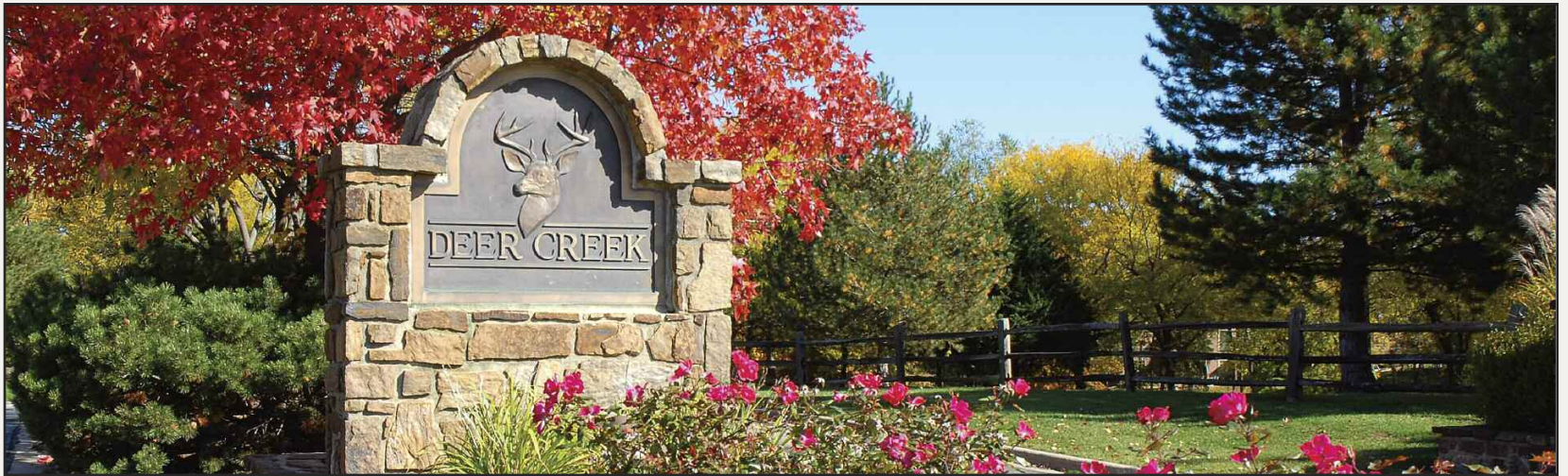




Play KC: Deer Creek

Looking Out From the Clubhouse at Deer Creek

Smooth Rolling (Greens) in 2011



A million bucks can buy hundreds of thousands of golf balls. It can buy countless drivers, oodles of putters, and don't even try to contemplate the number of tees you can purchase. But at Deer Creek Golf Club last fall, a million bucks bought 18 new, fantastic greens, and they are ready to play in 2011.

Deer Creek has always had a phenomenal layout, and golfers love the creek, the trees, the tee boxes, fairways and the upscale feel of the amenities. Over the last eight years or so, however, the greens have slowly been taken over by poana, "which are basically weeds," Jeff Miller, General Manager at the club, said. "We had a world-class facility with bad greens," he said. "Not a good combination to have." No matter what they tried, the greens would die off for a couple of months in the heat of summer.

Eagle Golf who manages Deer Creek, knew what they needed to do. So in September of 2010, the project began to restore their greens to optimal playing standards. They worked to take off the top five inches of the greens to start, then had them re-sodded. Twenty loads of bent grass A4 sod later — shipped from Dallas to Overland Park in refrigerated trucks — the transformation began.

Deer Creek hired experts to roll down the sod, and when you step onto a green out here today, you'll see for yourself. "The company we bought the turf from put down the sod for us. They also do NFL stadiums," Miller said. "So we had the best sod layers working for us."

One of the great things about the grass that Deer Creek had installed was that it came in large rolls, so they could sod the greens with a minimal amount of seams to work with. "I think they reduced the seams by 60%," Miller said. And you can tell. It made a huge difference.

Within two months, all of the greens were finished, and the fall weather cooperated with the grass, providing rain and optimal temperatures that contributed to the establishment of the fantastic new greens. In November, people lined up waiting to experience the updated course. And the response was phenomenal. "Everyone loved the new greens," Miller said.

Coinciding with the new greens came part two of the project, renovating the greenside bunkers. Over time, the drainage below the sand had plugged up with mud and clay, so the bunkers would fill with water after heavy rains. Not good. Customers would even complain of losing their balls just by hitting five feet off the green.

To remedy the situation, they took out all of the sand, reworked the drainage by putting in a synthetic liner to keep the clay from working its way in, and rebuilt the bunkers so the water drains away as intended. "The state-of-the-art synthetic liner is new technology, and keeps the mud and clay out of the bunkers," he said.

Many golfers were actually reluctant for Deer Creek to invest in the greens and bunkers projects. They were afraid that the money involved would raise the prices. Not so. They have maintained their rates even with all of the improvements. "We have very attractive rates, \$49 for weekdays, \$59 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday," Miller said. For the quality of the course, Miller puts Deer Creek's prices up against any course in the metro. "People always say we have the best layout in town," he said. Premiere course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. even says Deer Creek is "One of the best 10 golf courses I have ever built...."

The clubhouse also represents quality. It's a great place to hold a business meeting for breakfast or lunch, then have the entire group play a round later in the afternoon. "After the meeting's over, they get out and play some golf together. It adds to the experience. We have everything ready for them. So if you're a golfer, and a business person, what a perfect day," he said.

With two large banquet rooms, each holding over 225 guests, the Deer Creek clubhouse also makes a great place for weddings and parties. They can even hold two at once, with no overlaps.

The course is ready to challenge you today, so come out and experience the million dollar greens for yourself. You'll be amazed at the transformation. For more information, visit their website at www.deercreekgc.com, or give them a call at (913) 681-3100.