# LAKEVIEW LINKS GOLF COURSE

DRYDEN, NEW YORK



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## problem:

A poor addition of 9 holes has made the Lakeview Golf Course an awkward, inconsistent, and sometimes unsafe 18-hole golf course. The existing layout, which lies on a pristine piece of lakefront property, will need both rerouting and renovation in order to make it profitable and playable once again.

### analysis:

An NGF study has concluded that an 18-hole golf course at this location would have to be a premium golf course for it to strive and compete with the surrounding golf courses in the area. This would require many millions of dollars in renovation, land purchase, and upkeep. An investment to create a premium golf course may not be offset by the number of rounds per year. Based on a hole-by-hole evaluation it is imperative that many of the existing hole either be manipulated or removed due to poor design or and/or safety issues. Poor maintenance of the golf course is a major factor for its recent downfall. This is due mostly to a lack of funding, which causes such problems as a lack of staff, a lack of functional equipment, and a lack of necessary applications on the course. An inventory of the equipment shows that many essential pieces need to be repaired and/or purchased in order for the golf course to be maintained at an acceptable level for play and aesthetics.

#### process:

Although the acreage of the site is sufficient to support a medium length 18-hole golf course, especially when considering the available lot west of the driving range, the topography does not allow for a playable and safe 18 full-length holes. My first attempt to change the layout of the course was with a manipulation of some existing holes, the addition of new holes, and the preservation of some of holes. As I tried to fit 18 holes in under this process I discovered I had to sacrifice many valuable hole routings in order to fit all 18 holes into the site. Further, I quickly realized that the total yardage of 18 holes would struggle to reach 6,000 yards. I began to chose the most profound existing holes, or parts of holes, and preserve them. I felt that 9 holes that captured the landscape beautifully would be more valuable than 18 holes that were squeezed in and forced. With the additional space from the removal of 9 existing holes I had the freedom to add character to newly open space.

#### solution:

The statistics and demographic analysis fail to focus on a key factor that could revive the Lakeview Golf Course. A unique and interesting design concept for a renovated Lakeview could attract many golfers that would normally golf at the competing golf courses in the area. By creating a links style golf course the aesthetics of the land rise while maintenance costs plummet. The areas that are not greens, tees, fairways, and a small amount of rough will be planted with native grasses, toped with sand, and will be allowed to return to its natural form. This will add a unique challenge to the golfer, create direction in the routing, allow for a more natural habitat for plant and animal species, and most importantly, drastically reduce the amount of turf to be maintained.