Wis. layout gets environmental pat on back

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. —
Hmmm. A golf course that is considered good for the local environment? Even by state environmentalists?

Yes, Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources recently released a report that said the proposed 18-hole Pete Dye-designed Whistling Straits links course on the shoreline of Lake Michigan will not significantly harm the environment and will actually help it in some areas.

The Kohler Co. is seeking local, state and federal permits to build the course on a 500-acre parcel near Haven in Sheboygan County.

Development of the land will help stabilize the existing bluff shoreline, which has been eroding at a pace of 1 to 2 feet per year, according to a draft environmental assessment of the project by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Other benefits include a $300,000 cleanup of asbestos and other waste at the former Camp Haven military base and the restoration of native prairie plants along the shoreline. The removal of underground fuel storage tanks and the cleanup of numerous dumps at the former anti-aircraft weapons firing range began last month under DNR supervision.

Kohler and Dye are planning a natural, shoreline walking course styled on Scottish links courses. The shoreline's existing 50-foot high bluffs would be regraded to provide two tiers for tees and greens, one at 20 feet above the lake and a second at 30 to 50 feet above the water.

The eroding bluff will reportedly be replaced by areas of rock revetment and sloping, vegetated dunes. The development as planned will, however, destroy about 7.6 acres of wetlands.

Construction could begin later this year if all permits are approved with a scheduled opening date of June 1997.

Omaha waits on third 27-holer

OMAHA, Neb. — A third 27-hole golf complex in the Omaha area is awaiting city approval.

The Players Club at Castle Brook, which will be public, is part of a proposed 789-acre development in northwest Omaha. Of the 789 acres, 143 belong to the Bauermeister family. One of the four family members has not yet agreed to the sale. If the project proceeds, developers must also meet 24 design conditions before getting city approval.

Principals in the project include Dan Livingston of Sports Video Productions, former Wake Forest football coach Bill Tate and golf architect Andy Nelson of BlueT Golf of Omaha and CBS Real Estate.

Tiburion and Indian Creek, which is building its third nine, are the other 27-hole complexes around Omaha.

Golf being counted on to help revive Alaskan community

JUNEAU, Alaska — The Panhandle of southeast Alaska is getting another golf course.

Construction of a nine-hole layout and driving range is well underway in the coastal community of Wrangell.

Project organizers hope the golf course will end the frustration of golfers south of Juneau and bring much-needed extra income to the financially-strapped Wrangell area, where the local sawmill recently shut down and put many people out of work.

About 170 people from surrounding towns and cities like Ketchikan, Sitka and Juneau have already made down payments on memberships.

The Alaska Pulp Company, which closed its Wrangell Sawmill in December 1994 and in the process eliminated 225 local jobs, has donated a significant amount of equipment, supplies and personnel to help clear trees for fairways.

Corrections

Though he has numerous associations, U.S. Golf Association championship agronomist Tim Moraghan is not a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, as reported in the June issue of GCN.

Tee & Green Sod, Inc. of Exeter, R.I., supplied the sod and washed, delivered and installed it on the restored Eisenhower green at the White House (GCN August) in Washington, D.C. A reporting error did not include Tee & Green in this project.