Site Report

Atlanta Athletic Club, Johns Creek, GA

Project Details:

Director of Agronomy
Lukus Harvey

Original Installation Date:
2005

Renovation Installation Date:
2016

Rain Bird Pump Station Installation Date:
2017

Field Control System
IC System™
MI Series™ Mobile Control

Central Control Platform
Cirrus™

Accessories
Rain Watch™ Weather Sensor

CHALLENGE

Founded in 1898, the world-renowned Atlanta Athletic Club is a private facility with a long, prestigious history. The Club's Highlands Golf Course, originally designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and built in 1964, has hosted the Ryder Cup, U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur and several PGA Championships over the years. In 2015, the Club hired Lukus Harvey as Director of Agronomy and tasked him with maintaining playing conditions that would continue to uphold the Club's elite status.

Lukus hit the ground running with a proposal to re-grass the Club's Highlands Course and rebuild its greens and bunkers. As part of the larger renovation, he wanted to bring single-head control to the greens, which had been using a block satellite system since 2006. Wanting more precision and efficiency in his system, Lukus turned to Rain Bird for fresh thinking and an innovative plan.

SOLUTION

After surveying the course and considering different options, the Rain Bird team brought a unique idea to Lukus and the Club's Green Committee. By keeping the existing pipe and installing new wire, a Rain Bird IC System™ with new rotors could be installed. The result would give the Highlands Course single-head control at significantly lower cost than a complete system renovation.

The Rain Bird solution required minimal trenching to install new MAXI™ wire, which limited disruption to play and minimized course impact. It also allowed the new system to go in without interrupting or delaying other elements of the project, including earthmoving and grassing. The approach allowed Atlanta Athletic Club to meet an aggressive construction timeline, while saving valuable time and money.

"We achieved all our goals on this renovation at a fraction of the cost. I can't imagine doing anything differently."

—Lukus Harvey, Director of Agronomy
Atlanta Athletic Club

Another exclusive benefit of Rain Bird's innovative solution was the ability to run the IC System™ on the same Central Control system that was already running the existing two-wire satellite and wireless satellites. This eliminated the need to run multiple control systems or learn new software. Atlanta Athletic Club was able to have all three technologies running off the same Central Control, which no other manufacturer but Rain Bird could provide.

The renovated system included Rain Bird's MI Series™ Mobile Controller, making it possible for Lukus and his staff to manage irrigation remotely. The MI Series delivers real-time system notifications, advanced diagnostics, and the ability to make instant adjustments via smartphone or tablet. In the office, a 65-inch touchscreen monitor provided another powerful irrigation scheduling and management tool.

A Rain Bird pump station featuring Smart Pump™ technology allowed the Central Control system to communicate with the pump system in real time, comparing actual flow with theoretical flow. Through intelligent, two-way communication, this technology recognizes pipe breaks and motor failures as well as power failures, notifying the staff of any issues for better system integration and efficiency. It also enabled the system to operate using the pump station's full water capacity, shortening watering windows across the course.

The Atlanta Athletic Club's Highlands Course now features state-of-the-art irrigation technology for just one-third the cost of a complete system renovation. And, with Rain Bird's Timeless Compatibility™, the course can benefit from future system enhancements without changing existing hardware for a lower total cost of ownership. By incorporating Rain Bird's innovative solutions now, the Club's Highlands Course is positioned to stay on the leading edge of irrigation technology for years to come.