

# Golf Committee Annual Report

*2024 Golf Season*

*Prepared by: The Golf Course Committee*

## OVERVIEW

Southborough Golf Club (formerly St. Mark's Golf Club) is a 9-hole links style golf course open to the public and owned by the town of Southborough. Originally opened in 1896, the course covers approximately 55.7 acres of land in the center of Southborough held in a conservation restriction by Sudbury Valley Trustees, Inc. and the Southborough Conservation Commission. There is a Management and Maintenance Agreement in place for daily operation with New England Golf Corporation through December 31, 2026. Southborough Golf Course is working on Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Certification for golf courses (ACSP for Golf).

## Course Updates in 2024

The primary goals of course updates are public safety (keeping as many balls as possible inside the course boundaries) and the eco-friendly recreational golf experience for Southborough residents and the public.

1. Irrigation system upgrade/replacement earned Town Meeting approval
2. Bunker refurbishment completed throughout the course
3. Cart path paving done on hole #3
4. Drainage improvements made on hole #1
5. Proposals received for barrier between 3rd green & 4th tee
6. Continued discussion on further protective barriers along Latisquama Rd.

## Utilization

The operation of the Golf Course is based upon a system in which the Town receives an amount equal to 12% of the gross revenue up to \$550,000, and 20% of the gross revenue in excess of \$550,000. Town golf course revenue goes to a revolving fund used to support asset improvement and maintenance.

Course usage has increased annually since the Town acquisition:

| Year                 | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023             | 2024             |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Rounds</b>        | 18,609    | 20,240    | 22,411    | <b>25,121</b>    | <b>27,931</b>    |
| <b>Gross Revenue</b> | \$441,583 | \$517,935 | \$600,238 | <b>\$679,555</b> | <b>\$782,171</b> |
| <b>GC Fund</b>       | \$52,990  | \$62,152  | \$76,048  | <b>\$91,911</b>  | <b>\$98,600</b>  |

Highlights include the active and growing Women's League with 72 women participating, which accounted for 785 rounds in 2024. The town recreation department offers youth golf lessons. The annual Golf Fore ALS program supported by New England Golf Corporation, contributes a generous portion of Heritage Day Weekend greens fees to ALS One. The course property is available to the public for appropriate off-season use, such as sledding and snowshoeing.

## Course Goals for 2025

1. In progress
  - a. Irrigation project - working with New England Golf, Southborough Conservation Commission and Southborough town management for appropriate paperwork, approvals and RFP to vendors
  - b. Proposal review for barrier near 3rd green and 4th tee
2. Planned
  - a. Cart path paving on hole #1
  - b. Creation/refurbishment of tee boxes on holes #3, #5 and #8
  - c. Additional protective barriers along the Latisquama Rd. boundary

## CONCLUSION

The Southborough Golf Course continues to be a valuable open space and recreational asset for the town. The Golf Course Committee would like to thank the town residents for their support. A special thank you to Town Administrator, Mark Purple; the Southborough Select Board; Southborough Women's Golf League Coordinator, Lynne McKay; Conservation Agent, Melissa Danza; and Sudbury Valley Trustees Land Managers Kristin O'Brien and Dan Stimson. Additionally, the Committee recognizes the continued cooperation and collaboration provided by New England Golf Corporation.