

## NGF's Annual "Hot Spots" List Focuses on Public Golf Crunch

JUPITER, Fla. — In its continuing effort to focus national attention on the growing need for more public golf courses, the National Golf Foundation has released its 1989 list of metro areas where its statistics indicate the opportunities for development are the greatest.

Entitled *Hot Spots for Public Golf Course Development*, this year's list identifies and ranks the 50 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) reflecting the greatest imbalance between golfers and the number of available of public playing facilities.

According to the NGF's latest statistics, there are on average a total of 3,677 golfers for every 18 holes of public golf in the U.S.

Each of the 50 MSAs on this year's list have more than twice the national average. The Foundation considers these areas potentially ripe for communities, investors, builders and others interested in developing a public golf facility.

NGF research indicates that, at golf's current rate of growth in popularity in the U.S., the number of golfers could easily increase from today's 23.4 million to well over 30 million by the year 2000.

50 Hot Spots for Public Golf Course Development

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Golfers	Golfers Per 18 Public Holes
1. Jersey City, N.J.	60,334	60.334
2. New York, N.Y.	592,956	21.562
3. Texarkana, Tex.-Ark.	9,562	19.125
4. Houma-Thibodaux, La.	15,387	15.387
5. El Paso, Tex.	44,729	14.910
6. Montgomery, Ala.	26,041	13.020
7. Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.	819,772	12.421
8. Tuscaloosa, Ala.	12,192	12.192
9. Houston, Tex.	369,291	12.108
10. Albuquerque, N.M.	71,705	11.951
11. Fayetteville, N.C.	23,899	11.950
12. Colorado Springs, Colo.	58,391	11.676
13. San Francisco, Calif.	154,416	11.438
14. Bergen-Passaic, N.J.	141,784	11.343
15. Alexandria, La.	11,226	11.226
16. Dathan, Ala.	11,213	11.213
17. Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.	353,142	11.211
18. Baton Rouge, La.	43,571	10.893
19. Florence, S.C.	10,827	10.827
20. Hagerstown, Md.	10,612	10.612
21. Baltimore, Md.	153,667	10.598
22. Joplin, Mo.	20,627	10.314
23. Abilene, Tex.	10,237	10.237
24. St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	372,987	10.219
25. Greeley, Colo.	20,349	10.174
26. Springfield, Mo.	35,288	10.082
27. Laredo, Tex.	10,070	10.070
28. Boise City, Idaho	29,711	9.904
29. Albany, Ga.	9,671	9.671
30. Las Cruces, N.M.	19,197	9.598
31. Dallas, Tex.	273,168	9.585
32. Modesto, Calif.	28,641	9.547
33. New Orleans, La.	99,934	9.518
34. Cumberland, Md.-W. Va.	9,369	9.369
35. New Haven-Waterbury-Meriden, Conn.	93,210	9.321
36. Lafayette, La.	17,789	8.894
37. Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon, N.J.	105,304	8.775
38. Atlanta, Ga.	258,816	8.773
39. St. Joseph, Mo.	13,075	8.717
40. Anaheim-Santa Ana, Calif.	215,887	8.303
41. Topeka, Kan.	24,753	8.251
42. Chicago, Ill.	806,811	8.233
43. San Antonio, Tex.	101,787	8.143
44. Williamsport, Pa.	11,993	7.996
45. Memphis, Tenn.-Ark.-Miss.	87,930	7.994
46. Santa Fe, N.M.	15,912	7.956
47. Newark, N.J.	206,391	7.938
48. Great Falls, Mont.	11,794	7.862
49. Fresno, Calif.	58,124	7.750
50. Wichita, Kan.	69,375	7.708

Source: National Golf Foundation

To accommodate this increase in demand, the Foundation is projecting that upwards of 4,000 (or about 400 a year) additional golf courses will be needed. The nation is currently averaging less than 200 new golf facilities per year.

The NGF's interest in stimulating public golf course development is driven by the fact that golf in the U.S. is a predominantly public game, with more than 70 percent of the nearly 500 million rounds played annually being recorded at public facilities.

Unless the rate of new construction can be accelerated, the NGF and other industry leaders believe the overcrowding already being experienced at many of today's public facilities will worsen ... and that public golfers will find it even harder to find places to play.

This year's list indicates that the opportunity for public golf course development is nationwide, with 24 states and the District of Columbia represented.

Topping the list is Jersey City, N.J., with 60,334 golfers per 18 public holes — more than 16 times the national average. New York City, with 21,562 golfers, and Texarkana, TX, with 19,125 golfers are ranked second and third respectively.

## The Commuter

by Elon Staats

The city toiler, a slave is he

Who knows not that he lives, you see.

His life is just about in hock

In fact he lives it by the clock.

He vows that some day he will harm

That never-failing morn alarm.

He drinks his coffee, eats his bun

Then buys his paper on the run;

Each morn he hustles to the train

In winter's snow, in summer's rain.

He lines up at the station's door

And hurries to his work once more.

Then at the noon-tide breathing spell

A sandwich doth his hunger quell.

All afternoon he slaves and toils

That someone else may reap the spoils.

At evening when the hour is five

Right then is when he's most alive.

He races to the train again

And crowds in with the other men.

World's problems settled on the train

To hear him tell it, he's got a brain.

Next stop he rushes down the road

To spend the night at his abode.

The morning rolls around again

To another day for slaves called "men."

He seldom sees the sunset rare,

The beasts of field or birds of air,

The fleecy images of clouds

Might just as well be hid in shrouds.

All Nature's streams and creeping vines

Are strangers, as are stately pines.

The "bright lights" are his guiding stars

He's only heard of planet Mars.

His pleasures, pastimes, revelry,

Most always artificial be.

He just exists, nor ponders why

And seldom learns 'till time to die

That richest gifts in this old land

Are free, and made by Nature's hand.

Who can this living robot be?

God help us! It is you and me.