

BREAKING GROUND

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SUMMER 2009

The redevelopment project will allow reconstruction of three holes, including reworking the current par three second hole into a new par five located over the defunct landfill. This view shows Sandy Pines' 18th hole.



Hamstra Goes Green With Sandy Pines Project

Former landfill will be redeveloped for golf course

Environmentally sound practices today involve making the maximum use of available land and, where possible, restoring unsightly or abandoned acreage to productive use. Across the country, former industrial and other sites have been cleaned up and redeveloped to provide value as parks, residential communities, golf courses and other amenities. And that's exactly what The Hamstra Group will be doing as it expands Sandy Pines golf course in DeMotte, Indiana.

In cooperation with the Town of DeMotte and the state-sponsored Indiana Brownfields Program, The Hamstra Group will bring to fruition the recovery of the former Groen Brothers landfill. The site is slated to be incorporated into the existing Sandy Pines golf course.

Hamstra was the adjacent landowner

and a natural choice for the project. Its Sandy Pines community—a quiet, wooded residential neighborhood built around an 18-hole golf course—is a

continued on page 4

12028 North CR 200 West
Wheatfield, IN 46392
Tel: (219) 956-3111
Fax: (219) 956-3570
website: www.HamstraGroup.com

The 
HAMSTRA
Group, Inc



12028 North CR 200 West
Wheatfield, IN 46392
Tel: (219) 956-3111
Fax: (219) 956-3570
www.HamstraGroup.com



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Sandy Pines... *continued from page 1*

popular community, especially among retirees in the region. The redevelopment project will allow reconstruction of three holes of the golf course, including reworking the current par three second hole into a new par five hole located over the defunct landfill. In addition, changes will be made in the number three and seven holes. The staged reconstruction plans will allow for uninterrupted golfing.

Company president and CEO Greg Hamstra believes this project is a showcase for development that's in tune with green initiatives.

"We'll be restoring several acres to better use and removing an eyesore from the community," Hamstra says. "Land is a precious commodity. This project elevates the former landfill site from a negative to a positive impact."

Work on the project began last December. Completion is anticipated by this summer, after which seeding of the newly created areas will begin, with some areas hopefully opened to the

public by Spring 2010.

The Hamstra Group's vision became a reality thanks in large measure to the proactive work of the Town of DeMotte, which applied for, and received, a grant from the Indiana Brownfields Program. The program works in tandem with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other Hoosier agencies to assist communities in making productive use of their brownfield properties. The program's mission is to encourage redevelopment and assist with investment via educational, financial, technical

and legal assistance. The aim is to identify and mitigate environmental barriers that impede local economic growth.

The state's program, according to Indiana public finance director Jennifer Alvey, "focuses on redeveloping brownfield sites throughout Indiana into productive, income-producing assets for local economies."

"For many communities," Alvey explains, "the Indiana Brownfield Program grants have been a key factor in turning plans into reality."

In addition to the golf course expansion, the excess property will accommodate 28 one to one-and-a-half acre wooded home sites tucked into the mature natural setting. Presale offerings of the residential lots, which included a limited lifetime membership to the golf course, have been well received. (Visit sandypinesgc.com for more details.)

"Projects like this are extremely valuable," Hamstra says. "We are grateful to the Town of DeMotte and the state of Indiana for their efforts to reclaim this brownfield site and allow us to partner in creating value in the community."



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