

A Guide To Golf Under Roof (And Not)

It's hard to believe but it's almost time to tuck the ski boots and snow shovels away and haul the golf bag out from the sports closet. Wise players know the best ways to keep one's handicap intact entering the new season are regular sessions at indoor and heated outdoor training venues.

Practice centers across Chicagoland have taken amazing strides over the years in persuading golfers to keep their clubs in the trunk year 'round. Beyond making it comfortable to swing either through heat lamps or indoor hitting ramps, many of these facilities have added excellent food and sports bars into the equation.

Following are some of the best year 'round golf practice centers in the Chicago area:

Buffalo Grove Golf Dome

801 McHenry Road
Buffalo Grove
(847) 353-7575
www.bgparcs.org
This 75-yard long indoor driving range features a putting green and chipping green with multiple bunkers. Individual and group instruction available from a staff of golf professionals.

Diversey Driving Range

141 W. Diversey Street
Chicago
(312) 742-7929
www.diversey.cpdgolf.com
While not technically an indoor driving range, this popular lakefront facility is open year 'round and features lighted, heated mat areas and target greens. As a bonus, the upper deck area provides an amazing view of downtown Chicago and Lake Michigan.

Golf Center Des Plaines

853 N. River Road
Des Plaines
(847) 803-4653
www.dpparks.org
Operated by the Des Plaines Park District, this 1.5-acre facility is perennially ranked among the top 50 stand-alone driving ranges in America. Eighty lighted and

heated hitting stations are spread over three tiers. Golf lessons, instruction and custom club fitting are available through certified GolfTEC personal coaches. Adjacent to the golf range, Café Casa serves up great food and beverages in a sports bar setting.

Green Garden Golf Dome

9511 W. Manhattan-Monee Rd.
Frankfort
(815) 469-3350
www.greengardenc.com/golf-dome
This two-level fully heated dome at Green Garden Country Club in the far south suburbs features 42 hitting stations and a separate chipping and putting area. Lessons are provided under the direction

of PGA professional Randy Wexter. Look for coupons on the facility's website that provide combo packages including a bucket of balls with breakfast, lunch or dinner. The adjacent 45-hole Green Garden courses are open year 'round.

Links & Tees Golf Indoor Golf Dome

900 W. Lake St.
Addison
(630) 223-7275
www.addisonparcs.org
Professional instruction and a league for two-person teams are among the amenities of this facility ranked among the nation's top 50 stand-alone ranges of 2017 by the Golf Range Association of America.

McQ's Golf Dome

30 N. Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook
(630) 739-7600
www.mcqsdome.com
Just as Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville has redefined the Chicago public golf experience over the past few years, its sister property, McQ's Sports Dome in Bolingbrook, has developed a winning formula to complement a great heated practice golf facility with excellent food, entertainment and service. The sports dome is 60,000 square feet and features 50 hitting stations, two 900-square foot putting greens, and a short game area with a bunker. Led by 2011 PGA Illinois Teacher of the Year John Platt, the dome offers golf instruction to players of all ages. Swing

technology available includes Trackman swing and ball analysis; SamPutt Lab and custom club fitting.

Attached to the dome is one of the southwest suburbs' premier entertainment and dining establishments. Slow-cooked ribs, burgers and beverages are served in an outstanding sports bar setting that also serves as home for a Club Hawthorne Off-Track Betting parlor.

Skokie Sports Center

3459 Oakton Street
Skokie
(847) 674-1500, Ext. 3100
www.skokieparcs.org
Perennially rated among the top 50 golf ranges in America by the Golf Range

Association of America and Golf Range magazine, the sports park offers a two-tier 40-station range with automated tee system with adjustable tees. Amenities include heated stalls, target greens, distance markers and instruction. Hours of operation through February are Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Check for expanded hours in March and April.

Topgolf

699 W. Thorndale Ave.
Wood Dale
(630) 595-4653
and
3211 Odyssey Ct.
Naperville
(630) 596-1000
www.topgolf.com
Open year 'round, both of these complexes emphasize fun and great food along with golf practice. The ranges feature micro-chip-implanted golf balls which allow players to earn points by successfully hitting target greens or tee shot areas. Combine this state-of-the-art practice facility with great food and a dazzling sports bar and you have the hottest concept in golf practice. Hitting bays are covered, lighted and climate-controlled. Clinics and individual lessons feature slow-motion video analysis.

White Pines Golf Dome

500 W. Jefferson St.
Bensenville
(630) 766-0304
www.whitepinesgolfdome.com
Long considered the gold standard in Chicago indoor golf practice facilities, this 100-yard wide by 100-yard long heated complex features 48 hitting stations on two levels, five target greens, a 45-foot long contoured putting green and five state-of-the-art GOLFZON virtual golf simulators. Owned and operated by renowned Northbrook sports management firm KemperSports, the dome offers individual and group instruction led by 2006 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Chuck Lynch. The dome holds demo days and events on a regular basis, and also serves up sandwiches and cold beverages.

