

Golf Committee Annual Report

2023 Golf Season

Prepared by: The Golf Course Committee

OVERVIEW

Southborough Golf Club (formerly St. Mark's Golf Club) is a 9-hole links style golf course open to the public and owned by the town of Southborough. Originally opened over 120 years ago, the course covers approximately 55.7 acres of land in the center of Southborough held in a conservation restriction by Sudbury Valley Trustees, Inc. and the Southborough Conservation Commission. There is a Management and Maintenance Agreement in place for daily operation with New England Golf Corporation through December 31, 2026. Southborough Golf Course is working on Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Certification for golf courses (ACSP for Golf).

Course Updates in 2023

The primary goals of course updates are public safety (keeping as many balls as possible inside the course boundaries) and the eco-friendly recreational golf experience for Southborough residents and the public.

1. Relocation of tee boxes on holes 6 and 7 to direct balls away from Latisquama Rd.
2. Additional fencing along Latisquama Road
3. Paving of driveway and parking area
4. Forward tee box re-sod on hole 5
5. Completion of practice cages and putting green
6. New electric golf carts and new manual pull-carts
7. Improved signage for golfers both to and on the course

Utilization

The operation of the Golf Course is based upon a system in which the Town receives an amount equal to 12% of the gross revenue up to \$550,000, and 20% of the gross revenue in excess of \$550,000. Town golf course revenue goes to a revolving fund used to support

asset improvement and maintenance.

Course usage has increased annually since the Town acquisition:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Rounds	18,609	20,240	22,411	23,121
Gross Revenue	\$441,583	\$517,935	\$600,238	\$679,555
GC Fund	\$52,990	\$62,152	\$76,048	\$91,911

Highlights include the active and growing Women’s League with 67 individuals participating, which accounted for 783 rounds in 2023. The town recreation department offers youth golf lessons. The annual Golf Fore ALS program supported by New England Golf Corporation, contributes a generous portion of Heritage Day Weekend greens fees to ALS One. The course property is available to the public for appropriate off-season use, such as sledding and snowshoeing.

Course Goals for 2024

1. In progress
 - a. Bunker refurbishment throughout course
 - b. Drainage improvements on #1
2. Planned
 - a. Replace course irrigation system
 - b. Cart path repair on #3
 - c. Additional protective barriers along the Latisquama Rd. boundary

CONCLUSION

The Southborough Golf Course continues to be a valuable open space and recreational asset for the town. The Golf Course Committee would like to thank the town residents for their support. A special thank you to Town Administrator, Mark Purple; the Southborough Select Board; Southborough Women’s Golf League Coordinator, Lynne McKay; Conservation Agent, Melissa Danza; and Sudbury Valley Trustees Land Managers Kristin O’Brien and Dan Stimson. Additionally, the Committee recognizes the continued cooperation and collaboration provided by New England Golf Corporation.