

New Highs for Golf Play on Eastern Public Links

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Many Eastern municipal courses have had their heaviest play in history this season. As of July 31st, 174,336 rounds of golf had been played on Baltimore, Maryland's 90 municipal holes. Total for the same period in 1959 was 155,783. Says L. E. Myerly, supt. of parks, "We have five 18-hole courses in operation and each has registered a gain this year."

Philadelphia reports a total of 157,058 rounds played on its five 18-hole courses for the first seven months of 1960. This compares to 152,523 for the corresponding 1959 period. According to William Capman, secy. to the city park commission, total receipts for 1960 to July 31 were \$204,833, and for the same period in 1959, \$145,413. Increase in revenue is due largely to an advance in daily green fees that became effective Jan. 1.

New driving range and miniature course were opened to the public at Philadelphia's Cobb's Creek course in Aug. Philadelphia now has four driving ranges and 18-hole miniature golf courses in operation under the jurisdiction of the Fairmount Park commission. The city has a plan of placing city owned property on bid for a lease arrangement to concessionaires for construction and operation of public driving ranges and miniatures. The leases run for six years with options to renew for four more. Concessionaires are required to build and operate facilities according to specifications provided by the city. On expiration of the lease arrangements, facilities revert to the city.

More Play at Westchester, Bethpage

Westchester County, New York, and Bethpage State Park (Long Island, N. Y.), both of which operate five 18-hole courses, report gains in play for the first seven months in 1960 over the same period for 1959. Says Joseph H. Burbeck, supt. of the Bethpage operation: Play on the five Bethpage courses for Jan. 1 — July 31 totalled 173,922 rounds, an increase of 11,119 over the same period in 1959". Westchester County's play for the same periods was: 1960 — 167,451 rounds; 1959 — 158,685. Gains were reported for each of its five courses.

72,576,000 Reasons for Compaction

Charles J. Cogan, green chmn. at Irvine Coast CC, Newport Beach, Calif., recently elcseted himself with a computer and came up with 72,576,000 reasons why greens become compacted. A total of 6,000 rounds was played at his course in a recent month and the compacting effect of this number of players was computed in this fashion:

One player with 24 cleats averages 28 paces per green;

28 paces per green X 24 cleats equal 672 impressions;

672 impressions x 18 greens equal 12,096 impressions;

12,096 impressions x 200 players equal 2,419,200 impressions;

2,419,200 impressions x 30 days equal 72,576,000 impressions

Rochester, N. Y., reports a total of 58,212 rounds played on its Genesee Valley and Durand Eastman courses during the first seven months of this year. Play for the same period in 1959 was 59,265. The slight decrease is attributed to a rainy spring season. Ely Park, Binghamton's 18-hole links also report a slight decrease for the first seven months of 1960. Says Ernie Smith, Ely Park pro-mgr: "Our play at Ely Park is a few hundred rounds behind 1959 due to our having opened one week later and because of 32 partial or total days of rain. Income is up slightly due to a 25 cents per round increase in green fees. Income as of July 31st was \$24,598.00 as compared to \$24,548.00 for 1959." The city council has approved an expenditure of \$160,000 for a new clubhouse for Ely Park which probably will be completed for the 1961 season.

Encourages Junior Play

Troy (N. Y.) reports receipts of \$16,054 for its 9-hole city course for the first seven months of 1960. It was \$14,563 for the same period in 1959. According to William Carley, supt. of recreation, junior golfing members jumped from 120 in 1959 to 230 in 1960. Troy has a junior season membership good on weekdays for only \$5.00. Regular daily green fees are \$1.00 on weekdays and \$1.50 on weekends.

Florida Turf Conference

Florida Turfgrass Assn. will hold a conference at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Sept. 14-16.