



NEWS RELEASE

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SAMMONS GOLF LINKS IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

(Temple) – One of the hottest questions being asked around Sammons Golf Links regards when the renovations to the golf course will begin. As part of the 2007 Parks Bond Election, \$350,000 was dedicated to improving the golf course. While almost all the other projects that we identified in the bond package have been completed, the work is yet to begin at Sammons Golf Course.

“The staff has been working with the City Manager to determine the best time to begin the projects,” said Parks and Leisure Services Director, Ken Cicora. “We want to time our improvements with the first phase of the Bird Creek Sewer Project that will also be going through the golf course. Exact dates for the closure of the golf course are still being determined.”

In the meantime, the course is open and course conditions may be better than ever.

“Rumors of our closure have been exaggerated,” joked Golf Director Steve Schoch. “I think some people may be confused about the renovations, so we are working to make sure that everyone knows that we are still open and are going to be open through the end of this year.”

Schoch says that in the year that he has been in his position, the conditions of the course have improved dramatically.

“We have a brand new superintendent, Jeremy Wilson from the Great Hills Country Club down in Austin, working on the course,” Schoch said. “Last fall we over-seeded the greens, and the conditions are better than I have ever seen them.”

Schoch encourages local golfers to come out and give the course a try – when we finally get a break in the weather.

“I think people have seen the plan for improvements that the course is going to undergo next year, and much of that work will be to improve the greens and lengthen the course,” Schoch said. “But let me tell you, you don’t need to wait until then to enjoy a nice game with your friends.”

“The greens have gotten much better than where they were a year a half ago.” avid golfer David Gifford said. “They were just not good at all. The grass was dying or already gone.”

“It’s just so much more fun to play now,” Gifford continued. “The greens are better, and you have a better chance of getting a good score.”

Lynn Owens has been playing golf at Sammons for years and serves as a member of the Temple Parks & Leisure Services Department’s Golf Course Advisory Board. She says that the improvements to the course have been striking.

“I was amazed at the difference in play! I would say that in the last three months or so I have seen definite improvements.” Owens said. “The greens are so much better, and you do not see any of those bare spots. It has just really progressed.”

Owens stresses the importance of greens to the experiences of golfers.

“You know, a golfer can put up with a lot of things, but when they get on the green, they expect good conditions there.” Owens said. “If the greens are bad, people are not going to come out and play.”

Owens also points out that the improvements to the course may have a major impact on future programming at Sammons Golf Links.

“In the last year or two, we have reluctantly decided not to have a major woman’s tournament at Sammons because of the greens.” Owens said. “This year, we will be hosting our Halloween classic at Sammons again, with between 60 and 80 women.”

“I am pleased with the progress at the golf course. It compares well to the other area courses now. I play quite often and the greens are in much better shape than they have been in a long time,” said Daryl Riegel. “We just need the weather to cooperate a little so that us golfers can get out and enjoy Sammons.”

“It has been a rough fall and winter for Temple golfers”, said Cicora. “When the weather begins to cooperate, I would encourage anyone who is interested to stop out at the course and see Steve. He will be able to share with them visually the improvements we will be making to the course over the next year.”

For more information about the Sammons Golf Links course, call 771-3208 or visit www.golfsammons.com. To arrange an interview, contact Marketing Coordinator James Stafford at (254) 771-4134.



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