Newport National on the way

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Marderosian expects initiation fees to hit $60,000 by the time the East Course opens for play. He noted that the Newport area has long suffered from an undersupply of golf holes. Of the five 18-hole courses on Aquidneck Island, four are private and one is semi-private. Most have long waiting lists and one new course, Carnegie Abbey, which opened last summer, commands an initiation fee of $100,000.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CORRECT

The daily-fee West Course will be a resort-style facility, catering mainly to local players, tourists and guests of Newport-area hotels and inns. "For the first time ever, Newport guests will have access to great golf," Marderosian said.

Plans call for a 12,000-square-foot clubhouse for the private East Course, and a state-of-the-art practice facility. Tennis courts and a swimming pool might be added later.

The Aquidneck Island Land Trust, a Newport-based conservation group, helped fund the acquisition of several key parcels over the past few years and acquired the development rights to the site, thereby ensuring that it remains "open space" in perpetuity. In keeping with that philosophy, Newport National will build a walking and bridal trail through the property that will be open to the public and will connect to the so-called Sakonnet Greenway, which extends six miles down the length of the island.

As another concession to the environment, no housing will be built on the site.

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