

# Clark: Projects should focus on demands of site, players

## ASGCA president speaks out on design

The unique demands of the site and the players who will be using the course should be the focus of golf course development, says Tom Clark, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Architects and superintendents should work together to develop courses that satisfy those needs.

"We try to get a superintendent involved at the start of construction

so he can act as a project liaison, help interpret plans for the contractor and make suggestions that will ease maintenance," said Clark. "For example, if we create a design that is difficult to maintain, he can bring it to our attention while changes can still be made."

"Working together during the design and construction phase enables the superintendent to learn the intent of the original design," Clark added.

"As the golf course evolves, the superintendent can help ensure

that the layout and other components remain true to the architect's original intent."

Although most superintendents don't have the opportunity to be in on the development of a course, they can always check the original plans to learn the architect's design strategy.

"Being informed is 90% of understanding each other," Clark noted. Architects also must appreciate the superintendent's point of view, and sometimes need to be reminded, for example, that

a design element also needs to be mowed twice a week.

Involving the superintendent of the course during construction allows him to interact with the contractor.

It's important to see what goes on underground, as well. "In particular, he needs to oversee the installation of the irrigation system and confirm that the greens, for instance, have exactly four inches of gravel, two inches of barrier layer sand and 12 inches of mix," said Clark,

"When we leave a course it's in his hands."

When remodeling a course, Clark always involves the superintendents and golf pros.

They're the ones, he says, who know the course's strengths and weaknesses and understand what should be improved.

A brochure on master planning may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

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## City approves \$7M bond issue for public course

BLUE ISLAND, Ill.—The city will issue \$7 million in bonds to finance an 18-hole public course on 139 acres of a former landfill.

Nebraska-based Blue T Golf Inc. will build the course. Course architect J. Porter Gibson said plans called for adding soil to the site and building the course on top of the landfill rather than disturbing the landfill itself. Golfers should be out in force by spring of 1993.

In Bensenville, golfers are keeping in the swing of things by practicing under the a dome constructed over the outdoor driving range. The dome, 100 yards wide and long and 75 feet high, will stay up until April.

## N.D. opening possible in 1993

MINOT, N.D.— A new 18-hole course planned along the Souris river near Burlington could be open for play by next year.

Two developers are in the process of acquiring land for a 5,200 yard, par-72 course. Ward Nostdahl and Milo Borstad told the Minot Park Board about their plans because the board was considering a second municipal course.

A Minneapolis developer has been working with the developers on the site, presently in the hands of the Bank of North Dakota.

## Chicago course saves farmhouse

WEST CHICAGO, Ill. — A beautiful brick house, 11 years old and full of memories, was moved from one side of a neighborhood in Chicago to another to be used as the clubhouse for the 21-hole DuPage Airport championship golf course now under construction.

The 10-room brick farmhouse with a green roof and cupola was built in 1879 on the 300 acres owned and farmed by the McChesssney family for five generations.

The Fermi National Accelerator Lab, constructed in the late 1960s, bought some of the farm. Family members are delighted the old building was preserved.

GOLF COURSE NEWS