

It's Happening In Golf

By Harry C. Eckhoff
NFG Director Golf Facility Services

63 Holes = 190,245 Rounds in Fairfax, VA

The four golf courses owned and operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority in Annandale, VA enjoyed their greatest number of rounds played ever in 1981.

Barclay "Buck" Whetsell, general superintendent for all the courses, reports that 190,245 rounds were played during 1981 — an increase of 10 percent over 1980. A breakdown of rounds for each course-follows.

NUMBER OF ROUNDS — 1981

	9-Hole Rounds	18-Hole Rounds	Total Rounds
Burke Lake Course — 18 holes	27,114	17,123	44,237
Greendale Course — 18 holes	29,137	20,869	50,006
Jefferson Course — 9 holes	42,258	4,210	46,468
Twin Lakes Course — 18 holes	20,474	29,060	49,534
	118,983	71,262	190,245

While many of the nation's municipal courses are reporting financial difficulties, the Fairfax County golf operation flourishes. After all expenses, salaries, supplies, etc. were paid, the golf operation actually netted \$176,000. Whetsell expects to see at least another 10 percent growth pattern in 1982.

Golf course maintenance costs at the Fairfax county courses averaged \$8,000 per hole in 1981. All courses have assistant superintendents. Whetsell is the overall superintendent. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Each course has a facility manager and a facility supervisor plus necessary assistants to accomplish the work load.

A typical fee schedule for the Fairfax county golf courses follows:

1982 FEE SCHEDULE

9 Holes, Weekdays.....	\$ 4.25
18 Holes, Weekdays.....	7.50
9 Holes, Weekends, Holidays.....	4.25
18 Holes, Weekends, Holidays.....	7.50
Power Car, 9 Holes.....	6.50
Power Car, 18 Holes.....	11.50
Full Cart.....	1.00
Rental Clubs for juniors under age 18.....	3.50
Seniors/Juniors (under 18), County H.S. Golf Team:	
9 Holes, Weekdays only.....	2.25
18 Holes, Weekdays only.....	4.00

Season Pass (Mon. thru Fri. only):

50 (18-hole rounds).....	325.00
25 (18-hole rounds).....	175.00
50 (18-hole rounds), Senior Citizens.....	175.00
25 (18-hole rounds), Senior Citizens.....	95.00

Rates are the same for county and non-county residents.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has been an NGF associate member since 1974.

Unique Golf Course Purchase Plan

Securing necessary financing for development or acquisition of needed golf courses for municipal government agencies has been somewhat difficult since the elimination of the Heritage Conservation Recreation Service (HCRS) Agency of the U.S. Department of Interior in early 1981.

For many years, the HCRS had authority to approve 50 percent matching grants for outdoor recreation facilities to municipalities through states from the Land and Water Conservation Fund monitored by the U.S. Department of Interior. Many municipalities developed or purchased golf courses through this program during its existence.

Fox Valley Park District in Aurora, IL recently acquired a golf facility through a plan that might be considered by other government agencies.

Robert Vaughan of the Fox Valley Park District reports that the district purchased the 18-hole Fox Bend Golf Club from the previous owners through a plan that pleased both parties.

The owners were able to sell the golf facility at \$1.75 million instead of the asking price of \$2.5 million because they could declare all the buildings on the land as charitable contributions, leaving only the land in the actual money sales.

The park district was able to negotiate a 10-year installment purchase plan making a bond issue unnecessary. In return it obtained a quality golf course for its residents.

Reprint from NGF Golf Market Report

WANTED: Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Editor

The Mid-Atlantic Newsletter will need a new editor starting January 1983. Anyone interested in the job or information about the job, please contact the present editor or any board member.

Looking Ahead to August and the Picnic!

Can the Mid-Atlantic Picnic be any better than last years? Well, Social Chairman Paul Barefoot thinks so. Again this year we will travel to the Potomac river valley and the Bretton Woods Recreation Center. If you missed last years picnic but heard about the great time we had, put a big circle around Augsut 10th and prepare yourself for a great time. Crabs, beer, ribs and all that good home cooking will be there to tickle your tummy.