

- Pierce County Department of Communications

CAPTION: More than 1.4 million cubic yards of sand and gravel was moved to create dunes and other features at Chambers Bay.

The builder of Pierce County's acclaimed Chambers Bay, which was named best new course in 2007 by several publications, now has its own Best New Course award.

Heritage Links of Houston, Texas was awarded Golf Course Industry magazine's 2008 Builder Excellence Award in the Creative Category for its Chambers Bay work. The award was presented at the Golf Course Builders Association of America's 2008 awards dinner Friday, Feb. 1 at Orlando, Fla.

"All of us at Heritage Links are proud of this achievement," said Jon P. O'Donnell, Heritage Links division president. "It was truly a team effort. This is a great representation of the tremendous talent, commitment and level of detail involved with the project."

In 2004, the Robert Trent Jones II firm of Palo Alto, CA was selected by Pierce County Executive John W. Ladenburg to design a world-class destination Irish/Scottish links golf course to promote the area's economic development and tourism. Ladenburg challenged architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. to use the exceptional site as a canvas to create the best course he could imagine, one that would attract golfers from across North America and around the world and compete for the nation's most prestigious championship tournaments. Judging from Chambers Bay's awards during the past six months, the architect succeeded.

Construction started in October 2005 and continued through January 2007. The course opened in June 2007. Heritage Links was faced with moving 1.4 million cubic yards of material and creating a reclaimed natural landscape out of what was a significantly degraded sand and gravel mining site. "The biggest challenge was creating a natural looking golf course when the land form we started with was so scarred and deformed from the mining activities," said project manager Tony Tipton of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities.

At the project's peak 50 construction workers were onsite operating 25 major scrapers, off road dump trucks, excavators, bull dozers and loaders to reshape the site. The completed course features dramatic elevation changes with cliffs and dunes shaped by Heritage Links' skilled operators and associated subcontractors.

The \$21 million project included design and construction of the golf course plus a clubhouse complex, integral walking trail (SoundView Trail), and the necessary roads and site infrastructure to support the project and future development on the Chambers Creek Properties.

"Heritage Links was more than just the general contractor on the Chambers Bay Golf Course. The firm became an integral part of our project team that worked diligently and professionally to deliver a world-class golf course out of the remnants of an abandoned sand and gravel mine," Tipton said.

Heritage Links has completed other projects in the U. S., Mexico, Asia, Middle East and Caribbean for Cupp Design, Fazio Golf Course Designers, Nicklaus Design, Palmer Course Design, Raymond Floyd Design and others.

Chambers Bay is situated on 250 acres of the 930-acre Chambers Creek Properties, which includes two miles of Puget Sound shoreline and overlooks Anderson, Fox and Ketron islands and the Olympic Mountains. "We've been told there are few comparable sites in the United States, and that we have the type of golf course people will come from great distances to play," Ladenburg said.

Chambers Bay, which is operate by KemperSports Management, has garnered these awards:

- Top-ranked daily fee/municipal course and No. 2 overall on Golfweek's "Best New Courses" list
- "Best New Course of the Year" on GOLF Magazine's list of the "Top 10 New Courses You Can Play"
- Winner of the Daily Fee category of Golf Inc.'s "Development of the Year" contest
- Travel + Leisure Golf magazine's 2007 Course of the Year

The number of best new course awards is believed to be unprecedented in the state of Washington.

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