

Open Million \$ Cobb County Recreation Center in October

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Cobb County (Ga.) will accomplish its goal of providing a \$1 million recreation center for its citizens when the O. B. Keeler 18-hole course, complete with practice green and driving range, is dedicated in Oct. The recreation park which consists of 500 acres near Kennesaw, includes a swimming pool built to Olympic specifications and a spacious clubhouse which were opened to the public on June 5.

Future planned developments include picnic areas, tennis courts, boating, nature study areas and a kiddieland. A portion of the acreage is being divided into choice building sites (master plan calls for 450 lots). According to the Cobb County Recreation Authority, receipts from the sales of the home sites will offset the cost of the project. Thus, the complete recreation center will be made available at no cost to the taxpayer.

No Tax Money

Construction of Cobb County's magnificent park was financed through revenue bonds totaling one million dollars through a Minneapolis, Minnesota insurance company and will be repaid by the Recreation Authority over a 30-year period. Funds to repay this bond loan will come from revenues such as green fees, concessions, swimming pool admissions and the sale of building lots in and around the park. No tax money has been used in expediting the park plans to date. Many persons believe the center will be self sustaining and at the same time provide needed funds for future expansion.

Nearly six years of planning went into the project. The idea for this park came when a large number of golfers, who found Atlanta courses and other neighboring links too crowded to play, began asking, "why doesn't a fast growing county such as Cobb have its own course?" These golfers will have their dream come true when the 18-hole par 72, 7080-yard course Chic Adams designed and built officially opens. Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer and Louise Suggs have accepted invitations to participate in the dedication program.

The Cobb County Recreation project (master plan prepared by the Charles M.



Master plan of Cobb County recreation center.

Graves Organization of Atlanta) is one of the most extensive county recreation operations in the entire Eastern Seaboard area. Numerous counties are now operating golf courses. Among them are Westchester County, N. Y.; Bergen, Essex, Mercer, Passaic, Union and Somerset — all in New Jersey, and Allegheny, Pennsylvania. Montgomery County, Maryland, has an 18-hole course under construction. While municipal golf courses (city, county and state operated) comprise only 13 per cent of the overall total in the U. S. they get about 40 per cent of total play.

Harman With Green Section

Raymond E. (Dutch) Harman has been appointed to the USGA Northeastern Dist. green section staff. He is well known among supts. in the New Jersey-Metropolitan area as a result of his interest in golf turf while serving as a county agent in Essex County, N. J. In addition to having wide knowledge of turf, Harman is an expert in plant materials and ornamental plantings.

National Recreation Congress

The 42nd National Recreation congress will be held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., Sept. 25-29. It is sponsored by the American Recreation Society and National Recreation Assn.