

Garl designs South Carolina layout for women

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Golf course architect Ron Garl is doing something few of his colleagues have considered. He's designing an 18-hole golf course specifically for women. After months of surveys with women golfers in 39 states, Garl has designed the new Tradition Club, scheduled to open this September.

The 18-hole course will measure 4,200 yards from the shortest tees, which is 1,000 yards or more shorter than the yardage for typical women's tees. There will be no special women's tee markers, but rather five

different tee choices on each hole, each tailored to handicaps.

One of the keys is that golfers of all handicaps should play roughly the same shots on each hole. For example, if a low-handicap player uses a driver and 5-iron to get to a par-4 in regulation, then a high-handicap player, playing from the appropriately measured tees, should be able to get to the green using a driver and a 5-iron.

Garl plans another round of research and said he plans to develop more specially-tailored courses in the future.

City says OK to Calif. land sale

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — A second 18-hole golf course next to the Bennett Valley Course inched closer to reality when the City Council recently decided to buy an option on 126 acres in the area.

The council will spend \$450,000 over two years on the option to buy property for a proposed par-63 golf course in the foothills behind the existing par-72 course.

Before the course can be developed however, the city must

complete an environmental impact report in response to archeological finds of Indian artifacts along Matanzas Creek on the property.

City Manager Ken Blackman estimated impact studies could take up to two years before construction could begin, which means it would be three or four years before the course could open for play. The total cost of the golf course is estimated at \$3.75 million plus an estimated \$3 million for development.

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Ala. golf resort seeks investors

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The ambitious \$14 to \$17 million Ditto Landing-Hobb's Island waterfront resort and residential community proposed on the Tennessee River — which includes an 18-hole public golf course — is now seeking private investors.

The Huntsville-Madison County Marina and the Port Authority for Ditto Landing recently hired consultant Jim Mitchell to find investors to finance development of the mixed-use recreation/business park project, which was first introduced in 1991 by LDR International Inc.

The county marina, Port Authority and state are sharing the cost of the proposed project.

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