

Virginia Beach eyes sizeable golf expansion

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A recently commissioned study recommended this popular coastal city could put itself on the East Coast "golf destination" map and boost tourism by building five upscale public golf courses.

PKF Consulting of Alexandria, which specializes in golf development surveys, found the demand exists. The study identified 51 potential golf course sites in Virginia Beach, with 18 of them existing in parcels of 150 or more acres in all or partly wooded areas. Excluding land, the cost of building new courses would range from \$6.5 to \$10.2 million each, including clubhouses and other amenities.

The study also indicated the projected impact on the local economy would be \$23.9 million in new revenues per year, resulting in about \$1.8 million in annual sales and amusement taxes.

The study made several suggestions towards building five new courses, including revising some zoning restrictions in undeveloped parts of the city; appointing an overseeing golf course expert to monitor development; pursuing the "redevelopment" of the Red Wing Municipal Golf Course near Camp Pendleton; and seeking bids for one or more golf courses on the city-owned Lake Ridge property, which contains more than 1,200 acres and is home to a new \$17 million amphitheater.

N.Y. county to expand course stock?

NEW CASTLE, N.Y. — Under a proposal that would cost \$8.7 million, Westchester County is moving closer to building its sixth public golf course on 174 acres now owned by IBM Corp.

The land was originally the home of the private Hudson Hills course. IBM bought the property in the 1980s with plans to build a research center, but they never materialized.

Now, Westchester County

is expected to buy the land from IBM for \$3.7 million and spend \$5 million to develop an 18-hole golf course. A number of single-family homes will also be developed on a nearby 40 acres, a welcome new angle to the project for local officials who were worried about losing potential property taxes on the proposal. The project still faces approval from the county's Board of Legislators.

Profit proves elusive at Iowa muni

NEWTON, Iowa — The Westwood saga continues.

The 18-hole municipal Westwood Golf Course will remain in city hands here after a proposal to sell or lease the course was turned down by the city council.

The city council has been struggling for more than a year, trying to determine how to finance capital projects at the course, which has struggled to make a profit.

More than \$200,000 worth of improvements at the course were approved and then scuttled a

year ago after pressure from citizens opposed to the improvements.

A task force was then developed and it found the course needed some \$446,000 worth of improvements, but left financing decisions to the council. The council haggled over a financing mechanism for months until recently deciding to use hotel and motel taxes.

Now city officials are looking into the possibility of a \$15,000 to \$20,000 study to further explore operations at the course.



Wildcat Cliffs Country Club
Highlands, NC



Forest Ridge Golf Club
Broken Arrow, OK



The Standard Club
Duluth, GA



Scioto Country Club
Columbus, OH



Blackwolf Run
Kohler, WI



Norwich Golf Course
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