



Founded 1898

To Whom That It May Concern:

As Past President of Midlothian Country Club (A Historic U.S. Open Course), Club Historian, and recent Chairman of our Course Improvement Committee, I have had the opportunity to work with Ray since 2014. Ray came to our attention through his award-winning work at Mistwood Golf Course and Flossmoor Country Club.

We first engaged Ray in 2014 to create a Master Plan for our course in order to take away ad-hoc “course improvements” from our Board and Committees and to entrust those services to a Design Professional.

When the need arose to act on our plans – to replace our bunkers, add length, and generally “refresh” our 124-year-old course – we sat down with Ray once again to tweak his 2014 plan to suit our specific 2021 needs. After a lengthy listening session, we gave Ray a list of deliverables, the most important was a specific plan to address the above in a cost-effective manner. The plan Ray came back to us with exceeded all of our expectations.

From repositioning our bunkers (which haven’t been changed in 80+ years), adding length (by building new tees and not new greens), and creating new fairway lines (to update the strategic playability of our course), Ray’s plan hit all the right notes.

Further, when the time came to put our job out to bid, Ray was extremely pro-active in managing the process, and in the end the thoroughness of his architectural plans allowed us to secure numerous, firm bids from some of the top golf course construction firms in the country.

When construction started in Fall of 2021 Ray made weekly visits, offered numerous “Field Changes”, worked tirelessly with our Superintendent to make sure the changes were maintenance friendly, and made adjustments as necessary.

When the course opened in 2022, it was met by near universal praise by our membership.

Ray's passion for our golf course and this project was evident in the very beginning. He was fully committed from the start and that passion and energy culminated in a fantastic rehab of our course. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Ray to prospective Clubs who are looking to update and improve their golf course.

I am happy to discuss further for anybody interested. I can be reached at 708.738.8980 or at mwheeler@williamblair.com

Best Regards,

Mark Wheeler

Mark Wheeler
Past President & Club Historian