

EPA advises developers to avoid most wetlands

Following is some straightforward advice offered by the Environmental Protection Agency when working with wetlands.

- The best way to avoid problems is to avoid wetlands in the first place.
- Examine alternative sites before purchasing wetlands.
- If you do get involved with wetlands, you need to be prepared — learn the regulations and policies of the relevant agencies.
- Initiate early coordination with the permitting agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA. If you anticipate that your proposal may be particularly controversial, you may want to identify major interest groups and, where appropriate, solicit their input.

Golf industry public liaison officer Michael Scott believes this may be the most important step.

"Talk to people, especially EPA, as soon as you begin planning. Do not wait until there is a problem," he wrote.

- Do not assume that compensatory mitigation will solve all your problems.

Incorporating environmental amenities can enhance the value of property, therefore it is important not to undertake activities that will adversely affect resources, according to EPA literature.

Consider state-of-the-art technology in your designs to reduce adverse environmental impacts, the agency suggests.

For answers to wetlands questions call EPA's Wetlands Protection Hotline at 800-832-7828.

GCSAA to sponsor Asian show next spring

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is taking the opportunity of the booming golf market in the Pacific Rim to sponsor a golf course conference and show in Singapore on March 15-21, 1993.

GCSAA President William R. Roberts said the force behind planning the event is meeting the educational needs of the region's golf course management professionals and offering manufacturers and suppliers a cost-effective way to sell their products internationally.

"The booming golf market in this area of the world presents an excellent opportunity for GCSAA," Roberts said. "It is our intention — as it has been with our domestic activities — to produce a first-class conference and show with the highest quality level of education possible, and to make the event professionally rewarding for all."

A full program of educational sessions, seminars, a distributor program and trade show — all planned with multiple-language interpreting — will be offered to exhibitors and attendees.

International representatives from Toro, Jacobsen, Ransomes/Cushman, John Deere, Rain Bird, Robert Trent Jones II and Club Car have already committed to participate in the Pacific Rim event, the GCSAA said in a press release.

Exhibitor information will be mailed to industry representatives in July. Attendee information will be sent in August.

Homestead resort to fight decision

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — Developer Robert Kuras said he will find a way to build a golf course at the Homestead Resort despite a June 8 U.S. District Court ruling overturning national Environmental Protection Agency approval of the project.

The court ruling set aside U.S. EPA Administrator William Reilly's May approval of the controversial course near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. In approving the project, Reilly had overruled his EPA Chicago regional office, which had earlier rejected the course because of wetland considerations.

District Judge Richard Enslin agreed with environmental groups that the wetlands issue should have been transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after the EPA regional office's objection. Reilly's decision went beyond the law, Enslin said.

Kuras is deciding whether to seek Corps approval, appeal Enslin's ruling, or choose another tactic.

City official says no to golf plan

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. — A developer's plan to construct a golf course on the Shattuck Estate near the Long Island Expressway was shot down by Oyster Bay Supervisor Lewis J. Yevoli.

The county board of supervisors usually follows Yevoli's thinking. While the informal proposal had been put forth as a money-maker, Yevoli said it would actually cost the county money.

Yevoli added that the county purchased the property for parkland in the 1960s and that use should be confined to that area.

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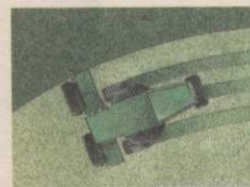
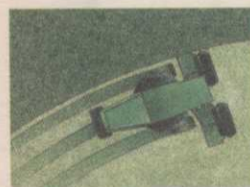
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