

## State nixes plan for sixth course at Bethpage State Park...

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — A plan to add a sixth 18-hole course at Bethpage State Park has been killed by state parks officials.

The idea of expanding the largest public golf complex in the country was originally praised. But a feasibility study showed the course could not be built without displacing longtime park activities.

Park users who were afraid of being displaced and environmental groups who supported keep-

ing the land undeveloped ran a strong campaign against the new course. That effort ultimately won support from influential politicians and Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro.

Bethpage's Black Course, one of the park's five existing courses, will host the U.S. Open in 2002. That event will mark the first time a U.S. Open has been played at a non-resort, publicly-owned, public-access golf course.

## ...and closes Black for renovation

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — The Black Course at Bethpage State Park will close this month for 10 months as part of a \$2 million renovation to get it ready for the 2002 U.S. Open.

The course will close July 21 and reopen in May 1998, according to parks officials. Officials said that when the course is reopened it will stay open to the

public until a week before the U.S. Open is played in June 2002. Bethpage will be the first public course to host the U.S. Open.

Dave Catalano, golf course superintendent at Bethpage, said the changes will be aimed at returning the 7,000-yard course closer to its original design. The course was built in the early 1930s and designed by the legendary A.W. Tillinghast. Catalano said the Black Course's bunkers will be re-edged and filled with new sand, greens will be regraded, and tees leveled. With several new tees, the course will measure 7,200 yards for the Open. The United States Golf Association is funding the renovation.

## Wraps off two of Detroit's best

DETROIT — Two of Detroit's finest and most historic courses — Country Club of Detroit and Western Golf & Country Club — are unveiling major changes this summer.

The Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms, site of Arnold Palmer's 1954 U.S. Amateur win, has opened its renovated greens, five tees and several new bunkers that were designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The course was designed by Harry S. Colt and Charles H. Alison in 1927.

Western Golf & Country Club, designed by Donald Ross, has opened two resurfaced greens and a resurfaced putting green. The newly-sodded greens (with Penn State's G2 grass) are an experiment with the expectation that the rest of the greens will be resodded starting in the fall.

## Former GCN editor is now On In Two

PORTLAND, Maine — Hal Phillips, former editor of *Golf Course News*, has launched his own media-relations consulting firm called On In Two Communications.

The new firm, based here, will specialize in the formulation and execution of media campaigns for golf industry firms, including manufacturers, architects and management companies.

"On In Two was created to help golf companies better connect with the media — print and electronic," said Phillips, who managed the editorial operation of *GCN* and *GCN International* from 1992 to 1997. "Good press doesn't just happen," added Phillips. "It takes somebody working on the company's behalf."

The new John Deere RZI 700 features a high-pressure, 75-gallon system that injects liquids directly to the root zone of the soil.

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