

An Extreme Makeover At The

Toro Irrigation Systems Overcome Challenges In Major Renovation



The Broadmoor calls it the Mountain Golf Course, and for good reason. The 7,700-yard 18-hole course in Colorado Springs is perched on the side of Cheyenne Mountain with dramatic views in all directions. But, this stunning attribute also has a negative side. Through the years since the course was built in 1975, it has been plagued with problems related to landslides, erosion and generally deteriorating conditions.

“On some areas of the course, it looked like a mini earthquake situation where the land fractures,” says Fred Dickman, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at The Broadmoor. “In 1999, we actually had to close the course when we received 17 inches of rain in the month of April. That’s as much as we usually get all year,” he notes. “It caused so much land movement that we were forced to close nine holes.”

Rebuilding From The Ground Up

The decision to renovate the Mountain Course was made in 2003. The Broadmoor needed the course to handle rounds for guests at the 700-room hotel as well as 600 private members. Play had been consolidated onto The Broadmoor’s two traditional venues, the East and West Golf Courses, designed by Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones Sr. respectively.

“With the history of the course’s land stabilization issues, a lot of questions needed to be answered before we were going to build a new one,” Dickman explains. “But the engineers who studied the property laid out guidelines for the golf course architects, and then it was up to the architects to find a way to lay out the course within those guidelines.”

“The idea was not to restore the original course, but come up with an entirely new plan,” says Dickman. “We

also wanted the new course to have the appearance of having been in place since the creation of the original property in 1918.”

The Broadmoor began working in collaboration with Nicklaus Design. Due to the topography, mountain sites can be challenging pieces of ground to build 18 good holes. “Our architect, Chris Cochran, came up with a great design,” Dickman relates.

Irrigation Selection Offers Flexibility

Since the engineers and architects were extremely sensitive to land movement issues, the irrigation selection was paramount. “We needed





Broadmoor

Nicklaus Design Comes Full Circle

In 1959, on the links at The Broadmoor, Jack Nicklaus won his first national title and first major championship, the U.S. Amateur Championship. Now 45 years later, his company, Nicklaus Design brings the legacy full-circle with the redesign of one of its best-loved venues. And Toro continues to be a part of the legacy.

to make sure the water stayed strictly confined to the turfgrass areas. We also have a lot of wind here, so we wanted to have flexibility with nozzle settings. The 835S/855S Series with Trjectory™ was a great choice for getting water where we wanted it."

The new course has 57 acres of turf and 70 acres of native grasses that are being grown in now. "Along the native and golf course boundaries, we are using the 855s. We can adjust them to operate 360 degrees to water the turf and the native grasses as they grow in. Then we can turn them back to part circles after the natives are established."

In addition to the ability to easily switch from part-circle to true full-circle operation, the 835S/855S heads offer unparalleled flexibility in other ways. The patented Trjectory adjustment on the top of the sprinkler allows users to immediately adjust the spray trajectory from 7 to 30 degrees in order to compensate for wind, low hanging branches and other obstructions.

"The lightning protection on the 800 Series is another strong feature of the head,"

Dickman adds. "We're in a location that gets a lot of lightning." This superior lighting protection is courtesy of Toro's Spike-Guard™ Solenoid, which provides the greatest lightning protection in the industry. The Spike-Guard Solenoid uses less power than traditional solenoids, but withstands surges exceeding 20,000 volts.

New Field Satellites Provide More Control

The new Network VP field satellites were selected for The Broadmoor's renovation.

"We're a beta site for the new VPs," Dickman points out. "A lot of guys would shy away from using such a new product, but I want the newest, best technology available."

Superintendents can easily make programming changes in the field and access existing programs conveniently with a hand-held radio. The Network VP can even water up to 32 stations at the same time, getting more watering accomplished in less time, so the course is open for play more often.

Irrigation Expertise A Plus

Dickman's background makes him an expert of sorts when it comes to irrigation. Prior to being at The Broadmoor, he spent ten years building and managing courses in the Arizona desert. "I think the guys in the southwest are about 10 years ahead of the rest of the country when it comes to irrigation," Dickman offers. "With drought conditions, you really learn to manage water there."

The new Mountain Golf Course at The Broadmoor is scheduled to open in July 2006. As the course nears completion,



Toro Irrigation System and components helped make The Broadmoor renovation a huge success.

Dickman can expect increased productivity and ease of use with the Network VP, which is a drop-in replacement for Toro's popular Network 8000 satellite. In addition to being easy to setup and configure, with an intuitive, push-button interface that saves valuable time, this innovative new satellite has a range of programming capabilities.

Dickman and others are very pleased with the results. "We have 18 excellent holes with wide, forgiving fairways and great scenery," Dickman reports with a smile.