Taking care of the University of Missouri’s golf course is a year round job. Gustin Golf Course has 18 holes and is located on 150 acres. That is a lot of land for a staff of four full time employees and 10 seasonal workers to take care of. Add to that 15 pieces of large equipment and 46 golf carts to maintain and you have a very large responsibility for this group of people.

The staff is managed by Isaac Breuer, the Director of Golf Course Operations. He has two Assistant Golf Course Superintendents, Eric Acton and Nick Gilbert. The fourth permanent member of the staff is Dave Baurichter. The staff is enhanced every year by 10 or so student and non-student part time employees.

The most important element of the job is taking care of the 18 bentgrass greens on the golf course. Greens require an unbelievable amount of care, especially in the summer. The greens at Gustin Golf Course were built in 1959. Most greens have a shelf life of around 25 years, so it is quite an undertaking keeping these putting surfaces in the condition that people in Columbia are accustomed to. The greens at Gustin Golf Course are some of the finest in the state. That is quite a testimony to Isaac and his staff.

Aside from the greens, the rest of the turfgrass must be maintained. The fairways are zoysia grass and the roughs are fescue. These areas don’t require quite the attention that the greens do, but they have a lot of upkeep as well.

When the grass isn’t growing nonstop, it is time for equipment rebuilding and golf course projects. All mowers must be taken apart and rebuilt. The fleet of 46 golf carts are also broken down and prepared for the next golf season.

On the golf course, the staff does projects each and every year to enhance the facility. New teeboxes are constructed, new bunkers are built, and trees are planted and pruned. New landscape areas are being built each and every year.

Troubleshooting is also a big part of the job. The staff is highly trained in irrigation system maintenance, turf disease management, turf pest management, and water quality maintenance. Every day, a leak can spring up, a fungus can start on a green, cutworms can show up, or a mole can decide to have dinner on the ninth green. No day is the same when taking care of a facility like this.

We are very fortunate here at the University of Missouri to have a truly top notch group of people look after our golf course. They take great pride in the facility and provide the University and the Mid-Missouri area with one of the best golf courses in state of Missouri.