

Garl-designed The Crossings opens its doors in N.C.

GROVE PARK, N.C. — RDC Golf Management has opened The Crossings Golf Club here.

"We know that this is the first upscale public-access course to open in this market in a long time and we want to be sure that the course is not over-played before its fully grown in," said Ken Pridgen, general manager. "The demand will be there because this course will be quickly recognized as

one of the top few in this area. But, I will be a little flexible on the 50 players-a-day policy if the weather is good and our superintendent gives me his okay."

The Crossings is an 18-hole, par-72, Ron Garl-designed layout. From the back tees it measures just over 6,700 yards.

"My goal at The Crossings was to create a golf course where people have a pleasant golf experience," Garl said. "I

wanted it to be a challenge, but, equally important, I wanted a course that's enjoyable and rewards good golf shots."

Construction of the course actually began eight years ago at the same time the development started. The original developer had several golf holes routed when struck with financial hard times. The course lay dormant for several years before RDC management met with the new developers

2 1/2 years ago and agreed to finish the course with Garl's assistance.

"Before I started the project about two-thirds of the holes had been cleared and some earth work had been done, so I had some freedom on the rest of the holes. Fortunately, what was completed was quite good," said Garl. Garl sprinkled the layout with "cornflake" bunkers that feature jagged lips instead of the traditional "smooth" lips. Garl's "cornflake" bunkers are the golf course equivalent of snowflakes — no two are exactly alike.

Rees Jones will design 36 in Texas

HOUSTON — The Redstone Group, a Houston-based integrated financial services group, broke ground in April on a private, 36-hole golf club, which will feature two courses designed by Rees Jones.

The project, named The Houstonian Golf Club, is located in Ft. Bend County, and is Jones' first design project in Texas. Redstone, which owns and operates the four-star, four-diamond Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa in Houston, plans to operate one course as an exclusive club, and the second as an amenity to hotel guests and Houstonian Club members.

Project Manager Jim Hardy of Golf Services Group of Houston, said The Houstonian Golf Club will be comparable to other Rees Jones projects such as the Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, N.Y., and Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Ga.

"Rees is a marquee name in golf course development these days," said Hardy. "His approach is lauded by golfers who have passion for the classic type golf experience. This project is a big coup for Texas." Jones, the son of course architect Robert Trent Jones, has become well known and highly respected for his natural and classic golf course design philosophy.

According to Jones, the Houstonian Golf Club will possess a multi-theme style of design with clearly defined shot-making objectives, and a variety of sand, grass and water features. Jones believes the selection of the site is crucial, and that it serves as a canvas for the creation of the design.

At the Houstonian Golf Club, Jones will blend the property's existing 65-acre lake and Texas flora with rolls, hollows and sculpted landforms. Redstone plans to build separate clubhouses for each of the courses, and will limit the exclusive course to 300 memberships. "The ultimate measure of success is building uncontrived courses that have enough variety and character to retain the golfer's interest round after round. I strive to build my courses to stand the test of time," said Jones.

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