

AIVE



CHRONICLES

EPISODE NO. 4 • LIONS MUNY

UP BEFORE THE FIRST
TEE TIME!

GEO-
REGISTERED!



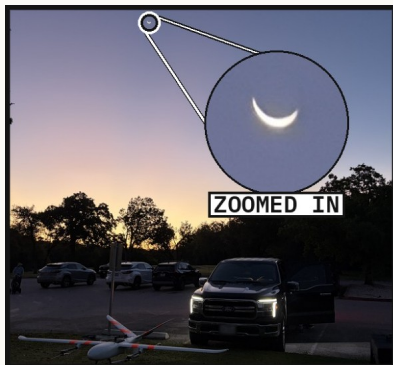
GUEST STAR: THE LION (CAST CONCRETE, SINCE 1937)

LET THEM PLAY

AIVE to the rescue: less georegistering, more flying.

LET THEM PLAY

The AIVE Team visited and flew the historic Lions Municipal Golf Course, Est. 1924. Our day began under the crescent moon just before sunrise.



A crescent moon, a truck, a drone, and the sun rising over the horizon.



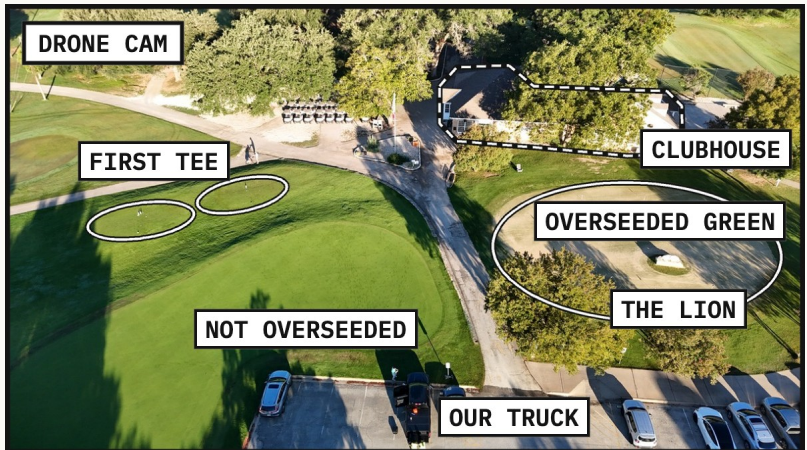
Up next on the tee, AIVE Systems!

Lions Municipal Golf Course, a.k.a. Muny, sits on 141 acres of land leased by the City of Austin from the University of Texas at Austin. It opened with 9 holes in 1924 and the full 18 in 1925. The brick clubhouse was built in 1930 and the course is a staple of Austin to this day. The famous lion statue was donated to the City of Austin in 1937.

We flew just after they overseeded the greens with winter rye, so for now they look brown because they're covered in sand!

BEFORE THE FIRST TEE

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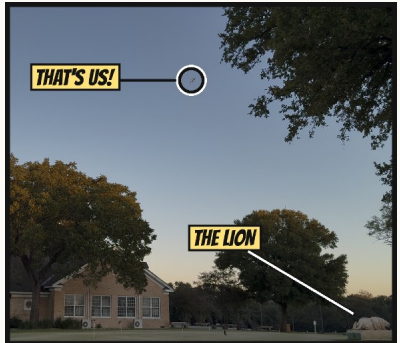


Golfers were already getting reps in on the putting green before first light while the AIVE team inspected the area with the DJI for any hazards including trees, storms, or other drones.

Up from the air it's easy to see the difference between the two putting greens: the one on the right is overseeded and the one on the left is not.

THE GUEST STAR

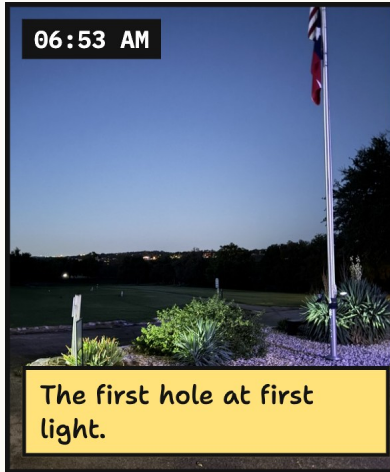
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The Austin Lions Club gave Muny this cast concrete lion in 1937. Its plaque reads: "Lions Municipal Golf Club. Constructed by Austin Lions Club 1924. Donated to City of Austin 1937." It rests on the practice putting green, and it made it into our frame as the VTOL switched to forward flight.

FIRST LIGHT

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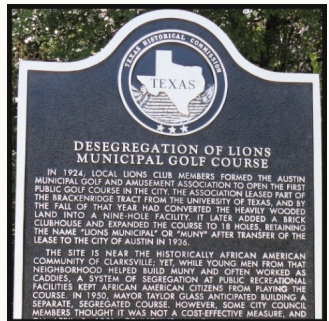
On Hwy 16, the wind kept our VTOL to one short flight. At Muni it flew our mapping run over the course's 141 acres, which the University of Texas owns and leases to the city, and came back down by the first tee as the first golfers headed out. The circle is its view: our Atlas Geo map of the clubhouse, each green frame one of its photos.

A GROUNDBREAKING ROUND

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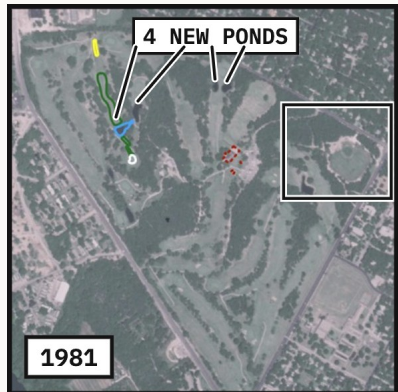
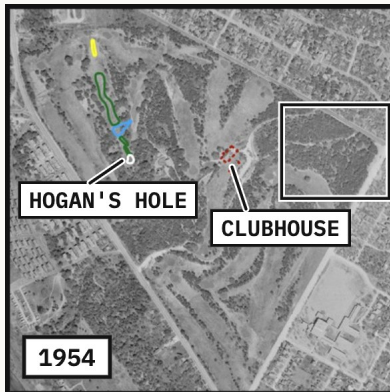
The 2009 state marker at Munny says young men from nearby Clarksville, a historically African American community, helped build the course and often caddied here, yet segregation kept African Americans from playing it.



In 1950, Mayor Taylor Glass expected to build a separate, segregated course. Some council members thought it wasn't cost-effective, and on April 5, 1951, Councilwoman Emma Long suggested letting African American golfers use the existing public courses. Two Black youths forced the decision by walking onto Munny and playing, and the authorities let them finish their groundbreaking round. After that, play on the course was largely integrated, though the clubhouses stayed segregated, years ahead of other public courses and federal law. Some scholars call it the earliest integration of a public golf course in the South.

72 YEARS FROM ABOVE

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WHAT CHANGED

Four new ponds have appeared on the back 9 that were not there in 1954. This includes the pond on Hogan's Hole, a pond that can be seen just to its northeast, and two ponds on the 10th hole.

We went online and used publicly available historical aerial imagery of the Lions Muny property so we could compare it across time. We found aerials from 1954 and from 1981, which show the property over 72 years!

Aerials 1954, 1981: NETR Online. 2026: our flight, placed by Atlas Geo on a satellite basemap [SOURCE].

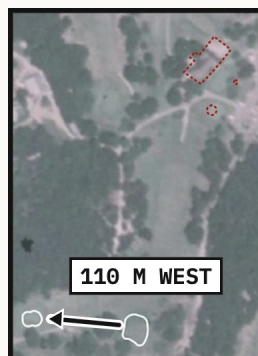
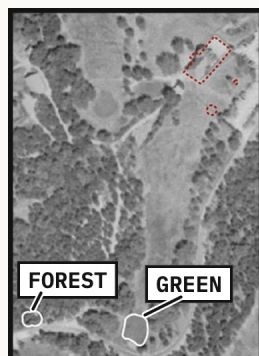
THE GREEN THAT MOVED

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1954

1981

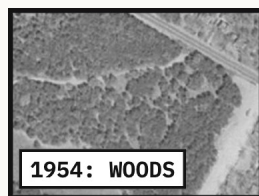
2026 · OUR FLIGHT



☐ THE TWO GREENS ☒ TODAY'S CLUBHOUSE

Hole 1 got a new green. Between 1954 and 1981 it moved about 110 meters west, and it hasn't moved since. In 1954, the spot where today's green sits was in the middle of dense forest. The clubhouse and the parking lot are in the same place in all three.

NE CORNER Woods, a clearing, then a ball field (still in the satellite). It appears to be soccer fields now. We didn't fly over: we couldn't verify no one was there.



Aerials 1954, 1981: NETR Online. 2026: our flight, placed by Atlas Geo on a satellite basemap [SOURCE].

HOGAN'S HOLE

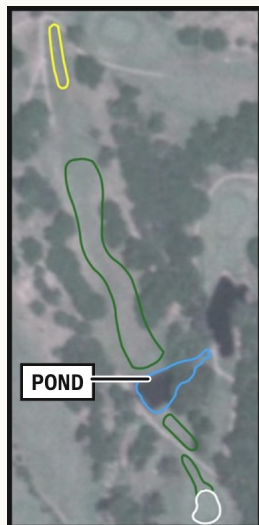
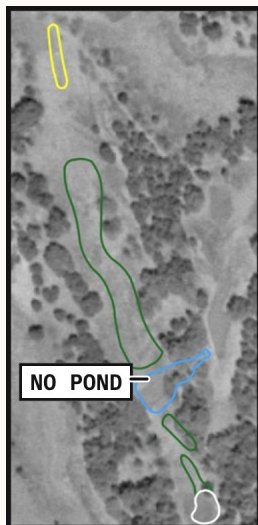
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Ben Hogan played an exhibition at Muny in 1950. On the tee of the old 7th, now the 16th, he reportedly asked "Where's the fairway?" and then birdied it.

1954

1981

2026 · OUR FLIGHT



■ TEE ■ FAIRWAY ■ POND □ GREEN

In 1954, the closest look we have at the course Hogan played, no pond sits in front of the green. By 1981 one does. Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw learned the game at Muny as boys, and Crenshaw has fought to save it. In the photos from 1981 and 2026 you can clearly see two new ponds that didn't exist in 1954.

Aerials 1954, 1981: NETR Online. 2026: our flight, placed by Atlas Geo.

SAME COURSE. FRESH EYES.

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We flew it. Atlas Geo put it on the map. Our morning by the clubhouse, with the basemap in the corner.



— GREEN LINES = OUR PHOTO EDGES, PLACED BY ATLAS GEO

LOOK WHAT WE CAN SEE

Greens: green in the satellite, sandy in ours.

Parking: empty in the satellite, full the morning we flew.

Light: long morning shadows in ours.

ATLAS GEO: FROM FLIGHT TO MAP

Atlas Geo aligns our flight images to the basemap.

Drone: Oct. 7, 2026. Satellite basemap: [SOURCE], capture date unknown.

WORTH SAVING

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THEN AND NOW The course's outline and its curving fairways have barely moved since 1954. By 1981 there were several ponds the 1954 photo doesn't show, and the woods in the northeast corner had given way to a big round clearing, where sports fields sit today. The 1954 photo was taken during Texas's 1950s drought, which may be why its fairways look pale. The marks show Hogan's Hole and the clubhouse in every year.



UT owns the 141 acres, and the city's long lease ended in 2019. A state-created Save Historic Muny District has until May 2027 to find a fix. After the flight, we enjoyed Cisco's Muny Cafe.

We do real things, and we don't cut corners.

GROUND TRUTH, MAPPED.

Atlas Geo by AIVE · try it free at aiveatlas.com

Shot Oct. 7, 2026.

Aerials: NETR · Basemap: [SOURCE]