

On Course

Current News from Forrest Richardson & Associates, Golf Course Architects Summer 2008

LESS TURF + LESS WATER = LESS COST



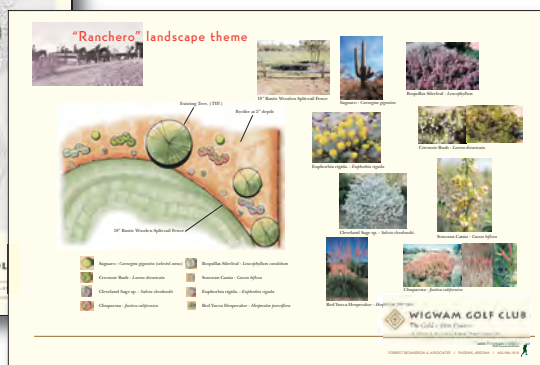
THE HIDEOUT GOLF CLUB IN UTAH - PHOTO BY BRIAN OAR.

While it sounds simple, reducing areas of managed turf—and in turn reducing water use—are often overlooked by courses when it becomes necessary to trim operating costs.

The reason is often a concern for aesthetics, strategy and pace-of-play. All of which are crucial considerations. To address these concerns, a “Turf Assessment Plan” (TAP) is prepared to get at the

heart of the issue and answer the questions, “Can we responsibly reduce turf...and how much money will it save us?”

Preparing a TAP is sometimes done as part of an overall Master Plan. Long range plans are essential to all golf facilities, even those that are relatively new. A road-map for the future can save thousands of dollars as courses make emergency repairs, capital expenditures and planning decisions.



Exhibits for the Wigwam Resort in Arizona where more than 26 acres are planned for conversion to non-turf.

A Turf Assessment Plan (TAP) includes three primary components: (1) An evaluation of areas that can potentially be removed from managed turf, but with careful planning for playability, pace-of-play and irrigation integration, (2) landscape solutions for treating areas after removal of turf, and (3) a cost analysis. The investment for a “TAP” is generally about 1/4 the cost of a full master plan.

SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH TURF REDUCTION

- LESS MOWING and TURF CARE
- LESS FERTILIZATION
- LESS WATER USE
- LESS PUMPING COST
- LESS IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE and CAPITAL EXPENSES
- REDUCED AREAS of DRAINAGE CONCERN
- REDUCED AREAS of SEASONAL DEBRIS

SOME ASSOCIATED BENEFITS

- IMPROVED VISUAL DEFINITION of HOLES
- BETTER TREE HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- BETTER AESTHETICS

“TAP” CHECKLIST

- ENHANCE STRATEGY
- AVOID SEVERITY
- INTEGRATE with IRRIGATION
- FIT to DESIRED PAGE-OF-PLAY
- UPHOLD COURSE LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- REQUIRED CARE of REPLACEMENT VEGETATION/COVER
- COST ANALYSIS

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