#### Mass. course gets environmental nod

WALTHAM, Mass. — A plan to build a golf course on the site of the closed Metropolitan State Hospital has met state and municipal task force approval.

Chemicals used to maintain greens would not damage wetlands on the property, said city planning director Ronald Vokey. The proposal to build a nine-hole course on the now-vacant site of the closed state mental hospital had been criticized by environmental groupscharging a golf course would damage wildlife and wetlands.

Vokey said the architect of the proposed course is revising the layout to leave untouched Mackerel Cove, an area some environmentalists want to preserve.

A housing task force is studying development of housing on the Lexington portion of the property, where abandoned hospital buildings now stand.

The Met State site straddles Waltham, Lexington and Belmont. Under the current plan, 220 acres would be a wildlife preserve.

## Mich. DNR to decide layout's fate

SAUGATUCK, Mich. — "A course everybody would be proud of," or "a chemical dump."

These extremes were voiced at a Department of Natural Resources hearing as permits were sought to develop Saugatuck Golf Club. ASK Inc. needs permits to convert 6.8 acres of wetlands into five ponds, fill 0.46 acres of wetlands, and construct several boardwalks.

Course designer Bruce Matthews said developers would follow DNR guidelines, known as "best management practices," for fertilizers and pesticides.

Citing environmental concerns, several residents asked state officials to reject course plans. "What we're proposing here is a dump for a lot of chemicals," charged Joy Fleming, Holland Audubon Society vice president.

### Calif. golfers excited about 9-hole track

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—Golfcarts won't be available until next spring, but golfers are walking with enthusiasm, and in growing numbers, at the new 9-hole executive course at McInnis Park Golf Center here.

The course completes the \$5 million complex, which includes a 62-station driving range, teaching center, clubhouse, restaurant, miniature golf course, and baseball and softball batting cages.

Groundskeepers will evaluate course wear and decide whether to continue keeping it open four days a week through the winter or go to seven days a week.

Fred Bliss designed the course.

#### Fla. planners cut Scandanavia USA a rare break

BARTOW, Fla. — Because a developer with prior approval had spent \$13 million to build an 18-hole golf course on a tract in which more than half the area is wetlands, the Polk County Commission struck a deal

Scandinavia USA will be allowed to develop a golf course community on a low-lying area at the edge of the Green Swamp here. In exchange, the developer must monitor wells around the course for chemical contamination.

The developers must protect the 532 acres on the site and guarantee the 987 homes planned there will have sewer service from Lakeland.

The settlement for the 1,020-acre development northeast of Lakeland resolves a challenge the Florida Department of Community

Affairs filed in December 1992.

DCA officials claimed the golf course plans included use of pesticides and other chemicals that could pollute underground and surface water, and that a planned irrigation well for the golf course could dry up wetlands by pumping too much ground water.

Under the agreement, Scandinavia USA must keep written records of the amount, date and location of all chemicals applied to the golf course. The developers must also collect water samples from the wells around the site before the golf course is constructed.

Since 1974, state officials have classified 295,000 acres of the Green Swamp — including 189,000 acres in Polk County — as an Area of Critical State Concern because of the importance to the state's natural resources.



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