

NGF finds 'Riverside' to be most popular course name

Pine Valley, which has been around since 1919 and annually sits high atop the list of 100 greatest golf courses in the United States, is one of the most venerable names in golf.

Little wonder, perhaps, why 12 other courses across the country bear the same name as the famed Clementon, N.J., venue.

However, according to a computer search of the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) database of 14,500 golf facilities in the U.S., Pine Valley is far from the most popular name in golf.

This distinction belongs to the name Riverside, which appears in various forms no less than 46 times within the NGF facility database.

The oldest member of the Riverside group is Riverside Golf Club in North Riverside, Ill., an 18-hole private club that opened for play in 1893. The most recent addition is Riverside Golf Academy, a nine-hole public course in Indianapolis, that opened its doors just this year.

The great state of Texas is

especially partial to the name. There you'll find six Riversides... including three Riverside Golf Courses as well as a Riverside Club, Riverside Country Club and a Riverside Golf Club.

A look at other names on this list reflects the affinity golf course developers have long had for water, especially lakes... as in Lakeview, Lakeside, Lake-wood and Twin Lakes.

Curious as to whether other names might be proving more popular among today's newer courses, we asked the computer to search the database and look at only those that had come online over the last 20 years.

Interestingly, neither Riverside nor anything having connection with a lake was among even the top 50 on this list. It instead shows that the trend among today's newer courses is very definitely toward names that conjure up the likes of meadows, plantations, hill, prairies and creeks.

Also, the search revealed that only one of the 13 Pine Valleys in operation across the U.S. today has been built over the past 20 years. Among the others on the list of facilities sharing famous names; Colonial [11], St. Andrews [9], Oak Hill [9], Riviera [6], Inverness [6], Southern Hills [5], Cherry Hills [5], Oakmont [3], Oakland Hills [3] and Oak Tree [3].

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Renovated Palm Aire hosts Nike

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — The Palm-Aire Country Club & Resort showcased its renovated Palms Course during the Nike Tour stop last month.

Palm-Aire Resort Management Corp., which purchased the 90-hole Palm-Aire facility in late 1994, invested \$4 million in the Palms Course makeover. The Palms Course, one of four 18-hole championship courses at Palm-Aire along with an 18-hole executive course, was originally designed by golf course architect William Mitchell in 1960.

Palm-Aire Resort Management is also planning to invest \$3 million in refurbishing the Oaks Course this year. The Oaks Course was designed by Tom and George Fazio. Tom Fazio will be consulted on changes. The Oaks is scheduled for completion in 1999.

LINKSCORP PURCHASES SOUTH CAROLINA FACILITY

NORTHFIELD, Ill. — LinksCorp, Inc. has purchased Hunter's Creek Plantation Club. A semi-private club located in Greenwood, S.C. — 45 miles south of Greenville — Hunter's Creek features 27 holes designed by Greenville-based golf course architect Tom Jackson. LinksCorp is a golf course management company based in suburban Chicago.

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