



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: September 28, 2022

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager  
Brian Goul, Recreation Director

Subject: Sanctuary Lake Golf Course Concerns

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Prakash Patel (6472 Shoreline) contacted the Planning Department in June regarding tree removal at Sanctuary Lake Golf Course adjacent to the Troy Lake Estates subdivision. Mr. Patel (or someone else) referenced City Council resolution #2002-08-472 which pertains to "Tree Preservation/Removal Issues" when City Council authorized the contractor to begin removing trees on the site to permit construction of the golf course in 2002. The Planning Director contacted the Recreation Director and further tree removal was ceased.

City staff, including Assistant City Manager, Community Development Director, Public Works Director, and Recreation Director, met with Indigo Golf Partners (formerly known as Billy Casper Golf) staff in July to discuss tree removal and related issues including:

- Golfer behavior including loud music, profanity and public urination
- Wooden split-rail fence along the Shoreline property line
- Vegetation along the Shoreline property line

City staff determined City Council resolution #2002-08-472 pertained to tree removal at the time the golf course was constructed in 2002 and does not apply today. In other words, routine golf course maintenance, including hazardous tree removal, does not need to be approved by City Council first. After discussing these issues and potential options to address them, the Recreation Director and Golf Course General Manager were designated as the main contacts to address resident concerns.

The Recreation Director and Golf Course General Manager met with Steve Asvitt (6454 Shoreline) and Prakash Patel (6472 Shoreline) on September 2nd to discuss their concerns. Several other conversations have occurred and emails have been exchanged since then. Below is a summary of the concerns, and how they are being addressed.

### **Hazardous Tree Removal**

Only hazardous trees, those having a significant structural defect that may cause the tree or a portion of the tree to fall on someone or something, will be removed from the area in question. Hazardous tree removal will be approved by the Recreation Director first. The Recreation Director will then notify the residents as a courtesy.

### **Tree Replacement**

Five hazardous trees were removed from the area in question and City staff intends to replace those five trees through the normal process. The residents were informed of this when they met with the



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Recreation Director and Golf Course General Manager on September 2nd. Mr. Patel asked about the possibility of donating trees, and the process for approval. He was advised to contact the Facilities and Grounds Operations Manager to find out the options available. Later, another resident who did not attend the September 2nd meeting, seemed to take offense to the idea of donating trees. To be clear, it was another resident's idea, not City staff's idea.

On September 12th, the Recreation Director informed the residents via email that the City planned to replace five trees. There was not much more communication on the matter until public comment during the September 19th regular City Council meeting. That night, City Council awarded a contract to provide and install trees. The five trees in question will likely be planted this fall (2022) but, timing will depend on the contractor. Residents of Shoreline later submitted a "Landscaping Suggestion" including 14 8-ft spruce trees and green giant arborvitae. The City's specifications are for 2.5-in diameter trees with a 2-year warranty. City staff does not recommend deviating from the normal tree replacement process or specifications.

### **Golfer Behavior**

Concerns about golfer behavior were addressed in July in two ways. First, the starter, the person greeting golfers to start a round, gives golfers information about course conditions, course markings, and pace of play. In addition, they are now addressing behavior including loud music, profanity and public urination. Each golfer is advised to behave appropriately on the course, especially where the course abuts residences on Shoreline. Second, Public Works made signs (photo attached) advising golfers of a restroom ahead and of the consequences of indecent conduct. The signs were installed on July 28th. When the Recreation Director and General Manager met with residents on September 2nd, the residents reported golfer behavior had improved.

### **Split-rail Fence**

Concern about the condition of the split-rail fence along the Shoreline property line was first expressed in a July 27th email from Mr. Asvitt to the Recreation Director and Golf Course General Manager.

*We'd like to know what the City suggests to resolve the condition of the fence.*

The Recreation Director will include replacement of the split-rail fence in the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget request.

### **Other Vegetation**

This concern was first expressed in a July 27th email from Mr. Asvitt to the Recreation Director and Golf Course General Manager.

*Subsequent to our last communications, we met with our affected neighbors, getting feedback from those at the north end of Shoreline that they'd like to get the wild vegetation encroaching on their yards cut back as it is to the south, with the lawn mowed between the fence line and the vegetation.*

Golf staff plans to remove vegetation during the winter and maintain the area as requested.



