PORTLAND, Ore. — A proposed 18-hole golf course in Alton Baker Park, which last summer met cool response from county commissioners, appears to have gained a favorable climate.

Recent discussions between Lane County officials and John Zoller, director of golf operations for the city of Portland, have revived hopes of building a course on 150 county-owned acres in the undeveloped eastern portion of the park.

Zoller is interested in developing the project along with local investors Robert Bennett and Bruce Chase and his father, John Zoller Sr., who directed the Eugene Country Club's golf course operations for 17 years. Zoller Sr. is recently retired senior executive director of the Northern California Golf Association who also supervised or advised work on all seven golf courses on the Monterey Peninsula.

A study in 1988 concluded that the Eugene-Springfield area was in dire need of new public golf courses, and called the Alton Baker Park site an ideal location.

The study projected course cost at $3.5 million, which could be financed by bonds backed by course income. However, county officials feared course cost might double because of environmental concerns.

The younger Zoller, who has helped build courses for architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. and designed a recent nine-hole addition to Springfield Country Club, said, "I've seen a lot of projects in the years I've been in the golf business, and this one's a slam dunk in terms of its potential for success."

Water Co. sale means N.J. land to be used as course

HARRINGTON PARK, N.J. — Manhattan Woods Corp. plans to build an 18-hole championship golf course on the 223-acre tract of undeveloped property in Oradell, N.J., that it bought from Rivervale Realty Co.

Rivervale Realty, a subsidiary of United Water Resources, is continuing to work with Manhattan Woods to obtain approvals for its plan.

"Despite the generally soft nature of the real-estate market," said United Water Chairman Robert A. Gerber, "Rivervale Realty has found a great deal of interest in its properties in the specialized golf course and upscale housing corners of the market."

He said the sale was expected to add significantly to United Water's fourth-quarter 1990 earnings.

Rivervale recently sold 123 acres of golf course property in Oradell and Emerson, N.J., and has contracts for the sale of about 74 golf course acres in Hackensack.

A 160-acre Rivervale Realty property in Emerson is under contract for sale to a golf course developer, pending New Jersey regulatory measures that will permit its development as a country club.

Developer thrilled about opening

MONCLOVA TOWNSHIP, Ohio — The 120 acres of new topography between Maumee and Waterville here will be christened Fallen Timbers Fairways golf course in June or July, said developer Steven Levitin.

Levitin and partner Harold Gauthier are "ecstatic" at course progress. Fairways are formed, traps and bunkers scooped out and the greens under protective plastic cover. The watering system also has been installed.

A clubhouse is under construction. Levitin said a third nine will be added in a few years.

City OKs Pen Park expansion

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Pen Park Golf Club here will become an 18-hole layout early in 1993.

The city's planning commission has approved the $1.5-million nine-hole expansion twice redesigned at the urging of environmental groups to avoid the floodplain along the Rivanna River and leave alone a nature trail and wooded areas said to be valuable natural areas.

Two holes were moved away from the river.

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