Golf Sites Found on Half of All New Real Estate Projects

About one out of two real estate projects under construction for year-round or resort living include golf site lots for potential buyers, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architect's new pocket-size brochure on golf course planning and building costs.

One reason is aesthetic appeal which attracts golfers and nongolfers alike. Another is demographics, showing that white the number of golf courses has more than doubled since 1960 the ranks of players has quadrupled.

Finally, there is the excellent track record of profits for developers and soaring property values for homeowners. Home sales were more than double the projected target in the first year at a New England area resort and conference center. Buyers who paid \$90,000 for their units were able to sell them two years later for \$150,000.

Developers can expect to spend at least \$1 million to build a regulation length 18 golf course, according to the ASGCA. Maintenance costs usually run between \$100,000 and \$250,000 annually.

ASGCA members provide long-range planning services, assistance in selecting proper sites, and advice on the best methods to finance design and construction of the course. In addition to laying out the site for playing areas, maintenance and clubhouse facilities, the professionally-trained architect supervises actual construction from start to finish, and offers follow-up consultation services to see that playing conditions meet the owner's and players' expectations.

For a free copy of "Planning the Real Estate Development Golf Course," and other literature related to golf course planning, design and construction, write to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

Soil Organisms in Lawngrass Root Zones

Good lawn soils will support an extensive population of very small animals that contribute to natural macrobiological processes. These include springtails, fly larvae, myriapods, mites, nematodes and many other insects. As many as 2000 may make their homes in a square foot of soil down through the lawngrass rootzone. Most of these are never seen but work quietly converting organic matter and soil minerals into useful nutrients for lawngrasses. Earth worms are probably the best known of these soil organisms. Seventeen per square foot of lawn is not an unusually large population in a good lawn. This many worms would pass about a pound and a half of soil through their bodies each year. Some of this is left on the soil surface as casts. Soil processed by earthworms often has over 300 percent more nitrogen, over 600 percent more phosphorus and over 1000 percent more potassium than the surrounding soil. Forty percent increases in calcium and 200 percent increases in magnesium are also common. Benefits of these organisms far outweigh the detrimental effects of the few insect pests that injure lawns.



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