

## DeKalb to Spruce Up Its Only Golf Course

The DeKalb County Commission voted Tuesday to spruce up the county's only golf course and hire a staff of 16 persons

The commission authorized \$25,902.45 for construction of a new road at the Mystery Valley Golf Course as an extension of an old road that leads to the

club house. 10-18-68

It also created job openings for a professional, a greenskeeper, two equipment operators, 12 laborers and a foreman.

In other action, the commission:

1. Approved petitions to extend sewer lines on Bruce Road and Market Street.

2. Passed a traffic ordinance prohibiting parking on the north side of Indian Creek Lane, from North Indian Creek Drive to the end of the street.

3. Authorized water line extension on Pine Mountain Street, Sunny Hill Drive, Lakeside Drive, Lakeside Drive and De-shon Road.

# Golf

## Dekalb Has Two County Courses, A Third On Drawing Board

Two of Dekalb's most beautiful golf courses are county-owned public facilities operated by the Dekalb Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Department.

Both are 18-hole courses offering tournaments, clinics, instruction and golf associations for all ages.

Mystery Valley, located off Shadow Rock Road in Lithonia, is a hilly, winding par 73 course measuring 6,953 yards. It is open six days a week and closed only on Monday. The Professional Golf Association club pro is Dave Ayers.

The age-old question with frustrated golfers is, "What's wrong with my swing?" Now, with the help of newly-acquired video equipment at Mystery Valley golf course, the player can see for himself.

"Without video, golf instructors can point out major flaws to the student and make him or her understand them," says Ayers. "But the advantage of video is, students can see for themselves even the fine mistakes."

"Nearly everyone looks at the tape and says, 'Gosh, I had no idea I was doing that.' The camera never lies."

The price is higher — usual lessons are \$15, video lessons are \$25 — because the lesson does not end with emptying a large bag of golf balls. When video is included, the student and teacher return to the clubhouse and view the film.

Besides being equipped with sound and color, Mystery Valley's system also features stop-action and slow motion so the student can go over mistakes thoroughly.

"Golf is an unnatural game and you really have to work at it," says Ayers. "People who've been playing well for years may suddenly develop bad habits without realizing exactly what they are. Video gets them back on the right course quicker than just the usual instruction."

Since Ayers runs the course on a concessioner's contract with the county getting a percentage of profits, the video equipment costs the county nothing and is available to county residents at a nominal cost.

For information on lessons, phone 469-6913.

Sugar Creek is located on Bouldercrest Road in south De-

kalb.

Plans are now on the drawing board for a third county golf course, to relieve overcrowding at the other two links, especially Mystery Valley. The course would be located near the county's water treatment station near Dunwoody in North De-

**469-6913**  
Mystery Valley  
Course

**241-7671**  
Sugar Creek Course

Kalb and is open every day except Tuesday. The par 72 lay-out is 6,630 yards long. Wayne Yates is the club professional.

The course has a new clubhouse and gift shop, which was dedicated last year.

Fees and hours are uniform at the two courses. Both are open from 8 a.m. until dark on weekdays and from 6:30 a.m. until dark on weekends. Senior citizen and youth rates are available before 10 a.m. on weekdays.

Both courses sponsor regular golf tournaments, with the biggest, the DeKalb Open Cup, played each August at Mystery Valley.

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# Never mind the country club, tee it off at one of the area's fine public golf courses

By Landon Thomas

With summer practically upon us, the weather is perfect for a round of golf. Any day is an ideal day to head for a golf course and tee it off.

"Golf is gaining popularity by leaps and bounds," Gene Kleese, author of *Gene's Guide To Metro Atlanta Golf Courses*, said. "Public golf and public golf courses are improving because of the boom that's ongoing in golf.

"As golf grows in popularity, the percentage of people who golf increases. Therefore there's a demand for courses. The country club used to be the way to go, but today people are building better and better golf courses.

"In the Atlanta area, there are public golf courses that are as well designed as those of a country club. And so I think the days of the country club are gone."

With that in mind, local golfers, as well as beginners, don't have to travel far to enjoy the golfing experience. DeKalb county has several outstanding public golf courses that are within a short drive, no matter what part of the county you're from.

To start with there's the Stone Mountain Park Golf Course. Not only is it one of the best courses in the state, but it was also ranked by *Golf Digest* as one of America's 75 best public courses.

Originally built in 1969, Stone Mountain added an additional nine holes in June of 1989, to accommodate the large volume of play. Thursday through Sunday, all 27 of the holes are open. But on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, nine of the holes are closed.

Green fees are \$30, including the mandatory cart fee, weekdays and weekends. Monday through Friday it's first come first serve. But for weekends and holidays, tee times are taken beginning at 9 a.m. the Tuesday before. A word to the wise, though, it only takes about two hours before all the tee times are taken for every following weekend.

There is also an entry fee into the park itself, which is \$5 per vehicle, or \$20 for an annual permit.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones, the course is laid out along the park's large lake and Stone Mountain itself. The scenic course is characterized

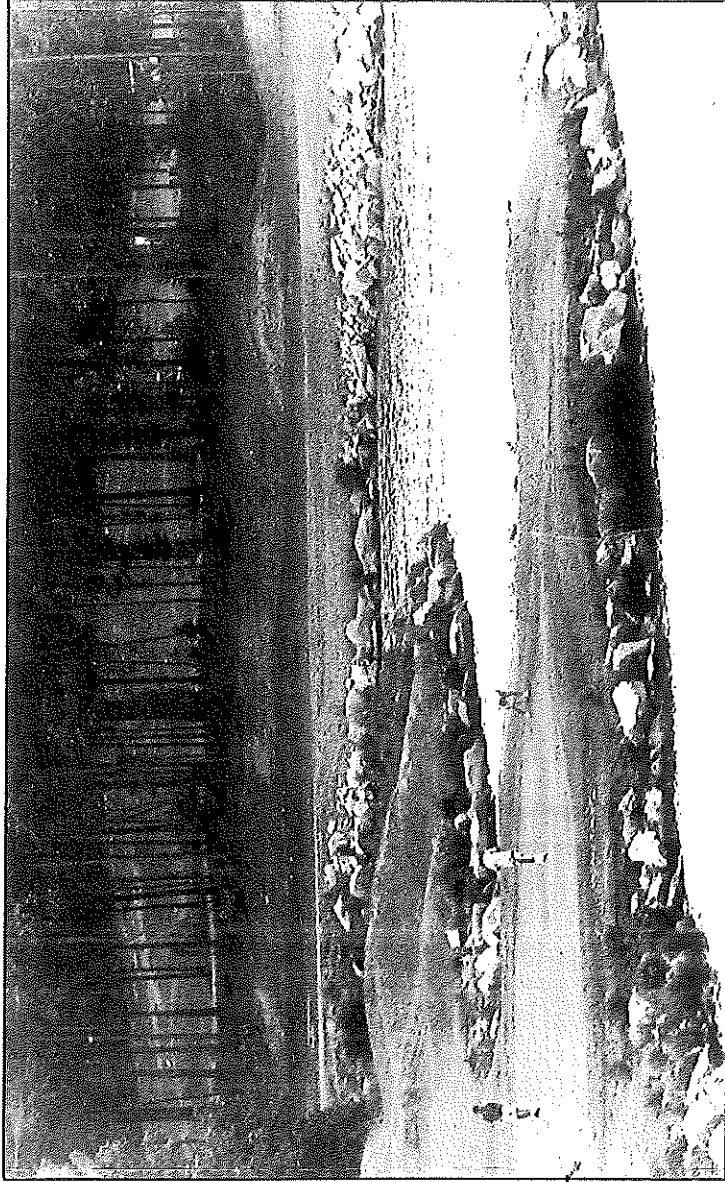


Photo By Jim Cook Jr.

New nine holes at Stone Mountain Park are both scenic and a golfing challenge.

by its narrow fairways and tiered bent grass greens. Water comes into play on six of the 27 holes, and the greens are well trapped.

There is a driving range on the course, and lessons will be available in the near future. For tee times and more

information call 498-5715.

Located at 3000 Fairington Parkway in Decatur is the Metropolitan Golf and Tennis Club. Formerly a private club

by the name of Fairington, Metropolitan is today a semi-private club.

Green fees are \$30 on

weekdays, and \$40 on the

weekends. And that does

include the mandatory cart fee. Tee times are taken two days in advance starting at 8 a.m.

Built in 1970, Metropolitan was also designed by Jones. There is a stream that comes

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# 21st Annual Junior Golf Stated At Mystery Valley

*DeWitt News/Sum 6/22/88*

The 21st annual Dekalb Junior Golf Classic will be held July 25 and 26 at the Mystery Valley Golf Course. The tournament is open to boys and girls ages 7 through 17. There will be separate divisions for boys and girls with five age groups. Trophies will be awarded in all divisions plus special prizes. The entry fee is \$15, and includes free lunch both days plus gifts for each contestant. In concert with the tournament, pro Dave Ayers and the Dekalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Dept. They will also be free junior gold clinics preceding the event. They will be held on July 13, 15, 20 and 22. They will run from 10 - 11 a.m. An added bonus is the PGA "Clubs for Kids" program, which offers free golf clubs for those who need them. However supplies are somewhat limited. Mystery Valley is located at 6094 Shadowrock Drive in Lithonia. For further information call 469-6913. The event is sponsored by club

# Golf

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into play on six holes, and there are five ponds as well. The fairways require a strong tee shot, while the bent grass greens are well trapped and challenging.

There are two pros on staff who teach, and appointments are taken 24 hours in advance, though it's not always required. For tee times and more information call 981-5325.

Located at 2706 Bouldercrest Road is Sugar Creek. DeKalb county owned and operated, the course itself is layed out on both sides of I-285 off of exit 37, Bouldercrest Road. The first 11 holes are located on the east side of the perimeter, while the last seven are on the west side.

The course is characterized by the narrow tree-lined fairways, the South River and Sugar Creek. Water comes into play on 10 of the holes. The Bermuda greens are large and maintained well.

For DeKalb residents, green fees for 18 holes are \$12 during the week, and \$14 during the weekend. For non-residents it's \$16 during the week and \$19 during the weekend. Cart fees are \$8 a person. Tee times are during the week, and \$8 during the weekend.

For non-DeKalb residents, green fees for 18 holes are \$16 during the week, and \$19 during the weekend. For nine holes it's \$9 during the week, and \$10 during the weekend.

Cart fees for 18 holes are \$10 for singles and \$15 for doubles. For nine holes it's \$8 for singles and \$10 for doubles.

For weekends and holidays, tee times are accepted. On Tuesdays, Sugar Creek is only open for special tournaments and group outings.

Every Wednesday morning there's a senior dog-fight tournament for those 50 years and older. And from June through August, there are free junior clinics every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Lessons are given by Carl Caputa, the club pro, for \$25 a lesson, or \$110 for a series of five lessons.

Sugar Creek also offers a lighted driving range that's open until 10 p.m. every evening. For tee times or more information call 241-7671.

Located off Shadowrock Road in Lithonia is Mystery Valley. Green fees for DeKalb county residents is \$12 during the week and \$14 during the weekend.

For non-residents it's \$16 during the week and \$19 during the weekend. Cart fees are \$8 a person. Tee times are

required for weekends and holidays.

Designed by Dick Williams, Mystery Valley features one of the best layouts in the area.

The hilly course features soft bermuda fairways and greens. The greens are well maintained and surrounded by deep bunkers.

Besides the par 72 course, Mystery Valley also has a driving range and a putting and chipping green. Lessons are available and given by the club pro David Ayers.

For tee times and more information call 469-6913.

Off I-20 in Ellenwood is Little Mountain Golf Course. Originally built in 1965 as a nine hole golf course, the finishing touches are being completed on an additional nine holes, and within the next month Little Mountain will be an 18 hole golf course.

Green fees for 18 holes are \$8.50 during the week and \$12 for weekends and holidays. For nine holes it's \$6 during the week and \$9.50 during the weekend and holidays. Cart fees are \$16 for 18 holes and \$8 for nine holes.

Little Mountain has been called one of the best kept secrets in the area, but it's no secret why. The bermuda greens are well maintained,

and the course itself is challenging and fun, despite being short. For tee times and more information call 981-7921.

Located off Clifton Springs Road in Decatur is the Clifton Springs Golf Course. Also one of the Atlanta area's best kept secrets, Clifton Springs is an excellent place to work on your short irons as no hole is longer than 170 yards.

Green fees for 18 holes are \$6.50 during the week and \$8 during the weekend. For nine holes it's \$3.25 during the week and \$4.50 during the weekend. There is also a special during weekdays in which for \$9 you can play all day.

While there are no motorized carts as of now, there are plans to have them in the future.

Other plans in the near future are to open five new holes. One of which will feature the green on an island in the middle of a lake, just like at the Tournament Players Championship. The new holes are tentatively scheduled to open in mid-July.

For now though there's the tough and small bermuda greens to compete with. For tee times and more information call 241-3636.

Off Browns Mill Road in Lithonia is Idlewood Golf

Course. Idlewood is a nine hole, par 70 golf course that provides a home for the basic golf.

Green fees are \$6 during the weekdays and \$7 during the weekends. Cart fees are \$14.

The sloping fairways provide few places for a level lie and approach shot to the bermuda greens. For tee times and more information call 987-9940.

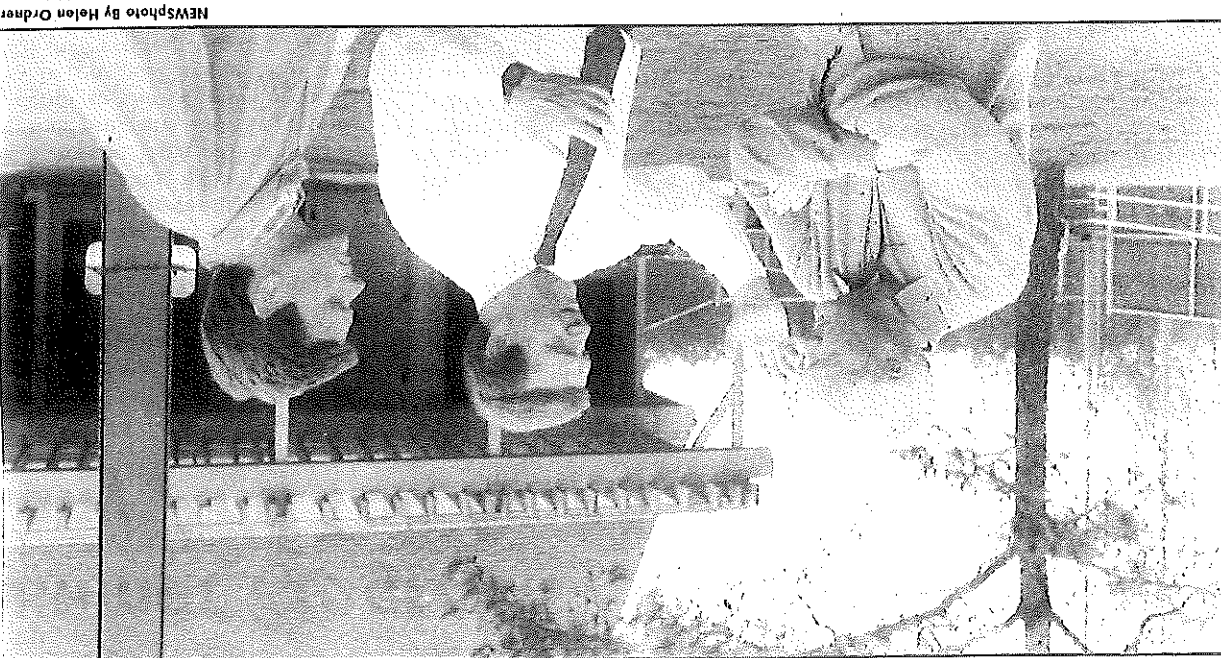
Located off the Moreland Avenue exit of I-20 is Candler Park Golf Course. Run by the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department, Candler Park is a nine hole golf course that's a great place for beginners and children.

Green fees for 18 holes are \$9 during the week and \$10 during the weekends. For nine holes it's \$4.50 during the week and \$5 on the weekends. Cart fees are \$12.50.

The maintenance at Candler Park is good as the course is clean and maintained well. It's characterized by its hills and bermuda greens. For tee times and more information call 373-9265.

Besides at a golf course, one can sharpen one's game or learn how to pick up the game of golf at a driving and putting range. Three such places in the area are Hidden Valley Golf, Jim Hearn Golf and Northcrest Academy of Golf.

## Sugar Creek Pushed As Olympic Tennis Site



NEWSphoto By Helen Ordner

Jim Cone, director of DeKalb's recreation department, explains benefits the county's Sugar Creek Golf and Tennis Center offers as the site of 1996 Olympic tennis facilities. Inspecting the center are Jim Hadaway, left, director of the Los Angeles parks and recreation department for 16 years, and Chuck McCuen, Georgia State tennis coach. Mr. Hadaway was expected to share insights from his California Olympic experiences with local officials. He was scheduled to meet with the staff of DeKalb's recreation department and to attend a tennis site.

Chamber of Commerce reception with county commissioners and members of the Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Education and the DeKalb Olympic Committee. Sugar Creek offers unique advantages as an olympic center, according to Mr. Cone, who mentioned the extra control offered by land surrounding the center being under public domain. County commissioners are expected to share in construction costs for a DeKalb County Olympic tennis site.

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