

A SCARCE AND PRECIOUS RESOURCE: WATER

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water disposal system which would carry the sewage effluent far out into the Gulf of Mexico to avoid potential shoreline pollution problems.

Meanwhile, Innisbrook was having a problem with salt infusion into their fresh water wells. Therefore, the use of the golf course as an on-land disposal area for the county's effluent was an answer to problems of both parties, and the county contracted with Innisbrook to deliver 3 million gallons per day by underground pipeline, constructed by the county, to Innisbrook, where this water is fed into five pumping stations located throughout the golf course properties.

The golf courses along the north branch of the Chicago River are known around the world as some of the finest in existence. These courses have been irrigated for over fifty years with water drawn out of what is in essence a drainage ditch.

Recent studies have shown that in periods of low flow, these waters tend to contain more pollutants which may be detrimental to the development of fine turf grass; consequently, during these periods the golf courses have been supplementing their irrigation water from the canal with fresh water from the city water lines.

The North Shore Sanitary District is in the process of completing a new water treatment plant in Highland Park, Illinois. The Sanitary District's engineer, John P. Kottcamp, Jr., is working with the local golf course superintendents and the University of Illinois to develop some test plots to determine the feasibility of using the effluent for turf grass irrigation. Should the tests prove positive, as anticipated, the North Shore Sanitary District will install a water main to carry the effluent water along its right-of-way to supply water for irrigation purposes to the golf courses, parks and other recreational facilities within its jurisdiction.

According to Kottcamp, the situation in the area is becoming critical. As the population of Chicago's northern suburbs continues to increase, so do water needs increase. However, they are limited by law as to the amount of water that can be drawn from Lake Michigan, as this water does not return to the lake but through the Chicago River system feeds to the west into the Mississippi basin.

With this limitation in the amount of available water, the Sanitary District is looking for alternate sources for irrigation use, to supplement its supplies and meet the growing demand.

The turf plots at the new Clavey Road sewage treatment plant will be maintained by the staff of the Northmoor Country Club and tests will be made and evaluated by the University of Illinois. We were privileged to assist in the design of the plots and local contractors and suppliers have volunteered their services to assist in the project. We feel that this research being done by the local people at the grass roots level is the type of thing that all communities should be doing.

Probably the greatest achievement in the history of mankind has occurred in our lifetime. Man has gone out into space, walked on the moon, and returned to tell about it. And we have had the privilege of watching the whole thing on our television sets. One of the most stirring things to come out of the space program was the picture of the planet Earth taken by the astronauts

from space. It has made us realize that this beautiful and fragile sphere on which we exist is really Spaceship Earth and its care has been entrusted to us. Our responsibility is to use it, enjoy it and leave it better than we found it. But water is the primary source of life on this planet — there is no new water; only recycled water.

NOTE: Richard Nugent is a member of Killian and Nugent, Inc., a golf course architectural firm located in Long Grove, Ill. This article is based on a presentation made by Nugent at the GCSAA Turfgrass Conference in Atlanta in February 1979.

Editors Note: This article was found in the April 1979 issue of "National Golf Foundation Golf Market Report" and we wish to thank The National Golf Foundation for permission to reprint.

Everglades Elects Officers

The Everglades G.C.S.A. has elected officers for 1979-80. Elected were: President, Bob Sanderson, C.G.C.S., Port Charlotte Golf Club; Vice President, Clint Smallridge, C.G.C.S., Royal Poinciana C.C., Naples; Secretary-Treasurer, Virgil Petty, Golden Gate Golf Club, Naples.

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A small illustration of a golf course scene with a flag on a green, a golfer, and trees in the background, positioned to the right of the text.