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## Airport Golf Course to let new runway play through

*By Robert Vitale* THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The city-owned Airport Golf Course will shut down for 20 months starting next fall to move out of the way of what could be the ultimate playing hazard — a Port Columbus runway.

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority's plans to relocate the southern runway at Port Columbus will require a complete redesign of the golf course that sits across Hamilton Road, Recreation and Parks Director Alan McKnight said yesterday.

The airport will pay for changes to 12 holes that are directly affected by the runway move, McKnight said. Last night, Columbus City Council members unanimously approved spending \$280,000 from the city's income-tax-fueled capital budget to redesign the remaining six.

The East Side course, on the eastern edge of the airport along Big Walnut Creek and I-270, will close next September and reopen in April 2013.

In addition to paying for most of the course renovations, the airport authority has promised to make up for revenue lost during the shutdown, McKnight said.

City-owned golf courses have struggled for the most part in recent years, but the Airport Golf Course has been a moneymaker. City officials projected that the course would take in more than \$800,000 this year.

Runway lights for Port Columbus already dot the course, which McKnight said is largely on airport-owned land. The city pitches its proximity as an asset, telling golfers in promotional material that they'll see "a unique parade of aircraft" during their time on the course.

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