

Texas park leapfrogs toad

BASTROP, Texas — The National Park Service has given in and decided to pay \$500,000 to help the Bastrop State Park golf course expand from nine to 18 holes despite being a prime habitat for an endangered toad.

Federal officials, who initially rejected the park's request for it to pay half of a \$1 million expansion, changed their mind after the expansion at the park east of Austin was changed to reduce its environmental impact.

A driving range was dropped

from the design, and the course will grow by 39 acres to span 135 acres, instead of by 54 acres as originally planned.

Environmentalists say the work could harm the Houston toad, an endangered species living in the area, and could affect the state's dwindling Lost Pines ecosystem, part of which is preserved in the park.

A coalition of environmental and tax groups are expected to sue to stop the expansion of the state park track.

S.C. layout to close until Sept. for renovations

AIKEN, S.C. — Palmetto Golf Club, the oldest golf course in South Carolina and recently ranked 20th in the state by Golf Digest magazine, is closed until Labor Day for a major renovation project that will restore greens, tee boxes and most fairways.

Richard McNabb, course superintendent, said three different contractors are working on specific areas of the course.

Because of poor soil composition and drainage problems, the greens no longer were responding properly to conventional aeration and chemical treatment. As a result, most greens were losing grass.

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Walk or be left behind at Mich.'s Treetops

GAYLORD, Mich. — Sylvan Resorts/Treetops is hoping to start a new wave in golf with an old golf tradition.

The Northern Michigan resort, with three championship golf courses, is opening a new course this fall that will allow a motorized riding golf cart only in special circumstances. Otherwise, walking the course, either with a caddy or a pull-cart, will be the rule.

Gerald Albert, Sylvan Resorts/Treetops general manager, said part of the reasoning behind the cart-less golf course is health-

related. "More and more people are becoming health conscious, and they want exercise," Albert said.

"For the real serious golfer, most of them find they can concentrate and play better when they're walking."

Treetops professional Rick Smith designed the new course, which is expected to be at least partially open in September.

Albert said Sylvan Resorts/Treetops will develop a caddy program next year for the cart-less course.

You have to start pretty early to get the pick of the crop at the orchard.

5:30...5:20...5am. Course Superintendent, Ted Woehrle, couldn't believe it. But shortly after the Workman® arrived at The Orchards Golf Club in Washington, Michigan, his staff started coming in earlier and earlier to get the Workman for the day. "We had other work vehicles," recalled Ted, "but everyone wanted the Workman."

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