Trump's waterfalls and cliffs to debut in Florida

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump is building a $40-million private track for his Mar-a-Lago Club complete with rock cliffs and waterfalls. The Trump International Golf Club will feature 35-foot-tall rock formations, waterfalls and a clubhouse 45 feet above sea level — the equivalent of a four-story building. The artificial rocks are "geologically" correct cast from real California rocks and made from a mixture of concrete, plaster and fiberglass.

Trump says he wanted to build a great course next to Palm Beach, so he worked a deal with the county to lease the land as part of an agreement to drop his lawsuit over airplane noise at his Mar-a-Lago mansion, an historic 17-acre estate once owned by Post cereal heiress and General Food Corp. founder Marjorie Merriweather Post.

Nearly 2 million cubic yards of dirt on the 215 acres at the northwest corner of Summit Boulevard and Congress Avenue is being pushed, spread and mounded into 18 holes, including the signature 17th hole where water will cascade down from artificial rocks that are 35 feet high and 180 feet long. Architect Jim Fazio has teamed with Jack Nicklaus' Pargoson Construction Inc. to move some 5,000 trees around the property and create a hilly course on what was once a flat piece of woodlands using dirt dug from a huge lake at the northeast corner of the property.

Fazio said Trump wanted to build even higher, but they ran out of dirt from the lake.

The course is also housed just south of Palm Beach International Airport, but noise may be countered by the sound of running water from the falls, according to newspaper reports.

Fazio said the 7,200-yard track, which was once used for ammunition storage during World War II, and more recently as a dumping ground for old tires, will have small greens and be well-bunkered and well-angled.

A 25,000-square-foot, Mediterranean-style clubhouse designed by Rick Gonzalez of REG Architects in West Palm Beach will include a grill room, lockers, pro shop and formal dining.

The course is slated to open November 1999.

TPC readying Orlando site

ORLANDO, Fla. — This central Florida city will be the home of a new $150-million golf development that will include three courses and hotels, and be the first Tournament Players Club in Orlando.

The development by Lake Nona Property Holdings and PGA Tour Golf Course Properties is planned on 500 acres near the Orlando International Airport, at the southern end of 6,670-acre Lake Nona, a community of multi-million-dollar homes. The links will be called the TPC at Lake Nona.

The public facility will feature at least three high-end tracks, an upscale hotel, golf training academy, par-3 course and a practice area. They will be designed by Arnold Palmer, Tom Fazio and Pete Dye who will construct the three courses simultaneously next to one another. They expect the challenge of outperforming one another will vastly improve the quality of the tracks.

Construction is to start in September, with the three links — tentatively named the Lakes, Woodlands and Sand Dunes — scheduled to open in early 2000. The Lake Nona community consists of 6,500 acres of undeveloped land, so there are options for additional courses, according to PGA Tour officials.

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