

Architect from page 4

the site of an old gravel quarry and mining operation.

"The site has been reclaimed," Dewling said, "but there are certainly areas of the property left in a rugged state. So we have the opportunity to lay some golf holes where we've taken advantage of the mining operation, the gouges and disturbances of the earth that took place during the mining."

"At the same time, we've piled large mounds of clay and unuseable top soil in areas to create a mountain-like appearance in southeastern Michigan. As a result, one of the nines is called The Peaks. It has very steep grades and hills about 100 feet in height."

That is in keeping with the firm's desire to create situations in which the golfer can hit from an elevated tee position.

Another nine is called The Dunes because of the sandy nature of the terrain; the third is called The Bluffs, because it rises into a hillside and overlooks the other 18 holes.

The Bluffs is connected by a tunnel, which runs under M24 and is also left over from the mining days.

"The tunnel was in place for conveyor belts during the mining operation," Dewling said. "We gutted the tunnel and it will carry carts from one side of

M24 to the other.

"With other courses we had the opportunity to work with forested areas and try to protect them. The Boulder Creek site had an abundance of boulders, so we used them."

"Mother Nature left us a lot of great things to work with. At the same time, the mining operation left us a lot to work with. We're taking advantage of both. The result is a golf course in southeast Michigan that is very unusual to what has been built elsewhere. I think the public will accept it as being very unique."

The golf cart has also had an impact on course design. That was the case when Dewling's company built Timber Trace.

Following the 12th hole, golfers take a one-mile cart ride past a 100-acre lake to play holes 13-16 and make the return trip for the final two.

"It's an interesting challenge, but I'd say the public golfer absolutely loves it," Dewling said. "When they call for tee times, the No. 1 question they ask is, 'Is this the course with the neat ride through the environmental area.'"

"Years ago what wouldn't have worked now works because of the golf cart. We've put the golfer on wheels, and the cart experience is all part of it."

Go north

Almost golf heaven: Traverse City

Vacationing this summer in Traverse City area? Don't forget to bring your golf clubs.

Finding a course is as easy as surfing — the Web that is.

Traverse City Area Golf features eight courses and two resorts.

Here is a sample of what you can find on <http://tcwebguide.com/golf/>

RESORTS

Crystal Mountain: Offers 36 holes of northwoods golf that take full advantage of the towering hardwoods and rolling terrain. The Mountain Ridge's signature hole is No. 5.

Shanty Creek: Home of Golf Digest's No. 1 Midwest Resort Course, The Legend, boasts 54 beautiful and challenging holes of the best golf in Northern Michigan. The Legend's signature hole is No. 7.

COURSES

A-Ga-Ming: Located in Antrim County and just minutes away from Traverse City, Charlevoix and Petoskey, the par-72 layout is spectacularly situated on high bluffs overlooking Torch Lake, considered to be one of the most beautiful inland lakes in the world.

Briar Downs: Located in Mesick, just 16 miles northwest of Cadillac, this course features rolling hills, creeks, ponds and trees. It's a golfer friendly course that is easy on the wallet.

Dunes: Located in Empire. A casual

friendly course featuring 5,730 yards of relaxing play. Located in the scenic Glen Lake — Sleeping Bear Dunes Area.

Emerald Vale: This course in Manton, designed by Bruce Matthews, is a par-72, 5,100- to 6,800-yard layout with 120 feet of elevation change, broad fairways and spacious greens with numerous bunkers. Described as one of the best pure golf courses in the state.

High Point: Opened in 1989, this Traverse City course has been ranked among the nation's best in Golf Digest, Golf Magazine and GolfWeek. High Point was included in Golf Magazine's 1993 roster of 100 greatest course in the U.S.

Interlochen: Music to one's ears. One of the most scenic and lush courses in the Traverse City area. Interlochen is a favorite among local and resort golfers.

Matheson Greens: Located near the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula (in Northport), Matheson offers 18 championship holes of golf with a spectacular view of the Grand Traverse Bay. Check out hole No. 11.

Pincroft Golf Plantation: This Benzie County course overlooks one of the state's most pristine bodies of water, Crystal Lake, offering 18 lush and divergent challenges.

Golf Special!

WAYNE COUNTY GOLF

54 Holes of Excitement!

Donald Ross's WARREN VALLEY GOLF COURSE



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