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### Creeks flow freely at Comanche Trace

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While drought issues plague the Hill Country, water continues to flow as freely as the mystical Fountain of Youth at one lush spot.

“The Creeks” at The Club at Comanche Trace most certainly will draw a crowd when the course’s new third nine holes is unveiled to members today.

“It’s all natural, we just enhanced it,” said Comanche Trace president Trevor Hyde.

“... The name ‘The Creeks’ is because of the recirculating water features and the natural creeks that work through it.”

More than 250 members will witness one of the most “natural” golf courses in the state, which is the culmination of more than eight years of planning, more than 1 1/2 years of construction and “millions and millions of dollars to invest.”

“We’ve stuck and done everything according to plan that we presented in Day 1 (of Comanche Trace),” Hyde said. “No one said we had to have this nice of a third nine, and we added some features and amenities to our property that we didn’t have before.”

Featuring trees and plenty of native vegetation along the new nine holes, Comanche Trace worked within the area’s surroundings to create a visually appealing course.

“People like to see trees, we put white sand in here, and then you have the nice, healthy green grass, and there are some color changes that people see and that really enhances the property,” Hyde said.

With the Comanche clubhouse standing at the top of one of the largest peaks in the Hill Country, the near-4,000 yard “The Creeks” forms a unique “V” shape that extends from the back-end of The Hills and makes it’s way back toward the clubhouse for the final five holes.

“At the end of the day, we just wanted something to blend in and have some continuity between the existing 18 holes,” Hyde said.

Developed by world-renown architects Jay and Carter Morris and contracted by Neibur Construction, Comanche Trace created a nine-hole course that not only maintains the innocence of its surroundings, but also creates an enjoyable and

challenging round of play for its members.

“For our members, it adds variety to our community, so they can not have the same look on the existing 18 as the new nine,” Hyde said. “It has a whole new look to it.”

So far, reactions from select members who tried the course have been nothing short of glowing.

“You can sit there and say ‘We built the best golf course in the world,’ you can sit back like Donald Trump and say this is the best place ever, but if people who play it don’t agree with that, then there you are,” Hyde said.

Included on the new course is what Hyde says will be “one of the most talked about golf holes in the state” — the par-5 No. 4 hole that stretches almost 640 yards from championship tee to pin, making it one of the longest golf holes in Texas.

“The architect, my superintendent, some of the pros who have played it already — all the people who have looked at it — they all agree, that’s THE golf hole,” Hyde said.

The other unique feature about the No. 4 hole is the creek that flows in an “S” shape through it, crossing over, parallel and then back across creating an “island landing area.”

“The Creeks” is essentially chalk full of nine long straight-aways.

“Everything is laid out there for you,” Hyde said. “There’s nothing tricky that makes it where it’s not fun to play.”

With varying distances starting from the extremely short 150-yard par-3 on No. 5, to the two extensive par-5s at No. 4 and the 561-yard No. 8, the course offers variety to challenge all aspects of its members’ games.

“Even if you hit your tees well, it’s still going to be tough,” Comanche Trace head golf professional Anthony B. “Tony” Johnson said.

A major factor in the course’s construction focused on maintaining a level of enjoyment for the members, something Hyde and the developers took into account when designing “The Creeks.”

“At the end of the day, we just want to make sure the course is playable, it’s fun, is comparable to the existing 18 holes and people can come away saying ‘That’s great, I can’t wait to play it again,’” Hyde said.

But, while the final four holes create a natural painting in the distance, the best thing about the course is still it’s ability to keep players coming back for more.

“The greatest thing that happened with this golf course is that we didn’t end up with one or two dogs — real weak holes — and that’s where we were very fortunate,” Hyde said.

Overall though, everything with “The Creeks” comes back to whether or not the people who are playing are actually having fun, an issue that Comanche Trace has made its mission since the course’s inception.

“We just try to carry the best product that we can provide for our members,” Hyde said.

And for Hyde and the rest of Comanche Trace, they believe “The Creeks” is mission accomplished.

Editor’s note: Follow Times sports writer Alex Byington as he hopelessly tries to tackle “The Creeks” in Monday’s edition.

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