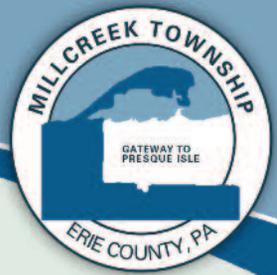


Erie Golf Club

A Treasure Preserved



The Deal

After being closed for nearly two seasons, Erie Golf Club reopened in 2009 under new ownership. In a multi-party deal involving the City of Erie, Erie County, the Erie Regional Airport Authority and Millcreek Township, the city dedeed the course to Millcreek Township. In return, the city received about two million dollars and the airport runway project, which would severely impact Millcreek's nine-hole golf course, was saved the expense of reconfiguring the course.

In an effort to relieve itself of some debt, the city had considered selling the course for development. Opposition to that idea came from many fronts. Environmental groups, neighbors of the course, and golfers – some of whom had been playing Erie for decades – all expressed displeasure with the idea of bulldozers and chainsaws destroying such a beautiful piece of our community. The idea of transferring ownership to Millcreek and keeping the course open was met with general acclaim.

Since acquiring ownership of Erie Golf Club, the township has made several improvements to the clubhouse and the grounds around it. Most noticeable are the new windows and doors, vinyl siding, patio and refurbished banquet room. The new patio, overlooking the course with Lake Erie in the distance, has been a big hit with those wishing to enjoy a sandwich or refreshments after a day on the links. This year, an awning covering about half of the patio will be installed. That area, combined with the improved banquet room, will provide event space for about 150 people.

Community organizations looking for an affordable location for their fund-raising golf events are finding Erie GC an ideal choice.

Under the direction of course operators SMS Golf Enterprises and club professional Stan Marshaus, Erie is becoming one the region's finest public courses. Players from near and far are learning about the "new" Erie Golf Club and are trying their hand at the course designed by A.W. Tillinghast over 90 years ago.

Many of the golf leagues that were forced to find alternate locations while Erie was closed have returned. Many new leagues have also made Erie GC their home.

Links Artist

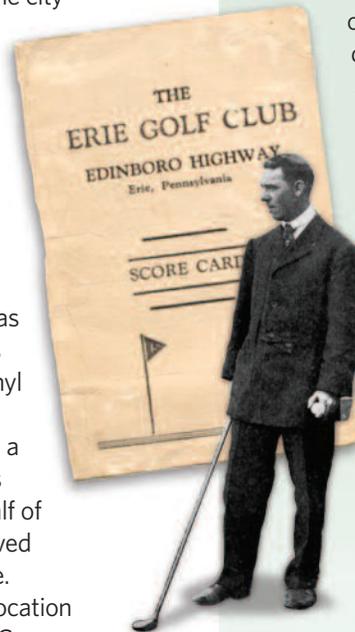
In 1921, one of golf's most prolific architects, A.W. Tillinghast, was hired to transform 175 acres of hilly Millcreek farmland into a golf course. Five years later, in 1926, Erie Golf Club was open to the public.

Born in Philadelphia in 1874, Tillinghast was an accomplished author, poet and Broadway musical financier. He spent time in Scotland, learning the game of golf from that era's greats. Upon returning to the U.S., he became one of our country's top players. Later, he began designing golf courses, primarily in New Jersey and New York. His work soon became renowned worldwide.

In a career spanning 30 years, Tillinghast designed or redesigned 265 golf courses. His courses have hosted more of golf's major championships than any other architect, including three PGA and 10 U.S. Open tournaments. Many of Tillinghast's most famous designs are included in golf's top 100 courses in the United States. Those courses include Baltusrol (N.J.), Winged Foot (N.Y.), Quaker Ridge (N.Y.), Bethpage - Black (N.Y.), San Francisco Golf Club (Calif.), Baltimore Country Club (Md.), and Medinah (Ill.).

Tillinghast was an advocate of strategy on a golf course. He did not require lakes or streams to be used as hazards. He preferred using the turf, sand and contours of the land. Erie Golf Club's rolling hills and elevation changes are fine examples of features found in many of Tillinghast's great courses.

Through some creative thinking and a little "horse trading," a piece of history and some of Mother Nature's finest work was preserved. Many more generations will be able to learn and enjoy a great game on a course designed by one of golf's great artists.



A.W. Tillinghast

