.

Hole # 18 (377 yards, par 4)

- Reconstruction of the entire tee complex to create a series of four tees that stair-step down the hillside to open up views of the fairway from each tee and eliminate the current blind tee shot situation on the closing hole of the golf course. Current cartpath would remain in place with the forward tees cut down below path level as they move forward.
- Conversion of the large out of play areas both left and right of the hole into native grass areas. Adds visual contrast, wildlife habitat and reduces maintenance.
- Removal of the two Italian Cypress 150 yard marker trees.
- Relocation of a section of cartpath left of the landing area to allow for mounding with oak tree plantings to be installed for definition of the fairway and separation of the cartpath from play.
- Reconstruction of the three greenside bunkers to create more visually dynamic bunkering on this finishing hole.
- Addition of a lone Oak tree right of the green next to the cartpath to add definition and soften the views of the pro shop.

IMPLEMENTATION – The various elements of this Master Plan for Lake Wildwood Golf Club lend themselves to varying methods of implementation and sequencing. There are numerous elements that can be addressed “in-house” by the maintenance staff including tree removals, tree planting, hedge planting, select bunker removals and native grass area establishment. The remaining elements require specialty contractor involvement including green, tee and bunker construction, drainage installation, cartpaths and irrigation system replacement. Even the individual items in the list to be performed by specialty contractors can be performed by different means. For instance, irrigation system replacement dictates at a minimum replacing nine holes at a time and most likely all eighteen holes under one contract. Green reconstruction can be addressed in phases with three holes being the recommended minimum, thus dictating six phases of three greens each, with six greens during each phase for a total three phase project as the next option with two phases of nine holes each being the other option. Aside from cost, the primary debate in phasing green reconstruction is impact to on-going play during the process. Spreading that impact out over six phases, which most likely means six years, places the course into an on-going cycle of disrupted play which is often not desirable in a private club setting. The three phases of six holes each cut the overall process in half and two phases of nine holes each reduces the impact to two seasons.

Tee construction is less disruptive than greens as existing tees can remain in use or temporary tees can be established that are satisfactory far easier than temporary greens. Lake Wildwood was ready to proceed in 2004 with plans and specifications prepared to perform all of the new proposed forward tees in one phase. With the great need for additional teeing options on the course, taking on the tee program in either two nine hole phases or all eighteen in one phase would be the recommendation.

Bunker work, both reconstructed and new, have their own issues that vary to a degree. Green reconstruction would include the entire green “complex” which includes the surrounding bunkers. New or reconstructed fairway bunkering is preferably conducted in similar phases as greens, three hole minimum up to all eighteen in one with the primary difference being to conduct all bunker work proposed on an entire hole in one phase so that golfers can experience the results in a collective fashion. The vast majority of the fairway bunkers interrelate with each other strategically and visually and thus need to occur at the same time. Additionally, concentrating work in a group of adjoining holes reduces course impacts to a limited area and allows the contractor to be far more efficient and less disruptive to on-going play. Any proposed fairway mounding should be incorporated on a specific hole at the same time as the bunker work occurs as they are interrelated in the visual definition of the hole and both involve similar construction impacts with the importation of fill and use of the same equipment to create.

As Lake Wildwood Golf Club moves forward and determines its priorities, specific scopes can be developed that follow these general outlines or may combine several elements on a series of holes during the same phase.