

State Of The Industry Report

1973 Golf Outlook

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WITH 297 new golf courses or additions to existing facilities in some stage of construction throughout the nation at year's end, 1973 promises to be another good year for golf course development. A year ago, National Golf Foundation records showed 290 courses in the under construction category.

New regulation length courses currently under construction total 181; additions to existing courses account for another 81. For executive courses the figures are 11 and 6 respectively; for par-3's 16 and 2. There are also another 330 courses under consideration or in planning throughout the nation. They include 279 regulation length facilities, 24 executive type and 27 par-3's.

Texas leads with 25 golf courses under construction followed by Florida with 23, California 18, Ohio

17, Colorado 16, South Carolina 15, Georgia 12, Michigan 11 and ten each for Illinois, New York and Virginia.

The leading states with new golf course openings in 1972 were Florida 23, California 18, Ohio 14, Texas 13, Arizona and Illinois each 12, Michigan 11, Indiana and Washington each 9 and Kansas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin each 8.

NFG records reveal that 271 new golf courses were reported opened for play in 1972. Of these, 181 were 9 hole layouts, 85 were 18 hole facilities and 5 were other than 9 or 18 hole operations. Included in the year's 271 total are 237 regulation length golf courses of which 157 were new facilities and 80 were additions to existing courses. Of these 237, about 31% were reported as private operations; 54% semi-private;

12% municipal and 3% miscellaneous (collegiate, industrial, military, etc.).

There were also 18 new executive type courses opened for play in 1972 (14 new facilities and 4 additions). Par-3's (14 new courses and 2 additions) accounted for another 16 of the year's total of 271 new facilities. NGF maintains a national inventory of all the country's golf courses by category, number of holes and location.

Golf Oriented Developments

Golf oriented planned communities and second-home recreation-resort complexes played a dominant role in golf facility development in 1972 and will continue to do so in the immediate years ahead. Of the 271 new golf courses opening last year, almost half (45.76%) were of this type.

Golf-real estate or resort developments comprised about 35% of the 1971 total new golf course openings. Such projects have been on a gradual increase since 1965 when 15% of the total new golf courses opening for play were parts of real estate ventures.

A growing number of land developers recognize that properly designed and constructed golf courses materially increase adjacent property values and substantially aid sales of home sites, condominiums and apartments. Acreage involved in such ventures usually ranges from 600 to 35,000 or more. In the larger developments there often are several golf-recreation complexes. Golf course home site lots usually range in price from \$6,000 to \$15,000 depending on their size and proximity to the course.

Seventy-five percent of the golf courses now under construction in Florida are associated with home sites and high rise condominium developments. Fifty-eight percent of Arizona's new golf ventures are in the same category. In North Carolina, it is 52%. Of the 15 golf courses now being built in South Carolina, 80% are part of land sales or resort complexes.

Experienced land developers generally agree that an expertly designed and properly built golf course should be ready for play before real estate sales are begun. Most prospective purchasers prefer to see the golf facilities in action prior to buying a home site or condominium.

Many developers separate the golf operation from the land sales and create separate corporations or organizations for each. This facilitates sale of the golf course should

that be desired at some future date.

Two new golf-resort facilities that may be establishing a pattern for the future are Bay Tree Golf Plantation and Myrtle Beach National Golf Club, both of which are under development in the greater Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, area.

Bay Tree Golf Plantation, a 54 hole layout designed by George Fazio and associate Russell Breeden, went under construction in October 1971 and all three 18's opened for play on November 18, 1972. This is believed to be a record for constructing three 18 holes layouts simultaneously and having them all ready for play within a year's time. Golf professional at Bay Tree is Sam Timms. Developer is Caro-Strand Corporation, North Myrtle Beach, S.C., J. Bryan Floyd, President.

Myrtle Beach National Golf Club, a new planned 72 hole golf and residential complex, went under construction in May 1972. Golf course architect is Frank Duane with Arnold Palmer acting as consultant. Construction is now underway on three of the planned four 18 hole layouts according to Clay Brittain, President. Ed Bullock is the club's Golf Professional.

South Carolina's Grand Strand re-

sort complex, a 50 mile long stretch of seashore bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by the Intracoastal Waterway, is making history in golf course development.

Grand Strand, which includes the town of Myrtle Beach, has a permanent population of about 18,000. Located within its confines are 17 challenging golf courses and over 30,000 hotel-motel rooms. Six more 18 hole courses are currently under construction in the area.

Some resorts make it possible for you to own your own apartment in the vacation complex and, when you are not in residence, will rent your quarters for you. One such new and apparently successful project is the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club near Tampa, Florida.

Innisbrook is an 800 acre development which has plans for four golf courses and 1200 apartment units (efficiencies, one and two bedrooms), Three full length 18 hole courses, all designed by Larry Packard, are now in play. An additional 18 hole course has come into play each December for the last three years. There are clubhouses with full dining facilities for each golf course along with its cluster of apartments. Mike Sou-

chak is the resident Golf professional at Innisbrook.

Need For More Municipal Golf

Population growth, urbanization, more leisure time and increased personal income and mobility throughout the United States are putting great pressure on public recreation facilities including golf courses in many areas of the nation. A good solution to the demand is more municipal courses owned and operated by cities, counties, states or regional park-recreation districts.

Why municipal golf courses? Practical politics and economics dictate such action.

Land costs and operating expenses, including rising taxes, make it increasingly difficult for member-owned clubs and private courses to financially survive in some communities.

More financial resources are available to municipalities. Among them are sale of general obligation or revenue bonds, federal grants (Department of Interior Bureau of Outdoor Recreation 50% matching grant program), private development with leaseback and outright public or private donations.

(continued on page 38)



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1973 GOLF OUTLOOK (from page 23)

Current emphasis on recreation and open space has created more official and citizen support for golf/recreation complexes. Such complexes, in addition to a well designed golf course, often include tennis courts (sometimes lighted for night play), swimming pools, artificial ice skating rinks, playground and picnic areas, a community center building, camping, hiking, nature study and sometimes ski areas.

Congress has appropriated \$181,800,000 for use as possible matching grants to states and their cities and counties under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funding program for 1973. Apportionments for the individual 50 states range from \$1,500,000 for Wyoming to \$12,500,000 for California.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (U.S. Dept. of Interior) makes grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to states and through them to political subdivisions for planning, land acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and

facilities including golf courses.

Alert communities are taking advantage of the BOR 50% matching grants and building needed public recreation complexes including golf courses. Some cities are purchasing existing facilities with the aid of BOR grants.

The city of Overland Park, Kansas, recently purchased the privately owned St. Andrews 18 hole golf course along with 122 adjacent acres which will be used as park land. The city will bear half the \$1,077,200 cost of the site; the BOR authorized matching funds (grant) for the other half.

Recognizing the great need for more municipal golf courses in California, NGF recently co-sponsored two one-day seminars with the California Park and Recreation Society. The first, covering the southern half of California, was held at Los Angeles; the second, covering the northern section, was held in Monterey. Future seminars, similar in nature, are planned for other states interested in municipal golf development.

For further information on NFG services, contact any of the following: National headquarters; Don Rossi, Executive Director, 707 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Ill. 60654; Regional headquarters: West Coast — Buddy Johnson, 833 Curlew Road, Livermore, California 94550; Southwest — George Kerr, 1102 Seminole Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080; South Central — Fred Stewart, 935 Rodney Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37205; North Central — Larry Smith, national headquarters office; East Coast — Harry C. Eckhoff, 1500 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209.

Northern Calif. Turfgrass Council Elects 1973 Officers

The Northern California Turfgrass Council has recently elected officers for 1973. They are: Keith Braman, Keith Braman & Associates, president; Paul Albright, Berger & Plate Seed Co., 1st vice president; Tony Ramirez, City of Concord, 2nd vice president; Jerry Boesel, RainBird Manufacturing Co., sec-treas; Pasco Balzarini, City of Redwood City, director; and C. S. Sandhu, Sequoyah Country Club, director. Continuing Directors who will serve during 1973 are Ralph Evans, Cal-Turf; Grady Simril, East Bay Regional Parks and Chic Cannon, Aqua-Dial, immediate past president.

DED Injection System Reported To Ohio Arborists

Twenty-five local members and guests of the National Arborist Association met in Cleveland in early December.

Speaker for the evening dinner meeting was Dr. Winand K. Hock, research plant pathologist, Shade Tree & Ornamental Plants Laboratory, Delaware, Ohio. He reported on his research of vascular diseases of trees.

"Benomyl is one of the hottest fungicides to come along in the last 20 to 25 years," Hock said. "We have to consider benomyl as a leading candidate for Dutch Elm Disease. Our tests have shown that if we can get it into the tree, it will work."

Dr. Hock told the group that the current problem has been in solubilizing benomyl. Several different chemicals have been tested. Lactic acid currently appears to be a good candidate.

The plant pathologist also reported on his experimental tests of injecting benomyl into diseased trees under high pressure. First he drilled one-half inch in diameter holes two and one-half inches into the tree trunk. Holes were spaced 10 to 12 inches apart around the tree. He then inserted a five-eighths inch lag bolt through which a hole had been bored into the one-half inch hold. Fittings were attached to the lag bolts and via hose, connected to a manifold. A pump then pumped solubilized benomyl with a maximum pressure of 300 psi into the trees.

Dr. Hock said that when the lag bolts were removed, holes were plugged with corks and the area sprayed with a tree wound dressing. No correlation was noted between the severity of DED and the amount of uptake of benomyl by the tree. Likewise, time of day and uptake were not charted in the test.

"Over 50 percent of the trees treated in our test nursery at Delaware (Ohio) were protected from DED with this injection treatment," says Hock. He feels this system, although experimental, offers the arborist an effective method of combating DED.

He also reported on the control of anthracnose in walnuts with foliar applications of Triarimol, an experimental compound from Elanco Products Company. Known as EL 273, this material appears to be an excellent material in controlling this disease, Hock concluded.