USGA issues grant for handicap course in Ohio

AKRON, Ohio — Edwin Shaw Hospital's Challenge Golf Program has been awarded an $8,000 grant from the United States Golf Association Foundation in Far Hills, N.J.

Funds from the grant will be used to buy adaptive equipment and develop instructional materials used in the Challenge Golf Program. The equipment includes: one four-wheel scooter that enables a player to play golf and access the course from one vehicle; one modified golf cart with a swivel seat for non-ambulatory players and one Lifestand wheelchair that allows a standing position to be attained for stationary hitting for a student who is wheelchair-bound.

Since 1988, individuals with physical disabilities have received golf instruction through the hospital’s program. The Challenge Golf Course and Driving Range at Edwin Shaw Hospital was designed to accommodate physically disabled players. One of the first of its kind in the country, the course is an extension of the hospital's physical rehabilitation programs.

The Challenge Golf Course and Driving Range officially opened in April 1992. A program of the Edwin Shaw Hospital Development Foundation, it was created entirely from donated time, money, products and labor. No hospital or tax dollars are used.

Green Update

Waterways, fish benefit from proactive environmental outlook of BC development

BRITTANIA BEACH, British Columbia — From the earliest planning stages through to construction, operation and maintenance, Furry Creek Golf & Country Club here has been geared toward environmental responsibility.

Designed by Robert Muir Graves of Walnut Creek, Calif., this development outside Vancouver has a goal to have the least impact on the natural environment.

"As part of the overall design, consultants conducted a biophysical inventory of the entire site, including an extensive classification study of local habitat, to calculate the development's projected environmental impact," said Furry Creek Vice President Ben-Meyer Aaron.

"In many cases, the environment has been significantly enhanced."

More than 1,700 trees have been planted and a portion of the course is a reclaimed gravel quarry.

Of the area's three main creeks, Middle Creek supports coho salmon, cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. Yet the waterways were enhanced to increase their fish population.

New natural fishways now permit fish to travel up the creek to spawn. Before, they could not. Channels were deepened, banks stabilized, and native vegetation planted as part of the improvements.

On the fairway, a revolutionary system is in place using a local irrigation pond and natural organic nutrients to enrich the soil, eliminate unwanted odors and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.

Furry Creek was also the first area course to sod all 18 fairways. Furry Creek's course will open July 31.