

DOGWOOD COURSE OPENS AT GARDEN VALLEY GOLF RESORT

Texas Golf Association Immediate Past President A.J. Triggs calls Garden Valley Golf Resort's new Dogwood Course "one of the premier courses built recently in Texas. Good design, unbelievable beautiful and a delight to play."

The 6,860-yard, par-72 layout, 75 miles east of Dallas, was designed by Sanford & Associates of Jupiter, Fla. It lies on heavily wooded, rolling terrain, along lakes, with water affecting 11 holes, and incorporates a variety of dogleg lefts and rights.



Study: Average Canadian plays more than the average Yank

JUPITER, Fla.— Green fees are higher north of the border than in the United States.

The National Golf Foundation's new report on golf in Canada shows that the average weekend green fee at an 18-hole public facility there runs \$24.42 (Canadian) or about \$20 in U.S. currency. The average in the U.S. was \$16.44 in 1990.

NGF's survey of more than 1,700 facilities in Canada is the third in a series of research on golf in Canada. Earlier studies show that not only does the average person in Canada play more than the average American, but there are more public golf courses there.

The new report examines capital expenditures, maintenance expense, number of employees, capacity utilization, and how owners/operators view environmental concerns, increased competition and the ability to increase fees impacting their operations.

Among report insights:

- A majority of Canadian facility owners reinvest an appreciable amount of their revenues back into their operations. More than 78 percent of survey respondents reported making a recent capital expenditure, with the average outlay about \$366,000 (Canadian). Attracting the highest percentage of expenditures were clubhouse renovation, irrigation systems and playing surface improvements.

- Since 1986, the average 18-hole weekend Canadian green fee at a public facility increased 52 percent.

- The average maintenance budget for public golf facilities (including semi-privates) in Canada is approximately \$115,300 (Canadian). This compares to \$370,300 for private facilities.

- Canadian facility owners and operators are most concerned about maintenance and labor costs and their ability to increase fees. Other areas of concern are availability of water, environmental issues and insurance costs.

Virginia reports pent-up demand

There is a consensus of pent-up demand for good golf courses in Virginia, but bankers must step up if developers are to get off the ground.

An 18-hole course is scheduled to open next year at Lee's Hill residential community in Spotsylvania County, near Fredericksburg, but there's a faraway look when others are mentioned.

A dollar shortage sidelined plans for a PGA of America's 18-hole public course on the 270-acre Union Mill Park that transects the city and Prince William County. Four 18-hole courses in Prince William County and two in Stafford County are planned the next three years, the economy permitting.

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