Wetlands hold up Michigan project

NEW BUFFALO, Mich. - The long-planned \$155 million Whittaker Woods golf course and residential development here has one more hurdle to jump before construction can begin.

Owner Peter O'Brien said the 402-acre, 273-home project will soon have its permits from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Last year, members of the Galien River Watershed Council objected to O'Brien's plans to fill nine acres of wetlands and modify

12 more, while recreating 10 acres of wetlands. Questions have also been raised about how storm water will be drained.

Albert Massey, the DNR's Region III land and water management supervisor, said O'Brien scaled back his planned wetlands changes and developed a satisfactory storm drain plan.

Massey said although the permit is ready to be signed, O'Brien and the DNR will still have to work out a survey to determine if the project threatens endangered species.

Wash. development right on schedule

DEER PARK, Wash. - The City Council here has approved plans for first-phase development of the Deer Park Golf and Country Club.

The 6,750-yard public golf course, which was seeded last fall, could be playable before winter, according to Marketing Director Ed Laigo.

Quantum Five Inc., the project's developer, is negotiating with several builders for the first phase's 35 homes. When completed, the project will include 441 home sites, 105 condominiums and 116 recreational vehicle sites. The plan also includes a 150-room hotel that will probably be developed by a chain or other third party.

The Seattle-based Quantum will spend as much \$18 million on the 350-acre development, said Laigo.

Operator, not satisfied with lease, may buy Air Force course

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — The Inland Valley Development Agency, which has already agreed to lease and operate Norton Air Force Base's 170-acre Palm Meadows Golf Course, said it will submit a "significantly" higher offer to the Air Force to buy the course.

Last January, the Air Force rejected a \$2 million bid from the agency to acquire the course, which may have to move as many as four holes to accommodate commercial air service. Portions of the site are also tainted with

The higher offer came after a financial review of the course operations indicated it would generate a better cash flow than first projected, said Bill Bopf, agency executive director. The agency wants to retain the course so it can control development on property that has been earmarked as an intermodal transportation zone where containerized cargo is loaded from planes onto trucks and rail cars.

Also interested in the Norton course is the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a 150-member tribe that operates a bingo parlor in Highland. The tribe already has filed a letter of intent to buy 50 acres of mostly barren property in the northeast corner of the base.

Deciding not to file a formal application for the course, the San Manuel Indians are waiting to see what happens with the agency's

toxic hot spots.

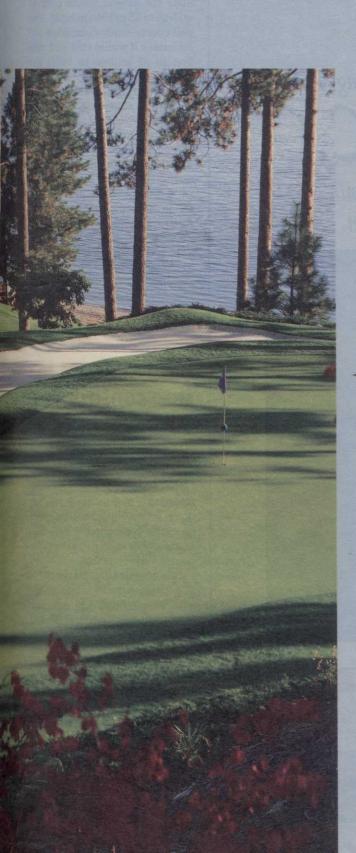
Flood-ravaged course to reopen this summer?

DAVENPORT, Iowa - With the Great Flood of '93 destroying Davenport's Credit Island Park, there is a growing movement to reseed the park's golf course with an eye toward opening it for play later this summer.

Other options include abandoning the park completely or turning it into a quasi-nature preserve with camping facilities and other amenities.

Several city aldermen said they are leaning toward reseeding the golf course. "I don't think anyone feels it's a waste of money," Alderman Jim Hayek told the Quad City Times. "It won't be a Cadillac golf course, but people will be able to play golf."

The nine-hole course, which is popular with novice golfers and senior citizens, and the rest of the park would cost about \$10,000 to \$15,000 to reseed. City officials want to use Federal Emergency Management Agency dollars to pay for the reseeding.



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