

NORTH FORT WORTH, Texas — The Beechwood Co. has announced the construction of an 18-hole Greg Norman resort course at its new 900-acre master-planned development next to Texas Motor Speedway here.

Groundbreaking was April 27 for The Creeks at Beechwood course, which will be Norman's first in the Dallas/Fort Worth area

Norman track across street from Speedway

and his ninth in the United States. The \$10 million track, directly across State Highway 114 from Texas Motor Speedway, will be completed in the fall of 2000.

"I really look forward to working with Beechwood Co. on such a fine piece of land with the creeks and such great topography for the North Texas area," said Norman.

Set among a lushly wooded

landscape and three spring-fed creeks, he Creeks at Beechwood will be accompanied by a four-star hotel and conference center at the newly announced Beechwood Business Park, a 900-acre development for corporate campus office buildings, retail shops, restaurants and other commercial projects.

Eddie Gossage, general man-

ager of Texas Motor Speedway, said Beechwood Business Park, The Creeks at Beechwood golf course and a soon-to-be-announced resort hotel will be a "perfect next-door neighbor" to the Speedway.

"The Beechwood development and Texas Motor Speedway perfectly complement each other," Gossage said. "The

Speedway is a 365-day-a-year destination for tourists, banquets and business meetings in our recently completed, nine-story Speedway Club. The Creeks at Beechwood golf course will certainly be beneficial to the members of the Speedway Club, as will the future hotel development and commercial growth."

Jason McCoy, vice president of Greg Norman Golf Course Design Co. and lead designer of The Creeks at Beechwood course, said the course will be well-suited for major corporate events and tournaments that ties into Texas Motor Speedway.

"We think the idea of The Creeks at Beechwood being right next to Texas Motor Speedway is pretty unique," McCoy said.

Bull Run to open

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Jacobson said the need to create two man-made lakes and expand an existing lake to accommodate irrigation supply was one of the principle challenges of the project. While attempting to construct the originally proposed lakes, the bulldozers struck rock. Budget restrictions prevented dynamiting, so Jacobson adapted on the fly.

"We had to adjust the elevation of the original design and layout of several holes adjacent to the lakes," Jacobson said. "For example, the 8th hole originally was a par-3 based on the original plan to expand the lake. But because we ran into the rock, the lake design had to be modified, so we changed it to a reachable par-4."

Far from being a throwaway hole, the 8th is an example of the risk-reward theme Jacobson carried throughout the course. It's a 350-yarder that plays downwind from a tee box elevated 60 feet above the fairway. Players who risk cutting their tee shots over the bunkers on the right could run the ball up on the green and set up a possible eagle putt.

The risk-reward equation for the double-fairway 9th hole invites players to cut 30 yards off their approach shots by driving down from the elevated tee to the lower fairway that's adjacent to a lake.

The 13th hole rewards players with an open shot to the green if they choose to cut off much of the lake from their elevated tee shot.

The par-5 18th plays downhill with the prevailing wind. Players who risk hitting their second shots over a lake can reach the green in two, while those who choose the bail out area are usually destined to make at least 4 on the hole. The shot to the green is "between the uprights" of two sycamore trees that frame the putting surface.



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