

Green Section Record

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Developing a Comprehensive Golf Course Master Plan

By Elliott Dowling and Pat Gross

What will your golf facility look like in five, 10 or 20 years? While nobody has a crystal ball that can look into the future, successful businesses have long recognized that without making constant improvements and planning for the future they will fall behind.



In a rapidly changing industry like golf, facilities need to continually improve the playing experience and prepare for challenges like aging equipment and new governmental regulations. Long-range planning helps facilities identify opportunities and address issues before major problems occur.

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Multimedia Content



Video: Planning For The Future

Planning for the future isn't easy; it takes a significant amount of time, commitment and input from all of the key constituents at a golf facility. Here are some tips from the staff at Bel-Air Country Club who have had a master plan for their facility in place for nearly 20 years. Discovering what worked well will help as you envision a plan for the future of your facility.

[Watch Now](#)



Article: That's a Great Idea! But Can The Cost be Absorbed?

Budgeting is an important part of every master plan; after all, there is a cost to every task performed on a golf course. Unfortunately, long-range planning is difficult. As you embark on creating a new master plan or updating an existing one, remember to account for how future plans will impact golf course maintenance operations; some things are easy to overlook.

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Green Section Collection: Planning For The Future



These interactive digital collections include additional supporting articles, a photo gallery and videos that provide relevant information on the primary subject. The collections can be viewed online in a user-friendly digital magazine format, saved as a PDF or printed.

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Research You Should Know



Water Planning For The Future

Since the mid-1980s, the USGA has funded millions of dollars of research focusing on water conservation. The results from a recent USGA-funded survey are promising, but there is still plenty of room for improvement. Here are some things to consider for your facility.

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Fore The Golfer



Is Your Course Ready For The Future?

If you want to improve the longevity, efficiency and prosperity of a golf course you must start with a comprehensive and continually evolving master plan. But what exactly is a master plan? Find out what to include in this document and why it's imperative for every golf course to have a long-range master plan.

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Regional Updates



West Region

The holidays are upon us and superintendents are submitting equipment wish lists to improve playing conditions. Consider adding these equipment ideas to your list for the 2017 season.

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Northeast Region

While prolonged hot temperatures stressed cool-season turf this summer, cold-tolerant bermudagrass playing surfaces offered these benefits.

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Central Region

La Niña conditions are likely to persist for the next several months. Here's what superintendents are doing to maximize their available water.

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Southeast Region

It was another memorable year in the Southeast Region. These 10 amazing highlights are sure to be remembered for many years to come.

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