

Golf Course Construction: Involve the Superintendent

The president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects has called on developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction of their courses.

"We try to get a superintendent involved at the start of construction so he can act as a project liaison, help interpret plans for the contractor and make suggestions that will ease maintenance," said ASGCA president John Clark. "For example, if we create a design that is difficult to maintain, he can bring it to our attention while changes can still be made."

With the superintendent present from the start of the project, it becomes easier to maintain the course according to its design, Clark said.

"Working together during the design and construction phase enables the superintendent to learn the intent of the original design," he said. "As the golf course evolves, the superintendent can help ensure that the layout remains true to the architect's intent."

Education also enable a superintendent to become better acquainted with the purposes and perspectives of a golf course architect, Clark added.

"Being informed is 90 % of

understanding each other," he said. "The best ways to stay informed are through continuing education, attending conferences and exchanging information during construction."

Although few superintendents have the opportunity to be in on the

development of a course from the beginning, they can always check the original plans to learn the architect's design strategy, Clark said.

"We must look to the superintendent to make sure we don't forget about course maintenance. He should remind us that a slope we've designed has to be mowed twice a week."

"Architects also depend on the superintendent to monitor construction progress. The superintendent has a lot of authority during construction," said Clark.

Remodeling projects offer an ideal opportunity for superintendents and architects to work together. "One of the first things we do is get the superintendent and pro together to ask for their suggestions," said Clark. "They are the ones who are there everyday, so they know the course's strengths and weaknesses. We utilize this type of input to develop the master plan." *Adopted from an article in Golf Development Magazine.*

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