

U.S. Course Construction Continues Upward Climb

358 New Courses Added to National Supply ... All Systems Go For a Repeat Performance in '94

The National Golf Foundation's final tally of golf course superintendent in the U.S. for 1993 shows that a 23-year high of 358 new courses opened for business last year.

This marks the fourth straight year that new course openings have increased in the U.S. It also brings the number that have come on line over the past five years to 1,642 .. or about 328 per year. The previous five-year high was 1,625; established during the 1971-75 time period.

Looking ahead, NGF researchers see evidence of an equally good year in 1994. In addition to the top line numbers, the report offers other insights into the health and vitality of the game. Among them:

Public golf remains the predominant focus.

Eighty percent of those courses that came on line last year were public, i.e., they were either daily fee or municipal operations.

The likelihood of this situation continuing for a while is reflected in the fact that about 80% of those courses under construction and in planning today are also public.

[A review of past reports shows that, over the past 20 years, the number of public facilities in the U.S. has increased by 61%. Private facilities, on the other hand, have actually declined by 1%. The bottom line: 66% of the nation's golf facilities are public and there's nothing to indicate this percentage won't go even higher in years to come.]

Existing facilities continue to expand.

Nearly one-third (31%) of all the new courses in 1993 were

additions to existing facilities ... an indication that many operators are not only experiencing increased demand, but also moving to meet it.

Seventy-five percent of this activity is occurring at daily fee and municipal courses and 85% of the projects are nine-hole additions.

Looking at the state leaders for 1993, Florida once again led the way with 37 openings; followed by Illinois and Michigan with 26 and 22 respectively.

Michigan sits atop the "under construction" scoreboard with 59; followed by Pennsylvania and Illinois with 39 and 28 respectively. Florida remains among the top 10 with 25.

Top 15 States			
1993 Openings		Under Construction (as of Dec. 31, 1993)	
Florida	37	Michigan	59
Illinois	26	Pennsylvania	39
Michigan	22	Illinois	38
Ohio	17	Wisconsin	35
Alabama	16	Missouri	29
Texas	16	Texas	27
California	14	Ohio	26
New York	14	Florida	25
Wisconsin	13	Indiana	25
North Carolina	12	New York	25
Virginia	12	Minnesota	24
Georgia	11	California	22
Kentucky	11	North Carolina	20
Indiana	10	Oregon	20
Washington	10	Georgia	18

Source: National Golf Foundation



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