

Sharing the Golf Course with GCM Team

By: Wayne Slaton, Golf Course Superintendent

As a golfer parks in the parking lot before the sun rises, they eagerly await daylight while the maintenance team starts mowing and setup of our golf course for the day. I always wonder what the early customer is thinking when they tee off before one can see the golf ball land. What would be the hurry, and why play as fast as you can?

I understand the enjoyment of the sunrise and getting to play right after a fresh mowing of the greens, yet some play past the mowers. Some golfers even slow down the mowers. In the peak season, our maintenance team starts at 5:00 a.m. and we do some projects such as the Air2G2 even before 5:00 a.m. so we can finish the entire course the same day. Our objective is to set up the whole golf course for everyone, yet some customers skip to the back nine, or have private lessons, and then it's those with 15 golf balls on the green just using it for practice. We need the course clear to be able to mow and set up the golf course. We are just trying to mow the golf course for everyone else that is coming out to play that day.

The maintenance team is moving as fast and safely as possible and are doing their best to keep quality as we set up the golf course for ALL customers for the day. We are glad everyone gets to enjoy our golf course. We all just need to make sure to allow the Golf Course Maintenance (GCM) team to do what needs to be done to keep our golf course in good shape. This is also why some weekdays, mostly Tuesday, we start play on #10 so we have time to mow the roughs on the front 9 before customers are on the same hole as the mowers. I really appreciate those early regulars that understand and allow us to prepare and groom our golf course. I look forward to saying good morning, offer a smile, and a friendly wave. If time allows, listen to what they have to say for a quick moment, sometimes between accomplishing our morning tasks.

We ask that you not hit into our GCM team while they are performing maintenance on the golf course. Give us a chance to make that last pass on the mower, finish setting that cup location, finish blowing debris off the green.... so you can make that putt right behind us.

We on the GCM team want to do the best we can to help all enjoy the most important shot.... The next one.

See the image below from the USGA about playing golf along with the maintenance team. Look forward to seeing you on our golf course in the mornings with a good morning, a friendly wave, and maybe even a golf clap for a great golf shot. Enjoy!

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/58/15/why-do-mowers-follow-me-around-the-course-.html>

Sharing the Golf Course with the Maintenance Staff

Help keep the maintenance staff safe during your round



What You Need To Know

-  Being struck with a golf ball can cause serious injury.
-  Make sure workers see you before hitting.
-  Always yell fore if your shot is headed toward a person or out of sight.
-  Be patient while maintenance workers move out of your way.



Some maintenance equipment is **NOISY** and the staff may not hear you.

WAVE to get their attention or **WAIT** until they are safely out of the way.

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