Davis, Stadler open 'heathland' course in Colorado

By ANDREW OVERBECK

GRANBY, Colo. — Tripp Davis and PGA Tour professional Craig Stadler have teamed to bring what they call "Scottish, heathland-style golf" to the mountains of Colorado. Their course at Grand Elk Ranch & Club opened Aug. 30 and is the centerpiece of the $520 million, 437-acre resort community located 85 miles north of Denver.

For a mountain course, Grand Elk is unique. It sits in the Fraser River valley at 8,000 feet in elevation but the land is relatively flat.

"The entire back nine is down in a river valley, so it is low-profile," said architect Tripp Davis. "The front nine has some elevation change and has a little more movement. There are not a lot of trees and there is a lot of scrub out there. It reminds me of the heathland courses outside London."

Although the land was relatively flat, construction of the layout was anything but easy. Niebur Golf, which is a partner in the project, built the course.

"When we came on in April 2001, nine holes had already been rough shaped by a previous developer," said Davis. "So it was kind of a design-and-build project. We had to deal with numerous wetland issues as they came along. But this was as quick as I have seen a course built, especially considering the environmental issues that we had to deal with. We had to restore 25 acres of wetlands."

Stadler, who visited the course numerous times and met regularly with Davis to discuss the design, expressed his enthusiasm for the project.

Transforming brownfields into green links

By THOMAS FRAILICK

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Contaminated industrial properties or hazardous waste sites often sit idle and abandoned for years in urban and suburban areas around the country. The restoration of these sites, called brownfields, to an environmentally acceptable state must conform to rigid federal and state standards. While such projects can prove costly and time-consuming, they offer tremendous opportunities.

In addition to environmental restoration, there are also economic benefits derived from the conversion of a brownfield. For example, these properties are less costly to acquire if one is seeking an area to be developed into a recreational facility such as a golf course, and brownfield properties often include large parcels of land that are difficult to come by in urban settings. In addition, most states provide monetary incentives and in some instances even grants for brownfield projects.

As a consequence, there has been a recent trend to convert these properties into recreational facilities, particularly golf courses. The development of brownfields into golf complexes offers many advantages, including substantial environmental and economic benefits. Cleanup criteria are less stringent for recreational areas than for residential normal parcel of land (some- times called a greenfield) and a brownfield is the presence of regulated substances in the soil or groundwater. These substances are generally chemicals that were used in an industrial process or the waste products that remained and were determined to be harmful to human health or the environment.

Therefore, before the property can be restored, the nature of the substances and the degree of contamination must be determined and any risks mitigated. The approach

Hazardous waste to water hazards

CLARK, N.J. — The Hyatt Hills golf complex recently opened on the 87-acre site of a former General Motors bearing plant that had been in operation since 1938.

URS Corp., retained by General Motors, began decommissioning the facility in 1987 for conversion to a golf course and a recreational facility. The first step was the preparation of a site investigation work plan to determine the extent of contamination for the above-ground portion of three buildings totaling more than 1.2 million square feet.

The investigations uncovered

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