

Hills' Arizona course will challenge golfers with wetlands, topography

The latest Arizona project for golf course architects Arthur Hills and Associates of Toledo, Ohio, is a testing layout for Fairfield Retirement Communities at Green Valley, just south of Tucson.

"The back nine will play to 6,700 yards from the back tees," said associate Keith Foster. "It is completely shaped, and irrigation is being installed. We are now shaping the first three holes."

Foster points to the par 5 13th hole which, from an elevated tee with a mountainous backdrop, will dogleg left around two lakes.

Grassing will take place this summer, with opening due in late fall.

Arthur Hills is well along with work on a daily-fee course in suburban Henderson, Nev. Much of the original lava rock site has been retained for a beautiful contrast and to emphasize significant elevation changes.

Grassing is due this summer, with opening due in the winter season.

Also well underway is a daily fee-type course at Harbour Pointe in Schnomish County, near Seattle, Wash.

On the outward nine, marshlands are the predominant — and punishing — feature, while on the back nine huge evergreens and bolder topography, reminiscent of the Olympic Club in San Francisco, prevail.

NEW COURSES

Eglin AFB's new nine retains environment

A nine-hole addition to Eglin Air Force Base's golf course in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., is scheduled for opening this summer, bringing the total golf complex to 36 championship holes.

Course architect Charles F. Ankrom of

Stuart, Fla., believes the layout may be among the best of all military bases in the United States.

Grassing was completed last October. On rolling terrain, and divided by spring-fed Mill Creek, the site's elevation changes about 100 feet.

Mill Creek was discovered to be populated by the environmentally endangered Okaloosa Darter (a small fish). All efforts were made to retain the stream wetlands in their natural state, with minimum disturbance.

The expansion nine, in addition to the existing nine, will play at 6,789 yards from the blue tees, 6,262 from the whites, and 5,501 from the reds. Par is 72.

Many terraces were created on protruding sand ridges; tees were placed to carry shots over the stream valley ravine; and woody sandy terrain was carved to create a variety of topographic rolling features with much diversification.

A five-acre lake was created on holes 7 and 8, and the fill used to create numerous bold mounding features in the upland level areas.

Ankrom said the result is a dramatic contoured golf course unusual to Florida property, featuring terraces, pot bunkers, ledge traps, environmentally vegetated ravines, and rolls, knolls and contours in many areas typical to a combination of a mountain course and Scottish terrain.

Championship course faces McCumber

An 18-hole championship golf course to be known as Osprey Cove Golf and Country Club is slated for construction in a planned residential community in St. Marys, Ga.

The \$11-million project is the first such undertaking for the Gilman Paper Co., which operates a division in St. Marys.

Osprey Cove GCC will be located on a 600-acre tract of land that includes and surrounds the existing St. Marys GCC on St. Marys Road, two miles east of Interstate 95 in Camden County.

Mark McCumber & Associates of Middleburg, Fla., has been commissioned to design and construct the course.

Michael D. Beebe, McCumber vice president, said, "Plans are expected to include five or six holes that play along and showcase the picturesque tidal marshes of the St. Marys River, creating a windswept, open feeling. The remaining holes will be situated in areas of typical south Georgia vegetation consisting of pines and palmetto, with a strong water orientation created by a series of man-made lakes."

The clubhouse is expected to be situated on an area offering a spectacular view of the marsh and St. Marys River and also overlooking holes 9 and 18, which finish to a double green situated on the edge of the marsh.

Approximately 530 home sites will be available. Other amenities are expected to include tennis courts, swim complex, docking area for boats and a marina.



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