



**USGA** COURSE CONSULTING SERVICE

# Site Visit Report

## **Betmar Acres Golf Club** Zephyrhills, Florida

Visit Date: August 22, 2025

Present:

Sid Sawicky, Property Manager  
Jay Browning, Golf Course Superintendent  
Mike Williamson, Golf Club President  
Mac McKinnon, Properties Director  
Mitch Leininger, USGA Green Section Agronomist

Mitch Leininger | East Region Agronomist | 407.579.8826 | [mleininger@usga.org](mailto:mleininger@usga.org)

**USGA** GreenSection

# Executive Summary

It was a pleasure to conduct a Course Consulting Service (CCS) visit on behalf of the USGA at Betmar Acres. As this was my first visit to the facility, it was a valuable opportunity to become familiar with the layout of the courses and to gain a deeper understanding of the overall golf operation. Betmar features three distinct 9-hole layouts, each offering its own unique character, design elements, and putting surfaces, with varied turfgrass species present on the greens.

I am sincerely grateful for the warm hospitality extended to me throughout the visit. I also appreciate the time taken to provide a detailed overview of the club's history, current maintenance practices, and its ongoing commitment to delivering an enjoyable and high-quality golfing experience for its members.

This report summarizes the key observations made during the visit and presents recommendations aimed at supporting the club's efforts to enhance course conditioning, sustainability, and playability moving forward.

## Putting Greens

The facility consists of three distinct 9-hole courses—Gold, Blue, and White—each featuring putting greens that differ in age, turfgrass variety, and overall condition. These variations have a significant impact on playability, maintenance requirements, and long-term planning.

- **Gold Course:** The greens on the Gold Course are the newest, having been planted in 2020 with zoysiagrass. These greens are still maturing and, while they offer a smooth putting surface, they require careful management to ensure consistent performance as the root system continues to develop.
- **Blue Course:** The Blue Course features 'TifGrand' bermuda greens, which were established in 2016. At this stage in their lifecycle, the turf is relatively mature and stable but still requires a high level of maintenance to maintain optimal playability, particularly during periods of environmental stress.
- **White Course:** The White Course has the oldest greens, consisting of 'Tifdwarf' bermuda, with plantings that date back to the late 1980s. These greens are showing signs of age-related decline, including thinning turf and reduced recovery rates, which present unique maintenance challenges.

As part of our evaluation, we conducted a thorough survey of each course, engaging with both leadership and maintenance staff to gather feedback on putting conditions, performance consistency, and overall satisfaction. From this, several recurring themes emerged, including surface firmness, green speed, and seasonal variability.

Based on the current state of the greens, our discussions focused on three key areas: the growing environment (light, air movement, and drainage), current maintenance practices (aeration, fertility, mowing height, and pest management), and the facility's capacity to meet the needs of each turf type. We also explored long-term strategies for each course, including potential turf conversions, capital improvements, and ways to enhance the playing experience while optimizing maintenance efficiency.

## Main Playing Areas ( Tees, Fairways, and Rough)

The evaluation of the tees, fairways, and rough areas focused on both the effectiveness of current maintenance practices and the overall performance and health of the turf. Observations were made across all three areas, with particular attention paid to turf density, uniformity, and resilience. Throughout the course, we identified several locations exhibiting weak, thin, or bare turf. These problem areas were most prevalent in zones with poor growing conditions, excessive traffic, or limited maintenance. In some sections, we also observed significant weed pressure, suggesting that current weed management strategies may need to be reevaluated or intensified.

Another issue noted during the evaluation was the variable success of transition from overseeded cool-season grasses back to warm-season turf. Inconsistent transition, often resulting in patchy or discolored turf, indicates potential stress factors—such as compaction, moisture imbalance, or soil health concerns—that should be further investigated. In addition, symptoms consistent with possible nematode activity were observed, including stunted growth and poor turf vigor in isolated areas. These symptoms warrant diagnostic soil testing to confirm nematode presence and inform targeted treatment strategies.

A major factor contributing to turf performance challenges is the abundance of mature trees throughout the property. While aesthetically pleasing and beneficial for shade and definition, the sheer number and density of trees have a notable impact on turf health. Many areas experience reduced sunlight, restricted air movement, and increased root competition for water and nutrients—all of which diminish the turf's ability to thrive. Without proactive tree management, these challenges will persist and likely intensify over time. Discussions emphasized the need for a strategic tree evaluation and removal plan to enhance growing conditions and support long-term turf sustainability.

## Long-Term Planning

Discussions around overseeding and seasonal transition highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by the maintenance team—particularly given the unique environmental conditions at Betmar. The property's heavy tree cover and resulting shade create significant limitations for warm-season turf growth in the cooler months. As such, winter overseeding remains a necessary practice to maintain acceptable playing conditions throughout the dormant season.

That said, there are transition strategies that can be implemented to help ease the shift back to warm-season turf in spring. Adjustments in overseeding rates, timing, mowing practices, and fertility programs can all support a smoother transition. However, even with best practices in place, it's important to set realistic expectations: weak, thin, or bare areas coming out of winter are likely to remain an ongoing issue in shaded and high-traffic zones. These problem areas should be proactively identified and managed with supplemental cultural practices or sod repair where feasible.

More broadly, the conversation brought attention to the overall complexity of maintaining a multi-course facility like Betmar. The varying turf types, greens age, tree density, and microclimates all demand a highly adaptive and skilled maintenance program. These challenges underscore the importance of adequate staffing, proper training, and access to well-maintained, modern equipment.

Looking toward the future, Betmar would benefit from a comprehensive review of its current golf maintenance operation—including labor force, equipment inventory, and scheduling practices. This assessment should be aligned with both the expectations of the playing experience and the physical demands of the property. Ensuring that the maintenance team is properly staffed and equipped is

essential for meeting both short-term needs—such as seasonal transition and daily playability—and long-term goals, including turf improvement, infrastructure renewal, and environmental sustainability. Without the necessary resources and support, even the most knowledgeable and dedicated maintenance team will struggle to meet the evolving expectations of members and players. A forward-thinking investment in people, equipment, and infrastructure will be critical to ensuring Betmar’s continued success and the health of its golf courses over time.

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# Putting Greens

## Observations

1. At Betmar, the putting greens across the three nine-hole courses—Gold, Blue, and White—differ significantly in age, turfgrass variety, and overall condition. These differences, along with varying microenvironments and infrastructure limitations, contribute to inconsistencies in playability, aesthetics, and maintenance needs. One of the concerns that has been voiced by players was the green speed or roll being too slow.

## Gold Course – Zoysia Greens (Planted 2020)

1. The Gold Course greens, planted with Zoysia in 2020, are the newest of the three and currently the best performing.
  - These greens exhibit a healthy, vibrant color and have the highest percentage of turf coverage among all the courses. Player feedback is overwhelmingly positive, citing overall enjoyable putting surfaces. Zoysia's tight canopy not only contributes to superior playability but also offers enhanced weed suppression, a notable benefit in a climate and setting with persistent weed pressure.

Photos show zoysiagrass with healthy green profile. At 3-inch depth, moderate organic matter is visible. Circular discoloration, thinning, and fungal rings indicate early signs of fairy ring disease.



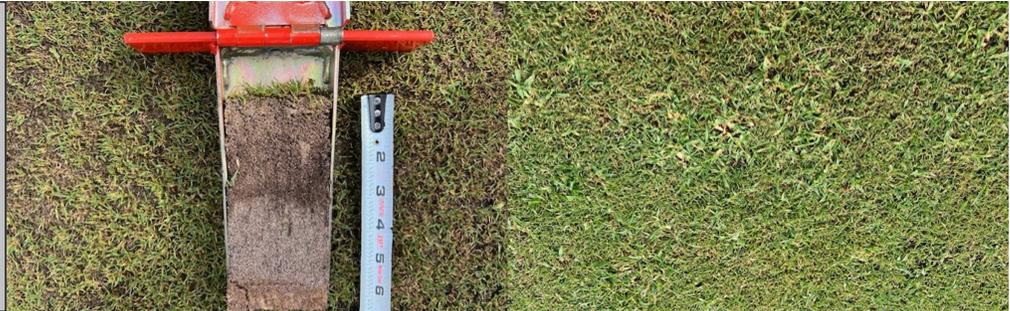
2. Only a few minor issues were observed, including thin turf around the edges of some greens and a case of fairy ring on No. 2 green along with mole cricket activity.
  - However, these appear to be manageable within the current maintenance program. Notably, zoysia's higher shade tolerance makes it well-suited for Betmar's heavily tree-lined layout, where limited sunlight and airflow are persistent concerns. Based on current performance and adaptability, zoysia appears to be a strong long-term fit for the site.

## Blue Course – TifGrand Bermuda Greens (Planted ~2016)

1. The 'TifGrand' bermuda greens on the Blue Course are approaching 10 years of age and are currently facing several agronomic challenges. Numerous greens displayed weak, thin, and in some cases, completely bare areas. Weed encroachment—particularly goosegrass—was prominent, further reducing turf quality and aesthetic value.
  - A key contributing factor is the lack of an irrigation system renovation on the Blue Course, unlike the Gold and White nines, which have already received upgrades. Inconsistent or inadequate irrigation coverage is likely exacerbating the weak turf conditions, especially during transition periods and summer stress.
  - Additionally, shade remains a major limiting factor for healthy turf growth. The dense canopy of trees around many greens significantly restricts light and airflow. The current mowing

height also appears to be higher than optimal, which could be contributing to reduced green speed and surface quality. It was recommended that gradual lowering of mowing heights, combined with improved irrigation and targeted cultural practices, could begin to restore better performance.

TifGrand green at high cut shows thin, weak turf. Organic matter is present at 3-inch depth. Goose-grass weeds are scattered throughout, indicating competition and reduced turfgrass density.



- Due to the current weed pressure and time of year, it is advisable to continue with a conservative weed management strategy—such as hand-pulling and spot-treating—rather than applying broad-spectrum herbicides that could further stress the turf. More aggressive weed control measures can be considered once temperatures moderate, and the turf is actively growing in spring.

## White Course – Tifdwarf Bermuda Greens (Planted Late 1980s)

**1. The White Course has the oldest greens on the property, planted with ‘Tifdwarf’ bermuda in the late 1980s. These greens are facing the most significant decline in turf quality and playability due to their age, outdated turf variety, and the intense shade environment from surrounding mature trees.**

- The greens are heavily thinned, with extensive weak and bare areas. In particular, the No. 5 green was identified as the most problematic, with turf loss so extensive that it is no longer providing a functional playing surface. A temporary solution discussed was to cut in a short-term green to allow for continued play while the existing surface undergoes reconstruction through regrading and resodding.

Tifdwarf green shows excessive 5-inch organic matter, with poor root development. Shear strength test results fall below normal range, indicating weak turf structure and increased surface instability.



**2. The challenges facing the White Course greens go beyond day-to-day maintenance. The combination of shade, age-related turf decline, and dated construction practices has pushed these greens past the point of routine recovery. As such, serious consideration should be given to a comprehensive renovation.**

- This would include recontouring or rebuilding the greens, updating drainage and irrigation, selecting a modern and more shade-tolerant turf variety (such as zoysia), and implementing tree management strategies to improve long-term growing conditions.

3. **Soil profile samples were taken from greens on all three courses—Gold, Blue, and White—to evaluate the condition of the rootzones and understand the impact of past maintenance practices. The results were generally what would be expected based on the age of the greens.**
  - All three courses showed some build-up of organic matter near the surface, which is normal over time, especially on older greens. The White Course, having the oldest greens, had the most noticeable organic layer, while the newer Gold Course greens showed less buildup and a cleaner profile.
  - In each sample, we could see signs of regular maintenance. Aerification holes were visible, showing that core aeration is being done. Layers of sand were also present, indicating that topdressing is taking place as part of the maintenance program.
  - Overall, the profiles suggest that the maintenance team is doing the right things, but there may be room to improve consistency in topdressing—especially on the older greens—to better manage organic matter and improve root health over time.
4. **Shade and restricted airflow were recurring issues observed throughout the property and were a major point of discussion during the site visit. Across all three courses, the large number of mature trees—many of which are dense and overgrown—create significant challenges for maintaining healthy turf, particularly warm-season varieties that require ample sunlight and air movement to thrive.**
  - Many greens, tees, and fairways are located in areas that receive limited direct sunlight, especially during the critical morning and late afternoon hours. This problem is further amplified during the winter months when the sun sits lower in the sky and shadows are longer. In several locations, the turf struggles due to insufficient photosynthesis, resulting in thin, weak, or bare areas—especially on greens and collars.



- In addition to shade, poor airflow is a concern in many of these same areas. Limited air movement creates a more humid microenvironment that can increase disease pressure and slow the drying of turf after rainfall or irrigation. This not only affects turf health but also limits the effectiveness of maintenance practices such as mowing, topdressing, and chemical applications.
- While trees add visual appeal and help define the course layout, their current density and size are negatively impacting the long-term viability of the turf. Without a strategic tree management program—including selective removal, canopy thinning, and possibly replanting with better-suited species—these environmental limitations will continue to restrict turf performance and increase maintenance challenges.

- Moving forward, a thorough tree evaluation should be conducted to identify high-impact problem areas where turf health is most affected. Addressing shade and airflow in even a few key locations could have a significant positive effect on turf quality and consistency across the property.

## Recommendations

- 1. Improving the growing environment is essential to the long-term health and playability of the golf course. A significant number of mature trees throughout the property are limiting sunlight and airflow—especially around greens, tees, and shaded fairway areas. These conditions make it difficult to maintain healthy, dense turf, particularly with warm-season grasses that require full sun.**

### [Understanding and Improving Difficult Growing Environments](#)

- The first priority should be to address shade issues around the greens and tee boxes, as these are the most sensitive playing surfaces. From there, attention can be shifted to fairways and rough areas where shade is affecting turf density and quality. Creating strategic “windows” by selectively trimming, thinning, or removing trees will allow more sunlight to reach the turf and improve air circulation.
  - Given the scale of work needed, it is critical to develop a comprehensive tree management plan. This plan should identify high-priority areas, outline phased work over multiple years, and be supported by an annual budget. Ongoing tree work should be treated as a regular part of golf course maintenance—not just a one-time project. Investing in tree management will help improve growing conditions, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance overall course conditions for players.
- 2. Reevaluate current cultural practices for areas to improve. Adding an additional core aerification in the summer, continued annual topdressing and tailored fertility inputs for grass types will aid at organic matter management and root growth and strength.**

### [Managing Organic Matter in Putting Greens](#)

- 3. Make sure irrigation is strategically managed and that uniformity is being accomplished with system, spacing and run times.**

### [USGA Water Conservation Playbook](#)

- This is very important based on the shade and airflow challenges on property. Hand water by hose on greens is very important, especially on the edges and chronic wet and dry areas. This will require the staffing though, to accomplish.
- 4. A thorough review of the current equipment inventory and mechanical operations is recommended to ensure the maintenance team is fully supported in delivering consistent, high-quality turf conditions.**
- Having an adequate number of essential machines—such as greens mowers, verticutters, groomers, and cutting reel attachments—is critical to keeping up with routine and seasonal maintenance demands.
  - Equally important is ensuring that all cutting units are properly set up, sharp, and performing as intended. Consistent reel maintenance—including alignment, height-of-cut checks, and grinding—directly impacts turf quality, particularly on greens where precision is key.

## The Cutting Edge of Golf Course Maintenance

- Mechanical operations should be treated as an ongoing, proactive part of course management. Currently, this area appears to need greater support, either through increased in-house staffing or by scheduling more frequent service from qualified outside contractors.
  - ◆ Without reliable equipment performance and consistent mechanical upkeep, even the best agronomic practices will fall short. Investing in this area will lead to improved efficiency, better turf conditions, and fewer disruptions to daily maintenance.
- 5. **The immediate goal is to restore struggling greens with weak, thin, or bare areas to a playable and consistent condition before winter dormancy sets in. In the short term, efforts should focus on establishing dense turf coverage to protect the surface and improve playability.**
  - For any damaged areas larger than 2' x 2', sod should be installed to ensure rapid coverage and minimize disruption. Smaller thin spots can be targeted with supplemental fertilization and irrigation. Applying a complete granular fertilizer weekly for the next four weeks is recommended, using a product with approximately 50% quick-release nitrogen to support fast recovery and sustained growth. This will help encourage lateral spread and fill-in of the thin turf.
- 6. **The primary focus during this recovery window should be growing healthy grass. Aggressive weed control should be delayed until the turf is actively growing in spring and early summer, when plants are better able to tolerate those practices. For now, creating uniform, dense turf coverage will help protect the greens through the winter and set a strong foundation for continued improvement next season.**
- 7. **A temporary green should be established in front of the existing No. 5 green on the White Course. This will allow the original green to be taken out of play and provide the necessary time and space for staff or contractors to complete sodding, grading, and grow-in efforts without disrupting play on the hole.**

### The Value of Temporary Greens

- Maintaining playability while addressing serious turf issues is an effective and golfer-friendly solution. Clear and proactive communication with members and players about the purpose, timeline, and expected outcomes of this temporary setup will be essential. Highlighting that this is part of a larger effort to improve course conditions will help build support and reinforce the message that meaningful progress is being made.
- 8. **As part of Betmar's long-term planning to improve both playability and maintenance efficiency, a renovation of the White Course greens should be considered. This presents a valuable opportunity to not only address any design or performance limitations in the current green complexes, but also to re-grass them using a modern, improved turf variety.**
  - Renovating the greens will allow for necessary **adjustments to contours, drainage, and surface conditions**, ensuring that they meet current standards for playability, agronomics, and member expectations. Re-grassing with a more successful and adaptable variety—particularly one that matches the other courses—will enhance consistency across all 27 holes.

### Rebuild or Resurface?

- It would be especially advantageous to re-grass the White Course greens with the same turf variety that has shown the greatest success at Betmar, both in terms of **performance under local growing conditions** and **member satisfaction**—the **zoysia**.
  - ◆ Uniform turf varieties on greens also offer **operational and agronomic benefits**. Maintenance teams can implement a single fertility and pest management program, simplify mowing heights and grooming schedules, and reduce the risk of turf-specific disease issues. From a golfer’s perspective, consistency in green speed, ball roll, and firmness improves the overall experience and perception of course quality.
- 9. **Having an on-site turf nursery for greens is essential, especially with the multiple turf varieties currently in use across the property. It provides a reliable source of matching sod for small repairs, reducing disruption to play and ensuring consistent surface quality.**
  - The nursery also serves as a valuable tool for **testing new products, management techniques, and monitoring turf health** in a controlled environment. Maintaining different turf types in the nursery allows for better planning and decision-making when it comes to future re-grassing or renovation projects.

## Main Playing Areas (Tees, Fairways, and Rough)

1. **Throughout the course, we identified numerous areas where excessive tree shade is significantly limiting the ability of turfgrass to grow, recover, and thrive. In these shaded zones—particularly near greens, tees, and under dense tree canopies—turf showed signs of thinning, bare spots, and overall weak vigor due to the lack of adequate sunlight, especially during the critical morning and afternoon hours.**
  - In several of these weak areas, additional stress indicators were observed, including visual symptoms consistent with nematode pressure. These symptoms included chlorotic (yellowing) turf and the presence of opportunistic weeds such as spurge, which often invade weakened turf stands. These issues compound the challenges already present due to shade and poor growing conditions.



2. **Another contributing factor is the ongoing difficulty with seasonal overseed transition. In several spots, the transition from cool-season to warm-season turf has been inconsistent, leaving behind thin coverage and making the turf more susceptible to weed invasion.**
  - Heavy weed populations, including goosegrass and spurge, are competing with desirable turf and reducing both aesthetics and playability.

**3. We also surveyed fairway No. 4 on the Gold Course and noted the bumpy nature of the surface. Additionally, there was a significant presence of goosegrass weeds.**

- Discussions focused on implementing aerification and topdressing practices to help smooth the surface. We also discussed possibly renting a large drum roller (1.5 to 3 tons) to further improve surface uniformity.
- Alongside these cultural practices, continued herbicide applications will be necessary to manage the goosegrass. Given the extent of the infestation, some areas may require sodding after the weeds are eradicated.



A multi-faceted approach to fairway improvement includes targeted herbicide applications for goosegrass control, combined with aerification, topdressing, and rolling to enhance turf establishment, surface smoothness, and better playability.

**4. Compounding these agronomic challenges is cart traffic, which can place additional stress on already weakened turf areas.**

- Without proper control, traffic can further delay recovery or lead to long-term turf loss. To mitigate this, it is recommended that traffic control measures—such as ropes, stakes, directional signage, and designated entry/exit points—be implemented and regularly adjusted based on turf conditions. These tools can help redirect cart flow and reduce wear on sensitive areas, giving them a better chance to recover.

**5. Addressing these challenges will require a combination of improved growing conditions (through tree management), targeted pest and weed control, refined overseeding strategies, and proactive traffic management. Together, these efforts will help stabilize weak areas and support healthier, more resilient turf throughout the course.**

## Recommendations

1. To improve turf health in shaded areas, implement a strategic tree management plan. Selective pruning or removal of trees—particularly those around greens, tees, and areas with limited morning and afternoon sunlight—should be prioritized.

[A Decision Tree for Tree Removal](#)

[Throwing Shade](#)

[Getting To The Root Of The Issue](#)

- These adjustments will enhance photosynthetic potential, which is essential for turf recovery and overall vigor. A shade-mapping analysis can help identify the most critical locations and guide long-term planning.
2. Several weak turf areas are showing signs consistent with nematode pressure, such as yellowing and thinning with surge weed presence.

- We recommend conducting soil and nematode testing in these locations to confirm the presence and extent of the issue. If nematodes are found, targeted treatments using nematicides and soil amendments should be implemented.

#### [Best Management Practices for Controlling Turfgrass Nematodes](#)

##### [Is SDHI Nematicide Resistance on the Rise?](#)

- Enhancing overall soil health through organic matter incorporation and microbial products will also support recovery.
- 3. The course is experiencing inconsistent transition from cool-season to warm-season turf in several areas. To address this, overseeding practices should be refined by adjusting seeding rates, timing, and mowing strategies.**
    - Incorporating plant growth regulators (PGRs) may help suppress lingering cool-season grass and promote warm-season dominance. Irrigation and fertility should also be optimized to support smoother seasonal transitions.
  - 4. Fairway No. 4 on the Gold Course was noted for its bumpy surface and high goosegrass populations. To improve playability, it is recommend implementing a regular program of aerification and sand topdressing.**

#### [A Guide to Goosegrass Control](#)

- Additionally, renting a large drum roller (1.5 to 3 tons) should be considered to smooth the surface. These efforts will enhance turf density and improve overall surface consistency.
- 5. To improve performance in high-traffic and shaded areas, especially on tees, Betmar should begin trialing newer turf varieties with greater shade and wear tolerance.**
    - Incorporating options like 'Bimini' bermudagrass, as seen on No. 9 Blue Course, has shown promise, and expanding **experimental use of zoysia** in applicable areas could further enhance durability, playability, and visual quality where conditions challenge traditional turf.
  - 6. Sprig or sod bare areas in fairways as needed to re-establish healthy turf and improve surface quality. Prioritize sections where turf loss has impacted playability or where weeds have overtaken thin areas.**
    - Sodding provides immediate coverage and can stabilize high-traffic zones, while sprigging may be more cost-effective for larger areas with less pressure. Prompt establishment will help prevent erosion, suppress weed invasion, and contribute to a more uniform and visually appealing playing surface.
  - 7. Cart traffic continues to be a significant stressor on already vulnerable turf areas.**
    - To mitigate damage, we recommend implementing traffic control tools such as ropes, stakes, directional signage, and designated entry and exit points.
    - Regularly rotating traffic flow patterns will prevent long-term wear in specific areas and support turf recovery in high-use zones.

# Long-Term Planning

- 1. We discussed strategies to improve the overseeding process and minimize the challenges often encountered during spring transition.**
  - Given the current environmental conditions and membership expectations at Betmar, it is likely that overseeding will remain a necessary practice. However, implementing targeted adjustments can significantly improve transition outcomes and reduce the negative impact on warm-season turf.
- 2. One key recommendation is to shift the overseeding window later in the fall, aiming to apply seed during the week of Thanksgiving.**
  - This timing shortens the growing period for cool-season turf, reducing its maturity and aggressiveness heading into spring. A less established overseed stand will be easier to transition out, allowing the warm-season base to re-establish more quickly and uniformly.
- 3. It is also advised to reduce the overseed rate compared to previous years. This applies to both *Poa trivialis* on greens and ryegrass on tees, fairways, and roughs.**
  - A lighter seeding rate will still provide acceptable winter color and playability, while making spring transition less competitive and more manageable.
- 4. In the spring (around April), begin mechanical removal of the overseed using verticutting and by gradually lowering mowing heights. These practices help weaken the cool-season turf and encourage warm-season recovery without the need for chemical intervention.**

[Grooming, Verticutting and Vertigrooming: Similarities, Differences and Keys to Success](#)
- 5. Finally, we recommend avoiding chemical removal methods. Instead, allow natural warming temperatures to phase out the overseed. This approach reduces stress on the base turf and avoids potential complications associated with herbicide applications.**
- 6. By adjusting overseed timing, reducing seeding rates, and relying on mechanical removal and natural weather patterns, Betmar can achieve a smoother and more consistent transition—ultimately improving spring turf conditions and long-term health.**
- 7. It was observed that the current maintenance team is operating with only a superintendent, three fulltime and one part time staff members to maintain the entire 27-hole facility. This level of staffing is critically insufficient to meet even the basic daily demands of golf course maintenance, let alone achieve the level of detail, conditioning, and consistency expected at a multi-course property.**

[Labor HYA: An Easy Way To Help You Match Expectations With Staffing Needs](#)
- 8. While the facility appears to be equipped with a solid inventory of maintenance equipment, the lack of personnel severely limits the team's ability to fully utilize those assets.**
  - Essential daily tasks—such as mowing, rolling, and setting up the course—require both time and skilled labor. With such a limited crew, it is virtually impossible to manage these operations efficiently across all 27 holes, leading to inconsistent playing conditions and delayed response to agronomic needs.

- 9. Additionally, critical behind-the-scenes responsibilities—such as reel sharpening, irrigation system checks, chemical applications, and mechanical repairs—are being compromised or deferred.**
  - These support functions are vital to sustaining turf health and ensuring equipment reliability, and their neglect has a direct impact on the overall quality of the playing surfaces.
- 10. The staffing shortage also prevents the execution of more detailed or preventative maintenance practices, such as edging, repairing worn areas, managing weed pressure, and implementing consistent cultural programs like aerification or topdressing.**
  - As a result, the maintenance team is forced into a reactive mode, addressing issues only as they arise rather than proactively maintaining and improving the course. This reactive approach is unsustainable—especially during periods of peak growth or heavy play—and ultimately erodes course quality over time.
- 11. A golf club’s ability to meet member expectations hinges on a realistic alignment between course condition goals and the available budget for labor and equipment.**
  - For Betmar, this starts with a clear evaluation of current staffing and equipment resources, ensuring that the maintenance team is adequately supported and properly trained to execute routine and seasonal tasks.
- 12. It is equally important for Betmar to recognize that delivering consistent, high-quality playing conditions requires a stable and well-funded operational budget.**
  - Strategic, long-term investment in course infrastructure—such as re-grassing greens, tees, and fairways, or upgrading aging irrigation and drainage systems—will not only improve turf health and playability but also support both environmental and financial sustainability.
- 13. By grounding expectations in available resources and focusing investments on the most impactful maintenance practices, Betmar can raise course standards, enhance the golfer experience, and clearly justify budget needs to stakeholders. Addressing the labor shortage is not just a staffing issue—it’s a foundational step toward achieving the quality and consistency that members and guests expect.**

# Summary

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Betmar Acres Golf Club and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing efforts to enhance the facility. The property has tremendous potential, and I'm confident that with thoughtful planning and consistent execution, meaningful improvements will follow.

As a key priority, I recommend beginning with targeted improvements to the growing environment, particularly through strategic tree management. Enhancing sunlight exposure, increasing air movement, and minimizing root competition will create better conditions for turf health and recovery. In the short term, focus efforts on sodding and re-establishing weak areas on greens, while preparing for the winter season with a refined and reassessed overseed strategy to support a smoother spring transition.

Looking further ahead, I encourage a comprehensive evaluation of the current maintenance program, including staffing levels, equipment use, and capital project planning. Aligning these operational components with course expectations will be critical to sustaining progress and delivering consistent, high-quality playing conditions.

As you continue to move forward, please know that I remain fully committed to supporting Betmar Golf Club in any way I can. Thank you again for the opportunity to be involved in your planning process. Should you have any questions regarding this report or wish to discuss any of the recommendations in more detail, feel free to reach out at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitch Leininger, East Region Agronomist  
USGA Green Section

Distribution:

Sid Sawicky, Property Manager

# USGA Green Section

## Turfgrass and Environmental Research

The [USGA Green Section](#) appreciates your support of the Course Consulting Service. First started in 1953, the Course Consulting Service provides unbiased assessments of golf facilities to optimize resources and reduce the consumption of critical resources. The proceeds from the Course Consulting Service directly support the USGA's annual \$2 million investment in [turfgrass and environmental research](#), which provides an estimated [\\$2 billion annual benefit to the U.S. golf industry](#). In 2025, our research team released the [USGA Water Conservation Playbook](#) to detail strategies for golf courses to optimize water usage. Follow the QR Code to contact us for more information.



## Tools and Solutions

The USGA Green Section is proud to offer [tools and solutions](#) for golf courses. Innovative products, including DEACON, GS3, and the new CDX moisture meter, provide solutions to optimize the golf experience through data-driven communication and resource management.



## Green Section Record

The [USGA Green Section Record](#) is a free digital magazine offering the latest information on turfgrass management, environmental sustainability, innovation in golf course maintenance, and turfgrass research. [Subscribe for free to The Record.](#)

## GCSAA Education Points

GCSAA members who participate in USGA Course Consulting Services are eligible for education points. The education code for a half-day visit is 999-8100-16931. [Record Your Education Points.](#)