

Expansions, renovations being undertaken in Illinois

Numerous plans are on drawing boards throughout Illinois as course owners discuss expansions and renovations.

A plan to add nine holes to Rend Lake Golf Course, near Benton, will bring the course up to the originally planned 27 holes. Only 18 were built when architect Lawrence Packard of Chicago designed the course. He will be consulted on the feasibility of expansion.

The project, estimated at between \$600,000 and \$1.5 million, might be financed by grants, noted the Conservancy District board. Lack of nearby lodging has hindered growth around the course, and the board is considering building cabins for rent.

COLLINSVILLE AND COAL VALLEY

In Collinsville, initial plans are underway on a proposed 18-hole course on the city's east side. The City Council voted to discuss with landowners and developers the feasibility of the project after hearing that the golf course in Brooklyn Park, a suburb of Minneapolis, brought the city \$75,000 profit in its first year of operation.

Goforth Corp. of Chicago is interested in building a public 18-hole course and related developments in Coal Valley. PGA Pro Hale Irwin may be involved in the project. Coal Valley is home to the Oakwood County Club, which sponsors the Hardee's Golf Classic PGA tournament each year.

The tiny village of Wauconda in Lake County is faced with a precedent-setting 840-unit development, complete with an 18-hole golf course, on 440 acres of the Roney Farm.

Wauconda's plan commission members were looking at the development plans prior to any decision. A consultant hired to look out for village interests noted that the development would be precedent-setting for the Wauconda area.

He said: "The village of Wauconda is unusual when you look at it in the context of Lake County. The county has been rapidly urbanizing. Wauconda has not experienced a great deal of growth. Most of Wauconda has seen developments of small magnitude."

REFERENDUM UPCOMING

In Carol Stream, residents will vote in March on a referendum to build a nine-hole, 114-acre public golf course complex.

The complex would include a lighted driving range, three multi-use athletic fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, a clubhouse and winter ice skating and cross-country skiing.

It would cost about \$5 million to build, not including the cost of the land. With a course fee for one round of golf at about \$7.50, and other use fees, the complex could become self-supporting and turn a small profit within five years.

If residents approve the referendum, owners of \$100,000 homes

would see an annual tax increase of about \$40 to help retire the debt.

PARK DISTRICT MAY BUY IN

The Oswegoland Park District may become co-owners of an Aurora golf course, the Orchard Valley Golf Course. The \$7-million, 18-hole course is scheduled to open in July of 1993.

Oswegoland Park District already co-owns Fox Bend Golf Course with the Fox Valley Park District, which would become co-owners of Orchard Valley. Co-

ownership allows golfers residing in the districts to play at the courses at resident rates, and allows both districts to maximize staff and equipment and share in bulk purchases.

Existing profits from Fox Bend could be the Oswegoland Park District's main source of funding to make payments on the Orchard Valley contract.

LOCKPORT VOTE POSSIBLE

Lockport Township in Will County is putting a public 18-hole

or 27-hole golf course construction to the voters on a November ballots if proponents can drum up enough support.

The course, estimated at \$5 million, would be built on 237 acres owned by the Illinois Department of Corrections immediately outside the Crest Hill prison. The land would have to be purchased by the Park District.

In 1990, voters rejected a district plan to sell \$6 million in bonds to build a course and recreation center and improve the existing

Dellwood Park.

Lack of financing has delayed a 1,500-unit project to be built around three nine-hole courses outside Lockport.

The Broken Arrow project needs \$8.5 million for sewer lines, roads and other improvements. Robin Hill Development Co., based in Wheaton, specializes in golf course communities.

It has already acquired or purchased options on the 575-acre site for Broken Arrow, and won annexation and zoning approval.

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