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Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 11:32am CST

The Tribute in The Colony goes green

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The Tribute, a masterplanned golf community in The Colony, has joined forces with its design partners to reduce its environmental impact and increase its energy efficiency.

Golf course architects **Tripp Davis and Associates** and Pro Golf Association tour star Justin Leonard, designers of the golf course at The Tribute, have partnered with the landscape architect and planning firm of **TBG Partners**, as well as homebuilders Coventry Homes, Drees Custom Homes, **Highland Homes** and K. Hovnanian Homes to create the Green Alliance to institute sustainable strategies for the planned development.

Included in the environmentally friendly efforts is the use of well- and surface-water feeds for irrigation — as opposed to the use of city water — saving the homeowner's association about \$200,000 to \$225,000 per year, according to a statement from parties involved in

the project.

In addition, the development will designate wildflower areas and plant native and adaptive plants requiring minimal irrigation, saving more than 12 million gallons of water per year.

The team also recycled pedestrian bridges and used stone material quarried within 500 miles of the project, as required by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and will use no-emission electric golf carts, and implement permeable golf cart paths made from decomposed granite and a running trail made from recycled materials.

The new golf course is set to open this summer.

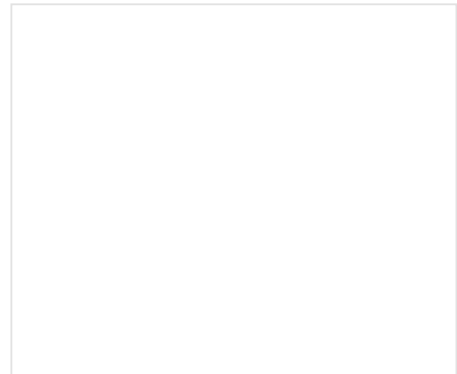
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