

# The Research Project

## *An Executive Summary*

**By Ross Galarneault**  
*Executive Director*  
*Minnesota Golf Association*

For the past year, the Minnesota Golf Association (MGA) and the College of Agricultural Food and Environmental Sciences (C/A) at the University of Minnesota (U/M) have been defining a joint venture development of a golf and research complex on land owned by the U/M on the south side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The approach is to create, once in place, a self-supporting development which could significantly benefit the MGA in its long-term needs for facilities and sites for promotion and expansion of its many programs in the fulfillment of its mission:

- A home course for MGA qualifying and championship competitions and periodic use by all golf associations in Minnesota.
- A host course for certain USGA qualifying and championships, University of Minnesota men's and women's golf teams and possible NCAA site.
- A home office site for the MGA and all other Minnesota-based golf associations.
- An optimum facility for educational and demonstration purposes for rules officials, tournament officials, golf professionals, caddy masters, caddies, club officers, club managers, committee persons, superintendents, maintenance personnel, etc.
- A golf teaching center with emphasis on beginners, female golfers, seniors, disadvantaged players from all segments and handicapped players with golf course access once exposure to the game has occurred.
- A site for golf camps and summer sessions for boys and girls with special emphasis on financially disadvantaged minorities and the disabled.
- A site for caddy camps and other caddy instructional programs.
- A test facility to apply U/M research, USGA programs, equipment generated in the private sector, etc.

The development would also be used by the U/M in expanded research on turf grass-related undertakings and further expansion of its turf grass management school. Their programs will include:

- turf plant varieties
- fertilizer formulations
- closed cultural systems for turf and grounds
- renovation and maintenance of turfgrass facilities
- drainage systems for sports turf turfgrass
- soil mixes to restore base areas
- water quality
- alternative pest management practices
- biological control of plant pests
- efficient water usage
- development of disease forecasting systems
- development of disease-resistant varieties
- development of new equipment for maintenance

With respect to the USGA, the MGA and the U/M would encourage the USGA's involvement in the use of the facility, beyond that of use for qualifying sites, in furthering the research for turf advisory work, water quality and consumption and cool-season grass development.

The complex is planned to include two 18-hole golf courses, a clubhouse/conference center, a complete golf teaching center/practice facility including dormitory space for summer junior golf campers, office space for the MGA and all other Minnesota-based golf associations and an expanded maintenance/demonstration/classroom area for the combination of grounds maintenance and the MGA and U/M programmatic needs. The entire facility will be developed in phases with Phase I including all but the second golf course and office space. Rees Jones has been retained to design, initially, the championship course.

The completed complex is approximately \$15,000,000. The land for the project will be provided by the U/M. The remaining cost is anticipated from a combination of the MGA, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (a state agency), corporate and individual contributors and, hopefully, the USGA.