



### **BJGCF Environmental and Community Sustainability Initiatives**

The Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation (BJGCF) is committed to community and environmental stewardship in providing an area of enhanced enjoyment for golfers as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. Our commitment is demonstrated in the following key focus areas:

- Water quality, water savings and stream bank restoration and stabilization
- Healthy tree preservation and replanting of over 150 trees and many more plants
- Wildlife attraction and protection of flora and fauna
- Neighborhood outdoor amenities enrichment
- Collaboration with neighbors and organizations with mutual interest in our community

BJGCF is excited about the vast improvement in greenspace the new golf course will bring to the community. We are committed to continued investment in time and resources in the areas above and to overall leading practices in golf course environmental management. Additional information about our areas of focus is below:

#### **Water Quality, Savings and Erosion Abatement**

- ★ Approximately 4 acres of impervious surface (current hard surface tennis courts, driveway and parking lots) will be removed from the flood plain and will be replaced primarily with grass and landscaping.
- ★ Subject to permitting approval, portions of the Tanyard Creek stream bank will be graded to form more stable slopes and re-vegetated with Meyer Zoysiagrass. The current stream bank vegetation is dominated by Kudzu (non-native highly invasive vine) that does not protect the bank from erosion. The Meyer Zoysiagrass will provide the necessary root system to aid in protecting the stream banks from erosion.
- ★ We are adding bio-detention areas that will reduce peak water runoff/flows, encourage infiltration and improve water quality during rainfall events—a challenge the location has had for many years.
- ★ Based on current modeling, after our renovation, the flood storage capacity of the flood plain portion of the course will increase by more than 15,000 Cubic Yards of water.

- ★ A new 5 million gallon irrigation lake will be built to avoid tapping into the City water supply for long-term irrigation needs. The new lake should also help attract additional wildlife to the area.
- ★ The new golf course will use 40% less water than the old course because we are planting Tif Tuf bermuda fairways, a new turfgrass strain that is more drought resistant than those found on golf courses today.
- ★ Our golf course superintendent Kyle Macdonald, a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy and Soils and Turfgrass Management, is committed to leading environmentally friendly golf course practices. We are utilizing the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation ([www.ggefound.org](http://www.ggefound.org)) best management practices for both water quality and environmental stewardship, which are endorsed by the Georgia Golf Course Superintendent's ([www.ggcsa.com](http://www.ggcsa.com)) of which Kyle is a member.
- ★ The Department of Watershed Management (DWM) recently has been awarded a grant to restore and stabilize parts of the banks of Peachtree Creek, an effort that we supported. We appreciate that erosion along the creek has been a long-term problem. We will continue to work with DWM and the Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy (AMPC) on efforts to restore and stabilize the section of Peachtree Creek that runs through the golf course.

#### **Healthy Tree Preservation and Replacement**

- ★ Some tree removal was necessary to accommodate the improved golf course layout—and for each healthy tree removed we are replanting at least one new tree with an emphasis on native trees and others that will be hardier and aesthetically pleasing.
- ★ In addition, a large number of trees were identified by our arborist that were not in healthy condition, including several that had poor root structures and were hazardous in high wind conditions. We have removed those unhealthy and unsafe trees.
- ★ Specifically, before construction began, BJGCF engaged Arboguard to perform an audit of all the trees on the property greater than 12 inches in diameter. Arboguard identified 1,182 trees on the property, of which only 143 (12%) were in Good condition—the rest were Fair, Poor or Dead. In all more than 40% of the trees were Poor or Dead, including many of the Water Oaks located in the lower part of the course. The deteriorating tree canopy was the result of a lack of attention and resources over the past many decades since the golf course was built as well as normal tree life spans. We are committed to focusing on preservation and replanting as many trees and shrubs as possible (considering course layout, safety, and availability of funding) in the years ahead. The Arboguard report is posted on our website.
- ★ As part of our current landscaping plan for the new parking deck and maintenance facility alone (excludes other areas of the course where we will also add trees), we will plant over 150 new, healthy trees. Planting will occur as soon as practical based on availability of trees of choice, seasonal planting guidelines and status of funding.

- ★ We also will plant a number of new trees as part of the renovated design and landscaping for Golf House, the clubhouse to be built in phase two of construction. This will be accomplished over time in consultation with landscape professionals.
- ★ Our future plans will include other landscaping projects throughout the property, including the relocated cell tower. In all of these efforts, we will endeavor to provide a diverse mix of trees, primarily native varieties that will be consistent with Atlanta's growing environment. We are also consulting with Trees Atlanta to obtain feedback on our plans.
- ★ Again, BJGCF is committed to preserving every healthy tree we can without adversely impacting the golf course. Any removals required solely to accommodate the golf course layout are being replaced and many additional trees are being replanted overall.

#### **Attracting Wildlife/Improving Other Flora and Fauna**

- ★ In addition to our significant investment in trees, we will be planting many additional shrubs, flowers and grasses that will improve the landscape both environmentally and aesthetically, and should attract birds, bees and other wildlife.
- ★ We have named our courses Magnolia and Azalea in recognition of the importance these particular plants have in our community (including the golf community). We will endeavor to have areas of planting that highlight these beautiful plants and others and will seek donations to enhance the landscaping in a way that focuses on hardy native plants as well as seasonal blooming.
- ★ We have joined Syngenta's U.S. Operation Pollinator Program and will be planting wildflowers and other pollinating plants in the northeast corner of the course to enhance bee populations (which have been on a decline around the world). Refer to [www.greencastonline.com/operationpollinator](http://www.greencastonline.com/operationpollinator) for more information on this program.
- ★ We are planning to be an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course and seek its related certification. We have joined the Audubon program and will be receiving guidance in the areas of environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, water quality management, and outreach and education. Refer to <https://www.auduboninternational.org/acspgolf> for additional information on this program.
- ★ As noted above, we believe the addition of an irrigation pond will contribute to attracting additional wildlife.

#### **Neighborhood Outdoor Amenities Enrichment**

- ★ We are partnering with the PATH Foundation and AMPC to complete the trails around the course, which will encourage walking and biking. The entire trail system, including the Beltline trail and new sidewalks in the park west of Northside Dr., will comprise more than 5 miles of uninterrupted trails upon ultimate completion.

- ★ We are also working with PATH, AMPC and GDOT to allow the PATH to go under the new bridge on Northside Drive, avoiding the dangerous intersection at Woodward Way/Sagamore.

### **Collaboration with Community**

- ★ We are committed to collaborating with Bobby Jones Golf Course neighbors and various community, civic and governmental organizations for the long-term success of the project and betterment of the community.
- ★ Organizations with whom we have collaborated or consulted and/or with whom we will continue to collaborate or consult, some of which are referenced above, include:
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    - Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy (AMPC)
    - Atlanta Beltline
    - Audubon International
    - City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
    - Collier Hills and Collier Hills North neighborhood associations
    - Friends of Bitsy Grant
    - Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
    - Georgia State Golf Association (GSGA)
    - Georgia State University
    - Memorial Park Neighborhood Association
    - PATH Foundation
    - Peachtree Battle Alliance
    - PGA of America, Georgia Section
    - Shepherd Spinal Center
    - Springlake Neighborhood Association
    - YMCA, YWCA, Boys Club of Atlanta

### **Other Considerations**

We appreciate that lighting is of interest to neighbors and can also impact wildlife. The new parking garage will have lighting in accordance with zoning code safety requirements. Other safety-related lighting will be installed as necessary around the facilities; however, no other lighting is planned either on the driving range or the course itself.

If you have questions or feedback about our plans or would like to make a contribution to our landscape fund, please email us at [info@bjgcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bjgcfoundation.org).

**BJGCF Mission Statement:** Our mission is to transform an obsolete, dangerous golf course named after the most iconic figure in golf into a facility worthy of his name that will become the home of golf in Georgia, including a reversible 9-hole course designed by Bob Cupp, state of the art practice facilities, the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame, and

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programming designed to grow the game of golf with a specific focus on juniors and adaptive/accessible golf.