Four major Washington golf projects moving forward

A landfill site in Newcastle, Wash., has been sold to a Canadian golf-course development company, Burrand International of Vancouver, B.C. The Robert Trent Jones II Group confirmed that it has been enlisted to design the 19-hole championship golf course, which should open by 1994. There are no plans for a residential community at the site, about 15 miles east of Seattle.

The public course will be built on 170 acres of the 269-acre site, which had been used for more than two decades as a dump. It was closed to public dumping late in 1990 and since then has accepted only highway excavation dirt from an interstate project.

Utah cities investigate course viability

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Davis County had a hot golf year in 1991, with four cities considering new 18-hole courses and another city planning an expansion. Clearfield, North Salt Lake, Syracuse and East Point are studying their options and West Bountiful is expanding its current nine holes to 18.

The 168-acre North Salt Lake course, with a $5.8-million budget, is expected to draw 85,000 nine-hole rounds per year, based on course operations at places with similar elevations. Higher elevations influence the number of playable days. If all goes as planned, the course would open July 1, 1993.

The project includes 300-400 additional homes on surrounding land.

Private facility OK'd in Vero

VERO BEACH, Fla. — The Indian River County Planning and Zoning Commission has approved a private country club on 233 acres in Vero highlands. Indian River Country Club would include 300 homes and an 18-hole golf course that crosses Highland Drive.

Three phases of construction will be completed in 1996. Bob Swift and Jim DiMarzo, partners in the development company Lodar Inc., are in the process of purchasing the land from General Development Corp.

Lakeville, Minn., approves course

LAKEVILLE, Minn. — A 303-acre project, Crystal Lake Golf Estates, has been approved by the Lakeville City Council. An 18-hole golf course and the 178 single-family houses and 89 townhouses will be built.

Work will start on the 84.6-million course this spring and it should be ready for play in 1993.

EAGLE'S NEST MOVES COURSE

In Sequim, developers redesigned the 1,900-acre Cape Discovery Resort to accommodate a 162-acre forest preserve that held wetlands, unstable bluffs and two bald eagle nesting sites. The preserve will remain wild in perpetuity.

The developers, Peninsula Partners, had to resite a 150-room lodge, an 18-hole golf course and housing next to the links. Meanwhile, two of the three major investors, Mitsubishi International Corp and Shimizu Land, want out. And basic control over the land, part of a state park sold to the partnership in a deal between the partners and the state Parks and Recreation Commission, is being questioned in court.

If that's not enough, 35 acres in the middle of the resort is owned by Northwest Tech, a firm that bonds and shapes metals with controlled explosions loud enough to jar nearby homes. Peninsula Partners is negotiating with the firm about a move.

COURSE CONDEMNATION ASKED

University of Washington regents were asked to condemn Wellington Hills Golf Course in Snohomish County for use as a branch campus.

UW officials want to site the Bothell branch on the golf course, but the university and the 44 course owners have not been able to agree on a price.

Under state condemnation law, UW makes a final offer and then asks the state attorney general to begin proceedings. A Superior Court judge would then decide fair market price. UW has already paid a local family about $600,000 for 20 acres next to the 80-acre course.

ECHO FALLS PROCEEDS

Ademand for high-quality public golf courses in the Puget Sound region has led to Echo Falls, a 200-acre planned community featuring 79 homes and an 18-hole golf course and country club.

The par-70 course, designed by PGA professional and course architect Jack Frei, will be public.