Horses, golf mix in mountains of Colorado

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Golf course architect Richard Phelps designed the Arvada course, working in concert with parks planner Harry Johnson, who laid out the parallel equestrian and bike trails.

Wilkins will add Westwoods to his overview. Park and Recreation Department crews will care for the ash-surfaced equestrian trails and concrete biking and hiking paths. The trails will travel from the property line to property line, then go through a tunnel under Quaker Street to connect with existing city horse trails. The tunnel will have unique sky-lights so the horses won't scare, Wilkins said.

Ralston Creek comes through the center of the course, and both the bike and equestrian trails will run along the creek so horsesmen are separated by old-growth trees and protected from errant golf shots.

"It's always scary and risky to run trails through a golf course," Phelps said. "We tried to run them along the greenbelt with a lot of foliage for protection." Phelps said the region has a lot of pedestrian-type trails on courses, but horse trails are rare.

And Westwoods has the only trails he knows of that are specifically dedicated to and built for horses. Earthwork was started on the course in March. Phelps said the front nine should be seeded this year and could open for limited play next summer. The back nine will probably be seeded next spring and open a year later.

"This will be an excellent municipal golf course." Phelps said. "We have a mixture of woods, we're building ponds, and there are high points with beautiful views of the foothills and Denver."

Wilkins said: "We're looking forward to having this golf course open... There is quite a bit of wildlife: mountain lions, deer, foxes, coyotes, cranes."

AN IDEA FOR THE FUTURE

Will this idea of mixing equestrian trails and golf courses catch on?

Zenith's Ranney said these are "some of the amenities people are looking for."

Ranney's 480-acre Hawk Ridge development will include an 18-hole Scottish links-type course designed by Byron Color. Crushed, compacted granite-surfaced trails will run parallel to all roads.

"There has been interest in an equestrian center with a stable," he said. But the homes will be on sites as large as five acres, so many homeowners will house horses on their own land.

Since the development is surrounded by Pike National Forest, equestrians can literally ride along the golf course and off into the sunset.

Irwin signs to design N.C. layout

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc. has been commissioned to design the golf course planned for The Meadowlands golf community.

The Meadowlands is located in Davidson County between Winston-Salem and High Point, N.C. The Meadowlands is a 600-acre master planned golf community near Busby Fork Creek. The course plans to be an 18-hole par-72 semi-private country club.

The developer is W&W Properties, Inc. The site has extensive old-growth oak and pine forests interspersed with gently rolling meadows. William G. Daniel & Associates of Cary, N.C., has been retained as engineers for the community. John Ranyan, development coordinator with W&W Properties, said, "Golf course construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1993, with an opening planned for the summer of 1995."

Architect Richard M. Phelps will provide the architectural planning for earthmoving, drainage, features construction and other technical aspects of the course, and produce the architectural plans used in course development.

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