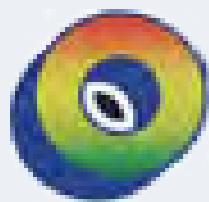


# FROM MOTOWN TO GOLFTOWN



Meadowbrook CC Hole 6



One of the greatest aspects of golf is the game's diverse playing fields. While tennis courts, bowling lanes and football fields all look alike, I've never come across a new golf course that was identical to another.

The assortment of designs differ dramatically from state to state and region to region. And if any of those topographies or design styles ever get boring, a plane ride across the pond opens the mind and soul to topographies and golf lore that are both remarkable and inspirational.

Andy Staples is a bright young golf course architect whose work appears to be heavily influenced by the world's legendary architects. Meadowbrook Country Club in suburban Detroit just re-opened following a top-to-bottom Staples renovation. Critics may argue that it was heresy to give the course a facelift on the club's 100th anniversary. Leave sentimentality to poets and lovers of 8-track cassette players. The fact is that the course desperately needed a facelift. Originally laid out by Scotsman and 2-time Open champion Willie Park Jr. (Olympia Fields and Maidstone), this engaging, rolling layout is an ideal place to play the game. Each hole is a different experience thanks in part to the vast terrain changes, occasional tree-lined holes, well-placed water hazards, and thought-provoking green complexes. The green on the 3rd hole is a guaranteed discussion topic on the 19th



Meadowbrook CC Hole 8



Andy Staples

Meadowbrook CC  
Brian Walters Photography



Meadowbrook CC Hole 3

Hole. It is modeled after No. 4 at Huntercombe Golf Club outside of London, another course designed by Park Jr. The green is basically separated into two large shelves. When the pin is located on the front you don't want to miss on the right side, and vice-versa when the location is reversed. Creative shot-making is put at a premium on this hole and many others. There are also a variety ground game shots that can be played at this Motown delight so you don't always have to carry all of your shots over bunkers. Meadowbrook is flawless in manner with superb conditions featuring the industry's best in Pure Distinction turf on the greens.

As can be assumed with any course with a 100-year-old history, the course holds an amazing legacy. The 1955 PGA Championship was held here. The course was also used as a PGA Tour stop back in the days when the immortal Ben Hogan was a champion. Staple's work on Meadowbrook was recognized by Golf Inc. magazine for Renovation of the Year. Do yourself a favor and check out Meadowbrook the next time you visit Detroit. You will find that the course pays homage to the past while providing great fun for everyone from the weekend warrior to the scratch player.

<http://www.meadowbrookcountryclub.com>

A must-play course in nearby Ann Arbor is the University of Michigan Course designed by the legendary Alister MacKenzie (Augusta National, Cypress Point). Basking in the shadows of Michigan Stadium, this outstanding layout rests on gently rolling territory garnished with conditions that are absolutely superb. This is pure MacKenzie and serves up the master's signature bunkers and green sites. Save for an ocean or a green sports jacket, there is virtually no difference between this course and the architect's most



University of Michigan Golf Course

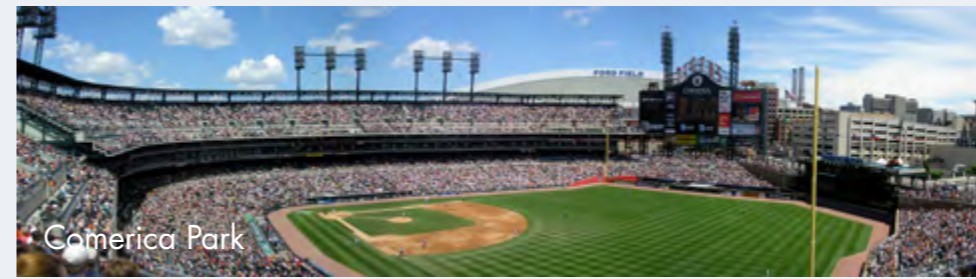
recognized works. While preferential tee times are provided Michigan alums and current students, the public is welcomed through a variety of options. Home to the Wolverine's men's and women's teams, this not only one of the best college courses in the country, it is also one of the best public-access courses you will find anywhere.

The newly opened \$14 million Richard L. Postma clubhouse is one of the more unique and modern golf facilities in the nation. Stunning views of the course and campus can be taken in and appreciated from the upstairs of this elegant structure.

<http://umgolfcourse.umich.edu>

The Polo Fields Country Club in Ann Arbor is another delightful romp through the undulating Southeast Michigan terrain. Plenty of water hazards and natural areas protect the course and make nearly every shot a challenge. Terrific conditioning and tour speed greens highlight the links-style track de-

signed by William Newcomb in 1995.  
<http://www.polofieldsccmi.com>



When in Detroit it's always fun to take in a Tigers game at beautiful Comerica Park. Not a single seat is bad here at one of the coolest baseball stadiums in the major leagues—made even better when future Hall-of-Famer Miguel Cabrera is at the plate. Do yourself a favor and walk around the inside of the park to see the statues of Tiger greats, historical plaques, interactive displays, plus a variety of bars and dining choices. Everything at the park is really well done to a T (think Tigers) and thought out for baseball fans and non-baseball fans, alike.

St. John's Inn is the ideal place to play when visiting the Detroit area. This former monastery brings amazing soulfulness through comfortable rooms in an inspired setting. Located in the upscale Metro Detroit suburb of Plymouth, this breathtaking landmark offers gourmet restaurant dining, corporate meetings & events, weddings, receptions, executive meetings, charity galas, and special events. Plus, they have a fun 27 holes right on property that all players will relish. Features include: AAA Four Diamond Detroit, MI area luxury full service ho-

tel; classic Romanesque architecture, marble floors, handcrafted woodwork and majestic stonework; 118 tastefully appointed and elegant guest rooms; breathtaking gardens and grounds; beautiful

ballrooms and conference rooms; 5ive Steakhouse – chic ambiance, imaginative menu, local brews, award-winning wine list and al fresco dining in season.



St. John's

There are also a bevy of other terrific courses in the area, making St. John's the perfect place to set up shop for a visit in the greater Metro Detroit area.

<http://www.stjohnsgolfconference.com>

While Motown earned its reputation by creating hit records by the Supremes, the Four Tops and Martha & the Vandellas, the great city has quickly and quietly become a golf destination that has visitors dancin' in both the streets and the fairways.



Polo Fields Country Club