Hyatt proposes Maryland resort
CAMBRIDGE, Md. — Hyatt Hotels Corp. has proposed a 350-acre luxury resort here overlooking the Choptank River that would include an 18-hole golf course.

The $187 million project would be Maryland’s first such luxury resort. Cambridge is a struggling riverside town of 12,000 that was once a vegetable-packing and industrial center. State and hotel officials have said the proposed project would rival the famed Greenbrier in West Virginia as a choice for leisure and business travelers.

Hyatt’s preliminary proposal calls for a 400- to 500-room luxury hotel, 400 residences ranging from condominiums to single-family homes, a golf course, 20,000 to 25,000 square feet of conference and meeting space, marina, equestrian center, spa, restaurants, hiking trails and indoor and outdoor pools. Chicago-based Hyatt pitched the idea to Maryland officials in response to a request for ideas to redevelop the state-owned Eastern Shore facility. Architect Cal Olson was the chief designer. He was joined by PGA Tour star Payne Stewart, who was serving as consultant for the first time ever. Environmental Golf Inc. built the course.

The new track is expected to have the look of a mature course, thanks to the conservation of 125 acres of protected habitat and more than 115 trees. To help preserve the natural landscape, Environmental Golf boxed, nurtured and then replanted 76 mature pepper trees.

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Carter backs revitalization project in Ga.
ATLANTA, Ga. — Former President Jimmy Carter has been the driving force behind a $52 million project that will transform one of the city’s poorest and most neglected neighborhoods into a mixed-income, country-club community that will feature tennis and golf academies and an 18-hole golf course.

Carter and Atlanta housing officials recently signed an agreement that clears the way for the transformation of the former East Lake Meadows into the New Community at East Lake. Groundbreaking is scheduled to start in the summer.

Residents of East Lake Meadows will be relocated during the construction. Frustrated with the poverty and living conditions at East Lake, Carter helped secure $33.5 million in federal dollars in 1992 for the East Lake revitalization. The project will be funded through public and private sources and calls for replacing the 650-unit East Lake Meadows with a mixed-income housing community of 488 townhouses, garden apartments and duplexes. Half the units will be public housing.

The 18-hole public golf course will be funded with part of $20 million from the CF Foundation, which owns the nearby, private East Lake Golf Club, where the legendary Bobby Jones learned to play golf as a young boy. Its golf course has recently undergone a major renovation by Bees Jones.

Thoroughfare will not deter Ark. expansion
SPRINGDALE, Ark. — When the Springdale Country Club decided it had to expand its golf course to 18 holes or face a slow death, not even heavy highway traffic could get in the way.

A portion of U.S. 71B runs between the club’s nine-hole golf course and the land where it hopes to develop nine more. Club officials have decided to build the tunnel underneath the highway to get golfers back and forth, rather than cross the busy highway.

The country club is developing land that was to be used for the Arkanshire retirement development before that venture failed several years ago. The club will use 65 acres on the golf course, and Jerry Sweetser, a Fayetteville developer, plans to use the property surrounding the golf course for housing.

The club has received preliminary approval from the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department for the underpass. Work was expected to start on the new nine holes in February.