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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](#)


### 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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