

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

August 2017, Vol. 21 No. 5

THE TRIUMPH OF THE PRESERVE

**BAHA MAR:
BAHAMAS GEM**

ELGIN GOLF ROCKS

GOLFChicagoMagazine.com

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OPENING SHOT

**DAVE
AND
TIM**

It's the Dog Days of Summer, those steamy mornings and intolerable afternoons where, as Jean Shepherd once wrote, you can often see a mirage in the eastern sky, and it turns out to be Cleveland.

With the temperature approaching that of an open-hearth furnace, this is the time of year when golf is best played on wheels, all the better to beat the heat and carry various libations. The Scots may have walked from the beginning, but only because it was impractical to ride a horse off the first tee.

The modern-day golfer has better options. These days, one can even take a GolfBoard to move about the landscape, which those of us who have difficulty negotiating a sidehill lie on two feet will shy away from. But for the bold and



"Bruno here is on our scramble team. Believe it or not, he has no distance off the tee, but has a great short game."

those who want to pretend they're Luke Skywalker on the links, it's all the rage.

August is the month for the biggest amateur tournaments, and one, the Western Amateur, is in our bailiwick, at Skokie Country Club, at the start of the month. Dylan Meyer of Evansville, Ind., is the defending champion, but

don't be surprised if an 18-year-old from Chile, Joaquin Niemann, makes a statement. He advanced to the Sweet Sixteen last year, and finished tied for 29th last month among the pros at the Greenbrier Classic, showing off with a final round 64.

Within these pages, we cover the old and the new in one story with Neal Kotlarek's preview of The Preserve at Oak Meadows, the rebuilt course owned by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District; and completely new in his review of Stoatin Brae, a new piece of the Gull Lake View puzzle in Augusta, Michigan, that is.

One more thing. Don't dog it. Play, but stay in the shade.

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*At participating golf courses

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THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Greg Jourdan

It's not Heavy, it's Your Putter

It is a monster at 620 grams. The L2 MOI MAXX putter is also 6.25 inches from the clubhead's toe to heel. L2 president John

Ambrose wants golfers to reconsider their putters and traditional thinking for the shortest club

in the bag. Ambrose's MOI MAXX is more stable, which the retired commercial airline pilot believes will equate to more accurate ball striking and better distance control.

Obviously not for the squeamish or faint of heart, L2's MOI MAXX putter encourages a pendulum, gravity-fed putting stroke.

Ambrose suggests that this "dead-hands" motion produces dependable results. If you

haven't made a putt since Memorial Day, then try heaving L2's MOI MAXX putter.

\$199 www.l2putters.com



Dial in Distance

Bushnell's Pro X2 is designed to serve the avid golfer. The device is the company's most advanced rangefinder, and includes a distance range up to 1,300 yards, which means you will always know how far you are from the clubhouse or beverage cart, not to mention the longest par 5.

The Pro X2 allows users to toggle in and out of the Slope-Switch mode, and Dual Display Technology. Pinseeker technology dials in flagsticks. The unit gives users a silent, vibrating burst when the flagstick distance is locked in. Bushnell's compact Pro X2 is a game changer for all players.

\$499 www.bushnellgolf.com



Forged for All

Miura Golf has introduced its new CB 2008 irons, which dispel the notion that forged irons are only for better players. "The

CB 2008 epitomizes how advancements in technology can be delivered to golfers of all skill levels," said Bill Holowaty, Miura Golf's chief operating officer.

"The midsize clubhead combines a soft carbon forged face and neck with a composite, pocket cavityback. This design allows for a wider sole, lower center of gravity, larger sweet spot and more forgiveness." Miura sets the gold standard for forged clubs, so regardless of your handicap, Miura has a forged iron for you.

www.miuragolf.com



Playing Through the Elements

Billed as "the strongest umbrella ever," ShedRain's Vortex Vent delivers protection against hurricane-force winds. With 360 degree venting, the wing-like canopy alleviates stress on the frame.

The Vortex Vent's frame also includes energy-absorbing shocks to reduce stress on the protection system. Moreover, the umbrella incorporates elastic vent straps between the upper and lower canopies. If you don't mind swinging in the rain, grab a Vortex Vent umbrella. Just don't forget it in your trunk.

The Vortex Vent is available in 58", 62", and 68" models.

\$100 www.shedrain.com



When it is Breezy

Antigua's versatile wind jackets provide protection with performance. The sleeveless Conquer functions primarily as a windshirt, but thanks to its waterproof fabric, it also protects from light precipitation. It's intentionally not seam sealed; to allow more breathability, this membrane-bonded interlock shell is paired with a lightweight tricot mesh lining for comfort and flexibility.

The Conquer jacket is also deliberately void of nearly all top stitching, to coincide with the current trend of clean line detailing that promotes a focus on fabric and silhouette and elicits the "less is more" cliché in a positive way.

\$83 www.antigua.com



Gotta have Sole

Cleveland Golf's Smart Sole 3 wedges hit the racks just in time to cure your short game woes. These scoring sticks feature a three-tiered sole to encourage all players to knock it close from a variety of lies. Skulls and chunks are

greatly reduced as the Smart Sole 3 wedges optimize a

smooth interaction between the clubhead and turf. The S and C models tackle sand

and greenside shots with Feel Balancing technology

that redistributes the clubhead's weight to promote solid contact.

The results are kickin' pars and less time with your putter.

\$120 www.clevelandgolf.com



Sweet Home Chicago

Twilight Golf at Midday!

Monday, Aug. 21, will be a date unlike any other in a wide swath of southern Illinois. That's the day a total eclipse of the sun, the first in the state since 1869, crosses the state from the Mississippi River at Rockwood, southeast of St. Louis, to just south of Golconda on the Ohio River.

The center of the totality path goes right over Keller's Crossing at Stone Creek in Makanda, a course that reopened under new ownership this year. Specifically, the center line of the eclipse – maximum totality, 2 minutes 41.2 seconds at the course, the most anywhere – runs right behind the clubhouse and over the ninth green.

Jason Chrzan, whose family bought the then-closed Stone Creek in 2015, is planning a 100-player tournament in the morning, with an 8 a.m. shotgun, to have play concluded as the eclipse begins at 11:52 a.m. (Totality begins at 1:20 p.m.) The course is in a private development, so players will get a special credential to get in.

"Everyone's saying it'll be crazy, and the police chief said, 'Don't count on any help from us,'" Chrzan said. "Some people say everybody's coming, and some say nobody's going to come."

News flash: Plenty of people are coming. Rooms in the Carbondale area were sold out two years ago, and three months out, almost every room in Effingham was gone as well, and at premium prices.

Chrzan didn't even know the eclipse was coming when he acquired the property two years ago, but was curious to receive calls from people interested in renting the course-owned cabins on the property.

"You want to rent a cabin two years from now? Sure I'll take a deposit," he said. "It wasn't until the third call, and he explained the eclipse was coming."

By then, Chrzan said, some 90 percent of the cabins were spoken for at the regular price. But, in a celestial coincidence, another total eclipse will cross the Carbondale area in 2024. You can be sure the cabin prices will go up then.

At press time, Keller's Crossing still had about 50 spots in its Eclipse Day tournament, which includes breakfast,

lunch, a tee gift, and the hope for clear skies. For information, call (618) 351-4653.

Keller's Crossing isn't the only course to create a day surrounding the eclipse.

In Missouri, the public Columbia Country Club is hosting a Total Eclipse Tournament starting at totality, with a fireworks show as the shotgun start signal. Not far away, the Kansas City Royals are coordinating a series of charity tournaments coinciding with the eclipse, though it won't be total in Kansas City. (In Chicago, the percentage of the sun covered by the moon will be 89 percent at State and Madison. It will get dark.)

Jackson Park Rebuild Drumbeating Continues

The Jackson Park Advisory Council, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the improvement of Chicago's South Side lakefront park, continues to support the proposed rebuild of the Jackson Park and South Shore park golf courses into one layout, with conditions.

Jerry Levy, JPAC's golf course committee chair, said in a statement released by a public relations firm hired by the Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, "Based on the community engagement efforts of the Chicago Park District and Chicago Parks Golf Alliance, it is the consensus of the committee to continue its support of the proposal. ... The committee's support remains conditioned upon adherence to previously stated requirements: continued open access to the public; reduced fees for Chicago residents, including discounted pricing for seniors and free golf for juniors age 17 and younger; as well as following ecological standards in construction, maintenance and operations."

On the JPAC website, things were less rosy. Listed on its July 2017 page were a series of "flashpoints" regarding the plan as presented were highlighted, including these six related to golf:

Down Memory Lane

When Hogan Ruled

There's a buzz about The Preserve at Oak Meadows these days.

There was a buzz on the property 76 years ago as well, when a \$5,000 purse attracted every big star in golf to Elmhurst Country Club for the 1941 Chicago Open.

Vic Ghezzi had won the PGA Championship the week before. Craig Wood had won the U.S. Open. Dick Metz of Oak Park Country Club was the defending champion. Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen were there as well, and Medinah's Tommy Armour was, as always, a threat on the 6,750-yard par-71 layout.

Then there was Ben Hogan, who came in as the leading money winner. Yet to win a major title, Hogan was the picture of consistency on the circuit, in the money – which usually meant finishing in the top 20 – for 50 straight tournaments. That's how he won the 1940 Vardon Trophy for scoring average and that year's money title.

Hogan would pour in 15 birdies across 72 holes and grab the \$1,200 first prize with a score of 10-under-par 274, two strokes better than Wood and five better than Metz. Finishing a half-hour after Wood and nearly an hour after Metz, Hogan had the rapt attention of a gallery of more than 8,000, as he had from the start, when he opened with a 5-under 66 and led Bud Williamson by a stroke. A 70 in the second round allowed him a three-stroke lead by Metz, and a pair of 69s on the final day salted the title away against Wood's pair of closing 67s.

"A furious final round battle," the Associated Press' correspondent called it. Really, it was workmanlike efficiency by Hogan that won the day, only two bogeys in 36 holes, and a relentless assault on the course that included three straight birdies across the final two holes of the morning round and the first hole after lunch. Wood, Metz and the rest of the field were playing for second after that.

It was the first of five triumphs for Hogan in the Chicago area. He also defended his title in the renamed and effectively major Hale America National Open at Ridgemoor in 1942, took the 1947 Chicago Victory Open at Westward Ho, followed that with a World Championship title at Tam O'Shanter later in the year, and scored another World title at Tam in 1951.

– Tim Cronin



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It's Time to Release

The question of the summer has been, "How do I stop hitting my shots to the right?"

Think of your golf swing like throwing a baseball. Like in baseball, it's very hard to get your ball where you want it to go if you don't release your hands down your target line.

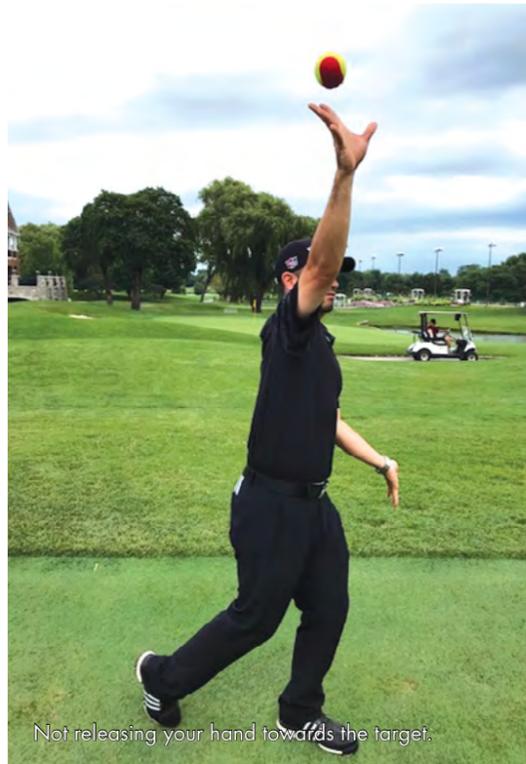
Try this simple drill to hit straight: Start with a baseball. Try throwing the ball without extending your arm and stopping halfway towards your target. When you do this, notice the ball does not go far and it is hard to control the ball's direction.

Now, try again and extend your arm and get the feeling that you are trying to snap your wrists in the direction of your target, making sure your arm is fully extended and completely stretched out toward where you want the ball to go.

As a right handed golfer, if your club head points right at impact then your golf ball will go right and if the club head points left at impact the ball will go left.

Once you have performed step 2 a few times, switch the baseball for a golf club and repeat.

You should see an increase in distance and possibly start seeing a straighter ball flight, maybe even seeing a slight draw.



Not releasing your hand towards the target.



Snapping your wrist towards the intended target.



No releasing of the club head.



The club head releasing and the toe of the club pointing to the sky.

Andrew Ogata is the assistant golf professional at Arrowhead Golf Club; call 630.653.5800 to book a private lesson or visit arrowheadgolfclub.org.

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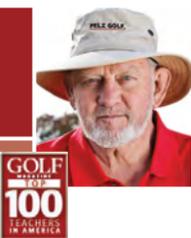
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Speed Doesn't Have to Kill

In reference to automobiles on highways and racetracks, you've probably heard the expression "speed kills." On the putting surface, the consequences of misjudging speed aren't quite so severe, but understanding how to read greens and control the speed of your putts can go a long way toward not killing your scores.

As you practice putting, there are simple methods you can use to develop your speed awareness for your future putts. One good way is to put yourself through a Speed Awareness Test on every putt you have. Try this next time you're on a practice putting green.

1. Before each putt, after you have committed to your putting line, make several practice strokes until you imagine your stroke will roll the ball one to two feet past the hole (if it misses).

2. Then move into your putting address and repeat that stroke without delays.

3. Finally, hold your putter at the end of your follow through and keep your entire body motionless, except for turning your head to watch the putt roll, until the putt stops rolling.

In southern California, you can frequently find yourself on greens with poa annua grass, which requires a bit of a learning curve because the surfaces can be a little unpredictable if you haven't grown up putting on them. On short putts, you'll see some California natives, like Phil Mickelson,

add speed to putts to minimize the break. On longer putts, however, Phil is more careful. If you watch him practice, you'll see him work hard on lag putts from 40, 50 and 60 feet to get his putting muscles engaged and to take keen notes on how the ball rolls on the surface.

Whether you're in southern California or Illinois, you should form a habit of imagining the proper stroke before each of your putts, then holding and feeling this stroke as you evaluate its result.

Repeat your practice stroke. Correlate the feel of the stroke with the speed of the result. This habit will enable you to input a putting touch learning experience into your brain every time you putt. Soon you will have your speed awareness fully programmed and fine tuned, ready to perform whenever you need it.

It's also important to be aware of the factors that affect the speed of the greens you play and how those factors can affect your putts. Take these into consideration as you survey the green you putt on:

1. The faster the putting surface, the more putts will break on any given slope. Because golfers must roll putts slower on faster greens (to keep them from going too far), putts take longer to get to the hole. This gives gravity more time to pull them down hill. The opposite is also true. The slower the greens (due to wetness or longer grass), the less putts will break.

Always remember: when the greens are fast, play more break.

2. When you have downhill putts, be extra careful to focus on the precise speed you roll them. Again, it is gravity that will give you a problem if you don't. If you roll your putt at any greater than the perfect speed, each little bit of extra speed will be magnified by the ball being pulled down the slope by gravity to the maximum distance error. Of course, when you putt back uphill, gravity helps by making these putts less sensitive to speed variations. Again, be sure to focus on speed control on all downhill putts.

3. Always look carefully at the greens to observe the grain of the grass on every new course you play. Grass is a living, growing plant and tends to grow (and lean) toward its primary source of water and sunshine, and away from the prevailing wind. If the blades of grass are leaning sideways and growing in a predominant direction, your putts will roll slower against this direction and faster when it's with it. When a grass effect combines with a slope effect, look out. Those downhill and down-grain putts can be terrifyingly fast.

If you always maintain an awareness of these factors of green speed, slope and grain as you "feel" the proper speed during your practice strokes before you putt, I think your speed control will be just fine. Good luck and good scoring to you!



Sweet Home Chicago

continued from page 7

- Road closures, especially Cornell between 59th and 63rd (Hayes), and Midway eastbound from Stony Island Ave. to Cornell, and whether shifting to Lake Shore Drive and Hayes will make new problems and what might ameliorate that;
- Golf: can it truly stay affordable and serve the spectrum of users, including locals, and stay sustainable and how much the site can be accessed by the general public;
- The decision not to move the driving range, but expand it at a cost to tennis courts and dog-friendly area, and the need for a guarantee not to diminish or impact the Bobolink nature area;
- Golf facility encroachment on courts, etc., on the west side;
- Making the golf perimeter and fencing better and more inviting but not putting off communities;
- The amount of tree turnover on the golf course and the guarantee of biodiversity and environmental responsibility and gain.

The park district and CPGA would like to move quickly, but so much is up in the air the argument over the rebuilding is expected to continue for months.

Nice Going, Kid

Lauren Beaudreau of Lemont finished tied for sixth in the Girls Junior PGA Championship in July at the Country Club of St. Albans in Missouri. Beaudreau, a Benet Academy standout who will be headed to Notre Dame, scored 66-70-70-72 to finish at 10-under 278, 10 strokes behind runaway winner Rose Zhang of Irvine, Calif. Beaudreau, who also qualified for the U.S. Girls Junior, was the only Illinois player to make the cut.

What Goes With Red Wine? A Green Jacket!

Sergio Garcia, who seems to wear his green jacket from winning the Masters just about everywhere but on the golf course, will be Luke Donald's special guest at Donald's Taste of the First Tee

fundraiser for the First Tee of Greater Chicago on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest the week of the BMW Championship.

There's no guarantee that Garcia will wear the signature piece of millenary to the gala evening, but when you wear it to the Barcelona-Real Madrid soccer classic and to Wimbledon, there's a good chance it'll be on display at Conway Farms.

The wines are from the Terlato Global Portfolio. Donald, with his own line of wines, will make a special

presentation along with Garcia. For tickets, contact The First Tee at (847) 729-9833.

The First Tee's Glenwoodie Golf Course program is hosting "Birdies, Brews & BBQ" at Glenwoodie in Glenwood on Friday, Aug. 25. There's a 1 p.m. shotgun followed by beer, barbeque and live music from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., plus a kid's golf zone. It's \$70 for golf and dinner or \$30 for an adult dinner, with children's dinner at \$8. You can register online at www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org.

The Preserve

A Golf and Environmental Triumph

By Neal Kotlarek

Plug a tee into the ground on the first hole on The Preserve at Oak Meadows golf course, and you instantly become overwhelmed by a sense of déjà vu. As you stare down the fairway, you become convinced that you have played this hole before. But when and where? As you attempt to gain your bearings and gaze down the left side of the hole, confusion reigns. Past that tree line rests an enormous prairie with wetlands and 17 other holes you are entirely certain you've never seen or played before.

If it's any consolation, those moments of uncertainty will be shared by thousands of golfers in coming weeks when this DuPage County Forest Preserve course opens to the public early this month.

Five years ago, the county enlisted area golf course architect Greg Martin to manage an intriguing project with multiple missions:

1) To perform engineering work that would mitigate wetlands that had created flooding issues on the former Oak Meadows golf course ever since it opened in 1919;

2) To develop an improved environment for wildlife, fish and other aquatic species which call the 288-acre property home;

3) To connect the property with the nearby

community and the regional Salt Creek Greenway Trail, so as to provide preserve access to hikers, joggers and cyclists, and;

4) To replace the 27 golf holes on the land with a dynamic 18-hole championship course.

A preview of the complex in July confirmed that Martin and his team achieved all of those objectives in spectacular fashion. While the popularity of the running and biking paths can only be proven once the property opens to the public, the golf course is a breathtaking display of natural design across and around wetlands, and over 4,000 mature trees that remain standing from the preserve's origins.

That sense of déjà vu you felt on the 1st tee? Martin paid homage to the former Oak Meadows (and, prior to that, Elmhurst Country Club) course by maintaining much of the look and feel of the 1st hole and the 18th hole off their respective tees. Yet this should not be confused with a renovation project, as the course has been given a distinctive new identity across all of its holes, beginning with four crafty and delightful short par 4s and continuing through winding par 5s that call for heroic tee shots and approach shots over water and wetlands.

"Long-time customers have been taking tours for weeks in anticipation of the course's opening," said Ed Stevenson, the district's executive director and director of golf. "They really like what they see, as a very familiar setting is now graced with a fantastic golf course and spectacular landscape."

Indeed, as a golfer who's played Oak Meadows dozens of times over the years, I must sheepishly admit I wasn't even aware of Salt Creek's lingering presence behind the trees of the former course. It is now front and center on the new property as it zig-zags across and along holes to add both additional challenge and natural beauty.

Highlighting the course are the aforementioned short par 4s which break up the round and whet one's appetite for a sure par or potential birdie. Inevitably, of course, trees, woods, water and misguided swing planes make that task easier said than done. The green of the 352-yard No. 4, for instance, can actually be reached from off the tee given supporting winds. Alas, wetlands in front of the tee along with sand bunkers inhibit one's swing and can turn an easy par into an easily explainable double bogey. Remember to keep the ball away from the right side of this putting surface, which takes a deep dive from the flagstick.

If course managers ever name the holes, No. 6 will surely become known as the Devil's Den due to an interesting numerical coincidence that occurred when project administrators were assessing every tree across the property. Each was numbered for identification purposes. Designer Martin could only shake his head during our preview round when his tee shot rolled up behind Tree No. 666, which rests on the right side of the rough. "Of course it's 666!" Martin said with a laugh as he pitched his ball under the sprawling tree and toward the green.

The course's four par 3s display great variety and are no pushovers. The two on the front nine measure 183 yards and 170 yards, respectively, from the black tees. The 223-yard No. 10 is not only the longest of the bunch; it is also the toughest when the greenkeeper decides to put the flagstick on the left side of the putting surface behind a deep bunker (as was the circumstance during my round). The best option is to aim for the middle of the green on this hole and accept a long birdie putt rather than risk a bogey or worse from out of the hazard.

The course's final three holes serve as a reminder of the course's diversity. A short 355-yard dogleg right par 4 with a huge contoured green leads to a tough-as-nails 195-yard par 3 with a green protected by bunkers. The 465-yard final hole calls for two precise

long shots, one from off the tee and the other from the fairway. The generous green offers an appealing target for a 3-wood or long hybrid approach shot.

Following two years of construction, The Preserve at Oak Meadows opens for a "preview season" in early August, which will allow limited play to ensure that young fairways, tees and greens will fully take root going into late autumn. Thus, the first full schedule of tee times will start next April.

"It is important to note that only 15 percent of the 288-acre property is dedicated to the golf course," said Martin. "The priority from the start of this project was to develop this land as a nature preserve that the community can enjoy inclusively," he added. In that same context, the future clubhouse for the golf course will also serve as host to district educational programs and events. The facility will include meeting rooms, a pro shop, grill area and locker rooms.

"The long wait is over," said Stevenson. "Just a year ago, most of the land was stripped bare and hardly resembled a golf course. But everywhere you look now, you see life in all of its forms. We're pretty certain that golfers and joggers and cyclists and hikers are going to be proud of this preserve for years and decades into the future."

For tee times and more information, visit www.dupagegolf.com or call (630) 595-0071.



Hole 7



Hole 9



Hole 17



There's Nothing Small About Baha Mar

By Dave Weretka with Neal Kotlarek

In Spanish, “baha mar” means “shallow sea.” As one’s plane descends into Nassau International, it is easy to understand why Christopher Columbus referenced the teal and aqua waters of the Bahamas when he first made landfall here back in 1492. Indeed, the lapping waves and pearly white sands across this archipelago of over 700 islands overwhelm the senses and make one wonder why Columbus would ever consider leaving this paradise to discover other parts of the New World.

The phrase took on an added meaning in May, when the 1,000-acre Baha Mar resort opened to rave reviews by both the public and the press. This \$4.2 billion development took over 10 years to build and is anchored by three opulent hotels which, when completed, will incorporate over three dozen restaurants, 20 swimming pools, multiple spas, and a convention center, along with a wide array of sports options. Located a mere 10 minutes from the Nassau airport, the complex appears poised to compete with Atlantis Paradise Island for the title of the most elegant resort destination in the Atlantic Ocean.

Baha Mar is slated to consist of three luxury hotel brands – SLS Hotels, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts and the Grand Hyatt.

The 300-room SLS Lux will open in late fall and will feature ocean-facing guest rooms and 107 residences. With five-star properties in Beverly

Hills, Miami, Miami Beach, and Las Vegas, SLS Hotels are acclaimed for their eclectic style, vibrant nightlife and exquisite dining experiences.

Scheduled to open in 2018, Rosewood will feature 185 ocean view rooms and suites, as well as five beachfront villas. The hotel will include four signature dining venues, a spa, deluxe cabanas and private beach access for guests.

Located on Cable Beach, Grand Hyatt is the largest of



the three hotels and was the first one to open. Amenities include 1,800 hotel rooms – many with remarkable views of the ocean and the surrounding property – six swimming pools (including the Blue Hole pool that offers a cool rock jump into the water), three styles of tennis courts (including clay and grass), nine bars and lounges, five restaurants, a nature preserve, a 30,000 square-foot destination spa, a fitness center and a casino (including racing and sports book) all help make for a fantasy getaway.

Golfers are not forgotten, of course. The Jack Nicklaus Signature 18-hole 7,189-yard Royal Blue course was uniquely designed to provide two dramatically different experiences. The front nine winds over gentle terrain featuring coastal views, undulating sand dunes and brackish ponds. In stark contrast, the back nine was built over what the staff calls a “limestone moonscape” that rises and falls dramatically.

A unique feature of the course is freeform teeing areas that allow the superintendent the option to transition holes dramatically – by as much as 100 yards! – from day to day to ensure that the layout provides a unique experience each time it is played. These adjustments

allow water features, bunkers and trees to be brought into play even if they weren’t remotely considered on a previous round. By offsetting one forward adjustment with another set of tees moved backwards, the overall length of the course is the only constant of a round. Brilliant!

Head golf professional Andy Deiro calls the course set-up plan a unique method of challenging players who look to play Royal Blue multiple times.

“We know that golfers typically play more than one day while on vacation,” Deiro said. “To vary their experiences, each morning a member of the golf professional team thoughtfully places tee locations on the course to take weather, playing conditions and, most importantly, any repeat guests into consideration. These varying tees create a unique and optimal golfing experience.”

The signature hole of the course is No. 16, presenting a dense jungle and an island green. While you might not grab a par on this par 3, make sure to capture a photograph so as to document perhaps the most memorable hole in the Bahamas.

While most golfers don’t travel without their golf clubs, Royal Blue offers an amazing “Better Than Your Own” rental

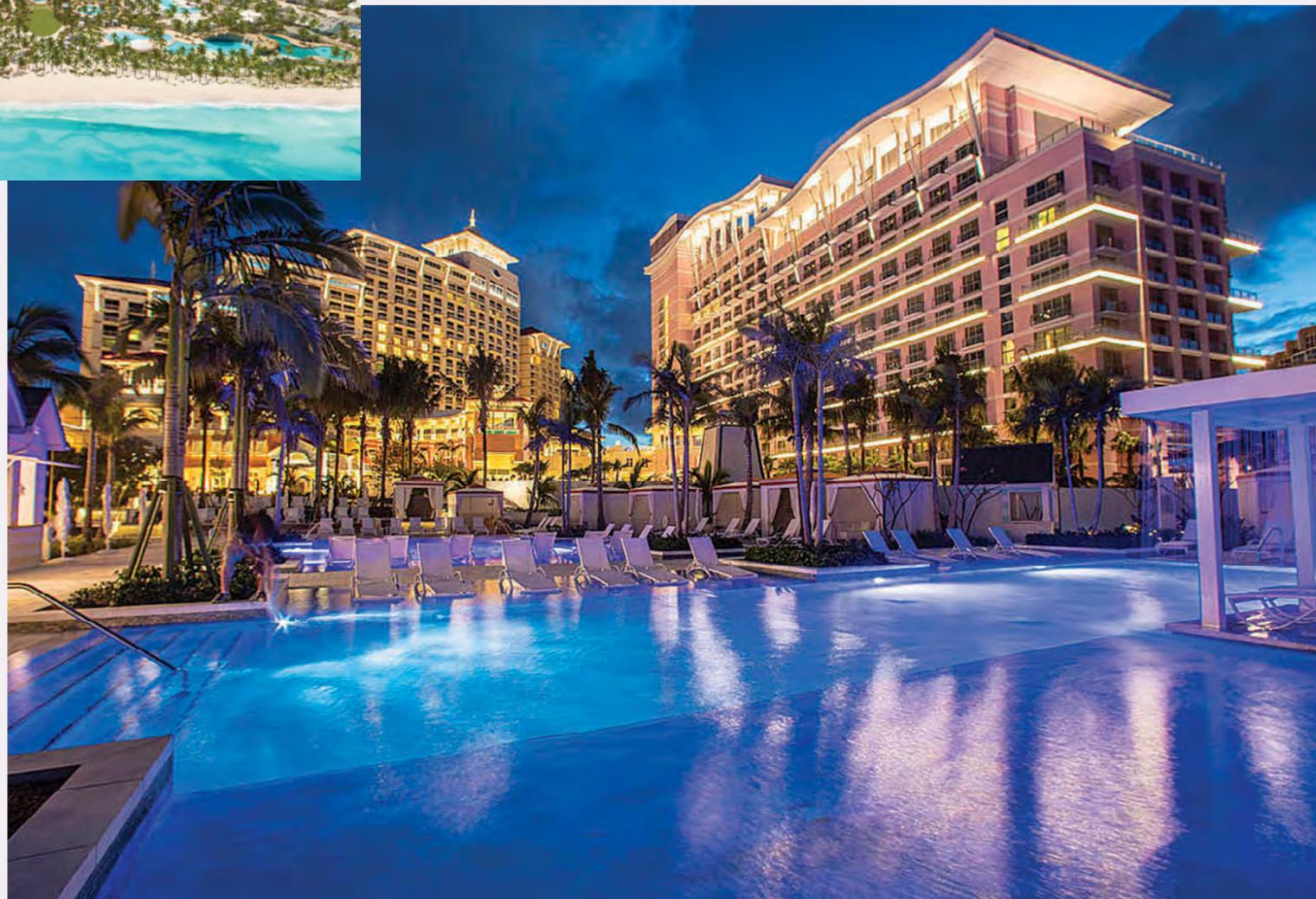
program that prods one to consider a round with a demo set consisting of exclusive options like Itoboris and PXGs.

“At Royal Blue,” Deiro said, “we don’t expect you to bring your golf clubs to the Bahamas. Instead, we bring top-of-the-line clubs to them. Guests are treated to a unique rental club experience featuring the latest equipment from Callaway, Taylor Made, Titleist and other recognized brands.



Before our guests tee off, a member of our professional team offers a club fitting on our warm-up range to assist in identifying the perfect equipment match.”

One other unique amenity on the golf course (and across the Bahamas) are forecaddie services. The club has partnered with CaddieMaster, which also provides caddie services to some of the top destinations in the world, including Pebble Beach, Pinehurst



and Whistling Straits. “This service,’ Deiro said, “is a true enhancement of a guest’s golf experience on our golf course.”

Make sure to schedule a visit to ESPA spa following your round or after a day of water sports. Signature services inspired by island life include the “Seashore Serenity,” a treatment guaranteed to bring relaxation and contentment even to those who bogeyed the aforementioned 16th hole.

All non-motorized watersports are included in your stay, and well worth the time out on the water. If you choose to take an off-shore excursion, that is available for some snorkeling adventures. Make sure your captain points out Gilligan’s Island on your way out to the reef north of Rose Island. Talk about reminiscing!

Many guests found Churchill’s Rum and Cigar Lounge a favorite place to unwind in the evening. Hard to beat, especially with some live music and a cool Caribbean breeze to top it off.

Royal Blue Golf Club combines with the shallow turquoise seas of the island to create an incredible experience at Baha Mar. Be the first among your friends and family to visit this island paradise. For reservations and more information, visit www.bahamar.com.

Mistwood Takes Fitting to the Space Age

When 41-year old Travis McGuire talks about his bicycle, his eyes light up. A school superintendent by day, McGuire is also an endurance athlete and avid golfer during his off hours. His bicycle, custom from rim to seat, is geared for speed, turning heads as he races past competitors and cycling enthusiasts.

Though McGuire bends more ears talking about his morning ride than his last string of pars, he loves golf as much as cycling. In stark contrast to his bicycle, his golf bag contains a collection of off the rack irons from a sporting goods store to infomercial specialty clubs. The only after-market upgrade is an oversized putter grip.

Like most golfers, McGuire runs out of daylight before finding time to sneak in a round of golf. However, this summer McGuire began to play more golf with his teenage twins and his buddies, and wants to be ready when his schedule affords more time for golf. "I am at a point in my life that I need to maximize every facet of my game, especially to keep up with my playing partners!" admitted McGuire.

To realize a better golf game, McGuire solicited watercooler advice from coworkers and friends. Some suggested re-gripping or re-shafting his current clubs, while others recommended searching online auction sites for used upgrades.

But when a friend advised him to get fitted for new clubs by a professional, McGuire scheduled an appointment. Enter Mistwood Golf Club's Performance Center. The Romeoville club offered two elements that validated McGuire's decision: Mistwood's PGA Professionals who specialize in club fitting and Mistwood's comprehensive outdoor range. Always the data hound, McGuire wanted to watch his ball flight, as opposed to just slamming balls into a net.

"The first 15 minutes are critical," stated Chris Ioriatta, a PGA Professional and performance specialist at Mistwood. To begin establishing trust, Ioriatta engaged his client in a discussion about goals for the fitting session. McGuire's goals were not uncommon: To focus on his irons and



to improve solid contact, accuracy, and distance control. McGuire said, "Chris did a great job of getting to know my golf game by asking specific questions about my handicap, ball flight, and frequent miss hits."

As McGuire began to hit golf balls with his current irons, Ioriatta described the significance of TrackMan's data points. He explained the optimal numbers for swing characteristics such as ball speed and spin rate and how they influence ball flight. The 3D charting displayed multiple charts and grids, which showed McGuire's swing DNA and the outcomes of his efforts. McGuire reflected, "This detailed analysis really helped in moving forward with the club fitting."

With each swing, they discussed typical outcomes McGuire experienced on the course. Like a doctor conducting an exam, Ioriatta would say, "How did that feel?"

The results with his current clubs were positive: In fact, Ioriatta was impressed with McGuire's ball striking. After establishing a baseline with his current sticks, McGuire was surprised at how well he was hitting his old clubs.

Ioriatta shared the design benefits of the new technology in irons and how the clubhead/shaft pairings can influence ball flight. Ioriatta pieced new 7-irons together, so McGuire could demo the new technology in contrast to his current set. The combination of McGuire's feel and the outcome of the shots on the range were weighed against

the digital data. As he dialed in the correct shaft weights, McGuire's shot dispersion drastically tightened. "There is a saying that it is easy to create data and much harder to actually use the data. Chris did a great job of using the data," McGuire said.

After synthesizing TrackMan's data, the two men worked together to find the optimal shaft, which for McGuire was between 103 and 105 grams. Ioriatta shared his rationale for each adjustment. Needless to say, McGuire, ever the data-ophile, was locked into the process. They also narrowed McGuire's club preference to Mizuno's JPX900 and Callaway's Apex CF16. What followed was a data-driven prize fight to pair shafts with these two iron heads. While McGuire's old clubs were not hurting his game, his eyes were opened to the shafts' role in golf club performance. "You do not think about the shaft and ball flight, but it is incredible to see how much the shaft weight affects the flight of the ball," said McGuire, adding that the fitting experience taught him that a sea of performance factors influence golf shaft – it is not simply flex, length, and material.

Andy Mickelson, the club's director of golf, shared that 90 to 95 percent of golfers who complete their fitting sessions order new clubs. A typical iron fitting session will take 60 to 90 minutes and costs \$150, while fitting session fees vary for driver (\$150), fairway/hybrid (\$100), putter (\$100), and wedge (\$75). However, a portion of the fee is refunded when customers order their customized clubs, typically at costs similar to retailers' standard, off the rack clubs. While McGuire will study the investment, the process was impressive, saying, "I definitely want the new clubs. When I walk up to my ball, I want to know exactly which club I need to pull."

What began as a somewhat intimidating venture for McGuire concluded with a more educated golfer who is ready to invest in his love of the game. With his new custom-fitted clubs, McGuire may soon have more to talk about than his morning bike excursion. For more details about Mistwood's Performance Center, visit www.mpcgolf.com.

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Top 10 US New Courses (1994) by Golf Digest
2017 U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifying Site

2014 US Amateur Local Qualifying Site
2013 US Amateur Public Links Qualifying Site



HERITAGE BLUFFS
Public Golf Club

www.HeritageBluffs.com

815-467-PUTT (7888)
Channahon, Illinois

Stress-Free Golf

The world went and got itself in a big hurry." This was Brooks Hatlen's observation in the movie *The Shawshank Redemption*. After a life behind bars, Brooks was thrown into a fast-paced life that we would probably consider pedestrian. For most of us, the pace of life has gradually increased, resulting in more stress with numerous negative consequences that go with it.

We need stress in our lives. Stress comes with a purposeful life, but excessive amounts of stress have significant effects on our mental and physical health. The symptoms of excessive stress can include moodiness, depression, feeling overwhelmed, low self-esteem, headaches, chest pain, cardiovascular issues, upset stomach and digestive problems, pain, fatigue, insomnia, and dizziness. Excessive stress can also affect our memory, our judgment, and our ability to focus, which adds to the stress of a busy day.

Managing stress usually involves multiple tactics that include recognizing the sources of stress in your life, getting

proper sleep and rest, eating a healthy diet, avoiding self-destructive behaviors, and participating in regular physical activity. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms mentioned, then meet with your physician to rule out significant problems.

When your physician gives you the all-clear order, you can begin to make healthy changes to your stress-free mindset. Physical activity can be added easily, and the average adult should have 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five days a week. Golf is a great form of physical activity and stress reduction. The key is to enjoy the game of golf.

Try to disengage yourself from the stressors of the day. Consider walking the course so you can add physical activity to your day. Take time to enjoy the surroundings and engage in more conversations with your group. Leave the cell phone in the bag and focus on the time away from the grind of the day. If possible, schedule your round so you can decompress your day rather than adding another thing to rush to.

If you want to optimize your round, then schedule time for light stretching so you can prepare your body for movement. Take the time to go to the practice green and driving range—this can be meditative. It will decrease your risk of injury, improve your chances of lacing the first drive, and help you read the first green. If time is tight, try playing nine holes instead of trying to squeeze in 18 holes at a NASCAR pace. Remember to breathe when you are stacked on the tee box of a par 3. Nothing on a golf course is more stressful than slow play.

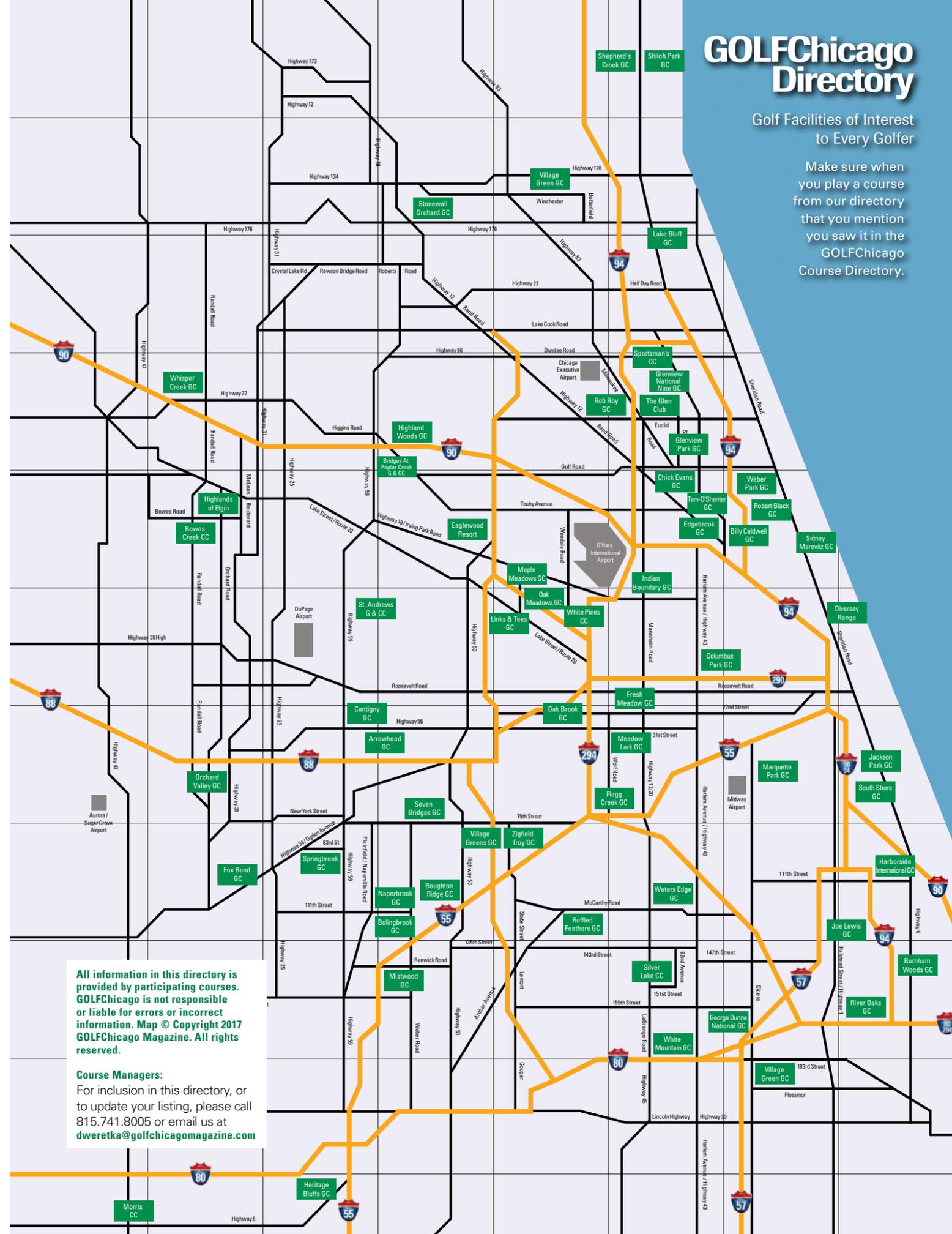
Most of us have figured out we are not going to play on the professional tours, so a good round of golf should be based on the experience rather than your score. Enjoy the sweet sound of a drive on the screws, the challenge of getting out of the green side bunker, and the six-foot putt that saved par and your press. Regardless of the rub of the green, find solace in the game and its subtle intricacies. A bad day on the course still trumps rush hour traffic. Golf well.



Photo: Mai Groves / Shutterstock.com

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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Course Managers:
For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



Arrowhead

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

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

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



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square-foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available.

Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country; named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list; and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*.



Bowes Creek Country Club

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

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart, and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

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

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic, Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits.

The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under.

The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join.

Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests.



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- 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



Fox Bend Golf Course

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

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



The Glen Club

847-724-7272
2901 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
theglenclub.com

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas.

Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250
Shermer Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home.

Golf Inc magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



Chicago Park District Golf

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cpdgolf.com

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

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- Columbus Park: 9 Holes
- Marquette Park: 9 Holes
- South Shore: 9 Holes
- Diversey Range

The only double-deck range in Chicago.



Green Meadows Golf Club

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

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

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

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

Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club

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

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

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

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

Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

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

COMING THIS SUMMER – After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows will reopen this summer as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.

This transformation, designed by Golf Course Architect Greg Martin, took 27 flood prone, 1920s' era golf holes, and produced a 288-acre environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."

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

For updates and previews visit DuPageGolf.com.



Glenview Prairie Club

847-657-1637
2800 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
golfglenview.com

- Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
- Affordable Rates.
- 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
- 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
- Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.

After your round stop in for a cold beverage in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available.

Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!



Golf Center Des Plaines

847-803-GOLF
GolfCenterDesPlaines.com
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210

Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight August–August. The 80-bay lighted & heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



Harborside International G.C.

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

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant.

Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club

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

18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171

Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.

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





The Highlands of Elgin

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

The new Quarry nine and the Original nine holes flow over beautiful rolling terrain, creating a diverse collection of holes. The new nine holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and are routed to take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind. 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.



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
lakebluffgolfclub.com

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hel's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
mistwoodgc.com

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area

Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200
600 See Gwun Ave.
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
golfmtprospect.com

The newly restored Mt. Prospect GC will take you back to a style of architecture made famous by names like Raynor, MacDonald, and Ross, with low square tee boxes, strategic cross bunkers, and challenging plateau greens, all in our quiet parkland setting. The redesign features most of the original routing, plus five new holes and historic "template holes" with names like Redan, Eden and Punchbowl.

Mt. Prospect is the closest thing to the conditions and feel of an old private club, with a daily fee rate. Come back to a new 90-year-old classic.



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. Built in 1974, the facility features a challenging 18 holes, 28-stall natural turf driving range, two practice putting greens, and a short-game practice green with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop and much more.



Stonewall Orchard

25675 West Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-740-4890
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.



Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

6700 West Howard Street
Niles, IL 60714
847-965-2344
niles-parks.org

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. 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!

Instructional programming available year-round!



Water's Edge Golf Course

7205 West 115th St.
Worth, IL 60482
708-671-1032
watersedgegolf.com

Rated Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*.

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways, and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



Naperbrook Golf Course

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

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills, native prairie grasses, 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.



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
orchardvalleygolf.com

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine*. One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, marshes, and more.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PPP card.
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
robroygc.com

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-3100
standrewsgc.com

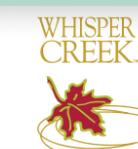
36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341-6818 yards
Located 30 miles west of Chicago in West Chicago. Since 1926, Chicago-area golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses and top-ranked Practice Center. With its vast rolling terrain, mature trees, and historic setting, St. Andrews offers quality facilities for discerning golfers, golf outings, and leagues, as well as permanent tee times. Guests will also enjoy premium range balls, motor carts with tablet GPS, and selections from J.J.'s Bar & Grill.



Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600
skokieparks.org
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping, and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.



Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb Blvd.
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-7680
whispercreekgolf.com

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Whisper Rewards PLUS program
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card
- Annual Memberships and MORE!



White Mountain Golf Park

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The Lasting Value of Oak Meadows

Oak Meadows, and prior to that Elmhurst Country Club, was a favorite for a variety of golfers for a variety of reasons, and it was vital to pay homage appropriately when I was selected to redesign it. This meant understanding the golf course, its strategic identity, varying character, and what it meant to its local golfers.

So it was necessary that a strong sense of place be developed, creating an identity for the reborn course, The Preserve at Oak Meadows, that evolved from Oak Meadows/Elmhurst Country Club. It was equally crucial to devise a routing strategy that accomplished the fundamental goals of storm-water management and habitat enhancement, wetland expansion and water quality improvements. This is the science of golf course architecture. It was necessary to ensure these goals were achieved; otherwise, this project wasn't viable.

First discussed in 2010, this project has taken on a variety of forms and iterations, overcome challenges, skepticism and weather. This project was part science, part engineering, part golf and part art. It had many moving parts, and is now considered a pioneering project for public and environmental golf course development.

To fuse these seemingly competing concepts was the challenge. The outcome must provide for the golfers, the communities and the inhabitants of this preserve; it must allow for storm surges and be flood-resilient; it needs to be sustainable, look natural and be maintenance friendly as a high-quality experience. These are things that golf can do, and the goal was to accomplish all of it while looking like it had always been there.

The results are quite astounding. A cyclist or hiker or visitor venturing onto The Preserve will never understand or comprehend the amount of work that transpired. The golfer will feel Oak Meadows, and sense the past, but be rewarded with a modern golf course that doesn't feel modern.

Golfers will experience a transformed golf course with more options, better conditions and higher challenges. Golfers will also witness a landscape that has been revealed and restored, for reasons beyond purely golf. Green swaths will be layered into oak corridors and wetlands boasting hues of russets, oranges, browns and yellows, so that fairways appear on the landscape like ribbons of green felt. This golf course will tour the property in a way that is intended to reveal its identity slowly, methodically and systematically.

There is intention to how the holes have been sited so that anyone can feel the impact of this extraordinary preserve.

The larger mission of this project had to accommodate a great number of cultural, environmental, recreational and engineering-specific goals. Golf, and specifically public golf, has the opportunity and responsibility to provide solutions to a variety of cultural and environmental problems. The Preserve at Oak Meadows will provide significant environmental benefit and access to a beautiful and revived Illinois landscape. Not only will The Preserve at Oak Meadows provide a great golf experience, but it will also be a high functioning, quality landscape by improving water quality, expanding wetlands, creating native sanctuary and providing increased storm water management capabilities.

The vision of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County had to be honored. This bold vision for a struggling golf course is commendable. Yes, this project was complicated. There were numerous public agencies that required substantial stakeholder input, review, permitting and approvals. The project team was cooperative and inventive, willing and able, and mostly collaborative. Ultimately, the results will be eternal and the benefits felt by many. As Ed Stevenson, executive director of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County states, "The potential of this project encouraged the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to pursue a more ambitious agenda for improved river ecology and preserve improvement. We're excited and hope our constituents will enjoy the significant benefits."

Mostly, this purely Illinois landscape will perform as it should. The wetlands and storm-water management will function without fanfare, the water quality will be improved, and habitats expanded while wildlife accepts the benefit. The only hint of how well this was integrated will be the extent of butterflies and dragonflies, the sounds of frogs or songbirds, or migrating ducks and soaring hawks. This is the great value of golf: while golfers enjoy The Preserve, the wildlife and surrounding communities will reap the benefits.

Golf course architect Greg Martin designed the reconstruction of The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Wood Dale. He is also a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

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