

### Bear Creek Country Club, Woodinville WA



*Renovation Gives Bear Creek Irrigation Flexibility to Create Ideal Playing Conditions*

#### Property Details:

***Golf Course Superintendent***

P.J. Potuzak, CGCS

***Assistant Superintendent***

Chad Wortinger

***Management Company***

American Golf Corporation

***Consultant***

Bryant Taylor Gordon Golf

***Contractor***

Formost Construction

***Rain Bird Distributor***

Horizon Distributors

***Renovation Date***

July-December 2017

***Rain Bird Products Used***

Cirrus™ Central Control

IC System™

700/751 Series Rotors

MI Series™ Mobile Controllers

#### PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Opened in the early 1980's Bear Creek Country Club's par-72, 7,026-yard championship layout is just 15 minutes from downtown Seattle. Designed by noted golf course architect Jack Frei to blend seamlessly with its pristine surroundings: thick stands of mature trees frame undulating fairways and manicured greens, with several lakes and rugged wetlands creating both strategic diversity and a picturesque backdrop for golf. The course has hosted numerous prestigious events including the PPGA Amateur, PNW PGA Hudson Cup matches, two USGA Amateur Qualifiers, USGA Sr. Open Qualifier and the USGA Mid-Am Qualifier.

#### CHALLENGE

The original irrigation system had design issues, pressure problems and an undersized mainline that created multiple challenges, resulting in a 10 hour water window with an ongoing need for manual watering. A control system upgrade to Rain Bird PAR+ES controllers in the early 2000s provided a more targeted approach to irrigation scheduling but did not solve for design and hydraulic issues. Over time, the golf crew found themselves spending most of their day repairing mainline/lateral breaks and hand watering hot spots to keep the course playable. When the decision was made to upgrade the irrigation system, Superintendent P.J. Potuzak and Assistant Superintendent Chad Wortinger started researching satellite and 2-wire system options from the major golf irrigation manufacturers.



## SOLUTION

After careful consideration, the course chose the Rain Bird IC System with MI Series Mobile Controllers and Rain Bird 751 Series Rotors. From both a design and aesthetic standpoint, P.J. liked the idea of eliminating controllers on the course. Other benefits using the IC System include diagnostic capabilities, wire savings and the flexibility of operating the irrigation system from the field with MI. The IC System's real-time diagnostics lets the crew check the status of every rotor in a matter of seconds, keeping them one step ahead of any issues by finding problems before they happen. Combine that with the system's single-head control, and P.J.'s crew now has much greater ability to maintain playing conditions while minimizing water use.



*"Better control, more precise watering."*

— P.J. Potuzak  
Golf Course, Superintendent  
Bear Creek Country Club

*"With MI it is so much easier to multi-task when watering and doing other jobs together."*

— Chad Wortinger, Asst. Superintendent  
Bear Creek Country Club

The MI Series Mobile Controllers have been a great time-saving device allowing "on the fly" changes, multiple heads can be run and it easily connects across the course. Like many courses, Bear Creek has significant elevation changes which always hampered radio connectivity. Using MI through the cellular network has completely eliminated connection issues.

## RESULTS

Using the Rain Bird IC System with MI Series Mobile Controllers has given P.J. the irrigation flexibility he needs to maintain his course. The water window has been reduced to less than 5 hours and his crew now spends their time providing ideal playing conditions for their members.

*"With IC it is great to eliminate the control boxes on the course which leads to less components in the field to fail, and the diagnostic feature makes pin-pointing a potential and actual problem so simple."*

— Chad Wortinger, Asst. Superintendent  
Bear Creek Country Club

