Ark. course to close while greens rebuilt

BELLA VISTA, Ark. — Because of a change in plans for the rebuilding of its greens, Kingswood Golf Course here will be closed for most of 1994. Originally set to reopen on July 1, the course will stay closed until Oct. 1, and possibly later, according to Mike Shea, director of recreation for the Bella Vista Village Property Owners Association.

The course has been closed since last Nov. 15. "We considered sodding the greens with bentgrass sod to speed up the process of reopening the course for play," Shea told the Northwest Arkansas Times. "While sodding would be more expensive, everyone had agreed that the reopening of the course by July would be worth every penny."

Following lab testing, however, this approach was rejected because the fine sand base used in sodding would not work in this area. Golf officials have indicated that serious problems could develop with the application of heat and stress on the sod and soil mix.

Therefore, Shea said the greens will need to be sown by seed, which will require more time to develop.

Illinois layout expands to four-season facility

SHEFFIELD, Ill. — Despite weather delays, Hidden Lake Golf Club and Resort should be surrounded by a complete year-round resort by 1995. The four-phase expansion project is the brainchild of owner LeRoy Wirth.

Phase I, which started last fall, is the construction of five new golf holes and a new dam to raise the existing strip mine lake eight feet, according to Wirth. The dam will expand the three-acre lake to eight acres and put it in play on three of the five new golf holes.

Concurrently, there is an ongoing remodeling of existing buildings, including the full-service commissary-pro shop and a 30-by-35-foot meeting area with panoramic views of the golf course.

"Our plan is to get the first five new holes operable by September of this year," Wirth told the Star Courier. The original nine-hole golf course will remain in play through the 1994 season. When the 18-hole layout is complete, it will play to a 35-35-70 par.

Plans for massive golf course community project unveiled in Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Details of development plans for the first phase of Desert Ridge — a huge, multi-use community in the city's northeastern Valley — include two 18-hole golf courses and approximately 2,000 residences on 1,346 acres, according to Donald L. Viehmann of Northeast Phoenix Partners, the community's master developer.