



A historical treasure of Houston

Gus Wortham Golf Course Restoration Plan



August 1st, 2007



Gus Wortham Golf Course

History of Golf in Houston



The history of Houston Country Club is the history of golf in Houston, Texas. In 1908 the Club opened its 18-hole golf course southeast of downtown. The facility included a tennis court, a large clubhouse with apartments and a full-service kitchen and, later, a state of the art swimming pool. The golf course was probably laid out by wintering professional Tom MacNamara and Texas' first resident professional, Willie Maguire.

Among the records of pre-eminent golf course architect Donald Ross, is a reference stating that he contributed somehow to the course in the early 1920. His contribution remains unproven, although Houston Country Club did undergo remodeling in the twenties that included renovation of the greens.



In 1913, two Houston Country Club members – merchant Abe Levy and developer and financier Jesse Jones – underwrote the visit of English golfers Harry Vardon and Ted Ray. This well attended event led to the creation of the Houston Country Club Invitational, for many years a staple on the amateur golf circuit.

Among the nationally known amateurs competing in this tournament were “Chick” Evans, Johnny Dawson and Johnny Goodman, not to mention Texans Gus Moreland and “Spec” Goldman. The tournament remained on the schedule until the mid 1950s, when the interest in amateur golf was outstripped by the professional tour.

In 1957, Houston Country Club relocated to the Tanglewood subdivision of Houston. The old course became Houston Executive Club until 1972 when the City of Houston purchased the facility and renamed it in honor of Houston Country Club member and insurance magnate, Gus Wortham.

**Courtesy of Frances G. Trimble & Houston Country Club*

Gus Wortham Golf Course



Golf History & facts

The first 18-hole golf course in Texas 1908

The oldest 18-hole golf course continuously in play for 100 years in Texas

The first 18-hole golf course played by contestants in the Texas Golf Association Championship 1911

Harry Vardon & Ted Ray played exhibition match in 1913 against professional Willie Maguire and amateur Bryan Heard

Beginning in 1914, hosted the most prestigious amateur championship west of the Mississippi – The Houston Country Club Invitational

- Won by Houstonian George Rotan 1914
- Won by U. S. Open Champion Francis Ouimet 1922
- Hosted the second Women's Texas Golf Association Championship in 1917
- Bobby Jones played exhibition with Ossie Carlton, Jack Burke Sr. and Willie Maguire 1935

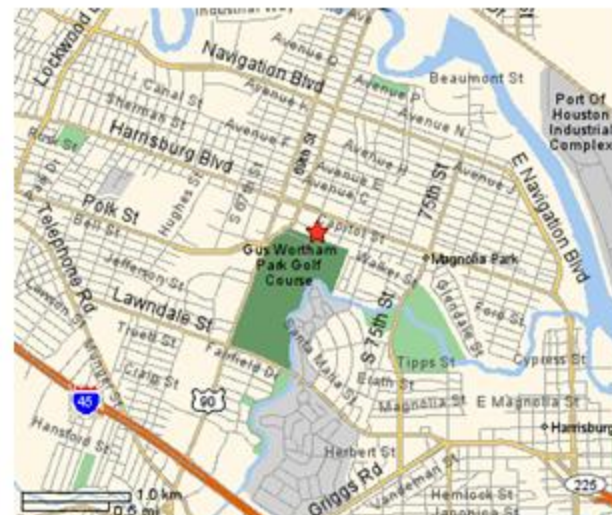


Gus Wortham Golf Course



An opportunity to enhance the quality of life for the East End

- Excellent setting for social & community activities
- Easy access for inner-loop residents
- Great location for Jr. Golf Programs
- Beautiful green space along Brays Bayou
- Economic development for the East End
- Close location for Downtown Conventions



Gus Wortham Golf Course



The golf course



- Total site area 151 acres
- Total yardage 6270
- Holes 18
- Par 72
- Slope 113
- Rating 69.5



GUS WORTHAM GOLF COURSE													HOUSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT												
Blue	343	441	511	465	193	416	390	127	337	3223	P	135	423	284	324	393	375	247	510	356	3047	3223	6270		
White	308	415	480	409	167	384	376	109	303	2951	L	103	315	257	314	367	361	208	485	273	2683	2951	5634		
Red	390	400	450	400	157	365	350	100	280	2802	A	95	300	250	304	350	351	175	445	250	2520	2802	5322		
Par Mens/Ladies	4/4	5/5	5/5	5/5	3/3	4/4	4/5	3/3	4/4	37/38	E	3/3	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	3/4	5/5	4/4	35/36	37/38	72/74			
Handicap Mens/Ladies	11/9	15/5	7/1	9/11	5/13	3/3	1/7	13/17	17/15		R	18/16	4/12	16/14	14/2	10/4	8/10	2/18	12/6	6/8					
Hole No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	OUT	TOT	NET		
Date:											Scorer:														
											Attest:														

Gus Wortham Golf Course



Views from the golf course



View from 2nd hole tee



6th Hole Fairway (Brays Bayou)



Bridge to the 7th Hole Green



View to 8th Hole Green



View from 17th Hole Fairway



View from the 18th Hole Tee

The restoration of the Gus Wortham Golf Course

1. The restoration of the Golf Course to USGA standards
2. New entrance to the Golf Course
3. Renovation & addition of parking
4. New club-house
5. New driving range and training facility
6. New maintenance facility
7. New restroom facility



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existing

proposed



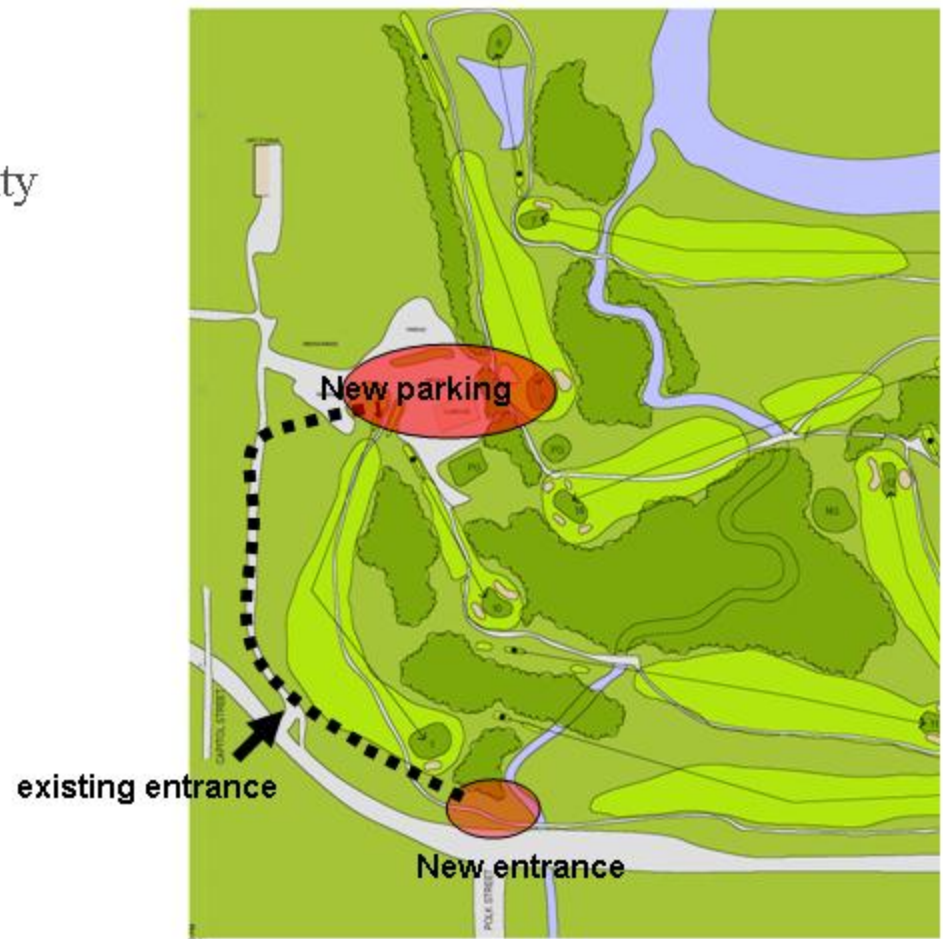
- New grading and drainage system per USGA
- New irrigation system (TORO/Rainbird)
- New pump station w/ irrigation tank
- New grass for fairway & greens (#419 & dwarf bermuda)
- New concrete cart path
- Upgrade bridges
- Signage and course furnishings

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Existing main entrance down Wayside



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Proposed main entrance



Existing main entrance

- New monumental entry gate
- Relocate entrance drive

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Existing parking area



- New parking layout for 170 cars with landscape areas

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Gus Wortham GC club house



Memorial GC club house

- New Pro-shop
- New restrooms w/ showers
- New food concession
- New open pavilion/dining hall for 200 persons

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Existing practice range

- New practice range layout with lights
- Covered training facility
- Develop Jr. golf programs

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•Let the images speak for them self.....

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7. **New restroom facility**



- We have the Club house at the east of the course
- We need a restroom facility at the west side of the course

Gus Wortham Golf Course



The golf course restoration plan

Golf Course Restoration

- New grading
- New drainage system
- New irrigation system
- New grass

New driving range

New parking

New Club House

New maintenance

New RR

New drive

New entry

CAPITOL STREET

POUL STREET

WAYSIDE DRIVE

LAWNDALE STREET

Proposed Budget



The restoration of the Gus Wortham Golf Course

The restoration of the Golf Course to USGA standards	\$5,500,000
New entrance to the Golf Course	\$350,000
Renovation & addition of parking	\$600,000
New club-house	\$1,700,000
New driving range and training facility	\$150,000
New maintenance facility	\$620,000
New restroom facility	\$80,000
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Total	\$9,000,000



Proposed funding



The restoration of the Gus Wortham Golf Course

Private fundraising by Houston Parks Board



Individual Donations
Corporate Donations
Naming opportunities for:

- *Club House*
- *Driving Range*
- *Individual Hole*
- *Practice greens*

www.houstonparksboard.org
link to Gus Wortham Golf Course Restoration

