

## Design 3 course adding golf to skiing

MT. BRIGHTON, Mich. — W. Bruce Matthews III of Design 3 in East Lansing is designing an 18-hole championship golf course to Mt. Brighton — one of the most popular ski areas in southern Michigan.

J. Joseph Bruhn, secretary of Mt. Brighton, Inc., announced the decision to hire Design 3

and make the facility a year-round recreational experience at the course's projected opening in July 2000.

The par-71, 6,700-yard layout is melded with the ski hill, 26 acres of wetland, 14 acres of water, two streams and towering oaks.

Twelve golf holes conform to adjacent water and wetlands. The

rolling terrain and vegetation offer a wide variety of golf shots. The first tee is set on the property's highest point, offering golfers miles of views and a great look at the course ahead. Highlights include the 9th hole, a 260-yard par-3 with more than a 130-foot fall to a bunker-guarded green. The 12th hole is a 438-yard par-4 that re-

quires an accurate tee shot across the 12-acre pond.

"The golf course is unique," said Matthews. "The holes flow over their native land, preserving the property's unique character."

Project architect Howard Nauboris threaded the holes with wide fairways around the valued site features, creating a visual impact on every hole. Seventy-two bunkers add texture and challenge to the layout.

## Childs completes 1st phase of redo at Ridgewood GC

PARMA, Ohio — The first phase of a million-dollar master plan has been completed at the municipal Ridgewood Golf Course here. Final irrigation, seeding and sodding are being done in preparation for this season.

Construction began last fall with installation of a continuous 8-foot-wide cart path and construction of six new tee complexes. The contract for the renovation was awarded to Midwest Landscape Group, Inc. of Commerce, Mich. Midwest moved approximately 3,800 cubic yards of earth in the process of excavating the cart path. Many of the new tee complexes replaced old sites that were undersized or poorly located on hillsides or in valleys that promoted difficult tee shots or safety issues. The total contract amount was approximately \$177,000.

The first phase of the master plan focused on creating opportunity for the city to extend its golf season for cart usage, improving profits.

"There are a large number of people who rent golf carts because of the hilly terrain for the site," said superintendent Ted Benze.

"During wet conditions in spring, fall and summer, we were losing both golf rounds and cart revenue. The continuous cart path will vastly help us in generating additional revenues. The city plans will fund future master plan improvements from the additional profits generated from the increased revenues."

Don Childs Associates completed the master plan for renovations to the course. The total cost for all master-plan improvements is estimated at \$1.2 million. The focus of the renovations is on player safety and enjoyment, course conditioning and playability, and increased revenue potentials.

An additional focus was to improve teeing opportunities through multiple tee positions and create adequate teeing surface for current rounds activity, generate additional length for the overall course, create true and accurate yardage and par relationships for individual golf holes, and design bunkers, grassy hallows and backdrop mounding to provide visual aesthetics and character for the course.

The next phase of construction will focus on building two new golf holes, completing new multiple tee complexes for the other 12 holes, drainage, and enhancements to existing greens complexes.

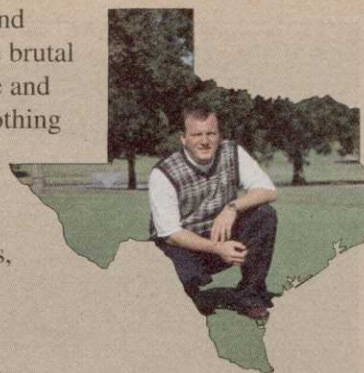
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