



Did You Know?



White House Putting Green

The first White House Putting Green was installed by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954 with help from the United States Golf Association and private donations. Eisenhower was a very avid golfer and was sometimes criticized for it, but he and his doctor readily defended the habit as good for his health, which had suffered during his presidency.

White House Putting Green

In the spring of 1954, at the direction of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Al Radko of the USGA Green Section oversaw the construction of the Robert Trent Jones, Sr. designed 3,000-square-foot putting surface on the South Lawn. With assistance from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, construction was completed in a few weeks. Since the White House and grounds are a National Park (yes, the President lives and works in a National Park), the National Park Service is responsible for the maintenance of the putting green, a task for which they have limited experience and expertise. In the Spring of 1957 Army Navy Country Club stepped into this void by providing the equipment and manpower needed for “cutting, aerifying, and top dressing the President’s Golf Green” (see correspondence below).

Sensitive to the criticism that Ike received for playing golf on weekday afternoons, John F. Kennedy, although an avid golfer, let the putting green grow out. It was later renovated. The White House Putting green was relocated to its current location by Bill Clinton in 1995. The current version is 1,500 square foot, creeping bent green designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.



President Eisenhower Chipping to The White House Putting Green

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 12, 1957

Memo to: Mrs. Ann Whitman

From : Earle D. Chesney *Earle*

Subject: Cutting, aerifying and top dressing
the President's Golf Green

A few days ago, Bob Redmond advised me that considerable work had been done on the President's golf green and thought that a note would be appreciated by those involved. As you recall, I mentioned this to you several days ago and have asked Bob to give me a chit signifying what had been done which is attached for your information.

For your information Rear Admiral John S. Phillips, USN (ret'd), 1600 S. Barton St., Arlington, Va., Chairman of the Golf Committee, Army Navy Country Club and Mr. James Thomas, the green's keeper, arranged for the grooming of the putting green. It was suggested that thanks be sent to Admiral Phillips mentioning Mr. Thomas and his staff for their efforts.