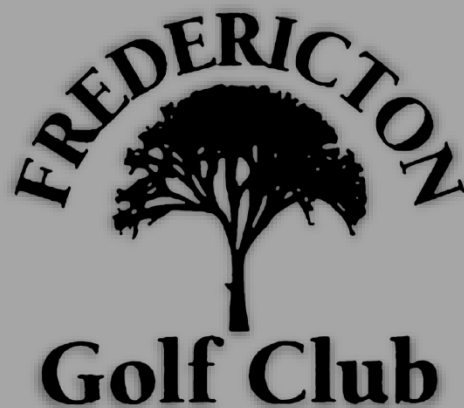


# Green Renovation Report and Budget

*for the*



*prepared by:* *Whitman*  
ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN LTD.

The following report is broad in scope, yet detailed enough to provide accurate budget estimates for the renovation of the green complexes at holes 4, 5, 10 and 13 at the Fredericton Golf Club. This plan addresses some of the design concerns brought to us by Steve Hancock, the golf course superintendent, and select members of the Green Committee and management, incorporating them into a vision for what the club could become. Our aim, through this proposed work, is to simultaneously improve the strategic quality of these golf holes, restore a cohesive historical aesthetic, reduce current maintenance requirements, and increase the overall fun and playability for all levels of golfer.

We look forward to working with all interested parties to help make this vision of the Fredericton Golf Club a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Whitman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Whitman  
Golf Course Architect

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# PART ONE

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## BACKGROUND & VISION



## THE FREDERICTON GOLF CLUB – HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Immigration from England surged in the 1830s: a scenario that unfolded in response to workers from the lower-classes being made redundant by the rapid industrialisation of Britain. More significantly for golf, perhaps, some 170,000 Scots, encouraged by the British government, crossed the Atlantic Ocean between 1815 and 1870. These immigrants represented a cross-section of the Scottish population. Most were farmers and artisans, although large numbers of business and professional people also made the journey to the New World. These middleclass individuals, and those who would climb the social ladder of their new Canadian home, imported and popularised the prevalent leisure activities of their homeland: notably, golf.

Although the end of British rule in the late-1860s saw the onset of a long economic depression in Canada, as the nation fought to shape its own identity, the end of Mercantilism brought about many personal freedoms for the Canadian people. Hence, the 1870s also resulted in the establishment of the first golf clubs in North America, specifically Canada. The Royal Montreal Golf Club was formed in 1873, while institution of the Royal Quebec Golf Club followed just one year later. In 1876, the Toronto Golf Club was established on the Fernhill property; staying put for thirty-five years before relocating in 1911.

Golf was first introduced to the Province of New Brunswick during 1895 in St Andrews-by-the-Sea. Owner of Minister's Island, and president of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), Sir William Cornelius Van Horne provided the necessary access to the region to allow the sport of golf to grow. In 1916, a group of local businessmen incorporated Fredericton Golf Lands Ltd. and purchased several properties to establish a nine-hole course on the outskirts of the city. The result was a five-hole course and a small club house, which would become known as The Fredericton Golf Club. Additional lands would be purchased in 1919, and the course was duly expanded to a nine-hole layout. Between 1948 and 1949, work was undertaken to design and construct of a second nine holes. The resulting eighteen-hole layout was completed in 1952.

## ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN – OUR APPROACH

Whether designing a new golf course or improving upon an existing layout, our work consistently focuses on achieving three important fundamentals.

### 1) FUNCTION

Golf architecture is similar to other forms of design in that form follows function. It's most important that the golf course is properly drained and can effectively and efficiently be maintained to provide appropriate playing conditions. Safety is also important, along with golfer and maintenance traffic relative to unnecessary wear. Agronomy and course maintenance efficiencies should never be compromised by design. After all, every golfer covets pristine turf conditions and every golf course needs to be accessible, maintainable and, in turn, playable in varying conditions to be successful.

### 2) THE IDEAL IN GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

The world's best golf courses present low-handicap players with the type of playing interest and challenge they covet and simultaneously allow everyone else to enjoy the game. This is the ideal in golf architecture. A golf course doesn't need to be cluttered with an abundance of bunkers, trees and other hazards to present an adequate challenge. In fact, such courses tend to be pretty straightforward for the best and frustrating for the rest. Contour, adequate width and strategic shot values/angles of play are time honoured tools to achieve this goal.

### 3) DISTINCTIVENESS

The only common characteristic shared by the world's best golf courses is distinctiveness. Golf architecture is not about creating 'easy' and 'hard' holes. It's about creating a varied and attractive golf course. If a golf course presents a variety of interesting looks and challenges to golfers of all abilities in a uniquely attractive environment, the golf usually takes care of itself. The aesthetics of the golf course should enhance the characteristics unique to each individual property.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Hole at Cabot Links



## ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN – THE TEAM

At Rod Whitman Golf Course Design we strive to build courses that are interesting, varied, beautiful and fun to play whilst incorporating sustainable design solutions.

With a diverse range of skills, we offer a complete service encompassing everything from the first concept sketch, through to design, construction and project management. We pride ourselves on attention to detail and limit the number of projects we work on at any one time. Our design-build methodology, the only such practice based in Canada, allows us to dedicate the time necessary to every aspect of the job that contributes to the look and play of our golf courses.



**Rod Whitman** has designed golf courses in Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. He once worked for Pete Dye and has long assisted the firm of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw on the construction side of their designs. He launched his Canadian career with the design of Wolf Creek Golf Club in Ponoka, which opened in 1983. His designs are heralded as among the best in the country. Every one of his courses in Canada have held spots in the Top 100 Canadian Courses by SCOREGolf. Further, his design for the first course at Cabot Links is regarded as among the Top 100 designs in the world!

Whitman understands the importance of detailed fieldwork. He spends an extraordinary amount of time on-site throughout the development of his golf course designs, and continues to personally carry out shaping work in the field.





**Keith Cutten** has worked with Rod Whitman for over a decade. Keith cut his teeth at Sagebrush Golf Club in 2007, and has since assisted with the construction of Cabot Links in Inverness, and the recent renovation of the historic Algonquin Golf Course in St. Andrews, NB; among other projects.

In addition to having achieved a bachelors degree, as well as his professional designation and stamp, as an Environmental Planner, Keith has also attained a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture. Keith brings both technical and construction proficiency to each project.

As a golf historian, Keith has published several articles in various media outlets. He is also the author of new and highly touted book *The Evolution of Golf Course Design*.



**Kurtis Lavis** was raised in a golfing family. His father is the superintendent at Tarandowah Golfer's Club in Ontario, the course on which Kurtis cut his construction and maintenance teeth as a teen (2007 to 2015). Following in his father's footsteps, Kurtis attained a turf degree from the University of Guelph in 2015.

Kurtis then spent almost 2 years in Scotland, working on construction and maintenance teams at Castle Stuart near Inverness, before returning home to Canada and a position as Environmental Coordinator at Cabot Cliffs in 2017.

Kurtis joined Rod Whitman Golf Design in 2018 to help complete the renovation of The Algonquin Golf Course in St. Andrews, NB.

## DESIGNING AND BUILDING GREAT GREENS

Noteworthy greens are a combination of interesting contour, effective maintenance practices, and functioning surface and sub-surface drainage. Great greens emerge when all three elements coalesce symbiotically within one design. Great greens are always interesting. The orientation of the green and the placement of the surrounding hazards should dictate the strategy from the tee and determine (or be determined by) the placement of the driving hazards (bunkers, topography, water and trees).

Following our recent review of the ‘issue greens’ at Fredericton Golf Club, (specifically at holes 4, 5, 10 and 13) we have concluded that while some issues are complicated, others are not.

After years of sand topdressing, many greens now have collar dams that should be removed. As topdressing sand is dragged into the green surfaces, this material disperses to the outer edges and builds-up creating significant problems with surface drainage, scalping and play-ability with the development of severe slopes on the outer edges of the greens that didn’t originally exist.

Some golfers argue that making the greens larger will make the course easier. In fact, the opposite is true. Taking the putting surfaces out closer to bunkers, banks, fall-offs and other surrounding hazards will restore some of the most challenging hole locations on the course ... hole locations that genuinely restore original playing strategies, asking golfers to drive to specific sides of the fairway to obtain an advantageous angle of attack depending where the hole is cut any given day.

Design issues such as these are present at holes 4 and 5. Combined with steep slopes on greens designed for longer heights of cut, these greens have become maintenance and playability issues. Thankfully, these are relatively easy fixes.

The reconstruction of the green sites at holes 10 and 13 will be a larger undertaking. This is a literal statement, as the work areas will need to be made larger for these two greens, when compared to the others at holes 4 and 5, to correct the fundamental design issues. In addition to a lack of hole locations due to severe slopes, these green sites are poorly designed for surface water flow. External green contouring will also need to be reworked at holes 10 and 13 to correct this issue.

An example of a great green - The new 10<sup>th</sup> hole at the Algonquin Golf Course in St Andrews, NB.



## PART TWO

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## DESIGN

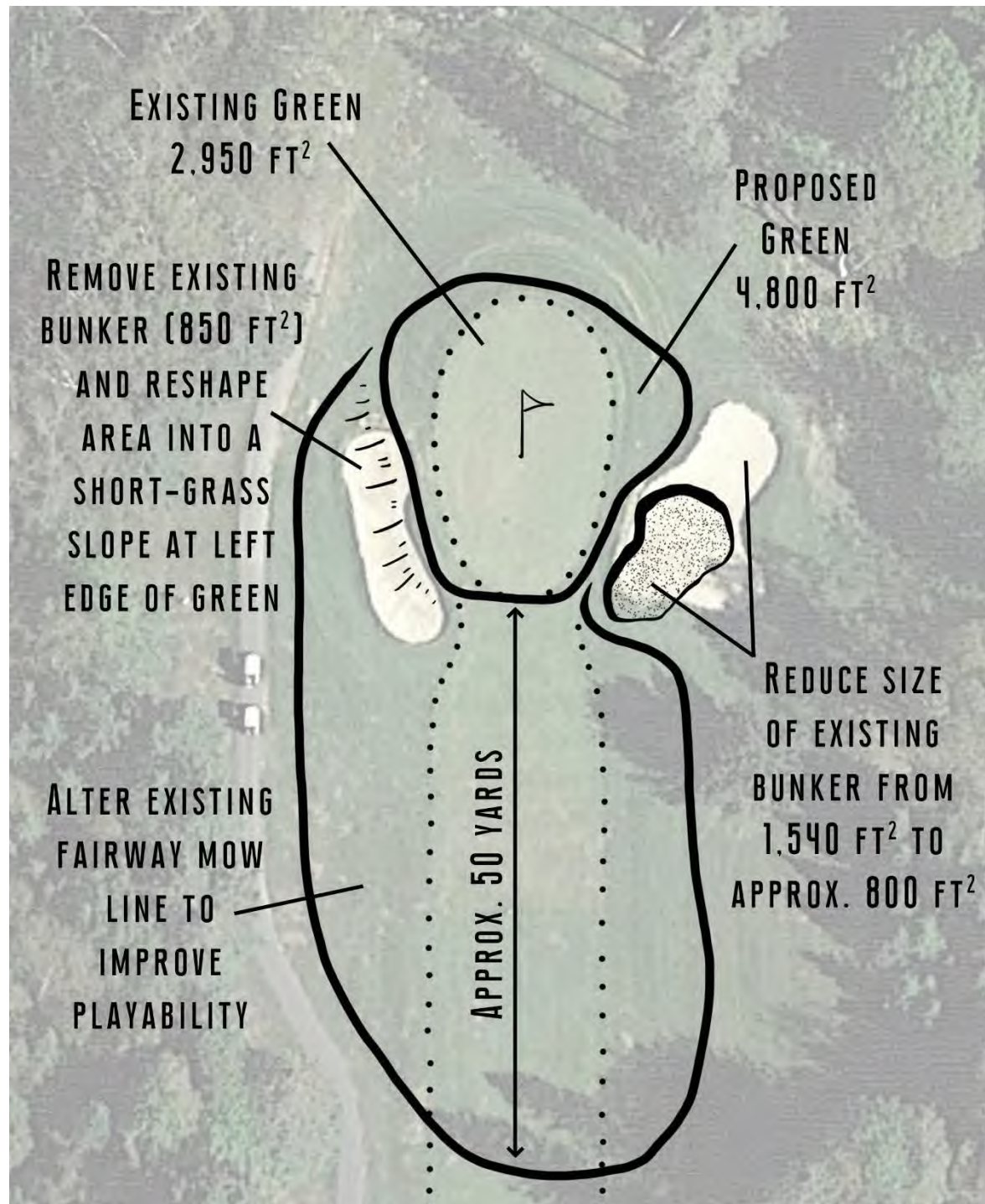




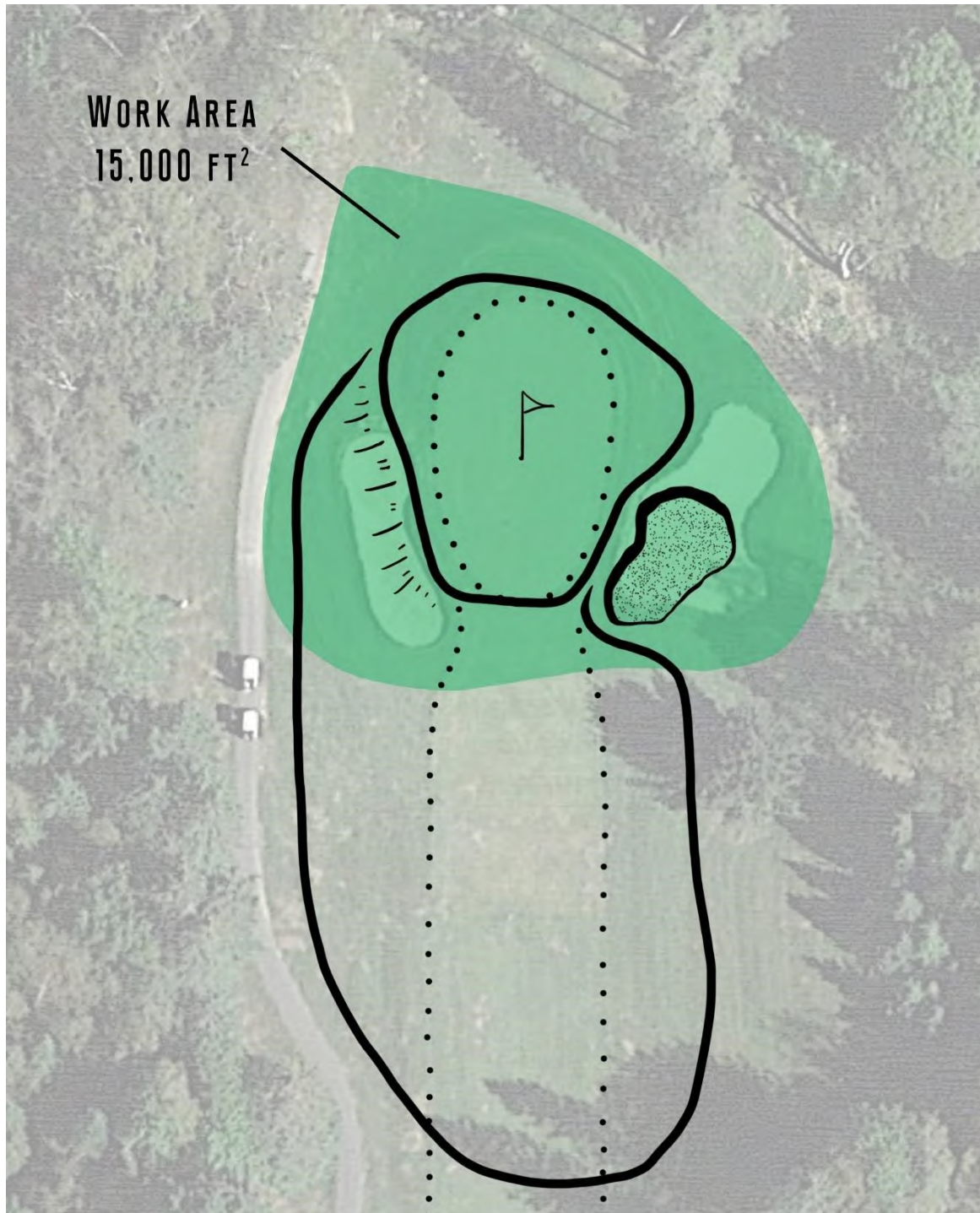
## 4<sup>th</sup> Hole | Par 3 | 190 yd.

Back-to-back par 3 holes is a distinctive characteristic of the Fredericton Golf Club. One of the top golf courses in the world shares this characteristic – Cypress Point. Further, though not evident with the current design, the variety in the typography between these two holes is noteworthy. The ground surrounding the 4<sup>th</sup> hole generally slopes left-to-right; whereas, the ground surrounding the 5<sup>th</sup> hole slopes right-to-left. As such, the proposed green design and hazard placement for the 4<sup>th</sup> hole has been tailored to suit this inherent attribute, accenting the left-to-right nature of the ground.

In addition to creating a larger green surface, with more hole locations, it is proposed that the right greenside bunker be reshaped.



WORK AREA  
15,000 FT<sup>2</sup>

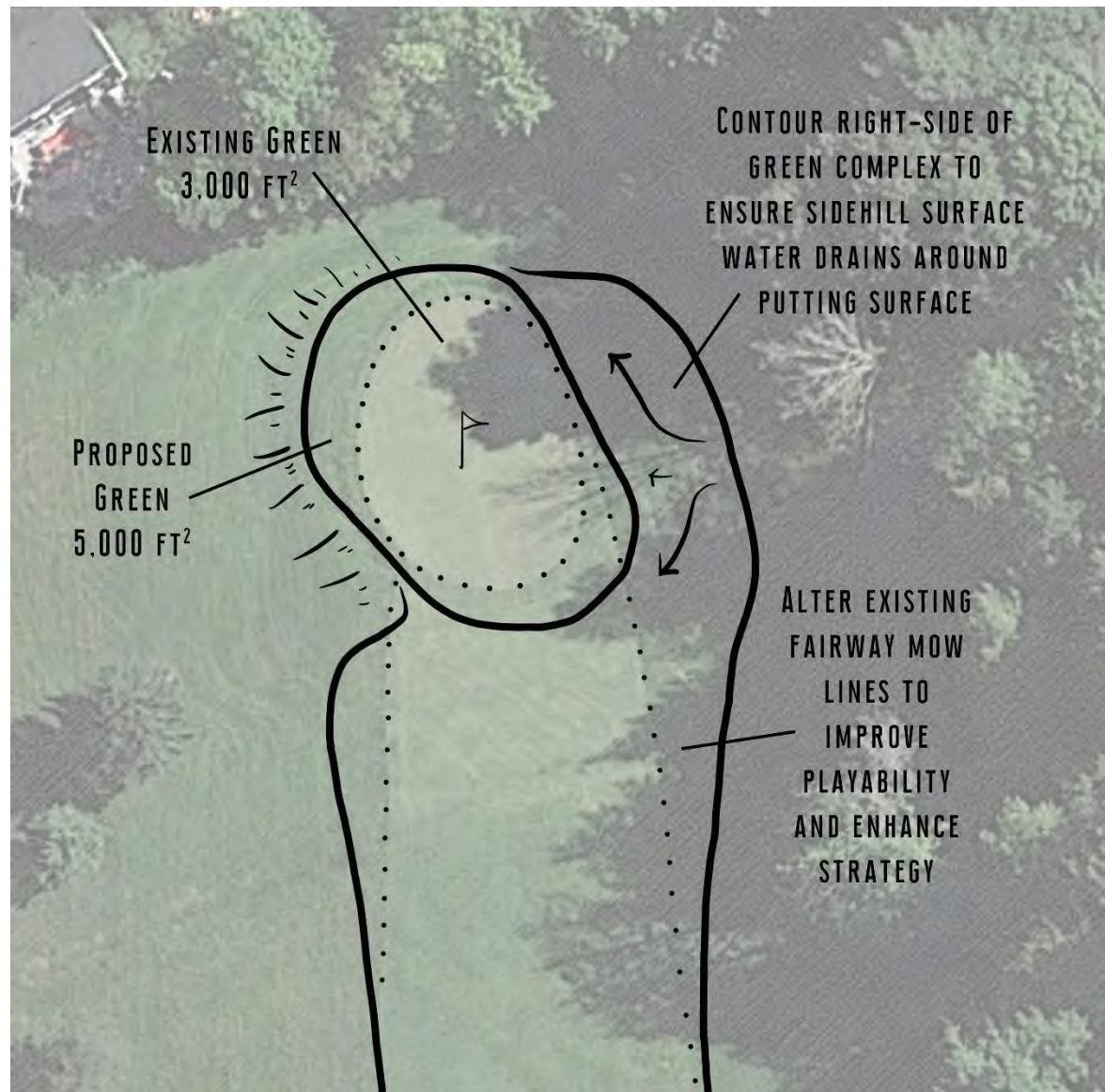




## 5<sup>th</sup> Hole | Par 3 | 215 yd.

As the second, and longer, of the two back-to-back par 3 holes at the Fredericton Golf Club, the 5<sup>th</sup> hole provides an opportunity to create a bunkerless version of the famous Redan hole at North Berwick in Scotland. The Redan is the most copied template hole in all of golf because of the quality of strategy inherent in the design.

A green sloping (generally) right-to-left and front-to-back will reward players who use the ground and contours short-right of the green to bounce their shots closer to the various pin locations. A key to this re-design is the necessity to divert surface water around the green, while still allowing golf shots to find the putting surface.







WORK AREA  
17,000 FT<sup>2</sup>

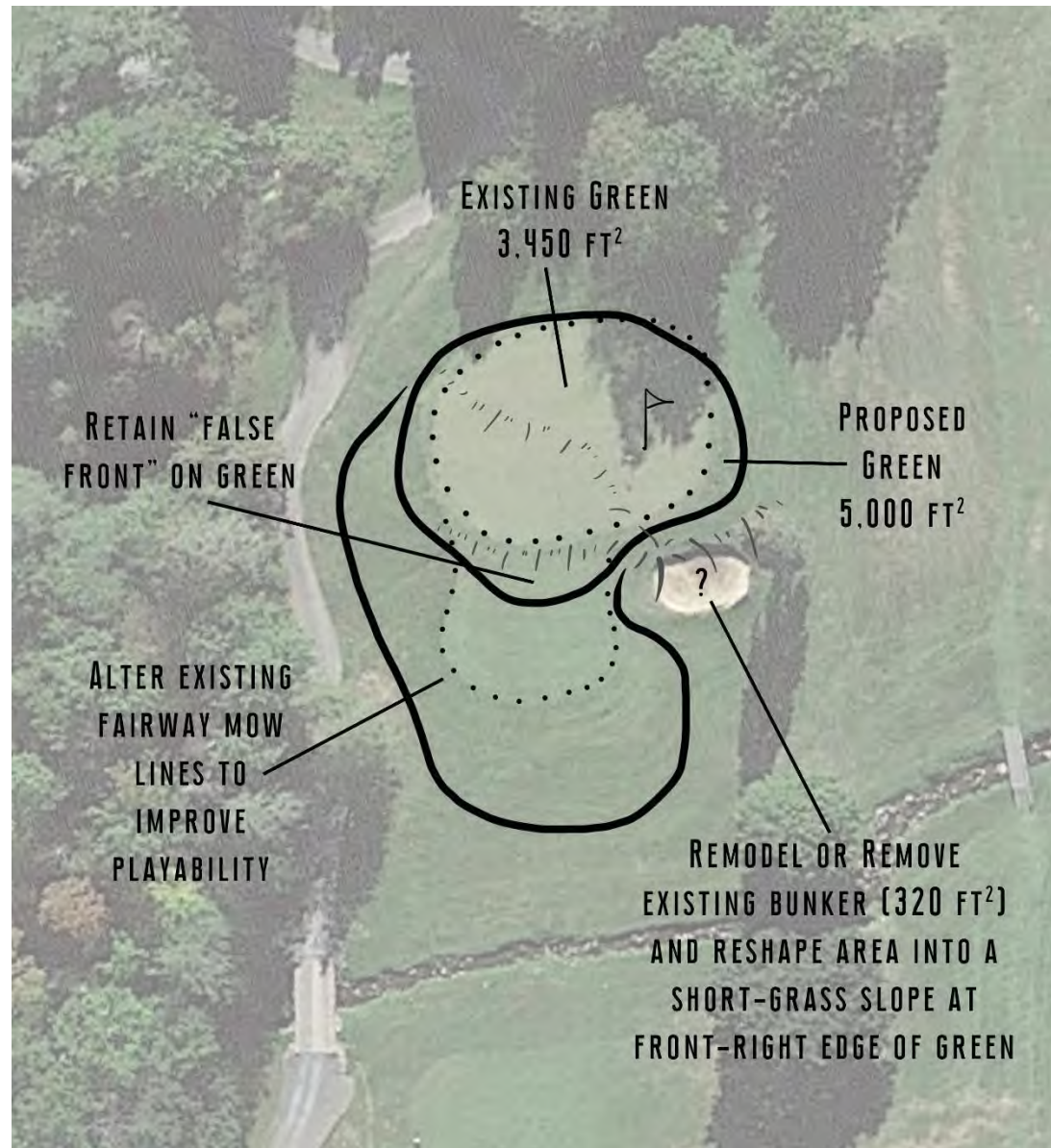


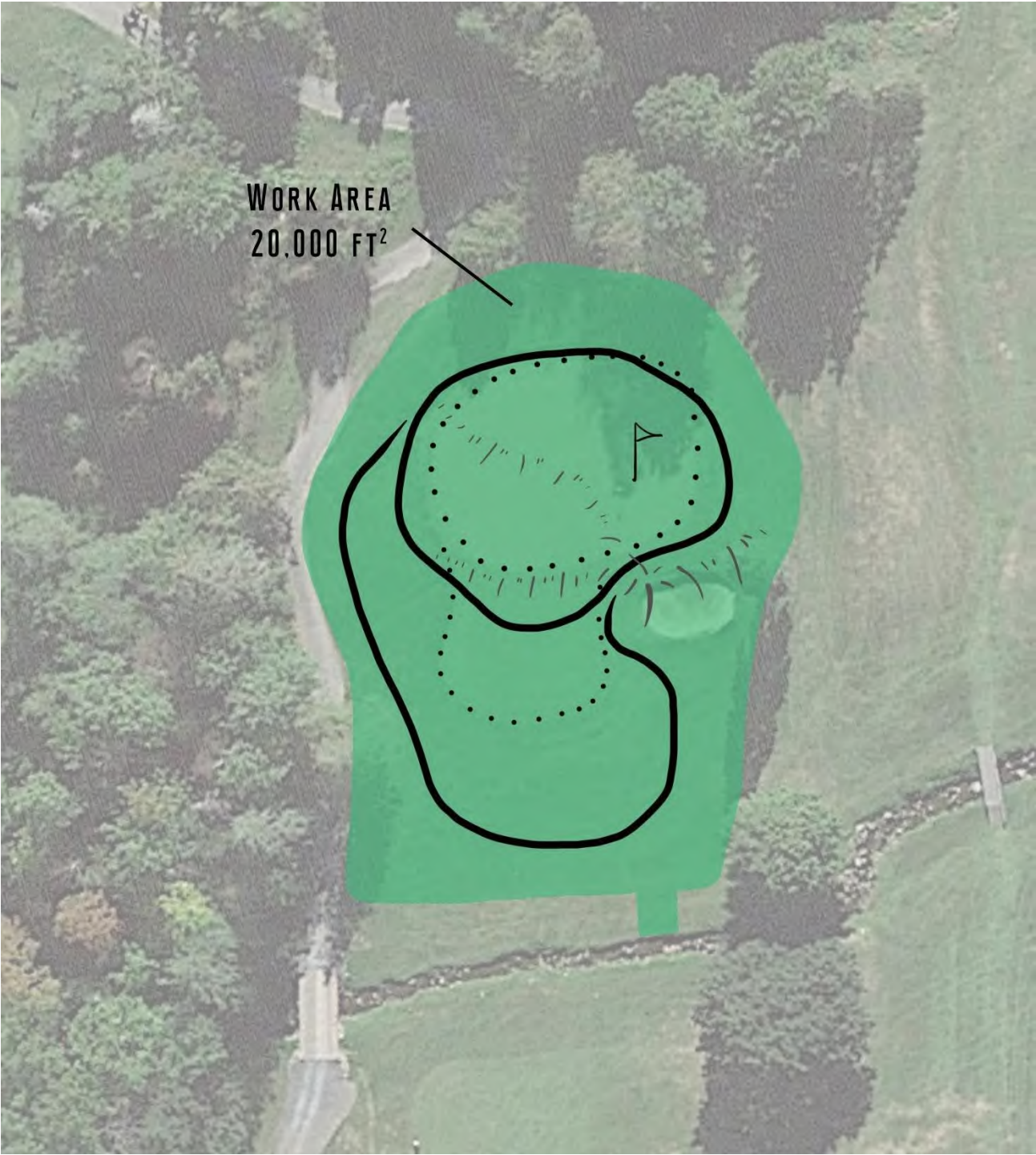
## 10<sup>th</sup> Hole | Par 4 | 350 yd.

At 350 yards from the back tees, the 10<sup>th</sup> hole at the Fredericton Golf Club is a relatively short par 4. However, the creek and uphill approach shot offer enough difficulty for the average player. We propose a green design which will highlight these two natural elements.

By extending the fairway (back) towards the creek, players with lower ball flights will be provided with a better opportunity to bounce a shot onto the putting surface.

By reworking or removing the right greenside bunker, and retaining the green's false front, a shot with precise distance will be required for one's approach. Further, by creating a soft ridge, allowing the putting surface to climb naturally into the slope, two smaller targets will be created within the larger putting surface.





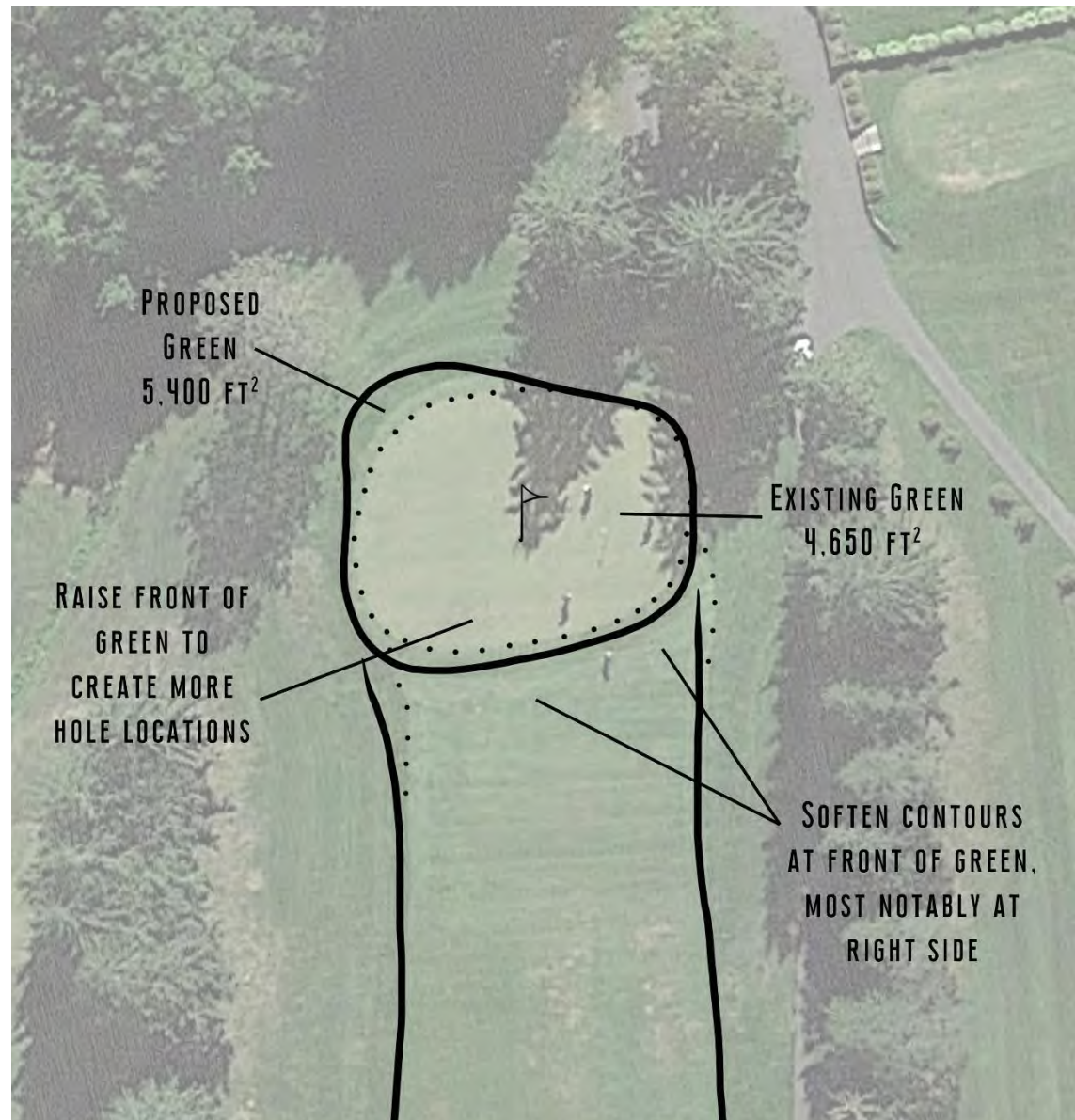
WORK AREA  
20,000 FT<sup>2</sup>

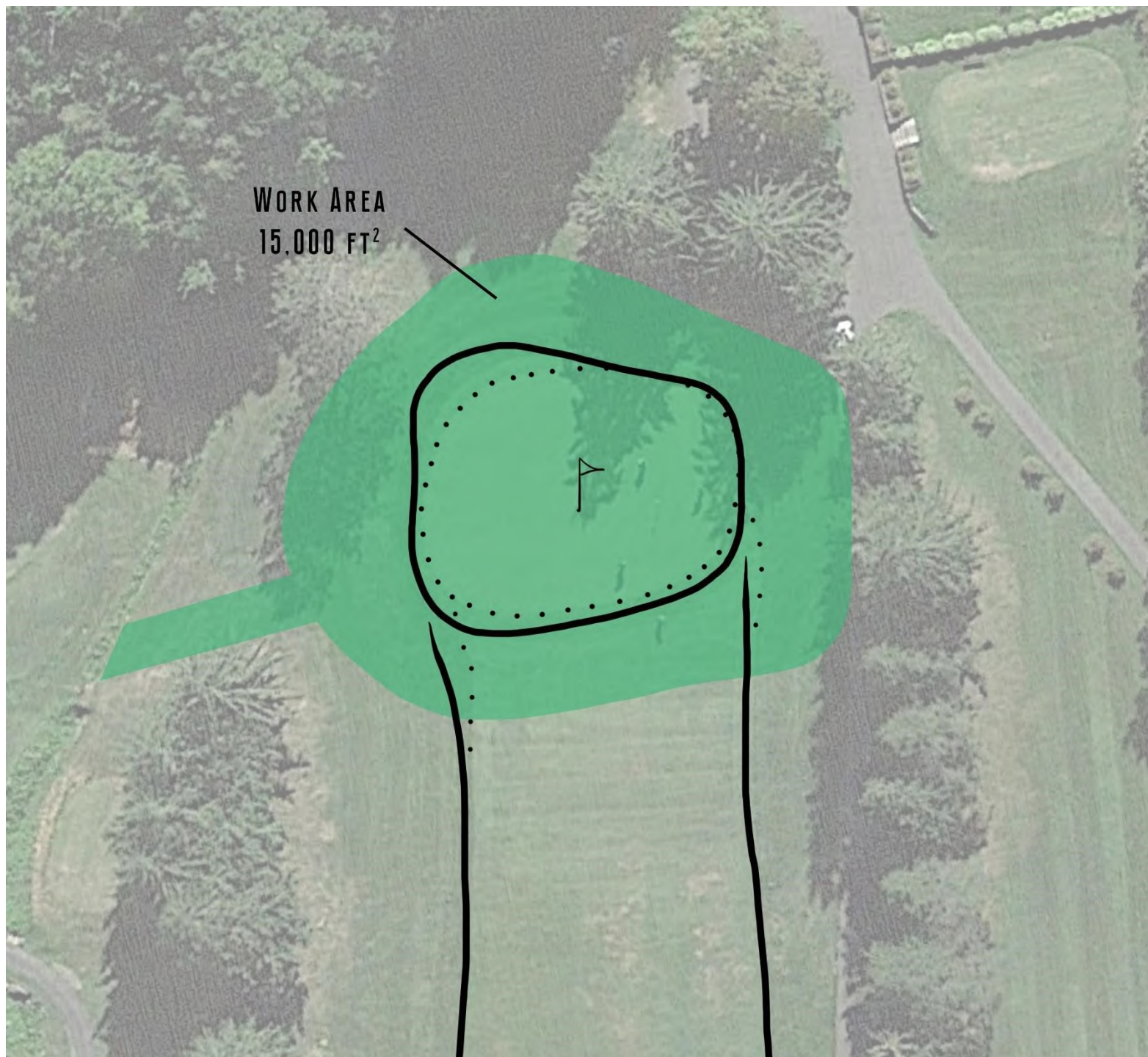


## 13<sup>th</sup> Hole | Par 5 | 520 yd.

Back-to-back par 5 holes is another distinctive characteristic which the Fredericton Golf Club should highlight. Interestingly, Cypress Point again shares this design trait. However, what back-to-back holes of the same par require, perhaps more than any other series of sequential holes, is variety. Thankfully, holes twelve and thirteen at Fredericton Golf Club play in opposite directions, firstly downhill and then uphill.

The thirteenth green is one of the largest on the golf course because of the semi-blind uphill approach shot. Due to the severity of the land, a simple green with intricate contouring to retain interest is prescribed here.





WORK AREA  
15,000 FT<sup>2</sup>

## PART THREE

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### CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS





## NEXT STEPS

This report has sought to outline our preliminary ideas concerning the renovation of the green complexes at holes 4, 5, 10 and 13 at the Fredericton Golf Club. While these greens represent the biggest issues on the golf course property, issues that will be resolved through our proposed redesign, we believe that many greens and bunkers throughout the golf course could benefit from a more detailed assessment. There are enough items to deal with that your club should endeavour to develop a more comprehensive Master Plan to guide golf course improvement over the next 5 to 10 years. This type of plan would include an overview golf course map illustrating recommendations for improvement, along with a detailed narrative booklet elaborating on much of what's been discussed in this report relative to the history and evolution of the course, as well as detailed explanations and illustration of recommendations on a hole-by-hole basis. We suggest that the Committee considers this approach, as well as the quality of our work following the renovation of holes 4, 5, 10 and 13, as a next step for the club.

*Whitman*  
ROD WHITMAN GOLF COURSE DESIGN LTD.