



## 12North: The Icing on the Cake at Trappers Turn

In 2007, two-time U.S. Open champion and ESPN golf analyst Andy North lamented the slowdown of new golf course construction across the country. "With only a few new courses being built in America these days," he said in an interview, "I assume my work as a golf course designer is over."

While the construction boom era of the 1980s and 1990s when golf was wildly expanding across the Midwest are long gone, North's side gig as an architect has now been joyfully revived. On July 20th, his newest work called "12North" was unveiled to the public at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells. The par-3 course is located over 15 acres of dramatic landscape that features elevation changes and exposed sandstone. Trappers Turn is home to three acclaimed championship 9-hole courses designed in the early 1990s by North and Roger Packard. According to Director of Golf Patrick Steffes, 12North was a natural addition to the property. "What's the first thing golfers want to do when they finish playing a round?" he asked, rhetorically. "Play more golf! So we thought placing a par-3 course on a great parcel of land next to our other courses



would provide our guests another reason to visit Trappers Turn."

Those familiar with the Trappers Turn golf courses know that the marquee attractions on each nine are the par 3s, most of which feature outstanding views from elevated tees directed toward large greens protected by sand and mature trees. Expect more of the same on 12North, but offering 12 one-shot opportunities across the course. The holes stretch from a diminutive 54 yards up to 114 yards. But those yardages are relative to the

players' preferences as there are no formal tee markers on 12North; rather, there are suggested areas that can be overridden by the inclination of the players. "We encourage guests to tee up wherever they are comfortable," said Steffes. Even the grouping size is relative as eightsomes are encouraged to increase competition and fun. "Golfers like to challenge each other," Steffes said. "If three, six, or eight players are in a group, they should all have the chance to play all together on 12North."



Wisconsin resident Andy North worked with Craig Haltom of Oliphant Golf to design the course. Why 12 holes? "Because that's how many fit properly into the 15 acres of space we had available," said Steffes with a laugh. In addition to 12North, Oliphant Golf designed and built a one-acre practice putting green, available free-of-charge to all guests who pay green fees. The majority of this practice surface will be devoted to a 12-hole putting course featuring massive contours reminiscent of the greens on The Club at Lac La Belle, designed by Haltom.

While most of the holes on 12North can be reached by wedge, most are accessible to bump-and-run shots and can even be played from tee to green using a putter. The finishing hole is the longest of the 12, and incorporates a large bunker.

"The entire emphasis of 12North is on fun," said Steffes. "The new course serves up 12 holes of challenge, great views, and lots of enjoyment."

The three championship nines at Trappers Turn were built in three separate environments. The Arbor Course borders a state park and features rolling hills and great panoramas of the Dells' countryside. The 1st and 9th holes of the Lake Course parallel Mystic Lake and take players on a roller coaster ride up, down, and alongside extreme elevations. The Canyon nine was built on the most extreme acreage of the property, and is highlighted by the par-3 No. 7 which begins from an elevated tee and ends up in a canyon surrounded by trees.

Trappers Turn is owned by Kalahari Resorts, which is widely recognized as the premier indoor/outdoor waterpark facility in the Wisconsin Dells area. The complex features 760 guest rooms/suites, fine dining and a 125,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark. A stay-and-play package offered by the resort includes two vouchers for 18 holes at Trappers Turn, an overnight room or suite in the resort, waterpark admission, complimentary admission to Timbavati Wildlife Park, and other perks.

Known for generations as a summer tourism capital, the Wisconsin Dells area has over the years evolved into an impressive

golf destination. Along with Trappers Turn, the area's course selection includes the breath-taking Wild Rock Golf Club designed by Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry; the Golf Course at Northern Bay which features replica holes of Augusta National and TPC

Sawgrass, and two championship courses at Devil's Head Resort in Merrimac.

For more information on 12North and Trappers Turn Golf Club, visit [trappers-turn.com](http://trappers-turn.com).

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