

# On Course

News & Thoughts from Forrest Richardson & Associates, Golf Course Architects

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## REBUILDING FOR LONGEVITY



Conceptual image for the reinvention of Blackberry Farm Golf Course

*“Today we are finding better and longer lasting methods of replacing the parts of a golf course. We no longer need to settle for replacing things as often as once thought.”*

— FORREST RICHARDSON

Nearly ten years ago the golf industry developed a chart showing how various parts of the golf course need to be replaced. This has been a great tool as it opened the eyes of many clubs and owners.

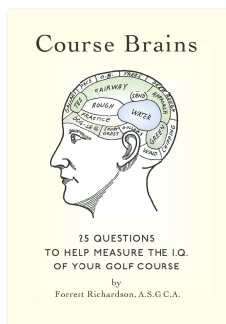
The positive effect was to remind us that golf courses are living, breathing landscapes. Infrastructure needs replacing, and at varying rates depending on how it was constructed.

But today we have new ideas and methods. Whether it is irrigation pipe or bunker liner, the options at our disposal can change the dynamic of capital replacement cycle. *In the long run, it can mean a cost savings.*

For the golf course decision maker this opens a new perspective. What once may have amounted to a capital carrying cost each and every year, may now be significantly less with the appropriate up front decisions. When the time comes to renovate and replace, forward thinking is more essential than ever. *Longevity* is the new word in the golf course lexicon.

### POPULAR BOOK ENTERS SECOND PRINTING

The *Course Brains* Minibük by Forrest Richardson is available again. The pocket-sized book allows course managers and personnel to take a 25-question “IQ Test” designed to identify commonalities and differences



on important issues facing the golf course. It's a team building exercise that helps identify and prioritize issues and solutions.

For a complementary copy of *Course Brains*, send your name, club name and full address to [valerie@golfgroupltd.com](mailto:valerie@golfgroupltd.com)

**IRRIGATION** — In many installations High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and fittings can be used with significantly longer life. This allows the system of the future to be primarily upgraded with software and technology as opposed to costly infrastructure.



**TURF REDUCTION AREAS** — Planning less managed turf is best accomplished when we create landscapes that need minimal long term maintenance. The trend is to make sure the new terrain will survive on its own to the greatest degree practical. **BUNKERS** — New solid liners made from natural stone now makes it possible to rest assured that bunker drainage and sand depth is a known commodity. Replacing sand



is no longer a guessing game because we know year after year where the bottom is and how much sand to order.

**PATHS** — Fiber additives and new materials are changing the longevity of concrete paths. **DRAINAGE** — It is no longer necessary to continually replace drain pipe and systems. As with irrigation components, drainage components are becoming increasingly longer lasting. **SAND** — Even sand is becoming better. Additives, such as ceramics, are literally changing the lifespan of greens sand.

*Each of the components of a golf course wear out over time — while this is true, the rebuilding process does not have to settle for a short-term life cycle.*

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