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# **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** 



#### **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, longrange 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**



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.

These interactive digital collections include additional supporting articles, a photo gallery and

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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 USGAfunded 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



#### 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 longrange master plan. **Read More** 

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#### conditions. Consider adding these equipment ideas to your list for the 2017 season.

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#### bermudagrass playing surfaces offered these benefits.

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## **View Update**

GOLF'S USE OF WATER





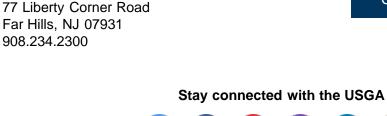


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