Envisioned as model for industry, Fox Hollow ground broken

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — More than one year after the original construction bid opening, dirt has been turned on Lakewood's first golf course, Fox Hollow at Lake-wood.

Conceived by Lakewood Man-
ger of Parks and Facilities Bill Jewell, the course environmentally was going to be a model to the industry, according to project co-
oordinator Don Tolson.

The site, 350 acres of a 2,700-acre natural park owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and operated
by the city on a 50-year lease, is ideal for a 175-acre, 27-hole golf course to be integrated without significantly changing the character of the environment, Tolson said.

Architect Denis Griffiths was signed on and a construction bid date of Nov. 20, 1990 was set when Friends of Bear Creek entered the scene in September.

Comprised of residents of that corner of the park, who used it as a private retreat, Friends of Bear Creek enlisted three local Sierra Club chapters, Denver Audubon Society and Colorado Environmental Coalition.

That coalition in turn involved the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Division of Wildlife to oppose the project.

In January 1991 the Lakewood City Council instructed the golf course staff to prepare an enhanced environmental assessment that would provide documentable answers to all environmental questions and would help win a lawsuit in federal court.

"Six months and $150,000 later, we had probably the most comprehensive environmental assessment ever done for a golf course," said Tolson.

By mid-September the Corps announced its "Finding of No Significant Impact," and shortly thereafter issued a notice to proceed. But on Dec. 5, five days before bid opening, Friends of Bear Creek filed for a temporary restraining order in federal district court.

It was refused. They filed for an injunction and were again refused. In early January, Wadsworth Construction Co. broke ground on the course.

It should be completed late this year and ready for play in 1993. Tom Bridle of Tectonic, Inc., which is not involved in the project, said Fox Hollow at Lakewood "will be the most spectacular golf course in the state, bar none."

"What Wadsworth and Denis Griffiths have done is absolutely incredible—almost indescribable. When you see the hills they've created... the tees, greens and bunker placements... it's a masterpiece."