

Interest in Municipal, Public Golf Courses Continues to Build as More Play Games

Golf course construction costs vary greatly, but most communities or developers can count on spending at least \$1,250,000, not including the cost of the land, for a modern regulation-length golf course, according to Roger Rulewich, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Rulewich noted, however, that most municipal and public golf courses are showing healthy profits as more women and seniors play the game. He noted that some golf courses in the southeast and western regions that are open year-round are seeing annual net profits in excess of \$300,000.

"As more communities recognize the value of a golf course as a recreational facility for its residents, an attractive green belt, and as a magnet for tourists, golf course development will continue to boom," Rulewich predicted.

The ASGCA president said that a typical golf course construction budget, which will be affected by location and condition of land, might look like this:

* Construction of 18-hole course	\$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000
Maintenance Equipment	150,000 to 300,000
Maintenance Building	100,000 to 250,000
	\$1,250,000 to \$3,550,000

*Includes basic golf course construction (clearing, grading, construction of tees, greens and bunkers, seeding, etc.), irrigation system, shelters, bridges, cart pathways and service roads.

Rulewich emphasized that these cost figures are intended only as rough guidelines and do not include the cost of the land, clubhouse, other facilities, or architect's fee. In addition, maintenance costs usually run between \$100,000 and \$250,000 annually.

Costs will vary, Rulewich added, by section of the country due to different terrain, climate and number of playable days.

The ASGCA president stated that ordinarily about 150 acres of land are needed to build a regulation length golf course. Only 75 to 100 acres are needed for an executive course, while only 50 to 80 acres are needed for an 18-hole par three course.

Many new municipal and public courses are being built on landfills, flood plains, and other "undesirable" sites. Rulewich pointed out that an experienced golf course architect should be brought in early in the planning process so that the proper golf course site is preserved in the master plan.

Those planning to build a municipal or public course can obtain additional information by writing the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

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