

# GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Fall 2022, Vol. 26 No. 5

## **SAND VALLEY'S CONTINUED EXPANSION**

**BUCKET LIST GOLF:  
SPOKANE / COEUR D'ALENE**

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH  
AT KANKAKEE ELKS**

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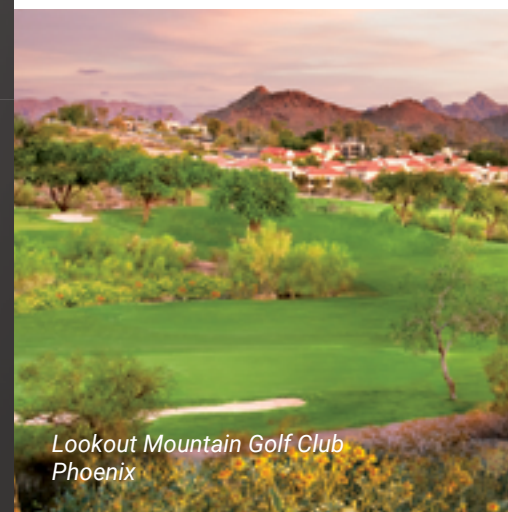
Tron North Golf Club  
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## Elevate Your Desert Golf Experience

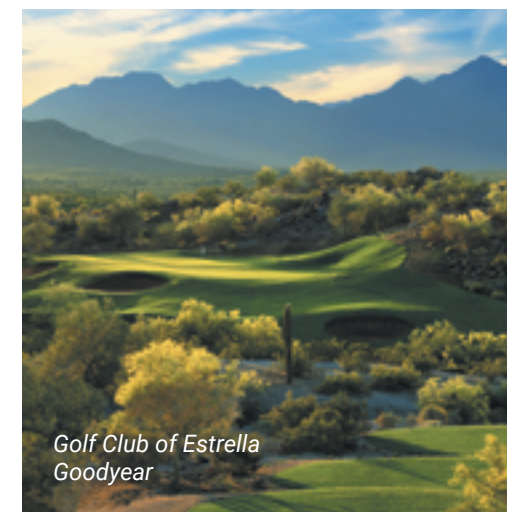
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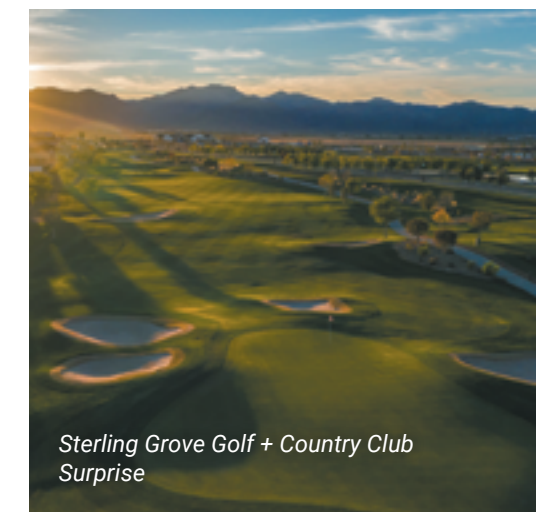
[TroonGolfAZ.com](http://TroonGolfAZ.com)



Lookout Mountain Golf Club  
Phoenix



Golf Club of Estrella  
Goodyear



Sterling Grove Golf + Country Club  
Surprise



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**OPENING SHOT**

Dave Silbar

As we wind down another great golf season, both professionally and for all of us who simply can't get enough of the game, let's raise a glass to Rory McIlroy, fittingly crowned FedEx champ after his six-shot, come from behind victory over Scottie Scheffler at East Lake Country Club.

The Northern Ireland native has grown from a teen into a man right before the world's eyes and stands firmly in place as the figurehead of the PGA Tour. Snake bitten more than once in his long career and outplayed by Cameron Smith at the Open Championship this season, Rory had already set a record for his combined low score in the four majors this year before his triumph and \$18 million windfall on August 28.

As to this final 2022 issue of GOLFChicago, we take you to Wisconsin for more news about all the great things they're doing at Sand Hills Resort. I will take you even more north and west to Spokane, Wash., the second largest city in the state and home to some great golf. Better yet, just a stone's throw away is the beautiful resort community of Coeur d'Alene, Ida., home to two of the country's top public courses which fly well under the "bucket list" radar but are well worth the trip.

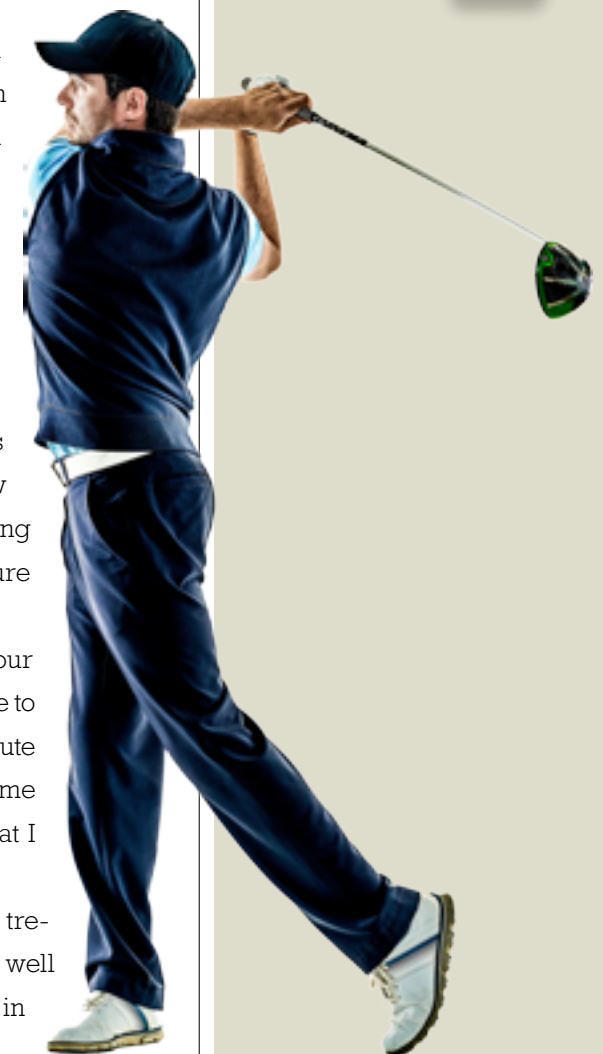
Our Sweet Home Chicago department shares news from the world of golf right here in our own backyard including Bryan Liston, a Niles West High School graduate and accomplished Illinois Special Olympic golfer who has turned his passion for searching for golf balls into a business.

Pine Meadow Golf Club instructor Jon Reese shares his short game expertise in our instruction department and describes wrist hinge, or lack thereof, and how it is very important when identifying the trajectory of your shots around the green.

Our Good Stuff runs the gamut of everything fun that makes our game great, from portable speakers, to drivers, to cold brew and more. Special releases from Scotty Cameron and an exciting new short game iron from Ping looks to take us back to the future when it comes to chipping.

Lastly, our Final Putt gets real when it comes to how good our beloved Chicago Bears will be this year but offers the bright side to this year's NFL campaign by highlighting the best courses en route to Green Bay and Minneapolis. So, it's road trip time to see some not-so-great football but enjoying some great golf during what I consider the best time of the year.

I can't remember a season when the weather has been as tremendous as its been this summer and let's hope that continues well into October and beyond so that the clubs can continue to stay in our trunks as long as possible.



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# THE GOOD STUFF



## Red, White, and Boom!

The Cobra LTDx is one of the hottest drivers of 2022. Delivering incredible ball speed and played by tour staffers such as Bryson DeChambeau, the LTDx is now offered in this special edition in red, white, and blue. A portion of every sale of this Volition model is donated to military families through the Folds of Honor Foundation.

**\$599.99** [cobragolf.com](http://cobragolf.com)



## Small but Mighty

TectecTec! read the room and decided it was time to scale down the size of the rangefinder. The new KLYR, to be exact, is 30% smaller than the average laser rangefinder and is about the width of a credit card. Speaking of credit cards, this unit packs a punch for the price. Target lock vibration, magnetic backing, slope setting, and comes with a magnetic belt clip. Available in black or yellow.

**\$199.99** [us.tectectec.com](http://us.tectectec.com)

## A Whole New World

Honma debuted its new lineup of T//World irons and they are making believers out of golfers who have never played the brand before. The TW757P is a player's distance iron that's designed for consistent distance and control. The TW757Vx model is a tour-level iron designed for precision. And the TW757B is a muscle back blade that's intended for the most advanced players. All models can be paired with Honma's custom rolled Vizard shafts.

**\$1,272 and up.**  
[us.honmagolf.com](http://us.honmagolf.com)



## On-Course Tunage

Blue Tees set out to make the ultimate Bluetooth speaker for the golf course and did quite a job. The new Player speaker has an incredible number of features. It has over 12 hours of battery life and also acts as a power bank in case you need to charge your phone. You can pair multiple speakers together and it has a 100 foot range so your superior sound will never be interrupted. Ultra-strong magnets assure your speaker will never fall and it's also IPX7-rated waterproof.

**\$129.99** [blueteesgolf.com](http://blueteesgolf.com)



## Smoke Show

Arccos released its new GEN 3+ Smart Sensors this year and followed it up with this special edition in black and gray. These Smoke Smart Sensors plug into the end of each grip and pair with the free Arccos app to deliver an incredible amount of data. The simple automatic shot tracking will give you smart club distances, strokes gained analytics, and personalized caddie advice.

**\$224.99** [arccosgolf.com](http://arccosgolf.com)



## Good Walk Made Better

Good Walk Coffee Company brings together the worlds of flavorful joe and the game we all love. The end result is a deliciously crafted product that will redefine your coffee taste buds. Their canned Nitro Cold Brew is a blend of medium dark roasted beans that's beyond smooth. Perfect for a pre-round beverage or a boost after nine. This 8-pack is delivered to your doorstep in a thermal bag, ready for consumption.

**\$52 (8-pack)**  
[goodwalkcoffee.com](http://goodwalkcoffee.com)

## Feel the Need for Speed?

As our golf season turns chilly, packing some extra essentials in your golf bag becomes the new norm. That's why you need a quality cart bag for those riding days and the new Sun Mountain Maverick is the perfect answer. This bag is lightweight for its size and has full length dividers. It's also available in seven catchy colors including this Gunmetal-Inferno combination that's sure to be noticed.

**\$229.99**  
[sunmountain.com](http://sunmountain.com)



# THE GOOD STUFF



## Get a Grip

Paynter Golf Shoes have only been around for a little over a year now, but they are quickly establishing a footprint in the industry. While most spikeless all-purpose shoes are comfortable on and off the course, they don't seem to have the traction of these men's offerings. The main reason is the fact that these have longer rubber spikes that help you solidify your balance, staying grounded throughout your swing. The whole Paynter shoe line features the technology of Neverwet™ superhydrophobic solution, a non-wicking and water-resistant protection. They currently offer three comfort-driven models in a variety of colors. Get a foot up on your golf pals and give these shoes a try!  
**\$130-160 [payntergolf.com](http://payntergolf.com)**



## Whip it Good

Breakthrough Golf Technology hit it big with its Stability putter shaft, breaking the mold of what the industry offered in that category. Now, BGT brings to you the Brava driver shaft which is designed to accommodate any swing speed and any driver model. Against other premium driver shafts, the Brava outperformed the competition by 10 yards and had better stability and dispersion. The secret sauce is Toray™ carbon fiber, which is 10x the strength of steel but a fraction of its weight.  
**\$399 [breakthroughgolftech.com](http://breakthroughgolftech.com)**



## “... and I never slice.”

If you thought your golf sanctuary was complete, you probably haven't discovered Bushwood Spirits yet. Aside from having an incredibly tasty lineup of spirits, Bushwood bottles are worthy of display pieces on your bar and in your man cave. Whether you want a premium bourbon like the Front 9, Back 9, and Long Ball, a spiced whiskey (Cannonball), or a premium rye (Stillwater Rye), Bushwood has your answer for the perfect sipper or cocktail. If you prefer clear, watch out for the new Loooper premium vodka.

**\$79 and up.  
[bushwood.com](http://bushwood.com)**

## Back in Black

Scotty Cameron special releases are among the most anticipated club releases in all of golf. The new Special Select Jet Set lineup includes souped-up versions of classic Camerons that players and collectors will fall in love with. With a misted Tour Black finish, you have your choice of Newport, Newport Plus, Newport 2, and Newport 2 Plus models. Whether you choose to game it or display it, these sleek flat sticks are at the top of wish lists everywhere.

**\$650 [scottycameron.com](http://scottycameron.com)**



## Invest in Fall

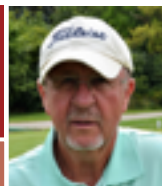
All Chicagoland golfers should have the proper attire to play fall rounds, which can be unpredictable. Owning a reliable vest to layer with is a must. The Emanuele vest from Chervo is designed from Micro Stretch material so it easily moves with your golf swing. Wind Lock, Aqua Drop, and CH Thermo Light technologies are the keys to this vest being the ultimate for Chicago fall, and even winter, golf. Stay dry, stay warm, and shoot low.  
**\$396 [chervousa.com](http://chervousa.com)**



## Chip Away

We all run into chipping woes on occasion, but the new ChipR from PING is designed to rid you of your shortcomings around the green. This stick combines elements of a putter and a wedge to get you up and down with confidence from 40 yards and in. Made from investment-cast 431 stainless steel, shots come off the face buttery smooth, and its MicroMax grooves allow for ultimate spin when you need it most.

**\$180 [ping.com](http://ping.com)**



## No-Wrist Chipping

Let's start with the short game (putts, chips and pitches) because this is the part of the game that relies more on technique, rather than a lot of strength. Starting with the short game, you can immediately start lowering your score. All you need to do is get the ball near the green, chip or pitch and hopefully then make a short putt. These short shots are mini versions of long putts and full swings.

The simplest motion in golf is a putt. Bend over from the waist, flex your knees, face the ball with your eyes over (or nearly over) the ball, bend your elbows a bit in a comfortable fashion, and you are now set up to make a putt. Get an image of where the cup is, rock your shoulders back, carrying your arm swing and club along, rock back through and extend your trail arm for the length of the putt through the ball to the cup. You have now made a putt. Add a shift toward the target and you have also made the motion of a chip. Again, for chipping it is rock, shift, and extend. No wrists!

When you add wrist action for short shots, you are adding a complexity that

may not be necessary. In a greenside short game shot, adding wrist action, as well as a taller posture, often promotes an over-swing, lack of proper weight shift, and could cause the player to mishit the ball. All of which can contribute to poor contact or over-shooting the target.

The difference between a chip and a pitch is you don't use your wrists when you chip. A chip or a pitch is not based on the distance or trajectory to the hole but on the type of stroke you use. A chip is much like a putt in its motion, but as you require more distance and move off the green and more friction from the various lies, the stroke becomes bigger and there is more of a hit involved. Use your shoulder motion to create a little more momentum, shift forward more (toward the target), and extend your trail arm out more, based on how much friction in the lie, distance, and trajectory you need.

In a pitch, the setup is like a normal short-iron swing. You use your wrists to extend your trail arm to deliver the blow. With both chips and pitches, the action is married to your shift through the ball.

In playing the game, the course always asks one question: What are you going to do now? From that question, you need to ask yourself, what is the ball telling you? Is it a putt, chip, or a pitch? Do I need more up or do I need more out? Do I need a gouge or brush? Does the shot require a follow-through (drag) or a follow-through that abruptly stops (pop)?

Brush and gouge are exactly what they sound like. How you come down into the ball. You brush the grass with a sweeping motion or gouge the ground taking grass and dirt. The brush is a shallow (low) angle of descent, and a gouge is a steeper (higher) angle of descent. The brush requires a wider and not so "up" backswing, and a gouge needs a more elevated backswing to come more down.

There are two different follow-throughs. Drag through or pop and stop. Drags go farther than pops.

With both arms bent at address, straighten the lead arm back for a brush shot. For a gouge shot just bend the trail elbow more up into the torso as you rock back for more elevation to hit down. Weight is distributed in reference to the ball position. If the ball is back, the weight is forward, and if the ball is forward, the weight is back.

With these four basic chips and pitches, (drag-brush, drag-gouge, pop-brush and pop-gouge), you can handle any chip or pitch you face on the course.

Joe Cermak (St. Patrick's HS) and Stephanie Miller (Stevenson HS), both Hall of Fame golfers, recommend no-wrist chipping.

Give no-wrist chipping a try. 

*A 1999 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year, Jon Reese has been teaching and coaching golf since 1980, and has been a staple at Pine Meadow Golf Course in Mundelein since 1994. A teacher to multiple Illinois State Champion high school golfers, Jon was named Illinois PGA Junior Golf Leader of the Year in 2000, is a contributor to the PGA of America's Teaching Manual, and currently has 15 nationally-ranked juniors in his Masters Program.*

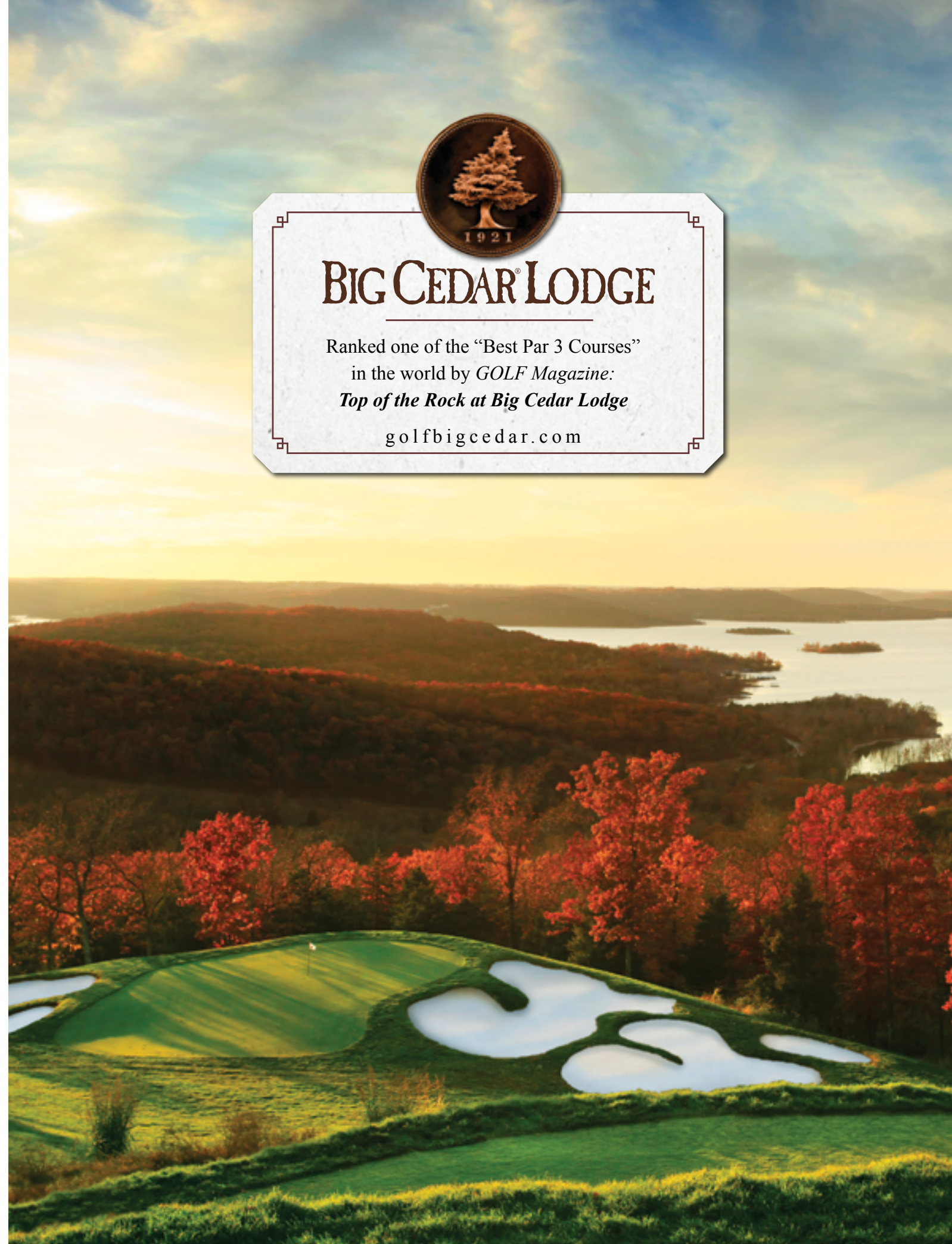
*Bill Davidson contributed to this story.*



Short Greenside Chip



Short Greenside Pop Finish



### BIG CEDAR LODGE

Ranked one of the "Best Par 3 Courses"  
in the world by *GOLF Magazine*:  
**Top of the Rock at Big Cedar Lodge**

[golfbigcedar.com](http://golfbigcedar.com)



### Special Olympian Big on Heart As Well As (Gently Used) Balls

Bryan Liston hates paying for new golf balls, and thinks that you should, too.

The 24-year-old Niles West High School graduate is one of the most decorated golfers in the history of the Illinois Special Olympics and among the nicest people you'd ever meet. Like all of us, he's also a diehard golfer, first picking up a golf club at the age of three.

When Bryan isn't playing golf or working as a custodian at Skokie's Devonshire Cultural Center, he's hard at work, scouring just outside the fence lines at area municipal golf courses in search of new or slightly used golf balls.



Since 2020, he estimates that he's collected more than 8,000 gently used Titleist, Srixon, Callaway, and TaylorMade golf balls.

His business—Bryan's Golf Balls—is thriving. He's generated approximately \$2,000 in revenue in two short seasons and is quick to hand you his business card. On two particularly fruitful back-to-back days in March, Bryan says he found 262 and 248 golf balls, respectively.

"I go crazy hearing about people paying upwards of \$45 to \$50 for a dozen new golf balls when mine are almost just as good and about one-quarter the price," says Bryan, who sells used Titleist Pro V's at \$15 a dozen, while every other brand goes for \$10 a dozen.

As a Special Olympian, Bryan was Illinois State Champion in the Unified Division back in 2017, playing alongside longtime friend Jim Miner. This September, he'll travel downstate in an attempt to become the state champion in individual play competition at Hickory Point Golf Club in Decatur.

Standing at 6' 3" and often bombing drives between 250 to 300 yards (we've seen it), Bryan can bring a course to its knees. As a Niles West freshman in 2013, he had a hole in one during tryouts at Willow Hill Golf Course in Northbrook. He had another thrill of his life a few years later when he got to play four holes at Lake Forest's Knollwood Country Club with PGA Tour player William McGirt.

Today, it's the business of selling used golf balls that drives this young man's passion. We encourage you to support Bryan's business by calling or texting him at (847) 826-7514. We guarantee that you'll also make a new friend along the way.

### 21st Annual Kilted Classic

Chicago Scots, the oldest non-profit organization in Illinois, is celebrating its 176th anniversary this year and will host its 21st annual Kilted Classic golf tournament on Thursday, September 29, at Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton. Dubbed the most unique golf tournament this side of the pond, Kilted Classic players will enjoy performances from Highland Dancers, get a taste of Scotland's finest with whisky, beer, and food stations, test their knowledge with Scottish trivia, participate in competitions like Beat the Scot and Longest Drive, plus get the chance to win a bottle of whisky on every hole. Kilts are not required but highly encouraged! All proceeds benefit Chicago Scots elder care mission at Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care. For more information or to register for this one-of-a-kind event, call Dawn Miller at (708) 426-7144 or email dawnmiller@chicagoscots.org.



### GOLFTEC Acquires SkyTrak

The Windy City is an important market for Centennial, Colorado based GOLFTEC, with eight Chicago-area centers and another planned for west suburban St. Charles. Last month, the company announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire SkyTrak, golf's #1 consumer launch monitor and simulator.

The acquisition builds on each company's powerful reputation and shared mission to provide golfers with the data and insights needed to track performance, have more fun and play better golf. As part of the acquisition, GOLFTEC will invest in enhancing the current SkyTrak user experience as well as create new, innovative solutions that leverage coaching, data, and digital platforms to deliver a GOLFTEC improvement experience to a broader segment of golfers around the world.



"We are incredibly excited about the acquisition of SkyTrak," said Joe Assell, GOLFTEC co-founder and CEO. "With this acquisition, we're combining two companies that understand how data and personalized coaching can truly accelerate a person's journey to better golf. As we look to the future, and in conjunction with our parent company GDO, we're excited about delivering an improvement experience that goes beyond the traditional GOLFTEC Training Bay and helps people improve with GOLFTEC anywhere."

With over 230 locations worldwide and over 900 Certified Personal Coaches, GOLFTEC provided over 1.5 million golf lessons to nearly 200,000 golfers with an average improvement of seven strokes. In 2022, GOLFTEC will continue its momentum by opening approximately 30 new locations and by developing new digital-first products that enhance and expand the GOLFTEC improvement experience.

\*Note: GOLFChicago Editor Dave Silbar provides instruction and custom club fittings at GOLFTEC in Vernon Hills.

### True Spec Now Open in Geneva

In August True Spec Golf opened its second Chicago area fitting facility in far west suburban Geneva. Located inside Impastato Golf Academy's 20,000 square-foot indoor facility, True Spec Chicago West features a state-of-the-art fitting bay and a putting studio that utilizes Foresight GC Quad technology. Additionally, the facility will house True Spec's brand-agnostic fitting matrix of over 50,000 club head

and shaft combinations, including every major equipment manufacturer.

Each club will be custom built at True Spec's Scottsdale headquarters to the exact specifications derived from the fitting process. This helps its master fitters find the best equipment to improve your golf game. Along with top of the line fitting experiences, the facility also includes amenities such as a full-service restaurant and bar, giant putting green, fitness center, and golf pro-shop.



"We are excited to be joining forces with True Spec to help guests receive a tour-level custom fitting experience," said David Impastato, owner of Impastato Golf Academies who was ranked by *Golf Digest* magazine as one of the "Ten Best Teachers" in Illinois. "We couldn't imagine a better partner and are excited to provide this experience to our customers."

The state-of-the-art facility at True Spec Chicago West is one of several high-end indoor locations to bring the award-winning custom fitting process to its metropolitan area establishment.

### Greens Renovation Project Underway at Fox Bend GC

The Fox Bend greens renovation project is well underway, with renovation work to be completed on holes 2, 7, and 12. The work is expected to be completed this October, and the greens will reopen for play next summer. The course will remain open and playable during the renovations, with temporary greens on holes 2, 7, and 12 as the renovations progress. According to the club, these renovations will provide improved turf quality and playability. The shape of holes #2 and #7 will change slightly. Hole #12 will have the biggest changes to allow for more pin locations.



# Your New Winter Escape. Introducing Sand Valley Pursuits.



When Michael and Chris Keiser opened Sand Valley in 2016, they borrowed a simple philosophy that their father had used at his game-changing Bandon Dunes Golf Resort: that a deep sense was essential to the guest experience. At Sand Valley, that meant heaving dunes, pine forests, glassy lakes and, unlike its forebear on the cliffs above the Pacific, true winter.

Sand Valley and its world-ranked golf courses are indeed an inspiring playground in spring, summer and fall. But for those who know, winter may be the most magical season of all. Scandinavians have a word for the mood of coziness and conviviality that people share in the dark and colder season: *hygge*. A welcoming fire while snow falls in the Wisconsin wilderness. The slice of blades against the pond ice. The warmth of gathering in a warm lodge for dinner and conversation.

Winter is a time for recharging, and Sand Valley has a full winter schedule of healthy and rejuvenating events and activities – Sand Valley Pursuits.



Starting November 24th, Sand Valley will officially begin its season of special events and the holiday spirit will be in full effect. Whether you want to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones or ring in the New Year, you'll enjoy the warm, welcome glow of Sand Valley's main lodge, fully decorated for the holidays, chef-driven menus, and endless opportunities to explore the outdoors. This is a great time to start a new holiday tradition!

Step into 2023 with a renewed attitude and fresh approach to your mental and physical health by participating in Sand Valley's Wim Hof Weekend. Guests will be treated to a myriad of wellness-themed activities and culinary experiences to refocus and restore the body and mind. The Wim Hof Method, is a simple, yet powerful method, based on the foundation of three pillars: Breathwork, Cold Exposure, and Mindset. Lead by certified instructors James Stewart and Jesse Coomer, the Wim Hof Method will provide stress reduction, a strengthened immune system, better sleep, more energy, and faster recovery.

In partnership with Visit Rome, Sand Valley provides the opportunity to celebrate the fun of wintery weather among 12,000 snow-covered acres of landscape. The Snow Valley Weekend includes a plethora of snow-based outdoor activities including Ice Skating, Pond Hockey, Snowshoeing, Nordic Skiing, Sledding/Tubing, and even a full children's itinerary!

In what has quickly become a fan-favorite event, Sand Valley, together with Visit Rome, is proud to be host to the Sand County Classic – a pond hockey tournament like no other. Players will be surrounded by a natural amphitheater of snow-covered sand dunes and towering red pines as they take the ice. Participants and guests will have access to an inviting hospitality suite overlooking the lake with soul-warming snacks and beverages from the resort's culinary team.

After a Valentine's Celebration Weekend and a second Wim Hof Weekend, Sand Valley's event season closes on a high with its annual Brews & Brats Festival. Guests

will enjoy this Winter Season spectacular featuring a "Tap Takeover" representing all our participating breweries, craft beer tastings, your favorite comfort foods, live music, games, raffles, and fun outdoor activities for the whole family.

There's so much more to winter at Sand Valley than simply waiting on spring. Discover the sublime beauty of the frosty landscape, the comforting flicker of flame and conversation and invigorating winter events and activities. Enjoy *hygge*, Sand Valley style, with the Sand Valley Pursuits calendar.





## We-Ko-Pa: Arizona's Best for 20 Years

Over the last 20 years, avid golfers with high standards thought of We-Ko-Pa and thought one thing: great golf. The shoe certainly fits. The two golf courses at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club – Cholla and Saguaro – tend to stand out to discerning players as among the best tracks in the state. But with the completion of the all-new We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort which opened in 2020, there's now more to the We-Ko-Pa story than great golf set against the natural beauty of the untouched Sonoran Desert. Much more.

We-Ko-Pa begins where the city ends at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, just east of Scottsdale in Fort McDowell, Arizona. Open landscapes, vibrant colors, and incredible mountain views perfectly complement an extraordinary day on the golf course. But if you're looking for a bit more "play" out of your stay-and-play vacation to Scottsdale, look no further than the brand-new, state-of-the-art We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort adjacent to We-Ko-Pa Golf Club – Arizona's Ultimate Golf Experience. The new, 167,000-square-foot We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort offers guests a larger casino with a garden court, specialty high-end dining, a sports bar with entertainment stage and other best-in-class amenities. The new facility is the cherry on top of what has been a 30-year stint as the torch bearer for casino gaming in the Valley of the Sun. And, speaking of new, Arizona's new gaming compact brings with it sports betting, craps and roulette to go along with your favorite card and slot games all under one roof.

On the dining side is Ember – We-Ko-Pa's fine-dining experience – which starts with a scratch kitchen in full view from any dining area in the restaurant and serves up an extraordinary selection of the finest steak cuts and chops available. Choose from USDA Prime or American Wagyu beef in seven different sized cuts, braised buffalo short ribs, Colorado lamb chops and veal and venison dishes all perfectly prepared over a wood burning grill.

We-Ko-Pa's two award-winning tracks provide a unique 36-hole experience in the Valley of the Sun. Both courses are ranked as among the best (if not the very best)

in the state, but the routing and playing experience couldn't be more different.

The Cholla course – which celebrated its 20th anniversary in December – embodies some of architect Scott Miller's favorite design philosophies. Traditional landing zones are relatively large. Trouble is easily identified, well defined and not terribly penalizing. And if players don't feel comfortable over the ball and want the added benefit of a bail-out area, they can usually find it fairly easily. Cholla is more "traditional desert golf" than its Saguaro counterpart. There are some forced carries and clear landing areas – especially on par-5 second shots. Unlike other Scott Miller tracks, however, Cholla is not an ultra-forgiving "resort" course where every single wayward shot finds its way back to the middle of the fairway. Players will have to pick their spots.

On the Saguaro side, the first time out can present a little changeup for people who are either used to traditional desert golf, or they haven't played a Coore/Crenshaw design before. The forced carries and clear landing areas were scrapped for a more natural approach where the course flows with the organic feel of the land itself.

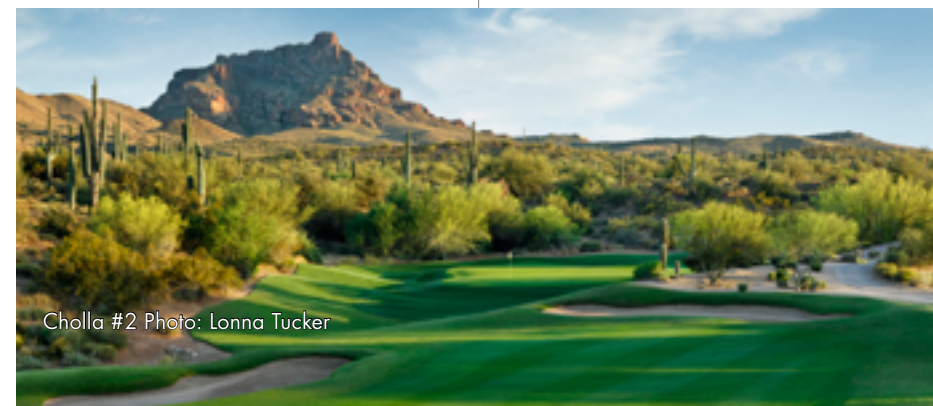
Coore and Crenshaw didn't move much dirt to complete the design on Saguaro, so the dips, turns, arroyos and elevation changes have been there for hundreds if not thousands of years.

Another non-typical thing for Scottsdale golf you'll find at We-Ko-Pa's Saguaro course: links-style design. The course is built for walking and guests can play any shot they would normally play on their favorite Midwestern courses back home. Players won't be penalized too badly for missing greens by a few feet and shot shaping will do you more good on Saguaro than anywhere else in Scottsdale.

The routing and playing-style differences between Cholla and Saguaro are more noticeable than other 36-hole facilities, but the commitment to an unbelievable experience – and attention to detail – is the same throughout the entire property, regardless of season. But Cholla and Saguaro also have a lot in common. Both are meticulously maintained, both have received high praise from the golf media and consumers alike and both offer a tranquil golf experience free of houses and roads, thus preserving the unobstructed mountain views of the Sonoran Desert.



Saguaro #14 Photo: Lonna Tucker



Cholla #2 Photo: Lonna Tucker

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## A Golden Oldie

One of the beauties of our sport is all of the unique and wonderful land that we play and compete on. The Kankakee Elks Club sounds more like a place to gather than to play the game. Turn back the clock to the late 1920s when two of golf's most respected curators, William B. Langford and Theodore Moreau, devised a plan for a private course and getaway for the high rollers of the day.

The course was designed by Chicago's very own William Langford, who was recently inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. While located in a relatively flat part of the region, Langford used what the land gave him while putting the spotlight on the green complexes. He left his signature here by creating one-of-a-kind elevated greens throughout the golf course.

Set alongside the Kankakee River, this semi-private facility has been open to the masses for many years, and boy are we lucky. Unspoiled and quiet, the pure undulating landscape is a welcome change from the hectic, sometimes humdrum, courses of Chicagoland. Langford, a Chicago native, was quite a player and brainiac back in the day. He excelled at Yale University, where he was captain of the golf team, and then continued his education receiving a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Columbia University. Moreau was the creative shaper, crafting subtle mounding throughout the layout, punctuated by fun and distinctive elevated greens where most putts can present a challenge.



Dr. Karl Keller, a longtime member and Kankakee Elks Country Club Trustee, says this about the layout, "The biggest thing people notice when they first get here is the green complexes which are mostly all elevated. You don't want to have situations where you short-side yourself or go over the greens rating of 71.6 from the nearly 6,600 yard back tees.

Langford and Moreau came along in the golden age of architecture and their most impressive and popular course may be Lawsonia Links in Green Lake, Wisc. That course is a one of the top ranked in the Land of Cheese and is truly a must-play inland links layout. By the way, Langford was recognized for his entire body of work by being inducted into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame in 2019.

"It's a course you can play every day and continually be challenged due to the variety of pin placements on every green," said Jim Weber. "The golfer's attention is captured from the start of their round and the first of many elevated greens. Almost all the greens put a premium on not short siding yourself or, worse, go too far past the hole."

"I think the best thing here is the value and the quality of the golf. I think if you come down here and play it once, you'll want to come back many times to enjoy the Langford design, it's a beautiful course," said Jim Weber, Kankakee Elks County Club's Director of Golf

Kankakee Elks looks innocent and open at first glance, but the routing is stellar. Once you get out there and tee it up, you will notice that to do well it's about positioning your ball for the best



angle to the pin. There is only one water hazard and only a handful of sand bunkers that come into play. Back in the day, here was an interesting quote from Langford, "Hazards should be placed so that a player can avoid them if he gauges his ability correctly, so that they will make every man's game more interesting, no matter what class player he is, and offer a reward commensurate with the players ability."

Golfers who come here to play for the first time always return to experience this great Langford design. It's a beautiful, phenomenal course, and speaks for itself.

Located just outside of Kankakee in the town of St. Anne, Ill., this facility is about an hour south of The Windy City. Beat the crowds and take a trip over here to play this track. It is an incredible bargain, coming in at only \$28 on the Monday special, \$35 on Tuesday through Friday, and \$45 on weekends and holidays. Do check out the website for dynamic and most current pricing.

This course was integrated into the land and not forced upon it. It was created in the era before bulldozers, so this place has a natural and real feeling about it. It's like stepping back in time. You'll be sure to hit every club in the bag on this par-72 design with a slope of 124 and a rating of 71.6 from the 6,600 yard back tees.

It's an old-fashioned design that won't beat you up; however, you still have to employ ball position strategy and, of course, putt your ball well to score well. The bottom line is that you can't recreate the golden age of architecture, so get here and enjoy this step back in time.

*Kankakee Elks Country Club*  
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**S**ome 16,000 years ago, the ice dam supporting an ancient 150-foot deep Central Wisconsin glacial lake burst open. Its waters quickly emptied in just a few days. The resulting flood would proceed to create the dramatic landscape that we know today as the Wisconsin Dells. The sandy lakebed left behind slowly transitioned to form dales, glens, meadows, hollows, valleys, and dunes.

Flash forward many centuries later when a huge swath of that same land was purposed into woodlands that were then harvested for use by the timber and paper industries.

Then flash forward a second time to the early 2000s. That was when golf construction executive Craig Haltom came across a parcel of this wonderland that he immediately knew would make for a great golf property. Haltom shared

his discovery with golf entrepreneur Mike Keiser (of Bandon Dunes fame) who reviewed the land's possibilities along with sons Chris and Michael. After an initial purchase of 1,700 acres from the Plum Creek Timber Company, the Keisers hired acclaimed architects Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw to shape the land into a championship course unlike any other in Wisconsin. From emptied lake bed and forested dunes emerged the origins of the international golf destination we know today as Sand Valley Resort.

Since the opening of the original Sand Valley course in 2017, the resort has gone on an amazing growth spurt. The acreage has expanded to 12,000 acres and now incorporates the stunning David Kidd-designed Mammoth Dunes; the delightful par-3 course known as The Sand Box, grass tennis

courts, an elegant clubhouse, lakes, hiking trails, 4 and 8-bed cottages, and multiple restaurants.

Honored as the Best New Course of 2017 by multiple national golf magazines, Sand Valley ranks high on the coolness meter. Its landscape is a wildly flowing lunar-like surface dotted by red pines, native grasses, prickly cacti and, of course, sand dunes. The design is amazingly varied and dramatic. Fairways were built to play hard and fast; thus, tee shots spring forward by 10, 20, and even 30 yards if the ball catches the back end of a hill. Greens are large and massively undulating and challenge players to consider angles and pin positions on every approach shot. Even the starter's area is ultra-hip, with a patio towering above the course incorporating a hut serving \$1 tacos and \$3 beers.

The character and challenge of Sand Valley are revealed immediately as the 358-yard first hole overwhelms the eye with a virtual sea of sand interspersed with native grasses winding up the left side of the fairway. Even a perfect drive up the right side doesn't assure an easy par if the flagstick is placed on the backside of a huge, tiered green.

My favorite hole on the course is the delightful 136-yard No. 8, which calls for a short iron directed over a yawning sand bunker to a large contoured putting surface rising high above the fairway. Use at least one extra club on this par 3 to compensate for the elevation change.

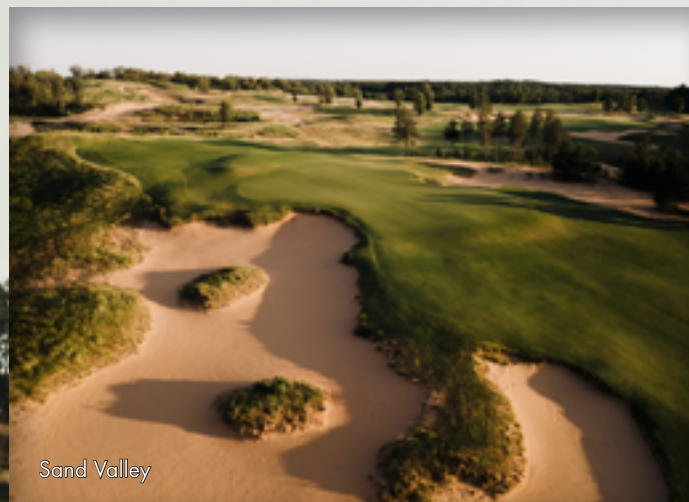
While many surprises are in store on the longer and more rigorous back nine, the 17th hole deserves special attention due to its fascinating design. At 236 yards from the tips, the long par 3 intimidates due to both its length and its blind view from off the tee. Where to hit? A passageway slopes left and right to direct balls onto a punchbowl green that generously accepts a shot that makes it over a crest.

While it is tempting to compare Mammoth Dunes to its sister course, the fact is that the layouts are on completely different landscapes. The first course is wide-open with trees only lining the outside of the property's perimeter. Trees are a prominent feature on Mammoth Dunes—not necessarily as obstacles but to frame the direction of holes.

Named Best New Course of the Year by multiple national golf magazines in 2018, Mammoth Dunes was inspired by David Kidd's earlier work at Bandon Dunes in Oregon. The stated philosophy of Kidd's design firm is to create courses "as natural as possible, as seamless as possible, and as sustainable as possible." Given 500 acres of pristine land, the architect produced a feast for the eyes complete with remarkable panoramas, extravagantly wide fairways, contoured greens and even a pair of drivable par 4s. The end-result was a course that Stephen Hennessey of *Golf World* says "might be Kidd's team's best work yet." Heady words considering that the designer's previous work includes Gamble Sands in Central Washington, Machrihanish Dunes in his home country of Scotland, and the aforementioned Bandon Dunes—considered by many to be one of the top ten public courses in the country.

The course's logo is a woolly mammoth which serves as a reminder that the sand base of the property was a result of the end of the Ice Age. Far more relevant and awesome to golfers is the mammoth sizes of the sand dunes (towering as high as 80 feet), greens (one stretches over 75 yards from front to back) and landing areas (some as wide as a football field) across the property. Most note-worthy is the ingenious separation of holes which provides solitude for golfers and allows them to focus on each shot without distraction.

Fans of golf architecture will appreciate some of the flairs Kidd installed in this masterpiece. The horse-shoe-shaped putting surface of the short par-4 6th hole was contoured to allow even putts from the front side of the green to curl toward flagsticks positioned on the back side. Kidd references a round of golf he played at Crystal Downs in Frankfort, Mich., as inspiration for the design. Prior to plant-



# Wild and Woolly!

## Wisconsin's Sand Valley Resort Continues Explosive Expansion

By Neal Kotlarek

Sand Valley

ing grass around the green's rim, the designer rolled basketballs alongside the ridge to ensure the desired effect.

The par-5 No. 7 provides even more entertainment as the bunker protecting the front side of the green was at one point the foundation for an old settlement home. The brick wall stretches across the width of the hazard. Note: Keep your approach shot to this putting surface far, far to the left or to the right or risk a huge X on your scorecard.

No review of Mammoth Dunes is complete without reference to No. 14, a drivable par 4 designed by Brian Silvernail. This short hole begins from the top of a dune and then sweeps downhill all the way to the green. A slight draw can catch a speed slot that directs the ball onto the green for an eagle putt. Rather than distract from the course's overall design, this hole is in many ways a tribute to Kidd's desire to create a fun and memorable experience from the 1st to the 18th hole.

Opened in 2018 and built by the team of Coore and Crenshaw, The Sandbox is an ingenious 1,757-yd. 17-hole par-3 course that serves up thrills and chills in a fraction of the time it takes to play a regulation course. Laid out over 25 acres, it features holes that vary in length from 40 yards to 150 yards. The green complexes are the featured attractions on the course, with undulations and tiers challenging players to calculate landing areas sometimes far away from the flagstick locations. Depending on the greenkeeper's inclination, some flags on the course have to be ignored as their position just behind a greenside bunker basically eliminate any chances of landing the tee shot anywhere near the hole.

"The amazing response we received from our guests as soon as we opened Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and The Sandbox encouraged us to magnify our scope and vision, said Brandon Carter, marketing and communications manager of Sand Valley Resort. "The enthusiasm encouraged us to look at other ways to make the resort a destination property."

One of the most talked-about golf projects in recent memory, The Lido, is a faithful re-creation of a long-lost Long Island golf course demolished by the US Navy for use as a WWII military base. Built in 1914 by legendary architects CB MacDonald and Seth Raynor,



Mammoth Dunes



Mammoth Dunes



Sand Valley



Sedge Valley



Sedge Valley

the course featured classic design elements including a Redan green hole and an Alps hole. Acclaimed architect Tom Doak and his Renaissance Design Company are building the course on 200 acres of sandy soil using 360-degree renderings painstakingly developed by Peter Flory. The golf historian studied old photographs and source materials to provide Doak a template to construct the layout down to every hump, hollow, and hummock built on the original property. What made this massive engineering feat possible is that The Lido 1.0 version was put together on a parcel of flat, rectangular shoreline property. The course was then shaped using 2 million cubic yards of sand before being layered with topsoil. Thus, a hand-constructed course was far easier to replicate than one placed atop land that had been shaped by nature for 16,000 years or so.

"People have been talking about re-creating the Lido for at least 20 years," Doak said in an exclusive interview with GolfChicago. "At one point that was a potential concept for what became Old Macdonald, the fourth course at Bandon Dunes. It was an idea that wasn't going to go away until someone did it. Now there are two: Gil Hanse is building a version in Thailand, and mine is thankfully a lot closer to home. The challenge here is to be as faithful as possible to the original course, which is tough, because it's been gone for decades, and we only have a bunch of old photos and rough sketches of what it was. But our consultant (Flory), assembled all of that for a video-game version, and we realized we could use that to get most of the dirt in the right places, and then interpret the photos just like we do on any other restoration to try to get the course right. In the process, we are using all kinds of mapping and construction technology I normally avoid like the plague, so it's been a really interesting crash course in how that stuff can help us in the future."

Scheduled to open in 2023, The Lido will be a private club with limited access to resort guests. Nine holes have already been opened for Member preview play and the entire 18 holes are on-track to be available for a special sneak peek at the end of October.

Originally targeted as the fourth golf course on the Sand Valley Resort grounds, Sedge Valley was pushed back on the development queue to prioritize the construction of The Lido. Inspired by the heathland and links courses on the English coast, the newest addition to the resort—designed by Doak—will play to around 6,000 yards and a par of 68. The layout is scheduled to open in 2024 and while it's being built

on relatively flat land, the same undulating characteristics that can be found on the other courses can be discovered here as well. The name of the course is derived from the grass-like plants native to northern climates which will frame holes across Sedge Valley. The layout will prioritize shot-making both off the tee and on approach shots to greens far smaller than those on the other three championship courses. “Sedge Valley is pretty spectacular,” said Doak. “And I think it will be very important for the game of golf for someone to show that length is not a critical component of a great course.”

Sedge Valley will be the centerpiece of Sedge Village, with a large number of cottage home sites to be located adjacent to the layout. Most of the sites overlook a large lake. According to the plan, buyers may choose their own architects to create year-round or seasonal homes with the option to participate in the Sand Valley rental pool. Speaking of pools, the Sand Valley Pool House will rest a short walk from the main clubhouse and will offer an infinity pool,



The Lido

sauna, steam bath, spa services, and grab-and-go food.

The addition of the new courses inevitably has led to planned expansion of Sand Valley’s practice area. A 50-acre practice facility will include a driving range that stretches out to 500 yards and expansive short game and putting green areas. Also on the slate is a massive putting course.

Beyond the golf course developments, construction began in May of a multi-facility expansion that will include a 13,000 sq. ft. tennis center, a practice facility, and another restaurant. Tennis continues to play a major role at the resort as the 15 existing grass tennis courts (which even offer ball boys and ball girl service). The new center will also serve as home to a “royal tennis court” upon which “real tennis” is played. The game involves pear-shaped lopsided rackets, cloth balls and four irregularly sided walls.

“This tremendous expansion which includes a barbeque restaurant, an Italian restaurant, the infinity pool, spa services, and other amenities are basically responses to feedback we’ve gotten from our guests on how we can best accommodate their lifestyles,” said Carter. “From the onset of the resort, we’ve wanted to deliver not just a great golf experience, but a great, memorable resort experience.

Beginning in 2020, Sand Valley Resort transitioned into a four-season resort complete with holiday and wellness events as well as cross-country skiing, fat-tire biking and snowshoeing during the winter months. “The evolution from a seasonal resort to a full-year property made a lot of sense,” said Carter. “It allows our resort staff to stay in-place year round; it provides more jobs for the area labor pool; it gives the local community access to the resort which is booked-up throughout most of the spring, summer, and fall months, and it serves up an entirely different experience during in the cold months than during the warm months.” Carter pointed out that the addition of the wellness weekends has greatly expanded the demographics of the resort. “While a greater percentage of men visit us during the golf season,” he said. “Women now make up over 50% of our guest roster during the winter.”

What began 16,000 years ago as a lakebed has evolved into one of America’s premier golf resorts in less than a single decade.

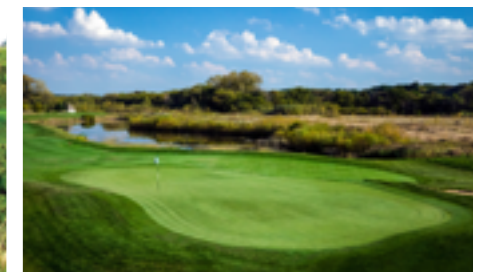
For more information on Sand Valley Resort and the fall/winter season schedule of events, visit [www.sandvalley.com](http://www.sandvalley.com).



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# Great Golf in the Great Northwest

When someone thinks of Washington State, Seattle is always the first city that comes to mind.

But ask what the state's second largest city is and that leads to plenty of head scratching.

Not only is Spokane number two on that list, but it's on the opposite side of the state, roughly 35 miles from Northern Idaho to the east and 120 miles to the Canadian border to the north.

Expansive pine forests as far as the eye can see, the winding Spokane River snaking its way through town, snow-capped mountains in the distance, and a laid back way of life has made Spokane one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S.

Then there is the golf ... and it is pretty darn fantastic. With a handful of courses operated by the City of Spokane, it's hard to find an average one. The selection includes outstanding tracks like Indian Canyon, Latah Valley, The Creek at Qualchan, and Downriver, all designed to play through rugged terrain with towering pines lining virtually every hole. Elevation changes out here come often and can be severe, both upwards and downwards. That leads to some awe-inspiring views, not to mention terrific photo opportunities.

The real treats, though, are located a short drive east, across the Idaho border, where the resort town of Coeur d'Alene offers a Lake Geneva-type atmosphere and a golf course featuring the world's only par 3 with a floating green. The 14th hole here tends to overshadow the rest of this spectacular property, but is certainly one of the best novelties I've ever found on a golf course.

About 30 miles down the road is the small town of Worley and the Coeur d'Alene Casino, home to **Circling Raven Golf Club**, ranked No. 1 in Courses You Can Play by *Golfweek* magazine in 2022. The course far exceeds its award designation, playing through forests, wide expanses of rolling terrain, and vistas overlooking snow-capped mountains, National Forested areas, and in the distance, hundreds of acres of bright yellow flaxseed.

But let's revert attention back to the 14th hole at **Coeur d'Alene Resort** and its floating



Coeur d'Alene Resort Island Green



Circling Raven GC

green—possibly the most iconic symbol ... next to the potato ... in the entire state. The green was built on a barge and, through a connection of pulleys on the lake's bottom, can be moved to play anywhere from 100 TO 170 yards. A little boat aptly named "Putter" escorts players to the green after tee shots are hit, and certificates are handed out to anyone scoring par or better.

And while the 14th hole is what everyone has come here to play, a testament to the overall strength of this course is that it takes only as few holes before you start to forget that the 14th is coming. The course takes up a small footprint of land (compared to the other courses mentioned in this article) but packs a ton of beauty, with a handful of holes playing right next to Lake Coeur d'Alene.

"We take a lot of pride in just having a very meticulously groomed golf course," says Head PGA Professional Andy McKimmie. "We have red geranium beds throughout the golf course and plant them every spring. Red was our owner's favorite color. It's a very bright red that gets great contrast throughout the golf course with the green. In addition to having views of the Lake on just about every hole, having an immaculately conditioned golf course is another one of our top priorities."

But after 29 years working there, McKimmie says he still never gets tired talking about the famous floating green. "I mean, it's the crown jewel of our course and obviously the signature hole. So yes, it's a big focus for us. It's truly a bucket list kind of thing and what put us on the map as far as golf goes."

The front nine features a variety of holes, each one more beautiful and awe-inspiring than the last. Most interesting and memorable are three par 3s, the first a mere 130 yards but playing right next to Lake Coeur d'Alene. The next is a shorty, about 120 yards but to a three-leaf clover-shaped green with huge bunkers catching any shots that come up just short. Next up is a spectacular hole measuring 180 yards as the crow flies but whittled to roughly 150 yards due to the severe change in elevation. Golfers look down to a green surrounded by towering

pinetrees and the lake serving as a gorgeous backdrop.

Making the turn, we were surprised to hear from our forecaddie (more on him shortly) that the back nine had the prettiest of holes on the course (figuring the front was already pretty mind blowing).

Indeed, the back nine did not disappoint. Memorable holes include the par-5 11th, a slight dogleg left with a winding creek in front that makes it mimic the 12th hole at Augusta National's Amen Corner. No. 13 is a 380-yard par 4 that features Lake Coeur d'Alene along the entire left side of the hole. That, of course, leads in the 14th hole and its floating green.

Coeur d'Alene Golf Resort provides (at no cost) a forecaddie or "player concierge" for each foursome. Ours happened to be 21-year-old Alaska native Sullivan Menard, a member of the 2019-2020 DePaul University Men's Basketball Team who currently plays on both the men's golf and basketball teams at Spokane's Whitworth University.

Our experience with "Sully" was so great that we invited him to play Circling Raven two days later and were pleased to have him join us for another memorable day.

In addition to world-class golf, Spokane is an outdoor paradise with so much to do. The 40-mile Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail winds through eastern Washington from Nine Mile Recreation Area on Lake Spokane to the Idaho border. The mixed-use trail passes through high desert Ponderosa pine forests, basalt canyons, hip urban centers and cultural heritage sites. (Centennial Trail extends into Idaho for 63 miles in all).

The trail follows the Spokane River over bridges and trestles, and alongside the tumultuous eddies, large basalt formations, and turquoise waters of Riverside State Park; it then heads east through historic downtown Spokane, a welcoming lunch or overnight stop. Keep hoofing or pedaling east into the valley, where Arbor Crest Winery and Antoine Peak views are interspersed with the urban and suburban conveniences of Spokane Valley. Once in Idaho, it is possible to hike or ride all the way past Coeur d'Alene on the North Idaho Centennial Trail.



Coeur d'Alene Resort



Circling Raven GC No. 11

Circling Raven Golf Club and the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel have soared to award-winning heights from their humble beginnings 25 years ago. Built on Coeur D'Alene Tribe's land, Circling Raven Golf Club is home to the resort's acclaimed golf course and sits on 620 varied acres of wetlands, forest, and Palouse grasses. By all accounts the course is one of course architect Gene Bates' finest creations (he also designed Salish Cliffs in Washington, Southwood in Tallahassee, and Westfields in Virginia, among others).

The front nine plays through a meadow-style landscape, peaking on the

difficult No. 9 hole. The meadows give way to expansive forest on the back nine, with each hole feeling like its own theater. The views on the course are varied, showcasing the entirety of the land. The course feels a small part of a much bigger landscape, providing a true sense of scale. Several of the tee shots play down into a larger landing area, giving the golfer plenty of opportunity to take in all of what's in front of them.

While the course, which tips out at 7,189 yards, is a looker, it poses plenty of questions to the player. The better golfer must make clear decisions and

execute them aggressively if they wish to score on this 74.0-rating, 144-slope course. Players on the Epson "Road to the LPGA" Tour found that out this past August at the 2nd annual Circling Raven Championship, while these professional women golfers raved about course condition and its ingenious layout.

"Circling Raven is named for one of our tribe's most important chiefs who guided us through our most difficult times," said Laura Penney, CEO, Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel. "Our homelands mean everything to the tribe, so Circling Raven's award is testament that we're

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Indian Canyon No. 10



Indian Canyon No. 16

nurturing it respectfully and our honoring our ancestors as well.”

In addition to being rated No. 1 in Idaho, the course is ranked among the country’s best in the Resort Course, Casino Course and Pro Shop categories, twice being named Merchandiser of the Year in the Resort Category by the PGA of America.

The many standout holes include No. 1, a great opening resort course hole. A short dog-leg par 5, it allows players to potentially get off to a great start. If you

walk off with more than a par you feel like you gave one back, and giving back is a regular theme on the next two holes. No. 2 is a par 4 with an elevated, significantly sloping green where if above the hole is an almost certain 3-putt. And No. 3 is a stout, downhill par 3 that plays 185 from the men’s tees, longer from the tips.

No. 4 has a split fairway bisected by sand bunkers that rewards players who take the lower, riskier approach due to the wetlands bordering the length of the left rough. The top fairway is safer and a bit

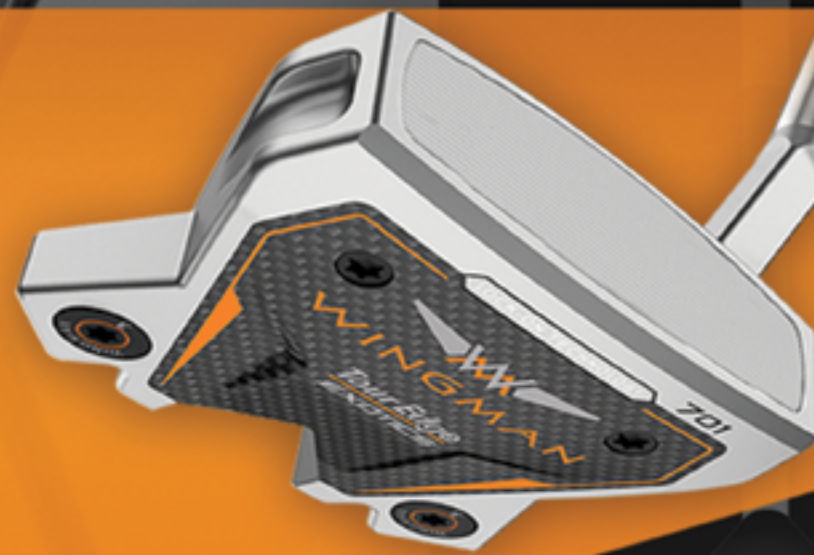
longer, but well worth the better angle and view into the green.

No. 10 is a short par 4 with risk-reward options tempting the player. Bold players can aim for the green, and with a long forced carry be rewarded with finding it or being just short with a chip or pitch for eagle. Miss and you’re doomed to a wetlands penalty shot death and bogey or worse.

Back in Spokane, our three favorite courses include Indian Canyon, Latah Creek, and The Creek at Qualchan. The

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**EXOTICS**

Creek is Spokane's newest golf course and features a creek meandering throughout the course, five ponds, wooded and hilly areas, and holes with open beauty and well-protected greens. The course is located in a very natural setting, and is a sanctuary for many species of birds and wildlife. Playing to a par 72 at 6,559 yards, the Creek at Qualchan will give all skill levels a special golf experience. While several holes can be described as targeted golf, the natural beauty and panoramic views are awe-inspiring.

**Indian Canyon** is another special place, with massive elevation changes playing through towering pines, several holes over massive panoramic views of downtown Spokane while others play through dense pine forests. Green, plush and challenging, Latah Creek is a 'must play' when visiting the area.

Small and easy to navigate, Spokane International Airport (GEG) is easily accessible by air, with usually one-stop when departing from O'Hare, Midway, or Milwaukee. Most flights go through Minneapolis, Denver, Salt Lake City, or Seattle. Rental cars are onsite at the airport with a myriad of options when it comes to accommodations.

# LINKS LAGER

Produced by Whiskey Hill Brewery  
in Westmont, Illinois

*Good from the 1st tee box all the way to the 19th hole!*



Available at Green Street Grille in Bensenville,  
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[www.whiskeyhillbrewing.com](http://www.whiskeyhillbrewing.com)

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Kiva Dunes Golf & Beach Resort, Gulf Shores

# Greater Lansing, Michigan: An Easy Drive

Just an easy four-hour drive from the Chicago area brings you to Michigan's capital city of Lansing, where you can find some of the best golf courses in the country, making Greater Lansing not only an affordable getaway, but a truly memorable golf destination. With 30

courses within a 30-mile radius you'll never run out of opportunities.

### Forest Akers

Forest Akers East and Forest Akers West are adjacent courses located on the campus of Michigan State University.

The west course was redesigned by MSU alumnus Arthur Hills and is the home course for Big Ten men's and women's golf teams. Rated by Zagat as among the top golf courses in America. This was the Host Course for the 2021 NCAA DIII Women's Golf National Championship.



### Eagle Eye Golf Club at Hawk Hollow

Everything from the rolling landscape to the signature 17th Island Green (modeled after TPC Sawgrass) was designed to create magnificent shot values and challenges from each of the four sets of tees while retaining playability. Rated #53 in America.

### Woodside Golf Course

One of the few 12-hole courses in America, Woodside winds through beautiful hardwoods, with interesting green complexes and a variety of shot-making options.

### Ironwood Links Golf Course

A beautifully crafted 18-hole golf course in nearby Mason featuring a front nine with open rolling terrain and a back nine carved through scenic woods and hills. The superbly conditioned par-64 layout has an equal mix of holes of all lengths, stretching as far as 400 yards, and is enjoyable for all levels of golfers.

### The Emerald Golf Club

Jerry Matthews has created a "Gem of Mid-Michigan Golf" with this 18-hole, par-72 course. The Emerald offers 6,619 yards of rolling landscapes, manicured bent grass fairways, and the truest and fastest greens in the Mid-Michigan area. Located just a short drive north of Lansing, this course is one of the best values in the area.

### Groesbeck Golf Course

Don't pass on this hidden gem and incredible golf value close to the heart of downtown Lansing. This 18-hole municipal course is ranked among the top city-run courses in Michigan. Challenging, yet playable, Groesbeck will yield multiple birdies if your ball striking is on. Find plenty of parking, a putting green, pro shop, and a casual eatery with full bar.

For something a bit different or if there's time between rounds, check out Little Hawk, located adjacent to Hawk Hollow. This 18-hole natural bent grass putting course is one of only two in the

state of Michigan. It comes complete with sand traps, water hazards, and bridges. A links-style course, it's fun for the whole family, for beginners, or those who may just need to work on their short game.

Making it a long weekend allows you to play all day then find so many fantas-

tic dining options, craft breweries and distilleries, or some high-speed go-kart entertainment. If you're a Michigan State Spartan fan or alum, consider squeezing in a Spartan football game. Over 40 hotel properties are ready to host you. Book your golf getaway today.

**DuPageGolf.com**  
For tee times and exclusive specials

**Green Star Award**  
– Golf Digest

**Renovation of the Year**  
– Golf Inc.

**Best Courses You Can Play**  
– Golfweek

# EXPERIENCE DU PAGE GOLF

**Maple Meadows Golf Course**  
Wood Dale, 630-616-8424

This 18-hole championship course is home to some of the area's best golf outings and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open.

**Green Meadows Golf Course**  
Westmont, 630-810-5330

This 9-hole gem features quality conditions and traditional parkland styling.

**The Preserve at Oak Meadows**  
Addison, 630-595-0071

**Golf Digest Green Star Award Winner**  
**Golf Inc. Renovation of the Year**  
**Golfweek Best Courses You Can Play**

Get ready to experience The Preserve at Oak Meadows: 18 holes of award-winning golf set within 288 awe-inspiring acres of restored prairies, woodlands and wetlands and within minutes of O'Hare Airport.



**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**



**DUPAGE GOLF**

Courses are owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

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## X-GOLF LEADING SIMULATOR CRAZE



### X-GOLF ALGONQUIN

1704 S. Randall Rd.  
playxgolf.com/locations/algonquin



### X-GOLF GENEVA

1900 S. Randall Rd.  
playxgolf.com/locations/geneva



### X-GOLF GLENVIEW

2847 Pfginsten Rd.  
playxgolf.com/locations/glenview



### X-GOLF KILDEER

20771 N. Rand Rd.  
playxgolf.com/locations/kildeer



### X-GOLF LIBERTYVILLE

1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
playxgolf.com/locations/libertyville



### X-GOLF ORLAND PARK

15876 S. LaGrange Rd.  
playxgolf.com/locations/orland-park



### X-GOLF SCHAUMBURG

1100 American Ln.  
playxgolf.com/locations/schaumburg



### X-GOLF WRIGLEYVILLE

playxgolf.com/locations/wrigleyville

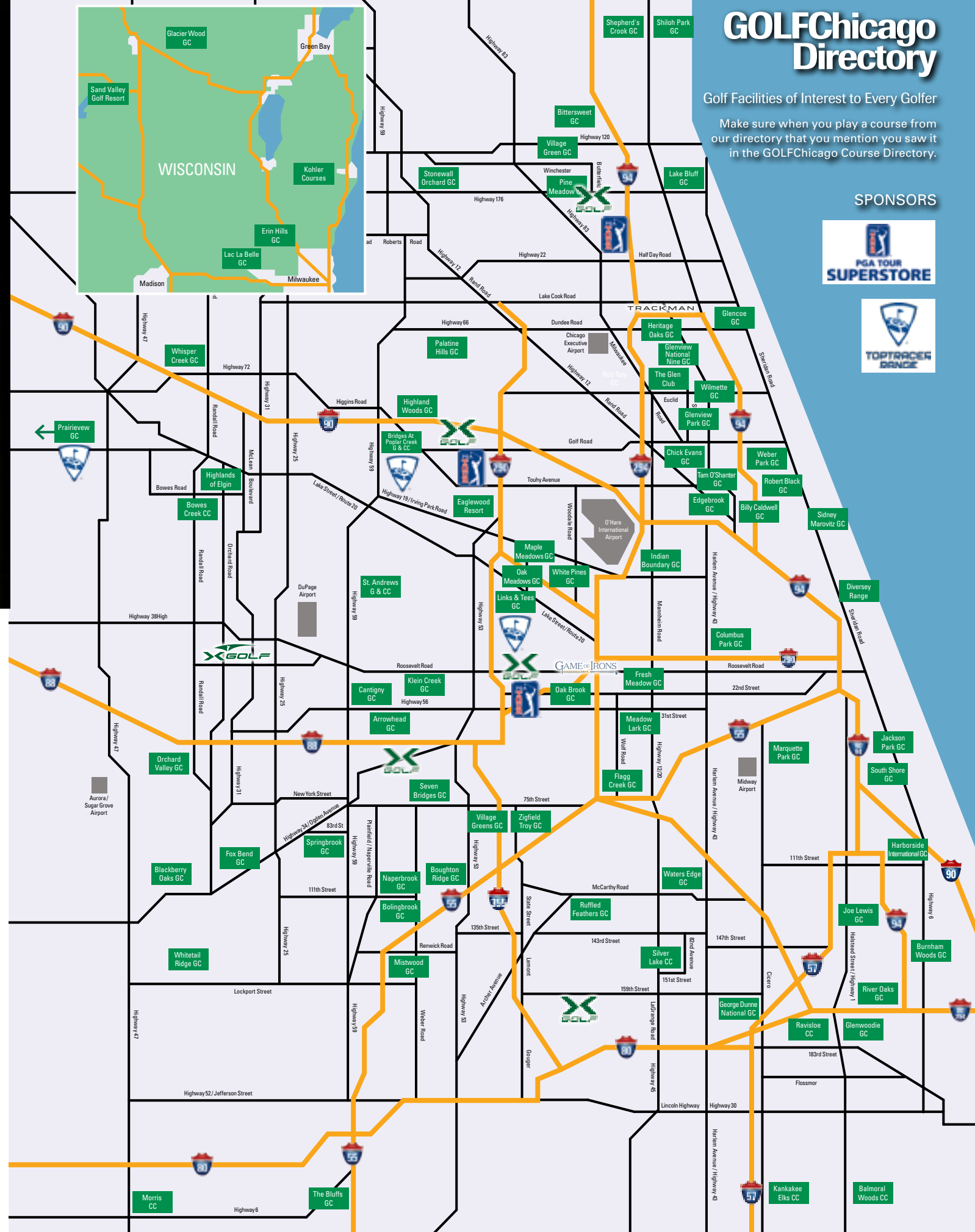


## GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw it in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.

### SPONSORS





### Arrowhead Golf Club

630-653-5800  
26W151 Butterfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[arrowheadgolfclub.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



### Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424  
272 Addison Rd.  
Wood Dale, IL 60191  
[dupagegolf.com](http://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](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



### The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071  
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.  
Addison, IL 60101  
[dupagegolf.com](http://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](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



### Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010  
[forestpreservegolf.com](http://forestpreservegolf.com)

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Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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  
[elksgol627.com](http://elksgol627.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://sandvalley.com)

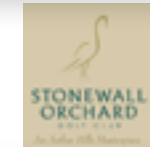
Sand Valley is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the great heathland courses of London. Enjoy dramatic views, a magnitude of strategic playing options, modern lodging, and a culinary experience to match.



### Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060  
2220 W. 83rd St.  
Naperville, IL 60564  
[golfnaperville.org](http://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](http://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.

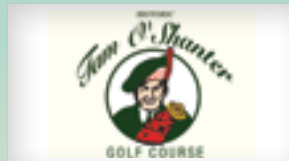


### Sub 70 Golf

877-267-7093  
202 Lucas St.  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
[sub70.com](http://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](http://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!



### X-Golf Glenview

224-432-0022  
2847 Pfingsten Rd.  
Glenview, IL 60025  
[xgolfglenview.com](http://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.



### White Pines Golf Club

630-554-3939  
500 W. Jefferson  
Bensenville, Ill. 60106  
[whitepinesgolf.com](http://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.



### X-Golf Libertyville

224-504-2940  
1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
[xgolf-libertyville.com](http://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.



### Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

630-882-8988  
7671 Clubhouse Dr.  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
[whitetailridgegc.com](http://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!



### X-Golf Orland Park

708-966-0486  
15876 S. LaGrange Rd.  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
[xgolforlandpark.com](http://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.



### Wilmette Golf Club

847-256-9777  
3900 Fairway Dr.  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
[golfwilmette.com](http://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](http://golfwilmette.com).



### X-Golf Schaumburg

847-380-1848  
1100 American Ln.  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
[xgolf-schaumburg.com](http://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.



## FINAL PUTT

Dave Silbar

# On the Road Again

Like most people, I love to travel. Being a golfer, I especially relish the opportunity to play as many different golf courses in as many different U.S. states during my lifetime.

As we head into the 2022 NFL season, most of us Bears fans are trying to remain as optimistic as possible, although admittedly feeling a sense of doom this particular year. Hey, at least we aren't Seahawks fans. Still, we can't even include the Detroit Lions as sure thing victories this year, another sign of impending disaster.

Therefore, I'm tossing out this challenge to all golf-loving Bears fans: pick up some inexpensive tickets to this year's Bears NFC North road games against the Vikings and Packers, (the two of them play in Detroit January 1) and enjoy some great fall golf along the way. I've taken the liberty of compiling a list of good courses you can play that are not too far off the beaten path when traveling to Minneapolis and Green Bay to see our beloved Monsters of the Midway.

Please visit the GOLFChicago magazine Facebook page and share other courses that you have played while traveling to see the Bears so that other Bears fans can glean a little bit more joy out of this season.

Call for fall rates. Play well, have fun, and let's go Bears!

### Bears at Packers, Sunday, September 18

Note: Sure, we could have listed the usual great Wisconsin courses like *The Bog, Lawsonia, Erin Hills, all the Kohler Courses, Lac La Belle, et al.* Instead, we

list some hidden gems closer to and along the way to and from Lambeau Field.

### Thornberry Creek at Oneida

Considering it's the official golf course of the Green Bay Packers, we thought it was a worthy contender (hatred of the Pack notwithstanding). Designed by Chicago-based architect Rick Jacobsen, The par-72, 18-hole Legends course is considered one of the best courses in Northeast Wisconsin, while the nine-hole Iroquois course features double flags and double greens. The Legends played host to the Thornberry LPGA Classic and features 72 bunkers and water hazards on 11 holes. Standout holes are 15, 16, and 17. No. 15 is a par 5 where if the wind is right, long ball hitters can get there in two. It's still not easy though; the green is surrounded by water and you're most likely going to have a long iron or fairway wood to carry the water hazard. Hole 16 is a solid par 4 where driver off the tee features a forced carry over trees but leaves a short wedge to the green. No. 17 is a treacherous par 3 that warrants a long iron from the tee to a green guarded with bunkers on the left, hazard on the right, and some foliage in the sight line of the players who move the ball right to left. After your round, Thornberry Creek features wood-fired pizza with a myriad of toppings (this is Wisconsin, after all).

(920) 434-7501. [www.golftornberry.com](http://www.golftornberry.com)

### Glacier Wood Golf Club

Voted Wisconsin's No. 2 course by NBC/GolfPass in 2022 and No. 1 municipal golf course by *Golf Digest* back in 2009, Glacier Wood is carved magically by

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Chaska Town Course

ice and earth and is an awe-inspiring golf experience. With broad elevation changes, breath-taking scenery from tee box to green, an abundance of wildlife and the kind of challenge that defines excellence in golf, Glacier Wood Golf Club is unique among its rivals. Utilizing the natural terrain, famed golf architect Larry Packard offers 18 championship holes combining forest, marshland, and open rolling holes. (715) 445-3831. [www.glacierwoodiola.com](http://www.glacierwoodiola.com)

**Brown County Golf Course**

Owned by the County of Brown and located just west of Green Bay in the village of Hobart, Brown County GC opened in 1958 with 18 holes developed by Lawrence Packard. With gently rolling terrain, outstanding course conditions, and a good number of classic doglegs, Brown County GC has been consistently rated very highly on a national scale since the early 1980s. A *Golf Digest* Top 50 Public Golf Course rating in 1990 and a rating as the 9th best Municipal golf course nationally in the early 2000s bear this out. Locally, it's received the "Best of the Bay" award for the finest golf course in the Green Bay region nearly every year since 2009. Several prestigious tournaments have been hosted here including the Wisconsin State Amateur, Wisconsin

State Open, and Wisconsin State Match Play. (920) 497-1731. [www.browncountygc.com](http://www.browncountygc.com)

**Fire Ridge Golf Club**

Built in 1994 by golf course architects Kerry Mattingly & Gregg Kuehn, Fire Ridge Golf Club plays to a par of 72 and plays as long as 7,064 yards from the championship tees. The course was carved from 208 acres of the quiet wilderness in the Kohler Golf Region, just a short drive from Milwaukee in the city of Grafton. In all, there are four sets of tees on each hole, 70 bunkers, and 11 holes where water comes into play. The course is well wooded with rolling hills, and bent grass greens, tees and fairways for optimal playing conditions throughout the entire golf season.

Certified as an International Audubon Sanctuary golf course from 1995 to 2004, Fire Ridge was listed among *Golf Digest's* Best New Courses when opened in 1985, has been rated four stars by *Golf Digest's* Places to Play, and has earned a place in Wisconsin's Top 20 toughest course list. (262) 375-2252. [www.fireridgegc.com](http://www.fireridgegc.com)

**Bears at Vikings, Sunday, October 9  
Chaska Town Course**

Drive a half hour southwest of downtown Minneapolis and you'll find one of the finest

courses in all of Minnesota. Although the simple name conjures images of a small relatively flat municipal layout, the Chaska Town Course is a big-time layout. Stretching across nearly 300 acres, this Arthur Hills design is right down the road from the state's famed Hazeltine National. Along with Hazeltine, Chaska hosted the 2006 U.S. Amateur and will once again welcome the top amateurs in the country for stroke play during the 2024 U.S. Amateur. (952) 443-3748. [www.chaskatowncourse.com](http://www.chaskatowncourse.com)

**Rush Creek**

Site of the 2021 Minnesota Golf Association Amateur Championship, Rush Creek has also hosted LPGA events as well as the 2004 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship. With a private club feel at public course pricing, Rush Creek opened in 1996 and was designed by legends Bob Cupp and John Fought. Built to offer high quality, accessible golf, the course has six set of tee boxes and can stretch to longer than 7,200 yards. Rush Creek is a short 20-minute drive from downtown Minneapolis. (763) 494-0400. [www.rushcreek.com](http://www.rushcreek.com)

**Stoneridge Golf Club**

Stoneridge provides golfers with a feel of playing in a remote locale despite being just 13 miles from downtown. The links-style layout was opened in 2000 and built on a reclaimed sand quarry, testing you with plenty of beautiful fescue, pot bunkers, and waste areas. Stoneridge's hole names are as unique as the golf course, featuring the likes of Wynnstone (18th), Splinter (10th), and Barn (11th), which is home to a barn dating back to the 1870s. (651) 436-4653. [www.stoneridgegc.com](http://www.stoneridgegc.com)

**Meadows at Mystic Lake**

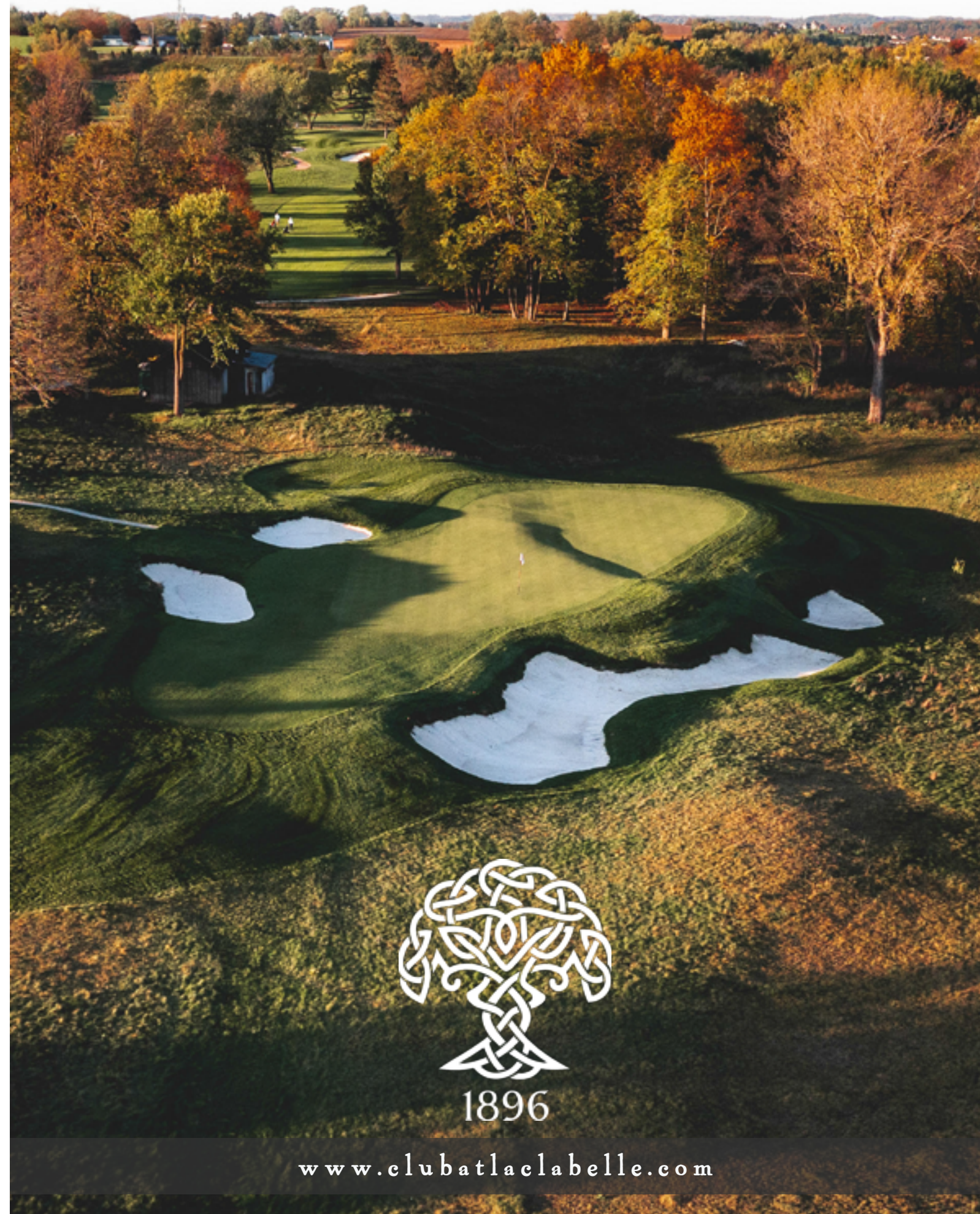
If you like courses with great stories, then Mystic Lake ranks up there. When the Mystic Lake Casino opened in 1992, a course named Pine Lake Country Club sat right next door. Ten years later the layout was purchased by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and shut down. After a three-year remodel by architects Garrett Gill and Paul Miller, the Native American community opened The Meadows of Mystic Lake in 2005 and the upgrade was undeniable. Located 30 minutes south of Minneapolis, the course features wide fairways, rock-wall protected greens, and water on 13 of the 18 holes. The course will host the inaugural Land O' Lakes Legends Classic in August featuring some of the greatest players in women's golf history, and is part of the Sioux Community's NativeGreen initiative. (952) 233-5533. [www.golfthemeadows.com](http://www.golfthemeadows.com)



Brown County GC



Meadows at Mystic Lake







# EXPERIENCE DREAM GOLF

(844) 266-5124  
sandvalley.com