



Angel Fire Resort Sportcrete Installation

Contact

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Project Description

As part of the golf course renovation project at Angel Fire Golf Course, Sportcrete Texas was engaged to supply and install the Sportcrete Engineered Bunker System. The course has 38 bunkers, totaling 38,000 square feet (3,800m²), all of which were renovated within the contract.

Scope of the project

Modern Golf, of Greeley Colorado, were employed as the General Contractor. As well as remodeling areas of the course they were contracted to excavate the existing bunkers and install new drainage in each bunker. Modern Golf also installed the aggregate material specified by Sportcrete Texas. A layer of 2 inch (50mm) of crushed granite 3/8 inch minus graded (10mm to dust) was supplied and compacted to the base of each bunker. Working with Walt Benson, Contracts Manager with Modern Golf, Sportcrete Texas approved the base work and proceeded to spray each bunker to stabilize the stone. The Bunkers were then refilled with sand to complete the renovation of each bunker. The Sportcrete installation was completed in two mobilizations, and 5 total days of spraying.

Key Factors, General Conditions, and Initial Results

Angel Fire Resort Golf Course is located high in the Southern Rocky Mountains at an elevation of approximately 8700 feet. With approximately 1500 members and a short season of golf from May to October the course faces rather intense usage during the season. The maintenance staff is headed by John Greene, a member of the GCSAA with previous experience at several prominent courses including The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado. John is a member of the Rocky Mountain Superintendents organization.

John faces 3 major environmental challenges in the daily maintenance of the 38 bunkers on the course. First, the course is located in a high mountain valley and is subject to almost daily afternoon rain showers varying from ¼ inch (6mm) to 2 inch (50mm) of rainfall in a short period of time. Secondly, the front nine is constructed in a low area and the grassy areas and sub soils in the bunkers tend to restrict the drainage capacity of the Bunkers. Lastly, he faces the damaging effects of local elk herds roaming the course and standing in the bunkers to enjoy feeding on the bluegrass growing around the bunkers.

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The conditions of the bunkers due to the above environmental issues were typical and as follows:

1. The bunkers retained water and were constantly in need of pumping to create playable conditions.
2. Contamination from the sub soil below was evident from the migration of stones and debris in the bunker due, in part, to the elk destroying the existing fabric liner and bringing the clay sub soils into the sand affecting both the sand and disabling the existing drainage system.
3. The steeper bunker flashings were void of sand as the heavier rains forced erosion of the sand.

The impact of the bunker conditions on the course maintenance budget and the playability of the bunkers for the members was substantial. Daily maintenance of the bunkers was, according to John Greene, a substantial percentage of the total budget. The initial results from the installation of Sportcrete have been positive. Daily maintenance in terms of time and labor has substantially decreased. The bunkers no longer need to be pumped and the use of the mechanical rake in the bunkers positively affects his time in daily maintenance. The membership reportedly is very pleased with the new state of the bunkers. The elk herd still roams the course and again initial results have been positive regarding the elk impact on the bunkers. The elk continue to walk in the sanded bunkers with no detrimental effect to the Sportcrete engineered base.

During the renovation work, elk were present and interested in the works being undertaken. Prior to the bunkers on hole 3 being sanded, the elk traversed the green and entered the bunker. Some small damage was apparent to the steeper faces adjacent to the green where the elk had jumped into the bunker.

Due to the simple reparability of the system, Sportcrete Texas undertook immediate remedial work to the affected area. Subsequent sanding provided a perfect bunker for both players and elk.

Whilst the Sportcrete system has a strength and integrity of 2500psi (17 megapascals) it should be noted that the system is designed and guaranteed as a base for sports surfaces and bunkers.

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