

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Summer 2022, Vol. 26 No. 4

HERITAGE OAKS TAKES ROOT

WOUNDED WARRIOR:
SAVED BY THE GAME

PURA VIDA:
ADVENTURES IN
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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

It is summertime in Chicago and I have a little secret to share: it gets hot.

I write this only because in this day and age, when the thermometer reaches over 90°, a new debate emerges on whether children should be allowed to participate in sports and other activities, including golf, during sweltering days.

During a recent playing lesson with one of my GOLFTEC students, I was hearing about the phone calls and texts he had been receiving from parents of the T-Ball team he coaches whether the next day's game would be cancelled because of highs forecasted in the 90s.

A few days later I was talking to a local head golf professional whose junior league team had their match at a visiting facility canceled because it was going to be too hot the next day.

I recall growing up in the 1980s when we would often play 36 holes when the thermometer reached the upper 90s and not think anything about it. Plenty of water and Gatorade seemed to do the trick, and we turned out just fine.

As you scroll through this month's issue, you'll find an inspirational story about John Goudie, a Champaign native and wounded warrior who, after being severely injured in the line of duty, found a brand-new life through the game of golf. I'm sure that John didn't have any of his commitments canceled due to extreme heat while serving our country in Afghanistan.

While serving in the army there, Goudie was the victim of five gunshots through the chest and shoulder. His left leg was lost and lifting his right arm was impossible. Trips to the operating room replaced his fighting for freedom on the front lines. What happened next is a story made for the big screen.

And then there's the GOLFChicago interview with LPGA veteran Katherine Kirk, known as one of the friendliest players on tour. Growing up in Australia, I'm sure she played in her fair share of warm days in the land down under and most likely cherished every moment. Katherine talks about life as a junior golfer, what it's like to compete with the best players from across the globe, and why being a champion of children in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is most important to her.

Our cover story is near and dear to my heart. Growing up in Glenview, I spent my teenage years playing the Glenview Park District Golf Course and of course nearby Sportsman's Country Club. The latter has now undergone a significant facelift (especially its driving range and clubhouse) and has been reborn as Heritage Oaks. Writer Joe Aguilar has all the details inside our pages.

Senior writer Neal Kotlarek then introduces us to more great golf in Boyne, Michigan, where some of the best golf in the country can be found as well as some of the best Lake Michigan views and dining experiences.

Our Sweet Home Chicago department will fill you in on what is happening in the world of golf right here in our own backyard. And, as always, our Good Stuff department will feed your need to shop for the best golf gear on the market and others that you may not have known existed.

So pack your water, sunscreen, and whatever else you need to beat the heat-filled days this summer while kicking back and enjoying the latest issue of GOLFChicago magazine. Now go out and play some golf!

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THE GOOD STUFF



Lace it up with Style

Whiskers designs and manufactures men's and women's premium, golf-specific shoelaces. As a vehicle for self-expression, scores of PGA and LPGA TOUR players are dressing up their shoes. Golf courses, country clubs, and resorts sell Whiskers golf laces at a rapid rate, and online sales are through the roof. The made-in-the-U.S.A., super-durable laces come in more than 50 colors and patterns, and in 33-inch round and 45- to 72-inch flat lengths. They seamlessly fit into FootJoy, Adidas, Nike, Puma, ECCO and other leading golf footwear brands. A single pair is \$15 and three and five packs are \$40 and \$60, respectively.

We really like the company's "Stand with Ukraine" program benefiting humanitarian relief initiatives in the embattled country. It is donating all profits from sales of its yellow and blue shoelaces – colors of the country's flag – to Save the Children Ukraine and the Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund. www.whiskerslaces.com



A 3-Putt You'll Enjoy

Player 2 is a brand on the rise, producing some of the most eye-catching golf apparel on the market. This 3-Putt Polo is the perfect answer if you're looking for the right shirt to go from the golf course to dinner. Available in Painted Rock, National White, and New Harbour Blue, this polo features the incredibly cool Player 2 logo on the left chest. Brrr Triple Effect Cooling keeps you cool on humid Chicago days, and its rapid drying feature will make sure you're dry and comfortable by the time you order your first drink. www.player2.com

Shorts Season

It seems like shorts weather in our city is gone before we ever have a chance to truly enjoy it. So if you're still rocking those old khakis, ditch them for a pair of these Drive Printed Shorts from Under Armour. These two-tone blue shorts have a subtle design that can be worn anywhere. They're light, durable, and have four-way stretch material to move with you no matter where you're headed. www.underarmour.com



Practice Makes Perfect

With so many golfers going the route of in-home practice these days, owning a quality hitting mat is crucial no matter if you're just hitting in the backyard or building an in-home simulator. Monster Mat is designed to be durable and comfortable, no matter what your setup may be. PRO LSR Fiber feels like actual turf, it's soft and has striking similarities to a lush fairway. The best part, you can hit a super bucket worth of golf balls every day with zero discomfort to your shoulders or elbows. monstermats.com

Sun Protection You Wear

Sun protection apparel company Coolibar and renowned golf coach David Leadbetter have come together to create a collection of sun-protective clothing designed specifically for golfers. As the incidence of skin cancer continues to rise worldwide, golfers face increasing risk of developing skin cancer. Leadbetter has always always worn a wide-brimmed straw hat, sunglasses and used SPF lip balm and a broad-spectrum sunscreen, until his dermatologist recommended that he add sun sleeves to his routine. Shirts in the collection all have long sleeves, are made with Coolibar's Active Athlon™ fabric which is designed to keep the wearer dry and cool out in the sun. The intent is to encourage players to cover up on the course, no matter the conditions or the heat. For more than 20 years, the Minnesota-based company has developed the most technical, elegant sun protection apparel. It's also the first sun protective clothing company to receive The Skin Cancer Foundation's Seal of Recommendation. www.coolibar.com



Convenient Cocktail

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Customize Your Laser

Precision Pro got on everyone's golf radar by producing affordable laser rangefinders that are as good as anything out there. Now, Precision Pro is bringing customization to the rangefinder game with the NX10, which has custom skins to make it truly yours. From patriotic designs to floral overlays and even a design-your-own template, customization is literally at your fingertips. Technology-wise, the NX10 has pulse vibration, slope on/off, HD optics, and a magnetic body making it convenient in every aspect. precisionpro.com



Helping Our Nation's Heroes

Most of us don't plan on life with physical and mental challenges galore. John Goudie, on the other hand, falls squarely into the "rough going" bucket. In 2012, the now-45-year-old Champaign native's well-being dramatically changed.

While serving in the army in Afghanistan, Goudie was the victim of five gunshots through the chest and shoulder. The pain was excruciating. His left leg was lost and lifting his right arm was impossible. Trips to the operating room replaced his fighting for freedom on the front lines.

But the special forces were undeniably his calling and, after retiring, Goudie unbelievably returned to the rigors and risks of army life. After all, protecting national interests through combat was in his blood after his father and grandfather served in the armed forces for decades. Notwithstanding, Goudie's debilitations were too much to manage and, in 2016, after earning bronze stars, his active military status came to an end for good.

As one might expect, not every Service member seamlessly transitions back into society. Joining your brothers and sisters at arms is the daily way of life and the civilian world is largely foreign.

Goudie lumbered through more than 50 surgeries in an attempt to repair this, that and almost every other part of his fragile body. Moreover, he suffered major PTSD that led to partying and drinking. Anger management wasn't in his skill set.

"A war-torn country thousands of miles from Wrigley Field was all I knew for a long time," Goudie says. "My focus on the strategic, military task at hand was No. 1; otherwise, one slight, ill-advised move could spell the end of you and your comrades."

Upon experiencing wear-and-tear to the deleterious extreme, how's a guy like Goudie going to change his path even remotely from near destruction to a high-functioning human being?

The answer: the game we all love. Golf.

On a whim of sorts, Goudie heard of the nonprofit On Course Foundation and a seven-day event the organization was conducting in Orlando. But he had never picked up a club and barely knew the difference between Tiger Woods and Tony the Tiger.

But for some inexplicable reason, a little birdie (no pun intended) in his mind—during a sober moment—told him to give it a try.

Goudie was smitten, so much so that he practiced religiously on the course and couldn't get enough information about the golf world and business to satisfy an insatiable curiosity.

He even attended the Golf Academy of America to obtain an associate's degree in business management. "On Course Foundation and golf gave me a career path I thought would never be possible," he says with all smiles and the welling of tears in the eyes. "The effects of all things related to pushing a little white ball into a little white hole are amazing."

For Goudie, concentrating on golf and productive activities replaced problems and a massive downward spiral. The turnaround was miraculous for self-esteem and would lead to healthy relationships with his wife, kids, and other family members, a "dream profession in golf," and financial stability.

Anger was replaced by purpose, one that was initially arduous to find post-Afghanistan.

On Course Foundation placed Goudie with Edwin Watts as a club fitter. During time away from work, his playing adeptness skyrocketed. Following more than 50

surgeries, powering off only one leg and an incapacitated right arm, work ethic and sheer dedication earned him a 4.5 handicap in his first five years on the links. If that's not amazing, what is?

"When you love what you're doing, be it professionally or on the course, it isn't work," he says.

Goudie is now National Programs Director of On Course Foundation, helping injured vets get in a better educational and physical headspace, just like the organization helped him.

"The vision is to provide a blend of tranquility on the golf course and skills for enjoyable and productive careers in golf to as many injured veterans as On Course Foundation can reach," Goudie says. "I'm the poster child as it's exactly what I needed after the intensity of front-line combat. I now enjoy mental acuity and a sustainable business life in golf, and I'm in better physical shape from swinging clubs and walking fairways."

Happily married with three children and living in Destin, Florida, Goudie is hardly the only life On Course Foundation has saved. In its 14th year, the organization has diligently built an infrastructure that's second to none. That purposeful, unwavering, professional strategy has helped it save scores of lives which otherwise could've headed toward tragic endings.

In its most remedial sense, On Course Foundation benefits wounded veterans who use golf as a vehicle for physical and mental recovery, and harvest newfound confidence into careers in golf. It conducts programs in 15 markets across America which help active and retired, injured Service members develop golf business and playing skills.

"Golf is a powerful recovery tool," says John Simpson, Founder of On Course Foundation. "It's a sport and business that helps injured vets, be they active or retired, balance their adrenaline-leaden lives with the need of calmer existences, sheer focus, and business and social goals."

Simpson himself knows what overcoming odds is all about. Stricken with polio at a young age, he overcame adversity. The kindness of others helped him discover golf as an equalizer and specialization. Simpson went on to a formidable, decades-long career with International Management

Group as agent for Nick Faldo and winners of 17 major golf tournaments.

Giving back is Simpson's mantra, and his On Course Foundation suc-

ceeds aglow. It wouldn't be right not to end this account without a salute to all involved with one of golf's most heroic and important organizations.



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Game-like Practice

We all remember the Alan Iverson rant about “Practice – not a game – Practice.” If you want to shoot lower scores you need to listen to Alan and make your practice more like the game. A game has a score, a game has a winner. The best golfers all quantify their practice sessions and keep stats in their practice that they can then also track when they play.

Block Practice

There are two main forms of practice, Block and Random. Block would be best for learning a new skill or technique. Hitting a bag of balls to the same target from the same spot thinking about the swing changes you are making would be block practice. This is how you should practice if you just took a lesson and want to implement the skills you learned from your coach.

Last week I traveled to my local public course to practice short game with my son. The driving range was filled with people slashing away at buckets of balls. The chipping green was quiet, just one older man hitting a shag bag of balls to one flag. When he was done, he picked up the balls and then went to the same spot and dumped out the balls and hit to the flag again. This form of practice does not transfer to the actual playing

situations as well as random practice. Does this sound like your practice? Whether you are the person on the range that walked by the short game area on the way or the one hitting his shag bag over and over. You will get better faster and would not have to practice as much if you randomized your practice when working on your game.

Random Practice

This forces the golfer to be more actively and cognitively engaged in the task. In random practice you build more lasting memories of the different shots and will also lead to less confusion on the course of play. Random practice means not hitting the same shot twice in a row, hitting to different holes from different positions and potentially with different clubs. Even if the results are not as good as the block version of practice, you will get better faster with the random form. Attention should be paid to each shot; you should treat it just like you would a shot in a round of golf. Look at where you want to land the ball, take a practice swing to replicate the shot you want to hit, then hit the shot. Take a second to watch the ball land and roll out. You want your brain to commit this to memory. If the shot was unsuccessful. Take a post-shot practice swing for improvement,

and then move on to a different shot. Every shot in practice should have an intention.

Make It A Game

Confidence comes from knowing that you are improving. One way to do this is to measure and test your practice sessions. Do a drill that has a score that you can track. I have hundreds of different drills that I ask my students to do. They keep their results in their phone or post them to a private social media platform that I can see. This helps me to know they are practicing, and I can see what they are doing on their own.

One easy drill to start with is a 10-ball chipping or pitching drill. Here is how it works: spread 10 balls out in an area randomly; I like to put some in the rough and some in the fairway. Then hit each ball to one of two different flags on the green. You can't hit to the same flag twice in a row. When all 10 balls are hit, go up and putt them all out. You will then have a score of all the shots taken. For my high handicappers, we start with a score of 30 being the goal. That means one chip and two putts for all 10 balls. If they beat 30, the next goal is whatever they scored. Say they did the drill in 28 shots; then the next time they have to better 28 and set a new personal best.

You cannot leave until you beat your previous score. This helps to add an element of stress to the practice, which is often hard to produce but shows up all the time on the course. If you have two balls left to putt to break your score and you need to make two to four footers to do so, you will feel a little stress. When you are playing a match with your friends and have a putt to win the hole, you can recall the practice and have more confidence on the course. With my lower handicappers the target score will be 25; make 5 up and downs and 5 in 3 shots.

The more you practice this form, the better you will get. It doesn't just apply to chipping – you can do games with the driver and irons as well. I encourage you to make up your own games and ways to practice where you can quantify what you are doing. Keep a journal of your different drills and scores. When you play golf and struggle in one area of your game, make a game to work on that. If you come to the range with a thought-out practice schedule, your game will improve faster!

*Mike Carbray is PGA Director of Instruction at Butterfield Country Club and the 2018 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year.
Instagram: @mikecarbraygolf
Photos: Andrew Maslar*



Block Practice



Random Practice



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Michigan's Boyne Resorts Serving Up Magnificent Golf

It was, to say the least, an unlikely scenario. On a hot, muggy July afternoon in 1994, I stood under a canopy in Petoskey, Mich., holding a glass of champagne while shaking hands with the state's governor. We were located on the grounds of an abandoned quarry that once was home to a massive cement plant. The occasion was an implosion ceremony to knock down one of the factory's smokestacks that still towered over a five-mile stretch of land on the shores of Little Traverse Bay. State dignitaries and local leaders all stood under the canopy with me. The highway across from us was lined with curious Petoskey residents. The plan was to convert this barren stretch of earth into an elegant golf community to be named Bay Harbor. When the dynamite charge went off and the smokestack didn't budge, I couldn't help but wonder if this wasn't an ominous sign of this project's future.

I was wrong.

Today, as I walk across the pristine grounds of Bay Harbor and its elegant hotel, cafes, shops, and magnificent 27-hole golf course, I can't even quite place where that smokestack once stood 28 years ago. It is truly one of the most amazing stories of all my decades covering the Midwest golf scene.

Bay Harbor is just one property of the portfolio spanning ten championship golf courses and three elegant Northern Michigan resorts known as Boyne Golf. The courses were designed by some of the world's premier architects, including Robert Trent Jones, Sr., Bill Newcomb and Arthur Hills. One course serves up 18 holes celebrating great golf holes built by Donald Ross, one of the game's legendary architects. Two others go up, down, and around massive ski hills. Another towers above Little Traverse Bay to serve up amazing views on almost every hole. And yet another drew its inspiration from the design styles of Dr. Alister Mackenzie, Pete Dye, Donald Ross, and other premier architects. Combine the quality of the designs with impeccable conditioning and luxury accommodations and the result is a perfect destination for your next golf getaway.

"As everyone knows, golf has experienced a boom in recent years," said Ken Griffin, director of sales and marketing for Boyne Resorts in a recent interview. "We've seen new interest in golf by couples, women, juniors, and groups. Golf has always been a social game of inclusiveness. We have responded to these new channels with an entire reimaging of our properties, including expanded spa ser-

vices, new luxury accommodations at The Highlands at Harbor Springs and Boyne Mountain Resort, and food offerings that span all preferences from grab-and-go to fine dining."

Along with amenities that include swimming pools, an indoor waterpark, ziplining, horseback riding, and Segway tours, the resorts continue to expand with a European Spa and a steakhouse in

development at the Highlands. Later this summer, Boyne Mountain is scheduled to unveil still another attraction. Sky Bridge Michigan will be a 1,203-foot long, 118-foot high pedestrian bridge offering an exhilarating walk with extensive light displays and panoramic valley views of that vast property. "We pride ourselves on locating unique ways to enhance the Boyne experience," Griffin said. "We want to provide

'wow experiences' to both new guests and return guests."

Golf remains a point of emphasis at all three Boyne Resorts. Located in Boyne Falls, about a 5½ hour drive from Chicago, Boyne Mountain is renowned across all of Michigan for its towering and popular ski hills. Parts of those hills serve double duty during spring, summer, and fall in the designs of both the Alpine and Monument

courses. Players get to understand the size and scale of both courses right out of the gate as the ride between the clubhouse and the first tee takes you up the mountain for a magnificent view of the fairways below. The Monument Course incorporates tribute holes to legendary architects while the Alpine Course, which serves as annual host to the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions, delivers breathtaking views on holes lined with soaring trees.

Designed by Arthur Hills, the 27 holes at Bay Harbor are actually three unique 9-hole courses, each with different landscapes. The Links takes players alongside cliffs hugging Lake Michigan. The Scottish links-inspired course is highlighted by the stunning par-5 No. 7 that serves up a huge tee shot landing area in between mounds and thick rough. Following a well-placed second shot which avoids the perilous right side of the fairway, the approach must keep to the right side of the putting surface which hovers above the lake. You will need a few minutes following the hole to take photos of your foursome standing behind this green seemingly on the edge of the world.

The Quarry nine is a reminder of the property's humble roots as grounds of the cement factory which was decommissioned in the 1980s. One hole calls for a tee shot over a 40-foot gorge, while others weave around the quarry and around natural ponds and wetlands. The par-3 No. 8 features Lake Michigan as both a backdrop and a hazard behind the green. No. 9 is a memorable finishing hole lined by the lake on the left, and drops down to a huge green protected on the right side by a massive bunker.

The Preserve is nestled in a hardwood forest and abounds with wildflowers, native wetlands and an abundance of wildlife. Following eight holes through the woods, the course ends on a 186-yard par 3 featuring a sloping green postured above the crystal blue waters of Lake Michigan.

Located just across the highway from Bay Harbor, Crooked Tree Golf Club serves up 18 perfectly manicured championship holes perched high on bluffs overlooking Little Traverse Bay.



The Quarry



Boyne Mountain Alpine Monument Overview



The Highlands Ross No. 8



The Highlands Heather No. 5



Bay Harbor Links No. 3

No trip to Bay Harbor is complete without drinks and dinner at the opulent Inn at Bay Harbor, a Marriott Collection Hotel. A gourmet dinner on the veranda

overlooking the lake will make for one of the most memorable meals of your year. The Highlands at Harbor Springs rests just a short drive from Bay Harbor and

hosts three of the finest golf courses in all of Michigan. The Heather was designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and is considered by many state PGA professionals to be

the state's best layout. Weaving through mature forests and around wetlands, the course was built in 1966 and basically put Northern Michigan on the map as a golf destination. Over the years, the Heather has hosted multiple Michigan Amateur championships, AJGA championships, and in 2019 was honored as the National Golf Course Owners Course of the Year.

Designer of both Crooked Tree and Bay Harbor, Arthur Hills also lent his skills to the signature Arthur Hills course at the resort. The layout is massive in every sense of the word, with huge fairways, large greens, significant bunkers, and, most importantly, tremendous views of the Harbor Springs landscape. The signature hole on the course—and some would say “of all of Michigan”—is No. 13. The par 5 begins seemingly on top of the world and drops toward a huge mound which can stop a drive in its tracks. Get beyond the mound and open the possibility to go for the green in two and putt for eagle. Large bunkers surround this green, which also has a backdrop of towering trees.

The Donald Ross course allows players the opportunity to experience some of the greatest holes in the prolific designer's career. Over the past two years, Michigan's Ray Hearn has meticulously worked on renovations to various holes across the course to emulate the style

and feel of Ross's works, including holes built to resemble Seminole, Oakland Hills and Pinehurst No. 2.

“We wanted to pay proper tribute to the works of Donald Ross,” said VP of Golf Operations Bernie Friedrich. “We were able to acquire detailed drawings and photos of many of his greens and have put together a plan that will eventually make the experience as authentic as possible.”

Along with work on the Ross course, Hearn is making subtle changes to the Moor course at the resort. “The course was in need of some tree removal and adjustments of fairway widths and green sizes,” said Hearn. The Moor remains a resort favorite among guests who visit regularly.

Those looking to sharpen their games before or after rounds must visit the resort's Ross Golf Center Practice Area that incorporates a full-sized 30-bay driving range, outfitted with Trackman technology which allows users to simulate play on courses via an app. There are also two practice putting greens, personalized lessons, and other amenities.

One of the resort's most popular traditions is dinner theater featuring the Young Americans, an ensemble of talented

musicians who serve up Broadway-style performances paired with a fine meal. The theater runs between June and August (Tuesday through Saturday) and incorporates singing and dancing to live music.

While all three Boyne Resorts offer ample amenities within each property, couples and groups are encouraged to explore nearby vineyards and wineries. Day trips to Petoskey and Harbor Springs reveal charming shops and elegant dockside dining. Petoskey Brewing, a short drive from both Bay Harbor and the Highlands of Harbor Springs, offers a taproom, paninis, and craft brews in a building dating back to 1898.

“While golf is an essential part of Boyne Resorts, it is only one aspect of all of the experiences we offer guests,” said Griffin. “Families and couples can have just as much fun at our properties as groups coming specifically to play golf. Our short and long-range plans call for even more things to experience and enjoy.”

Reservations and more information—including Stay & Play packages and Unlimited Golf Packages—are available by visiting: www.boyneresorts.com and www.boynegolf.com.



Bay Harbor Links No. 7



Bay Harbor Links No. 1

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Highland Park C.C. Converted into 100-Acre Park

The two public golf courses in Highland Park were the topic of much debate throughout the 2017 golf season, with one—Sunset Valley or Highland Park Country Club—to be closed, and the other to undergo a sizable renovation. HPCC would eventually meet its demise, but the former site is now open to the public as The Preserve, a large swath of natural, recreational space that underwent a \$1.7 million conversion in recent years.

The project planning began in 2018 when the Park District of Highland Park formally acquired the land from the city of Highland Park. The 100 acres of land is roughly the size of 75 football fields. Previously established conservation easements prohibited certain building developments at the site, but that was no problem in the plan, which was geared toward incorporating the golf course's topography which included bunkers, wide spans of grass, wetlands, and ponds, not to mention all sorts of wildlife.

The Park District of Highland Park officially unveiled the area to the public on June 4, with a grand opening celebration that opened the trails, nature maze, and pollinator gardens, and featured scavenger hunts and lawn games.

More than 50 acres of newly-seeded native plants line the site. The project was partially funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Park District worked with city officials and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.



Tickets Now Available for 2023 U.S. Senior Open

Tickets are now on sale for the 2023 U.S. Senior Open Championship hosted for the first time at SentryWorld, in Stevens Point, Wisc., June 29–July 2, 2023. Several ticket options are available. Daily (Tuesday–Sunday) and Weekly Gallery tickets include general admission to the grounds, access to walk the course, grandstand availability, access to food and beverage concessions, free parking, and shuttle service. Weekly Gallery tickets are on sale now. Daily Gallery tickets will be available starting Aug. 8, 2022.

There is also PJ's Champions Club, a premium offering for this year's championship. This exclusive ticket option includes upgraded food and beverage options at PJ's Clubhouse (all inclusive), free parking, shuttle service, and general admission to the course.

All tickets are available for purchase at sentryworld.com/usso2023/tickets.



Mike Small Wins First Career XXIO Illinois Senior Open Championship

University of Illinois Head Coach Mike Small won the 2022 XXIO Illinois Senior Open Championship held June 28 at the Preserve at Oak Meadows. Small came back from a two-stroke deficit after round one to hold off Wheaton's Danny Mulhearn and amateur Mike Henry from Bloomington en route to his first career Illinois Senior Open Championship. Small carded rounds of 69, 69 for a tournament total of 6-under-par 138.



Historic Midlothian CC Showcases Stunning Course Renovation

Rumored to be closing a decade ago, historic Midlothian Country Club has come roaring back to life, thanks in part to a dramatic course renovation led by famed architect Raymond Hearn. The course hosted the 1914 U.S.

Open Championship, won by 21-year-old Walter Hagen, who held off amateur Chick Evans by a single stroke to win the first of his two U.S. Open titles. It was the first of Hagen's 11 major championships.



While paying due respect to the original course design by Herbert J. Tweedie, with influences from famed Scottish architect Donald Ross prior to the 1914 U.S. Open, Hearn's redesign marks a return to the layout's championship caliber. Midlothian first opened in 1898.

All 82 bunkers were renovated by Hearn and now feature eye-catching Pro/Angle Sand for increased playability and easier maintenance. Meeting demands of the modern game, the tee boxes were lengthened for added yardage as well as new sightlines and shot-making options placing a premium on strategy.

The renovation melds the historic past of Midlothian's timeless layout, even recreating intriguing pin positions from the 1920s, with contemporary course design principles that will continue to put the 18 holes in the highest echelons of Chicago area golf clubs for decades to come.

Lac La Belle Unveils Papa's Porch

We've been seeing and hearing a lot about The Club at Lac La Belle in (refer to last month's GOLFChicago cover story for more details). On Father's Day, the Oconomowoc, Wisconsin-based resort announced the opening of Papa's Porch, a very special outdoor lounging area.



Papa's Porch is named in honor of Lac La Belle founder Matt Morse who passed away earlier this year. His six grandchildren called him Papa, and it was their

idea to name it Papa's Porch. "Without him," says a resort spokesperson, "none of this would be possible. He was a father, a papa, and a friend to many. Papa's Porch is one of the many ways we'll remember his legacy. Papa's Porch will serve as a spot of fellowship; where you can get excited about your upcoming round, or recap the day with your friends.

KemperSports to Bring High School Golf to Two Chicago Public High Schools

With support from Callaway Golf and the Illinois International Port District, KemperSports will sponsor a boys and girls high school golf team at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy High School and Hyde Park High School, both part of the Chicago Public Schools [CPS] system.

Equipment for the golf programs is being donated to the schools by KemperSports and Callaway, and each team will have free access to practice at Harborside International Golf Center.

KemperSports staffers, including PGA professionals across the Chicagoland area, will be available to the coaches of these teams to provide guidance and support as needed throughout the season. Additionally, KemperSports will host a coaching seminar for all CPS golf coaches city-wide this summer in preparation for the season.

Kemper has a long history of supporting youth golf and creating programming to teach important life lessons through the sport while investing in the communities in which it operates. The company has operated golf courses in and around the Chicago area for more than four decades and founded the First Tee – Greater Chicago chapter in 2000.

This will be the first-ever golf program at Hyde Park High School and will mark the resumption of a golf program at Brooks for the first time in 20 years.

LPGA's Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational

The Dow Great Lakes Bay invitational (GLBI) was introduced to the LPGA tour schedule in 2019 and features 144 of the world's best golfers playing at Midland country club in Midland, Mich., July 10-16. The Dow GLVI is played with 72 two-woman teams competing in a 72-hole stroke play format with alternating rounds of foursomes (alternate shot) and four-ball (best ball).

While the LPGA tournament is at the heart of the Dow GLBI, the event incorporates much more than just golf. The whole family can take advantage of the week-long series of community events including the Eat Great Food Festival, a number of youth activities, and opportunities to give back and celebrate the great lakes bay region.

Daily tickets start at just \$10 while special Eat Great Trail tickets are \$45 each day and give spectators a chance to sample a variety of menu items at hospitality decks located throughout the course. Kids 12 and younger will be admitted to the Eat Great Trail for free.

Visit www.dowglbi.com for tickets and more information.

Dave Silbar

Costa Rica Proves to be Unforgettable and Unassuming

Pura Vida. If you know what this means, then you've been to the magical place called Costa Rica. Pura Vida is more than just a phrase, it's the culture and way of life for all Costa Ricans (aka 'Ticos'). Natives use this term to say hello, goodbye, and to let people know everything's good. Costa Ricans don't just let the term bring them a good life, it's the way they use it in their everyday attitude to make them happy.

"Pura Vida"—explains our local guide—means that people need to be grateful for the things they do have in life, instead of dwelling on the negative things that they don't.

And when it comes to golfing in Costa Rica—Pura Vida!

Costa Rica is certainly not revered as a golfer's paradise, but just two holes into my first round there back in late May and I felt as if I had uncovered one of the world's best kept secret golf destinations.

Costa Rica is a rugged, beautiful, and predominately tourist-safe rain forested Central American country with coastlines on both the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans. Sandwiched between Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south, Costa Rica is known for its beaches, volcanoes, coffee, and biodiversity. Roughly a quarter of its area (and seemingly 100% of its golf courses) is made up of protected jungle, teeming with wildlife, including various species of monkeys, birds and much more.

The weather is purely tropical. Highs average 80 to 85 degrees most days with near 90% humidity. Because Costa Rica is located just 700 miles north of the equator, sunrise occurs daily around 5 a.m. with sunset at 6 p.m.

I played two courses during my week stay, but there are a handful of others that offer equally as incredible experiences. Getting around Costa Rica can be a bit tricky, and includes either renting a car at the airport or working with an outside transportation company (we did the latter).

Our group made quick friends with Pablo Vargas (pablo@costaricaexcellent.com), owner of Costa Rica Excellent, a provider of transportation and excursion services. Pablo's team of experts were not only friendly but incredibly attentive

to our needs, and extremely professional when it came to ensuring that we had the most incredible experience in this faraway country. Rather than aggressively selling their services, instead they ensured that we were comfortable with all our excursion decisions and knew the pricing up front.

Our base was at the Wyndham resort in Tamarindo, a lovely beachside town located along the Pacific Ocean about 90 minutes south of the Liberia Airport. Daily and weekly golf cart rentals are available and totally worth it. Tamarindo is teaming with restaurants, shops, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. and the people are friendly. While the Wyndham is not located on the ocean, every room has a spectacular ocean view overlooking the city. The resort also had exclusive access to a private beach club, which provided a per-

fect spot for a 'nothing to do and all day to do it' type of experience.

Hacienda Pinilla Golf Club

Situated on an extraordinary part of Costa Rica 30 minutes south of Tamarindo lies Hacienda Pinilla Golf Club, offering picturesque scenery, immaculate conditions, and frequent glimpses of exotic wildlife.

Opened for play in February 2001, Hacienda Pinilla was designed by Mike Young to conform to all natural surroundings, capturing the feel of a Guanacaste ranch on the ocean. Guanacaste is a province of Costa Rica located in the northwestern region of the country. With wide open fairways off the tee, the greens and their surroundings provide quite a challenge. Accurate iron play is the key to getting

around this golf course, but the length will put you to the test.

Making the course unique are the different conditions it faces throughout the season. "Guanacaste is known as a dry rainforest which results in having six months of a dry climate and six months of a rainy climate," explains Hacienda Pinilla Head Professional and Iowa-native Jason Bauer. "January through March features a course that is fast, dry, and can get windy, much like a British Open golf course. June through mid-August and November through mid-January are when you find typical rain forest-type conditions with an abundance of wildlife."

The area around Hacienda Pinilla is known for the beaches, surf, inshore and offshore fishing, and its wildlife. What

makes it special are the beaches and friendly, native people. Bauer notes that in Guanacaste, the beaches are as beautiful as anywhere in the country, while the tranquility and adventures make experiences here unforgettable.

Among the standouts, holes include the par-4 10th where you can go at the green or layup rightward toward the top of a fairway. This will leave you with a wedge or short iron into a large multi-tiered green. If you are on the right level, it is an excellent opportunity for a birdie. Avoid the pot bunker that sits in the middle of the C-shaped green. Getting up and down can be tricky if you miss this green.

The par-5 14th hole is the first time we got a glimpse of the Pacific Ocean. Aiming at the No. 2 fairway bunkers up

the right side should put you in good position for your second shot. With the trade winds blowing, even the average player can have a chance at reaching this one in two. This green runs from front to back towards the Pacific Ocean, and has a small bowl in the back of the green to collect your approach shot.

And then there is the par-3 15th, featuring a breathtaking view of the Pacific as the hole's entire backdrop. Framed with towering trees on both sides, golfers stare directly at tranquil blue waves as they hit their tee shots to a green that's narrow in front but widens further back and to the right.

Green fees are \$125 for resort guests and \$150 for outside guests. The twilight rate is \$90 and Super Twilight \$75. www.haciendapinilla.com/.



Hole 17, Westin Reserva Conchal



Holes 6 & 7, Westin Reserva Conchal

Westin Reserva Conchal

About 45 minutes in the opposite direction lies the beautiful and expansive Westin Resort and Reserva Conchal Golf Club, a world-class experience designed by the legendary Robert Trent Jones II. On one side are breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean. On the other, the lush forests of Costa Rica's northern coastline stretch towards the azure sky.

Each challenging nine meanders through the rolling coastal terrain, offering stunning ocean views. This 71-par championship course provides players of all skill levels with an extraordinary eco-golf experience. Perfectly placed lakes and ravines accentuate the layout, placing a

premium on well thought-out tee shots and accurate approach shots into large, manicured Bermuda-grass greens.

It is hard to put into words the experience when playing Reserva Conchal, but only because that, in addition to the awe-inspiring natural beauty and array of unique wildlife, it's an amazing auditory experience as well.

Ducks, the likes of which I've never seen before in the U.S., colorful crabs scurrying across the putting surfaces, large multi-colored iguanas perched on just about every tee box and green, is outdone only by the constant chirping of a myriad of bird species and the howling of monkeys perched amidst the tree-lined fairways.

Upscale, Five-Star Jungle Golf would be a great way to describe the experience at Reserva Conchal, with not a hint of disrespect. Coming to Costa Rica means opening your mind to a completely different part of the world, but one that is incredibly safe, friendly, eco-conscious, and very laid-back.

And just as zip lining, coffee tours, riding ATVs through the rainforest, and sunset catamaran cruises on the Pacific Ocean are excursions not to miss, the course at Reserva Conchal offers a quintessential Costa Rican experience that only golf can provide.

While every hole is a standout on its own, some of the highlights include the opener,

continued on page 29



Hole 15, Hacienda Pinilla



Ocean Course at Peninsula Papagayo



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Rebirth: Sportsman's C.C. Rebrands as Heritage Oaks Golf Club

By Joe Aguilar



When Justin Sexauer says his “good hits” result in his yellow Titleist Tour range ball carrying 270 to 280 yards, he’s not guessing. Nor is the athletic 18-year-old guilty of wishful thinking. Under a blue sky with hulking hundred-year-old oak trees serving as a backdrop, Sexauer, a former baseball and basketball player at Deerfield High School, practices launching golf balls. He’s your typical golfer at a driving range, except his phone, equipped with TrackMan golf radar technology, is resting just inches away from the rubber tee on his hitting mat. After every shot, Sexauer looks down and checks his phone for his swing results, for better or worse.

Welcome to the newly named, newly renovated Heritage Oaks Golf Club, which Director of Operations Greg Baron says boasts the only driving range in Illinois with TrackMan Range. “It tells you more than you ever wanted to know about your shot,” says Joan

Scovic, Northbrook Park District’s director of marketing and communications.

So true.

TrackMan, a free app that anyone can download to their smartphone or Android device, tracks eight data points: carry, ball speed, launch angle, side spin, total distance, launch angle, and distance from the pin. When customers walk up to the range and select which size bucket of balls they want, they just scan the posted QR barcode with their phone. TrackMan then links to a hitting bay and off you go to hit balls. “It is super slick,” Baron says.

TrackMan has been around for nearly 20 years and continues to grow in popularity, even allowing golfers to play interactive games. “I think TrackMan is really good,” Sexauer says. “It gives you instant feedback. I don’t own a rangefinder or anything like that, so

I had trouble getting my exact yardages.”

Opened in 1929 as Sky Harbor Golf Club, the Northbrook Park District course officially debuted two years later as Sportsman’s Country Club. Ninety years later, the tree-lined 27-hole layout with large greens and ample undulation unveiled its new name—Heritage Oaks Golf Club—in December of 2021. A single acorn serves as its new logo, “representing the sustainability of 100-year-old oak trees, signifying not only new traditions, but embracing a sense of knowledge rooted in this long-standing place being passed onto future generations,” Scovic said in a statement when the rebranding was announced.

The course boasts a rich history that includes the legendary Chick Evans playing in its first tournament in 1931. Edward B. Dearie, Jr., an understudy of renowned architect Donald Ross, is credited with the

original design.

In September of 2019, the course shut down for 18 months while it underwent its renovation. Sportsman’s Country Club’s run was over.

What essentially drove the name change, says Baron, who’s in his 21st year at the Park District course and has spent the last 12 as its golf operations director after eight years as its head professional, was the “country club” part in Sportsman’s.

The course has never been private.

Baron called the changing of the course’s name a “team effort,” one that included bringing in Chicago-based a5 Digital & Branding. The team, which included focus groups with members of the community, exhausted 80 to 100 different name combinations, Baron says.

After considering renaming the course after



a person, a piece of land, or even an animal, the team chose Heritage Oaks Golf Club, in part because three heritage oaks are among the roughly 2,000 trees on the course. A living oak tree earns “heritage” status usually if it’s more than 100 years old and has a circumference greater than 30 inches.

When driving in, directly to the right of the newly-built golf shop and a wedge shot from the driving range, there is a can’t-miss-it heritage oak. While there is a significant number of heritage oaks, it’s not the most golfers will find on a course in the Chicago area. “We would be outnumbered by the Medinahs and Randall Oaks of the world,” says Baron, smiling. “We took the opportunity when we were closed to make sure that we were re-presenting the course in the best possible way,” Scovic adds. “We felt the rebrand would be a way to refresh and be a part of that opening.”

The Park District shut the course down starting in 2020, committing to a renovation project that ended up costing \$13.3 million. The best part was that Northbrook residents didn’t spend a dime on any of the improvements. Baron says the project was financed mainly through the Park District’s reserve funds. There was no referendum, and no increase in taxes to residents. “Conscientiously, the park district wanted to do something based on surveys from the community,” Baron says.

Under the eye of renowned golf architect Rick

Jacobson of Libertyville, who also oversaw a 2005 course renovation project, improvements began with one of the main goals being the reconstruction of the greens on the Classic 18. Baron says the existing greens were burrowed out completely and a USGA-modified-style green was put in. It included a 10-inch base of premium sand plus drainage. Previously, there was a two-inch sand base.

“One of the biggest challenges with the previous golf course was the deteriorating conditions of the greens, mainly because they were pushup, clay-based greens,” Baron says. When it rained, or when extreme heat hit, Baron says the greens would “puke out.”

Both courses received reseeding of the fairways, tees, and greens. Now, Baron says, a new hybrid (007 bent grass) that uses fewer chemicals makes the greens more resilient to disease and allows them to stay green longer into the fall, providing better speed and smoothness on putts.

On the Classic 18, six fairways were elevated to improve drainage. In total, the reseeding and grow-in on both courses took 13 months. The renovation also included putting in additional drainage piping and enlarging three ponds to significantly accommodate more rain run-off.

Course improvements aside, Baron and his staff knew more would need to be done to satisfy the local

golfing community, which, based on survey feedback, listed the renovation and construction of the course as a priority. A beautiful brand-new clubhouse looks out at a practice green and short-game area that sit adjacent to the Classic 18’s first tee box and 18th green, providing a breathtaking view that makes Baron smile proudly.

He called Sportsman’s 3,000-square-foot putting green “antiquated,” considering the course was providing 27 holes of golf plus an academy with more than 700 students, not counting private lessons.

Now, the practice green covers a sprawling 10,000 square feet. While customers enjoy the clubhouse’s new Acorn Grill + Terrace, including a full-service bar, they can simultaneously enjoy the view of the course and its majestic trees and beauty.

And what would a state-of-the-art golf facility be without a couple of golf simulators? Heritage Oaks doubled down on technology, as a large room off the bar features a pair of hitting bays with Full Swing Pro Series simulators on either side that customers can book, much like a tee time, to play golf indoors. Double-drywalled walls help keep noise confined. The facility affords opportunities for special events, private parties, and family activities.

The driving range remains in its original footprint, right at the course’s entrance off Dundee Road.

Trackman technology isn’t the only benefit that helped Heritage Oaks earn the distinction of being ranked the No. 1 golf range among Chicago-area public golf courses by *Chicago Golf Report*. The range stretches six acres, featuring 30 hitting stations, six target greens and high-end Real Feel golf mats, in addition to the Titleist Tour range balls.

Heritage Oaks cleverly coordinated its tee-box colors on the course with the flag colors at its range. For many golfers, that helps take the guesswork out when determining which tees to play from. “Our goal was to be the destination range in the area,” Baron says. “So we built beautiful targets, cleaned up the sight lines for watching your drive land, and then we doubled-down on the quality of our hitting mats and balls.”

Whether hitting a small bucket to warm up before a round, spending an hour-plus using Trackman, or playing games with friends while using the technology, it’s easy to see why golfers would make time to hit Heritage Oaks.

In the end, Heritage Oaks blends classic design with golf’s newest technology. “I’m definitely going to come out here more,” says Sexauer, the 2022 high school graduate who’s off to Ohio State University in the fall. “The [range] balls are the same price [as other local ranges]. And this being a new facility, it’s really nice.”

The GOLFCChicago Interview

After turning pro in 2004, Australian golfer Katherine Kirk went on to secure 11 wins across the LPGA and WPGA Tour Australasia. But throughout her time on tour, Katherine quickly became known for something entirely outside of her success in the sport: her friendliness. In 2017, Kirk was awarded the Founders Award, which is given to the LPGA Player “whose behavior and deeds best exemplify the spirit, ideals, and values of the LPGA” – a perfect illustration of her leadership, compassion, and approachability.

Even better, Kirk’s kindness extends far beyond the golf course. As a long-time supporter of her local First Tee organization in Wichita, Kansas, and Golf Fore Africa, Katherine uses her time, talents, and resources to positively impact the world around her, whether that’s empowering the next generation with both leadership and golf skills or supporting an end to the water crisis in Africa.

It was this natural and authentic devotion for building community that attracted Dow, an organization striving to become the most innovative, customer-centric, inclusive and sustainable Materials Science company in the world, to sponsor her and name her their Community and STEM Ambassador in 2020.

Since then, Katherine has been an integral player on Team Dow, participating in countless customer and partner events, including initiatives around educating school age kids on the exciting and powerful field of STEM, and playing an integral role in activities during Dow’s own LPGA Tournament, the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational being held July 10-16 at Midland Country Club in Midland, Michigan.

LPGA Veteran Katherine Kirk

by Dave Silbar



GOLFCChicago: How old were you when you started playing and what are some of your memories from back then?

Katherine Kirk: My Dad introduced me to golf when I was 12 years old, and I was fortunate to then join his club as a junior. I remember loving Friday afternoon junior clinics and competing on Saturday mornings with other juniors. Then when I got a handicap and started playing other local tournaments, I remember getting excited to play new

courses, compete, and meet new golfers.

GC: With players from all over the world, is there ever a language barrier on tour and how does that work during the course of a round when communicating with your playing partners?

KK: There’s not much of a barrier, but if one of the foreign players who speaks English as a second language is not as fluent or comfortable with English, I’ll just talk a little slower and try not

to use colloquialisms. Aussies use a lot of slang, so I have to be careful not to use those types of words with Americans and Brits either because they won’t understand me.

GC: What is your practice regimen?

KK: Practice in off weeks depends on what I’m working on in my golf swing and based on what my stats are showing. Trying to figure out a balance between technical time and playing time changes each week too. Every off

week is different because there are also different golf courses, grasses, and certain shots we need to prepare for. Practice during a tournament week also changes based on whether you’re trying to make adjustments in your golf swing or whether you’re simply trying to hone in your short game.

GC: Who were your golf idols growing up and why?

KK: There wasn’t a lot of golf coverage in Australia when I first started golf in 1994, but I do remember watching The



Australian Masters at Huntingdale and The Masters at Augusta National and liking Ernie Els and Steve Elkington for their golf swings and demeanor. Then, when Tiger Woods won The Masters in 1997, I became a huge fan of his game, and like most kids in that era wanted to swing like him and emulate his short game.

GC: You are referred to as one of the friendliest players on tour. Why is that, and does that go hand-in-hand with your outlook in life in general?

KK: My parents both taught and modeled “The Golden Rule,” and I think that was one of the most valuable lessons I ever learned. Attending a Lutheran school as a child also helped me learn about Jesus and how we are commanded to love God and love people. Although I fail at both often, it’s a great philosophy to live by and the older I get the more I realize how important it is to follow.

GC: Why are you so passionate about STEM programming, and off the golf course, what

is most important to you from a philanthropic standpoint?

KK: The need for people with STEM skills is only going to continue to increase, and if we want to advance healthier communities and countries then we need to keep expanding our efforts in these areas. Dow has created some fantastic initiatives to elevate STEM education for young children, and through partnerships with non-profits, governments, teachers, and schools are making an impact to enhance STEM awareness and opportunities.

GC: What do you remember about your first LPGA win at the CN Canadian Women’s Open in 2008?

KK: I don’t remember much about the first three days but I know I was six shots behind going into the final round—with Lorena Ochoa, Yani Tseng, and Sei Ri Pak all ahead of me. Considering the leaderboard, I never expected to even have a chance of winning, so I just played golf without thinking about the result. Plus, my caddie had given me a challenge to

memorize a Bible verse during the round so he’d probably tell you I was more focused on that than the golf. I ended up shooting 69 and won by a shot. I think I celebrated by eating burgers with my caddy and trainer.

GC: You’re coming up on two decades as a professional golfer.

How has the LPGA tour changed in those nearly two decades and what can we expect from the LPGA tour in the next decade?

KK: The Tour has become a way more global tour with more tournaments overseas and close to 30 different countries represented. Plus, we’re televised in over 170 countries, so it’s great to know that golf is reaching more people and we’re hopefully inspiring more women and girls to take part. I think our global reach will continue, and both our Girls Golf initiative with the USGA and the LPGA Teaching and Club Pro Division will continue to drive numbers and therefore interest in golf domestically. It’s exciting to think where we will be in 10 years and beyond.

Costa Rica

continued from page 20

a short downhill par 4 with incredible hill-side views providing an immaculate start of the round and of the things to come. That leads to the second hole, another par 4 that is deceptively shorter than it looks from the fairway, where you are forced to hit through a narrow grove of trees to an elevated green protected by bunkers left and steep hills behind.

Another memorable hole is the par-5 4th that winds its way downhill and then back uphill with a serene ocean backdrop and bright, orange-colored crabs scurrying across the putting surface. From there you’re greeted by another beauty, a par 3 playing between 160 to 220 yards over a small lake that’s teeming with large iguanas both on the tee box as well as sunning themselves on the water’s banks.

The front nine’s beauty is outshined only by the backside. It starts with a breathtaking downhill par 4 with plenty of room in the fairway, giving you a much-needed boost of confidence when standing on the tee.

And while Reserva Conchal is full of spectacular holes, the best may be the powerfully emotional 12th hole, a steep downhill dog-leg right cut literally through the rainforest. Howling monkeys provide the background noise while standing on the tee. The drive down to the fairway winds its way through dense forest, with scenery seemingly out of a *Raiders of the Lost Ark* chase scene through the jungle.

The U.S. dollar goes a long way in Costa Rica, which makes paying for meals easy on your wallet. There are a plentiful number of great dining choices throughout the town of Tamarindo as well as around other resort areas throughout the country.

In Tamarindo, one of our favorite eateries was Waffle Monkey. Situated right on the beach, this outdoor breakfast eatery/coffee shop has tables on the sand and a wide selection of waffles and coffee drinks. Breakfast is always an important meal when on vacation as it jump starts your day. Waffle Monkey is hands down one of the most unique and best breakfast experiences you’ll ever find.

Other Great Courses

- Los Suenos
- The Palmer Signature Ocean Course at Four Seasons Resort

- Pete Fazio-designed Cariari GC
- Valle del Sol
- Vista Ridge

Best of Tamarindo

- Best Beach Side Bar: El Chiringuito on the beach
- Best Breakfast: Waffle Monkey
- Best Food Market: El Mercadito de Tamarindo Gourmet Food Market
- Best Coffee House: Santa Rita Coffee Shop
- Best Sandwiches: Breaking Bread
- Best Pick-up Breakfast: Nalu Bagel and Café

- Best Beach-side Restaurant: Pico Bistro
- Best Sushi: Bamboo Sushi Club
- Best Smoothie / Juice Bar: Costa Juice
- Grab and Go Lunch: La Bodega
- Our Favorite Tacos: El Carbon (in El Mercadito Market)

Getting There

From O’Hare to Liberia, there is only one non-stop flight per week (usually on Saturday). Costa Rica’s other international airport is located in the country’s capital, San Jose. A myriad of other flights with one stop are available; most connect through Miami.

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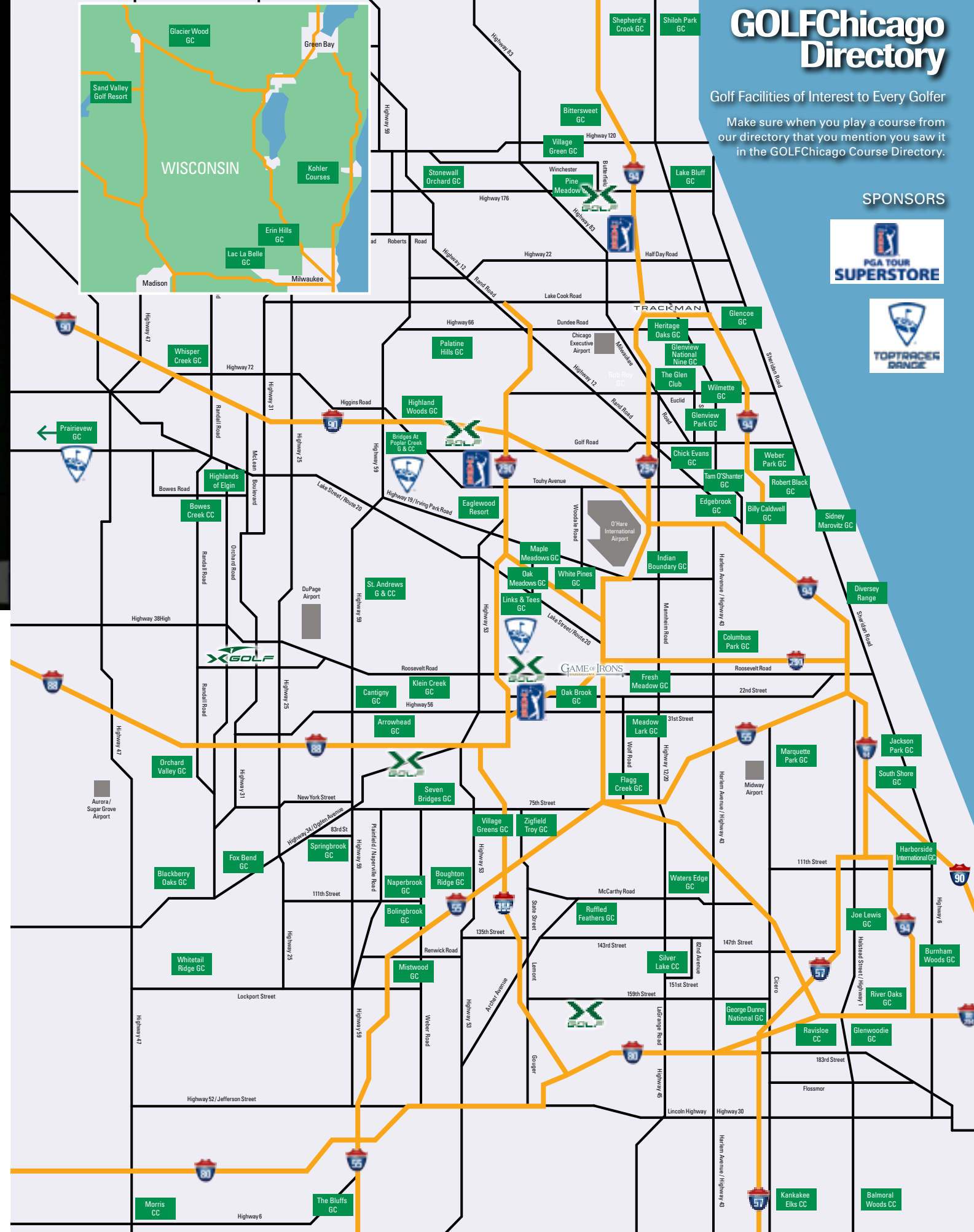
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630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
arrowheadgolfclub.org

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.

Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par-72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Balmoral Woods Golf Club

708-672-7448
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.
Crete, IL 60417
balmoralwoods.com

Balmoral Woods offers a demanding, superbly conditioned, magnificent round of golf.

Laid out over 280 acres of wooded, rolling hills, the course will test the skill of golfers with its 6700-yard, 72.6 rated, 133-slope layout. It is a public 18-hole golf course, has hosted many local and state events and tournaments, and is the annual home of the Will County Amateur Championship. Check out our website for new rates, reservations, and more information. Follow us on instagram for the latest updates and events.



Bittersweet Golf Club

847-855-9031
875 Almond Rd.
Gurnee, IL 60031
bittersweetgolf.com

Easily accessible from I-294, Bittersweet tests the shot-making savvy of avid golfers and provides a fair but fun challenge for casual players. The stunning landscape features mature oaks, vibrant wetlands, wildflower meadows, and abundant wildlife. Private-club conditions, including some of the smoothest greens around, make this public course a north suburban must-play. Amenities include a grass-tee driving range, a short-game practice facility, and a fabulous 19th hole. Golf instruction is available onsite. Book tee times online or call us to speak with our friendly, knowledgeable staff.



The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com

18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035 - 7,171
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.

Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.



Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
dupagegolf.com

Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting. Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!

Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card holders save on every round.

Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
dupagegolf.com

Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.

Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.

Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
dupagegolf.com

After extensive renovations, The Preserve is a new 288-acre world-class 18-hole course, practice facility, and environmental haven—designed by Greg Martin.

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award
- *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year
- *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play
- ASGCA Design Excellence Award

The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010
forestpreservegolf.com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

- Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
- Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
- Chick Evans: 18 Holes
- Edgebrook: 18 Holes
- George Dunne National: 18 Holes
- Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60124
bowescreekcc.com

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member for a day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek provides the public golfer a private-club experience, without an annual membership.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, and five-time host of the Illinois State Amateur, Cantigny features 27 challenging holes on beautiful, rolling terrain covering 300 acres. Cantigny Golf Academy offers junior clinics, private lessons, club fitting, grass practice tees, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for ages 8 to 15.

2021 awards:

- Best in State: *Golf Digest*
- GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation
- NGOAA Player Development Award



Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909
cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

- Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
- Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
- Jackson Park: 18 Holes
- Columbus Park: 9 Holes
- Marquette Park: 9 Holes
- South Shore: 9 Holes
- Diversey Range: The only double-deck range in Chicago



Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

866-264-4455
12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
coghillgolf.com

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, a Jemsek Golf Facility, is a historic 72-hole public golf facility located 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The year-round facility includes a driving range equipped with lights and heated Toptracer stalls, two golf shops, patio dining, and a pavilion for events, along with a 280-seat banquet hall.

- Rated in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest*
- 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course, boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,890-yard, par-72 course tests skills of all levels with 34 well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, the 2010 & 2011 USGA Qualifiers, and the 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Pearce's Pub & Grill before or after your round of golf to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with gorgeous views and American fare done right!



Game of Irons

630-303-9454
3041 Butterfield Rd.
Suite 104
Oak Brook, IL 60523
gameofirons.com

Game of Irons is Chicagoland's most exciting virtual golf experience! Be transported to over 200 world-famous courses in the comfort of a premium indoor facility with 16 hitting bays in over 18,000 sq. ft. - perfect for corporate events, parties, and club meetings. We offer a full bar with craft cocktails and amazing food. We invite you to come in and try our unparalleled 4D golf experience.



Glacier Wood Golf Club

715-445-3831
604 Water St.
Iola, WI 54945
glacierwoodiola.com

Glacier Wood Golf Club is an 18-hole public facility centrally located in the state, two hours north of Madison. Ranked as the #2 golf course in the state of Wisconsin through Golfpass.com, as well as #17 in the nation for value, Glacier Wood Golf Club is worth the drive. With four sets of tees, the golf course is fair for players of all skill levels, and offers a driving range equipped with four target greens and a 19,000 sq. ft. natural grass hitting area, as well as two practice greens used for putting and chipping. With tree-lined fairways, undulating green complexes, and a wide array of natural wildlife, Glacier Wood Golf Club is a must play.



Glencoe Golf Club

847-835-0250
621 Westley Rd.
Glencoe, IL 60022
glencoeclub.com

The Glencoe Golf Club features an 18-hole, par-72 course located 30 minutes from Chicago on the beautiful North Shore. The course is an Audubon Certified, tree-lined classic that offers a great escape from the city. The GGC boasts finely manicured greens, a new cart fleet with GPS, an all-grass tee practice range, and beverage cart service.

- Best greens on the North Shore
- Full-service restaurant with craft beers, specialty cocktails and outdoor seating
- Senior Discount Program, Monday - Thursday, NO residency restrictions, 60 and up.





Glenwoodie Golf Club

708-758-1212
19301 S State St.
Glenwood, IL 60425
glenwoodiegolf.com

Glenwoodie, just 25 minutes from Chicago, has been a favorite championship course for serious and recreational golfers in Chicago and Northwest Indiana for over 90 years. Consistently ranked in the top 35 public courses, the 18-hole, par-72, 6902-yard course features bent-grass fairways and large rolling greens surrounded by groves of majestic oaks.

- 14,000 sq. ft. Clubhouse and Community Center with fully-stocked Golf Shop
- Full Service Bar and Grille, and Outdoor Patio
- Electric Cart Fleet
- Lighted Practice Range
- PGA Professional Staff



Harborside International Golf Club

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628
harborsidegolf.com

Harborside International Golf Center, home to the Port & Starboard Courses, is Chicago's home for golf. Located minutes from Chicago's Loop, Harborside offers a premier golf experience in the Chicagoland area. Harborside is the only facility with two of *Golfweek's* "Best Courses You Can Play in Illinois" and is home to an expansive practice facility. Harborside is owned by the Illinois International Port District and managed by KemperSports.



Heritage Oaks Golf Club

847-291-2351
3535 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60623
heritageoaksgc.com

Conveniently located between the Edens Expressway and Interstate 294, 30 minutes north of Chicago. Featuring 27 holes of tree-lined golf, a practice range equipped with TrackMan® technology, our golf academy, and indoor golf simulators, Heritage Oaks offers something for everyone. With the elevated Acorn Grill + Terrace overlooking courses certified by the National Audubon Society, Heritage Oaks Golf Club welcomes you for golf, for a meal, or for a timeless experience.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123
highlandsofelgin.com

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms, and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



Palatine Hills Golf Club

847-359-4020
512 W. Northwest Hwy.
Palatine, IL 60067
palatinehills.org

Palatine Hills is a 6,800-yard, par-72 course with six sets of tees, providing an enjoyable yet challenging experience for all golfers. Our layout will require you to use all the clubs in your bag. We also host various CDGA events and state qualifiers.

"The Hills Short Game Practice Area" offers private use of a green complex to improve your short game shots up to 75 yards.

For tee times and information visit palatinehills.org



PGA TOUR Superstore

1017 Butterfield Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
1319 E. Golf Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173

295 Center Dr.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
pgatoursuperstore.com

PGA TOUR Superstore carries the largest selection of golf clubs, clothing, footwear, and accessories for your game. With the most advanced technology for club fitting, we also offer the Fitting Van Experience which is a TOUR caliber assessment. With three Chicagoland locations, come see why nothing compares to PGA TOUR Superstore.



Pine Meadow Golf Club

847-566-4653
1 Pine Meadow Ln.
Mundelein, IL 60060
pinemeadowgc.com

Pine Meadow Golf Club is known for our beautiful 220 acres of fairways, greens, pine trees, and meadow areas.

Golfers of all abilities and ages enjoy the serene setting and fun playable design of the "Pine."

The Pine, due to its challenging design, has been host to all types of competitive events ranging from PGA Jr. League, to Men's and Women's State Ams, to Illinois PGA Championships. This is truly a golf facility for everyone.



PrairieView Golf Club

815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
prairieviewgolf.com

Recognized by many suburban golfers as a hidden gem, PrairieView Golf Club boasts beautiful views of restored dolomite prairie land that is well worth a short drive west out to Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elksgolf627.com

The Kankakee Elks Country Club is an 18-hole par-72 course. It is one of Illinois' premier Langford @ Moreau design courses, featuring some of the best green complexes in Illinois, 40 miles south of Chicago along the beautiful Kankakee River with very affordable rates.

Chose from one of our four tees to accommodate all levels of play.

Driving range, chipping area, and putting green with newly remodeled bar and snack shop.



Klein Creek Golf Club

630-690-0101
1N333 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190
kleincreek.com

Klein Creek Golf Club is an 18-hole public golf course located one mile south of North Avenue and easily accessible from I-355. Designed by Dick Nugent, the layout features an open design in which water is present on 15 holes. Trees frame the layout's gentle doglegs, and tall prairie grasses border the fairways. Contoured mounding frames the fairways and greens, allowing a variety of approach options and great risk-reward opportunities.



The Club at Lac La Belle

262-567-7833
6996 Pennsylvania St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
clubatlaclabelle.com

The newly renovated Club at Lac La Belle is now open for public play! It is the original founders and its legendary Scottish golf professionals were alive today, our hope is that they would recognize our new course as fun "sporting" golf, which was a fundamental part of the game in 1896. We invite you to come see why Lac La Belle is the birthplace of the Wisconsin Golf Trail



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St. /
Hassert Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



Sand Valley

888-398-8671
1697 Leopold Way
Nekoosa, WI 54457
sandvalley.com

Sand Valley is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the great heathland courses of London. Enjoy dramatic views, a magnitude of strategic playing options, modern lodging, and a culinary experience to match.



Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd St.
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard Golf Club

847-740-4890
25675 W. Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
stonewallorchard.com

Cutting through hundred-year-old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses.

Since opening in 1999, the Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open, and currently sits in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every fall.

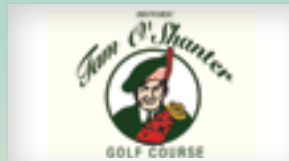


Sub 70 Golf

877-267-7093
202 Lucas St.
Sycamore, IL 60178
sub70.com

Sub 70 is a golf equipment and apparel company based in Sycamore, Illinois. We produce high quality golf equipment and apparel, and use a direct-to-consumer distribution model to offer everything at an affordable price. Fittings are offered at the Sycamore location and there is a full 60 day guarantee on all purchases. Sub 70 Golf is the #1 rated golf equipment company in customer satisfaction.





Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344
6700 W. Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter!

Year-round instruction available!



White Pines Golf Club

630-554-3939
500 W. Jefferson
Bensenville, Ill. 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. The public course owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District is an excellent choice for players of all skill levels.

Whether it's an evening at the lighted driving range, a casual round with friends, an outing, or special event, White Pines Golf Club offers the perfect setting to get "away from it all." Enjoy food and drink at 37 Bar & Grill. Take advantage of Monday-Thursday tee time specials and book online.



Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

630-882-8988
7671 Clubhouse Dr.
Yorkville, IL 60560
whitetailridgegc.com

Experience a "tail" of two Nines at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club. Our Front Nine flows through a beautiful valley featuring a creek that splits through its relatively flat landscape. Our Back Nine begins on #10 with a climb up the slopes and follows the rolling hills into some towering trees. Finish your day in The Per-simmon Room. This newly renovated space features an indoor/outdoor dining area with shareable dishes, scratch-made entrees, an extensive list of bourbons and whiskey, and the most spectacular sun-sets around!



Wilmette Golf Club

847-256-9777
3900 Fairway Dr.
Wilmette, IL 60091
golfwilmette.com

Wilmette Golf Club is the closest 18-hole facility north of Chicago. This par-70 course is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2022, and it will test all skill levels with the purest greens on the North Shore. A 30-station driving range and large putting green are available for working on your game. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the patio overlooking the 18th green at The Lawn. Contact us directly to book your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials by booking online at golfwilmette.com.



X-Golf Glenview

224-432-0022
2847 Pfingsten Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
xgolfglenview.com

X-Golf's state of the art indoor golf simulators offer players unparalleled accuracy and realism through a combination of camera systems, infrared lasers, impact sensors, and advanced gaming software. Our dedicated kiosks offer visitors the ultimate golfing entertainment experience with virtual reality gaming, food and beverages, competitions, leagues, golf lessons, memberships, and more.

X-Golf's relaxed, welcoming atmosphere makes it perfect for players of all ages and all skill levels. X-Golf is ideal for work events, birthday parties, corporate functions, bucks nights, and ladies nights.



X-Golf Libertyville

224-504-2940
1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
xgolf-libertyville.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



X-Golf Orland Park

708-966-0486
15876 S. LaGrange Rd.
Orland Park, IL 60462
xgolforlandpark.com

We offer eight state-of-the-art simulators which are designed for golfers at all stages of their game. Whether you want to sharpen your game to gain that competitive edge or are just starting out and want to learn new skills without battling the outdoors, this is the place for you. The simulators can give you data about your swing and ball striking to improve your game and along with that, we can help you take your game to the next level by having a PGA qualified professional on our team.



X-Golf Schaumburg

847-380-1848
1100 American Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
xgolf-schaumburg.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



"Pure Golf at its Finest"



(847) 740-4890

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(1 mile west of Fairfiled Road / ½ mile east of Route 12)

www.stonewallorchard.com

- Host to Korn Ferry Qualifier
 - Host to the Illinois PGA Professional Championship
- "One of Chicago's top public courses you can play" — Golf Digest 2022 Golf Week #3 "Best in State"*

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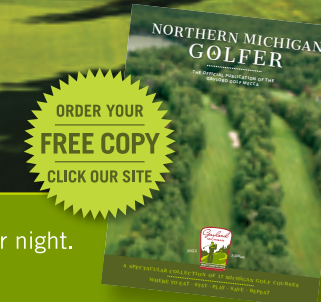
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Don't Make Your Game Harder Than It Has To Be

As a golf instructor, my students always tell me they want to hit the ball with more accuracy and often care less about hitting the ball farther. Research has shown, though, that the farther we can hit the ball—that is, the closer we are to the hole off the tee—the lower our scores are going to be.

Often, golfers don't realize that they are hurting themselves playing with outdated equipment and also from the wrong tee box. It doesn't matter whether a student's clubs are 20 years old or just four to five years old; in hundreds of custom fittings, I have never once seen new technology outperformed by older equipment.

I remind my students that while swing mechanics are extremely important, so is the equipment they are using. The simple fact is that they don't realize that they are making the game harder by hitting clubs that are outdated and/or have not been custom fit for their authentic swing characteristics.

Several times per week I see my students increase their yardages by 10 to 20 yards (or more) when testing out new equipment. It's also not uncommon that I will hear the argument about current-day lofts being so much stronger and the equipment manufacturers trying to pull a fast one by doing so.

To me, that excuse holds no water. A 7-iron is a 7-iron and new technology is intended to have us hit the ball farther. If your spin, launch, and descent

angles are producing the numbers we are seeking during a fitting, then nothing else really matters.

But let's shift our focus for a moment to the golf course, where golfers have been playing the wrong tee boxes for decades and, without them even knowing, making the game less enjoyable. But it's not all their fault. Magnified by the extremely wet spring we experienced, causing zero rollout on our drives, many of my drives actually bounced backwards because the ground was so saturated.

My wish is that courses would help the paying consumer by moving the middle tees closer to the forward ones to make up for the extreme loss of distance. At the same time, they would help the golfer get closer to his or her intended target and, in the end, create a more positive and enjoyable experience.

I have seen this time and time again; even with the nicest of my students, their egos get in the way when deciding which tee boxes to play. It's almost like they think the game will be less enjoyable by playing from the shorter tees (and at an overall shorter course yardage). In reality, the game would actually be much more enjoyable.

While it's meant to be enjoyed, golf is the hardest sport you'll ever play, so let's make it a bit easier on ourselves by playing with better equipment and at a course length that makes the game more fun.



According to the USGA, this is the course length you should play based on average driver distance:

150 yards:	3500 to 3700 yards
175 yards:	4400 to 4600 yards
200 yards:	5200 to 5400 yards
225 yards:	5800 to 6000 yards
250 yards:	6200 to 6400 yards
275 yards:	6700 to 6900 yards

It's also not uncommon that I will hear the argument about current-day lofts being so much stronger and the equipment manufacturers trying to pull a fast one by doing so.





DREAM GOLF AWAITS



(844) 266-5124
sandvalley.com