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Phillips comment

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urban areas often do) over and around this modest, middle-income municipality.

During a late-afternoon round, my four-some witnessed the following: A young couple and baby roaming the 6th and 7th fairways; four boys and their bikes cutting across the 9th on their way home from school; a shabbily dressed, middle-aged man (some might even have called him a vagrant) quietly reading John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row* on the 14th tee; and at least seven dogs happily leading their masters through their after-work walks.

No disruption. No adolescents riding their knobby tires across the putting surfaces. Just golf and community at dusk. The green fee was \$20 and, come January, Hyde Park residents enjoy some of the best cross-country ski trails and sledding hills in Greater Boston.

Sounds like a park to me.

In many ways, Gov. Whitman shouldn't be faulted for not realizing that fully two-thirds of the golf courses in America are open to anyone (of course, you have to pay — just as you have to pay to attend a sporting event, or many state parks for that matter). Similarly, the governor shouldn't really be expected to know why Hyde Park residents — and thousands of other communities across the country — consider their golf course to be part of the local park system.

Part of Whitman doesn't want to know because she's worried about her public image and how it might affect her political viability. Yet, it's even more likely that she understands none of this because the golf industry has done a damn poor job of passing along the facts.

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