

THE MIDNIGHT SUN STORY

-40°F

WINTER LOWS · FAIRBANKS

# None of *Them Died.*

How Midnight Sun Golf Course survived the second coldest winter in the recorded history of Fairbanks, Alaska — and came out green on the other side.

*Midnight Sun Golf Course*

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Keith Nadon · Superintendent

THE LAST FRONTIER CHALLENGE

# Golf at the Edge of the World



Midnight Sun Golf Course is America's northernmost USGA-sanctioned 18-hole golf course — a rustic, links-style layout with views of the Alaska Range and Denali from the tees. At **64° North**, just outside Fairbanks, it plays on permafrost under midnight-sun summers, and through winters that push the limits of what any turf — covered or not — can survive.

**64°<sub>N</sub>**

LATITUDE  
FAIRBANKS, AK

**-40°<sub>F</sub>**

WINTER LOWS  
FOR WEEKS

**18**

HOLES ON  
PERMAFROST

**4<sub>mo</sub>**

PLAYING SEASON  
MAY-SEPT

## GREENJACKET SYSTEMS USED

### Impermeable Cover + AFS

The full winter-protection combination — GreenJacket Impermeable Covers paired with the AFS — Air Flow System — deployed to shield greens through one of the most extreme climates in American golf.



THE WINTER THAT TESTED EVERYTHING

# The Second Coldest *Winter* on Record.

## -40°F

Fairbanks recorded its second coldest winter in history — weeks of sustained -40°F. Superintendent **Keith Nadon** was worried, and he had every right to be. What the GreenJacket system delivered next stopped him in his tracks.

*"This year they were nice and green when we pulled them off last week. We had the second coldest winter in the recorded history of Fairbanks, AK this past winter and I was quite worried that the greens wouldn't make it. But they are coming out well all things considered."*

**KEITH NADON**

SUPERINTENDENT · MIDNIGHT SUN GOLF COURSE · FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

# How the Work *Gets Done*

On permafrost at 64° North, the margin for error is thin. Each fall, the crew installs **GreenJacket Impermeable Covers** over every green, paired with the **AFS — Air Flow System** — to manage the environment sealed beneath. Each spring, the covers come off and the surface is read. Across two seasons, Keith's team has refined both ends of that process — and the results have compounded.

## 01

### Cover On — Fall

Impermeable Covers go down over every green before the first hard freeze, sealing out ice, wind, and desiccation.

## 02

### AFS Beneath

The Air Flow System manages the space under the cover through the long dark of a Fairbanks winter.

## 03

### Uncover — Spring

Covers are pulled as the season turns. A refined removal process protects the surface on the way out.

## 04

### Read & Recover

The greens are assessed at uncovering — and this year, they came out green and usable from day one.

#### THE SYSTEM PROTECTS AGAINST

Winterkill

Crown hydration & ice

Desiccation

Slow spring recovery

# What Keith Saw

## GREEN AT UNCOVERING

When the covers came off, the greens were green — not damaged, not brown, not uncertain. At -40°F sustained, that result is remarkable for any turf-management program.

## YEAR-OVER-YEAR IMPROVEMENT

After the first winter under GreenJacket covers, the greens were the best they'd been. Keith expects this second season to surpass even that — a trajectory that keeps compounding.

### BIGGEST BENEFIT

*"Greens look usable after the covers are pulled. Which is a big win. Our greens were the best they have been last year after the first winter we used the covers."*

## BETTER SYSTEMS, BETTER RESULTS

The team refined how covers go on and come off, and the improvement was visible. Despite a colder winter than the year before, the greens came out looking better.

## WINTERKILL PREVENTION

The primary goals were preventing winterkill and accelerating slow spring recovery. On both counts, at -40°F, the system delivered exactly what was needed when it mattered most.

### BIGGEST SURPRISE

*"None of them died in the super cold winter — weeks long of -40°F temps."*

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OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATING

# Plan Ahead. *Protect Everything.*

In a climate where the playing season runs barely four months, there is no room to scramble. Ordering covers ahead of the season — sized, staged, and ready before the first freeze — turns winter protection from a gamble into a plan.

## 01

### Reduced Stress

Decisions made in the calm of summer, not the panic of an early freeze.

## 02

### Better Preparation

Covers and AFS sized, staged, and crew-ready before conditions turn.

## 03

### Predictable Spring

A protected winter means a known starting point when every day of the season counts.

*"Planning early saves more than money — it saves time, delays, and the uncertainty of wondering whether the greens will make it."*

THE GREENJACKET PLANNING PRINCIPLE





*Our systems for putting them out and pulling them are better. This winter was much colder than last, but the greens look better this year.*

**KEITH NADON**

SUPERINTENDENT · MIDNIGHT SUN GOLF COURSE · FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

*"I'm glad we got these covers."*



— A BETTER WAY FORWARD —

Midnight Sun Golf Course's experience proves that GreenJacket protection holds — even through the *second coldest winter ever recorded in Fairbanks, Alaska*. At America's northernmost USGA course, that's not a claim. It's a survival story.

# PROTECT. GROW. ACCELERATE.

EVERY COURSE • EVERY WINTER • EVERY STORY IS DIFFERENT

*We'd love to share yours.*