Florida city pursues two courses at once

PALM BAY, Fla. — The city council here has made it clear a golf course will be built within city limits. Whether it is municipal or private remains to be seen.

In May, city council members here approved plans to pursue development of a municipal golf course by a four-to-one vote. Early in June, the council also voted to issue requests for proposal on a private golf course.

"They are pursuing two tracks simultaneously," said Dale Sugarman, assistant city manager. "One track must eventually be abandoned."

The city has already spent approximately $30,000 in feasibility and environmental studies for public-access golf. Officials said they believe the studies indicate the development will cost more than $5.8 million, not including the 248 acres of land.

Spring rains hurt revenue projections

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Because it was built on a flood plain, Lafayette Municipal Golf Course here allows for 10 washouts a season and still meets projected revenue.

However, as superintendent Larry Morris boated on the fairways in early May, he figured 10 days might not be enough this year.

"Anytime you get 22 feet of water on your golf course, it takes a long time to get it back open," Morris told Lafayette's Journal and Courier.

Lafayette Parks Superintendent Bill German estimated that being closed one Sunday at peak season would cost the Indiana city $1,000 to $1,200.

Despite the gloomy forecast German feels that the course could still meet revenue projections and cites the seasons of 1989 and 1990 as hopeful examples.

"We don't know 'til we get to the end of the season whether the flood has hurt us or not," said German.

You just can't beat...