

D.C.'s newest track to open this summer

STAFFORD, Va. — Construction of the Washington, D.C. area's newest golf facility, Augustine Golf Club, is complete. The 18-hole Rick Jacobson-designed course is expected to open for public play in the summer.

The Augustine Golf Club is the centerpiece of the Augustine community, which is under construction. The residential community will include 352 single-family homes developed by the Michael T. Rose Cos. of Laurel, Md.

Jacobson designed the golf course to blend with the charac-

ter of Stafford County, and to harmonize with the area's topography and natural surroundings. The course was built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

The course design incorporated two five-acre man-made lakes and 19 acres of wetlands to help create natural wildlife corridors linking the undisturbed open-space areas. These natural corridors are bolstered by a 40-foot vegetated buffer along the course perimeter, which also serves as a visual and physical buffer between

the course and the homes.

Superintendent Rick Owens is confident the Augustine golf course will meet criteria for the New York Audubon Society Golf Course Sanctuary program.

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Meanwhile in Glen Ellyn, Ill., following three years of phased improvement, Jacobson has completed Glen Oak Country Club's restoration.

In 1991 the club voted to implement design recommendations outlined in the its golf course

master plan. While Thomas Bendelow was the designer of record for Glen Oak, A.W. Tillinghast visited the club in 1935 and made numerous design suggestions. The golf course improvements outlined in Glen Oak's master plan reflect many of Tillinghast's suggestions of nearly 60 years ago.

"Primary emphasis was placed on restoring fairway and green side bunkers. Improvements included strategically re-locating and re-shaping some bunkers and

adding internal drainage to all of the bunkers which were built originally in the 1920s," said Jacobson. The program also included restoring some greens to their original size and shape, adding cart paths and expanding several tees.

"I think the members are extremely pleased with what has been accomplished. The integrity of the course has been maintained throughout the restoration program," said course superintendent Andy Dauksas.

Plan documents are being prepared for the renovation of the practice range which will take place in late summer.

Smith's picks: Nicklaus and Coore/Crenshaw

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thing I've tried. I'm my own worst critic. I don't stop until I'm satisfied with what I've done.

GCN: What is your design philosophy?

RS: I want my courses to be very visual and very playable for all skill levels. I believe you can build a course for everybody.

GCN: Who are your favorite classic architects?

RS: Alister Mackenzie had some great sites and was talented enough not to destroy them. John Abercromby did some wonderful things, especially Addington Golf Course [Surrey, England]. C.B. Charles Blair Macdonald was very creative and [A.W.] Tillinghast was great. I think San Francisco Golf Club was one of his best. William Flynn had some beautiful courses, like Shinnecock. And Donald Ross, when he focused, did a great job.

GCN: Who are your favorite modern architects?

RS: Jack Nicklaus has done a great job, especially on his newer courses. Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw did a terrific course at Sand Hills [Mullen, Neb]. What I admire most, though, are the great courses that have been built on bad sites. Designing a good course when you have nothing to work with is a real talent.

GCN: What are your favorite courses in terms of design?

RS: It depends on the site and purpose. Pine Valley is a great course on a great site. Shinnecock is perfect for a professional golf tournament, but I wouldn't build it for the average golfer. Garden City (N.Y.) Country Club is a very playable golf course. I look for different things in different courses.

GCN: What are your future design plans?

RS: I'd like to take on one or two projects a year and design more upscale practice facilities. Slow play is a huge detriment to the game. I'd like to see more par-3 courses as part of practice facilities. We're building a practice facility now in Birch Run [Mich.].

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