

Another Kansas course makes the switch: Bermuda to zoysia

WICHITA, Kan. — The Rolling Hills Country Club, a private 18-hole course, recently converted its 32 acres of fairways from rye and Bermuda to zoysia. The \$400,000 project was undertaken under the watch of golf course superintendent Wayne Van Arendonk.

Club officials said the switch to zoysia will allow the course to reduce its water use and save \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year while also being more environmentally friendly. The club planted fescue in the rough so that in winter the green

fescue will contrast with the Zoysia fairways, which will turn brown in the cooler months.

Rolling Hills is not the only Kansas course making a switch. The \$10 million Flint Hills National Golf Club being developed in Andover will use Zoysia, as does the Winfield Country Club.

Meanwhile, the Crestview Country Club, which uses a mix of grasses in its fairways, has planted two of its 36 fairways with zoysia to gauge member reaction.

Va. Beach shapes resort strategy

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A golf study committee has recommended that the city of Virginia Beach help develop a five-star resort and two connecting top-tier, 18-hole golf courses on the city-owned Lake Ridge Property.

The development would be part of a long-range strategy to establish Virginia Beach as an East Coast golfing mecca to rival

Williamsburg, Va., and Myrtle Beach, S.C. in year-round drawing power.

The special golf committee, formed in April, recommends the city aggressively move to develop a package of top-flight courses citywide along with amenities like golf schools, practice areas, clubhouses, health spas and eating facilities.

In the committee's vision, the proposed new courses would be privately developed and operated and probably be high-end, daily-fee facilities by name golf course designers with greens fees in the \$100 range.

Along with the development of at least two new golf courses, the Virginia Beach golf committee also recommended upgrading some of the existing city courses like Red Wing. After this, the city courses would be put into "tier" categories with greens fees ranging from \$50 and below up to \$100 and above.

The committee said a tier system for the courses would make tour packaging simpler and more attractive for out-of-state players. There are currently 34 courses in the Hampton Roads area to accommodate 1.6 million residents.

Laguna Vista bringing golf to South Padre Isle

LAGUNA VISTA, Texas — The South Padre Island resort community, famed for widely known hotels and beaches, will soon have a quality course 10 minutes away in Laguna Vista.

Ground was broken in April on the new South Padre Island Golf Club. The development has a projected opening date of January 1997.

Built on land acquired from the family of the late Lloyd Bentsen, Sr., the golf club is being developed by South Padre Island Golf Club, L.P., a subsidiary of Delos Partners. Delos first looked at the site in the late 1980s, when Lloyd Bentsen Sr. was exploring various potential uses for the property.

Lloyd Bentsen Jr., former U.S. senator and secretary of the federal treasury, and other family members dug ceremonial shovels of dirt at the official ground-breaking.

Delos Partners will be project manager and manage the facility after opening. Delos' Chris Cole and Stephen Caplinger designed the 18-hole layout, which will feature three types of Bermuda-grass. A driving range and clubhouse are also planned.

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