Golf Course Remodeling Remains Strong

Although the spotlight in recent years has been on new golf course construction, hundreds of courses continue to implement remodeling plans, says Dan Maples, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

"Many older courses recognize the need to renovate their greens, tees, fairways and bunkers," says Maples, "and the way to do this properly is to develop a master plan in conjunction with an experienced golf course architect."

In many cases, Maples said, the master plan is implemented over a 3-5 year period to spread out costs and minimize disruptions to players.

Green chairmen, committee members and others responsible for the maintenance and improvement of golf courses may obtain a free brochure, Master Planning: The Vital First Steps in Golf Course Construction, by sending a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Golf Helps Cut Cholesterol

Golf apparently has more health benefits than it’s given credit for.

Doctors at the New Hampshire Heart Institute in Manchester enlisted 28 previously inactive men between ages 48 and 80 to play three rounds of golf a week for four months. They walked an estimated 14 miles each week.

The golfers all had significant declines in their total cholesterol, despite no changes in diet. They also had significantly improved ratios of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol to total cholesterol.

Fetal Protection Policy Ruled Discriminatory

Employers cannot bar women from jobs that could be hazardous to fetuses, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, saying that decisions about the welfare of unborn children must be left up to parents.

In a unanimous ruling, the court held that an automobile battery manufacturer’s fetal-protection policy violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act. The policy banned women who could not prove they were infertile from working in areas where they would be exposed to lead.

The court ruled that the company’s fetal-protection policy was sex discrimination (because studies show that lead also harms the male reproductive system) and that neither sex nor pregnancy would interfere with the employee’s ability to perform the job.

Golf operations should examine their employment policies to make sure they do not unfairly discriminate on the basis of sex or pregnancy—even in potentially hazardous jobs such as mixing, loading and applying pesticides.