

Quarry Hills looks to spring 2003 opening

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cash. Geilich laughed off those reports. "We have never stopped work and we are proceeding along," he said. "We would prefer to have been finished already, but it didn't work out that way."

The planned 27-hole John Sanford-designed golf course has seen its share of delays in the 11 years since Geilich and his partner, developer Bill O'Connell, first proposed the idea of building a golf course, soccer and baseball fields on the

site of a former landfill. Because Quarry Hills was accepting dirt from Boston's Big Dig highway project, which itself has seen its share of delays and cost overruns, Geilich said delays were inevitable.

"It has been an extremely complex and difficult project," Geilich said. "Obviously, [construction crews] never know when they're digging just how much they're going to get or when it's going to come. So they may say they're going to send 500 trucks and they send 1,000. They just never know.

"It's been very difficult, but we're through with the worst of it and we're on the homestretch now," he added.

In all, more than 13 million tons of dirt have been brought in 900,000 truckloads to the site from the Big Dig project. At press time, nearly all of that had been placed where it was supposed to go, Geilich said.

"All the dirt is on site, and we do have nine holes finished and grassed," he said. "If all goes well, we should be able to open all 18 holes for play by the middle to late spring or early summer next year."

Geilich said the plan is for the work on

the remaining nine holes to be completed by next spring and opened by the end of next summer.

"Hopefully we'll have that done next spring," he said. "Actually, if we have a mild fall as we did last year, we may even get that done this year."

Through all the delays, Geilich said, the grounds staff at Quarry Hills, under the guidance of superintendent Gary Kessener, has done its best to avoid further delays.

"We've lucked out with a wonderful crew. They're doing a super job," he said. ■

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