Munis

Continued from page 45

Munis locate or relocate into an area. but also for businesses looking to locate or relocate into an area. Scott Gardner, director of golf and recreation for Salt Lake City, Utah, said Winged Point, a new muni, was built to attract business to the city's west side. "With the rapid pace of the world today, people are counting on the green space for a leisurely stroll or a competitive game, and that's what golf does," said Gardner. "We are encouraging people to know that life is more than just a job.

"Golf courses are environmentally sensitive," declared Harrington, who owns an existing private daily fee course, the Links Master, based in Pomona, N.Y. Neil J. Harrington is pushing for a new muni to be built in the city's last remaining tract of open land, and has met with course architect Philip A. Wogan of Topsfield, Mass. "The problem is that municipal courses have several strikes against them," said Graves. "The idea is repugnant to some voters. In a typical community, only 10 to 20 percent of a population would play golf. Since the majority of a community doesn't play golf, they'll vote it down. The point is to let the revenues of the golf course pay for it.

"Municipalities provide good public facilities and charge rates that will cover the ongoing high quality of operation and maintenance," said Wyss. "Public golfers are willing to pay the costs of keeping the facility open to the public. The taxpayer is not inclined to subsidize the cost of the courses. The trend is toward golfer-supported courses."

As golf continues to grow, the supply of golfers will have to meet the demands players are creating. While Wyss admits there may be a slowdown in the next 12 months in the development of municipal courses, he sees golfing's long-range future. "The demand over the next 10 years will be tremendous," he said. "There's a need out there and we need to keep up with it by providing good public facilities."

Bob Seligman is a free-lance writer based in Pomona, N.Y.