MILWAUKEE AREA PRIVATE CLUB GUIDE

2026 Edition

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MILWAUKEE AREA PRIVATE CLUB GUIDE

17 Private Clubs Across Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha & Washington Counties

Snapshot clubs highlighted in dark green

1 Full Snapshot Club 2 Additional Featured Clubs

MILWAUKEE AREA
PRIVATE CLUB
GUIDE

CLUB DIRECTORY

1. West Bend Country Club (West Bend)
2. Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms (Cedarburg)
3. The River Club of Mequon (Mequon)
4. Ozaukee Country Club (Mequon)
5. North Shore Country Club (Mequon)
6. Milwaukee Country Club (River Hills)
7. Tripoli Country Club (Brown Deer)
8. North Hills Country Club (Menomonee Falls)
9. The Wisconsin Club Country Club (Milwaukee)
10. Chenequa Country Club (Chenequa)
11. Oconomowoc Golf Club (Oconomowoc)
12. The Legend at Bristlecone (Hartland)
13. Blue Mound Golf & Country Club (Wauwatosa)
14. Westmoor Country Club (Brookfield)
15. The Legend at Brandybrook (Wales)
16. The Legend at Merrill Hills (Waukesha)
17. Tuckaway Country Club (Franklin)

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About This Guide

For most of my life, private clubs felt like a completely different world from the golf I knew.

Like many Wisconsin golfers, I grew up around public golf - searching for affordable tee times, driving across the state to play new courses with friends and trying to squeeze as much golf as possible into whatever time and budget life allowed.

Private clubs always seemed distant, expensive and reserved for people living a very different lifestyle than my own.

Over the past 16 years, however, private clubs have become an important part of my golf, personal and professional lives. Through WiscoGolfAddict and years covering golf in Wisconsin, I've had the opportunity to spend meaningful time around many different clubs and the communities surrounding them. At this point, I've now played sixteen of the seventeen private clubs in the greater Milwaukee area and have photographed many of them extensively through years of coverage within Wisconsin golf.

The more time I spent around Milwaukee-area clubs, the more I realized how misunderstood much of private club life actually is.

This guide exists largely because I once viewed private clubs the same way many golfers still do today - as inaccessible places designed primarily for wealthy longtime members and business executives. In reality, I found something far more welcoming, socially vibrant and diverse than I expected.

There is no universally "best" club.

There is only the club that best fits a particular person, family and lifestyle.

That's why I've increasingly come to view this guide less as a ranking project and more as a resource designed to help golfers better understand Milwaukee's private club landscape as a whole. My hope is that readers come away with a clearer understanding of what modern club life actually looks like today.

Many clubs throughout Milwaukee are actively investing in their futures, modernizing facilities and searching for younger members, families and engaged golf enthusiasts who want to become part of their communities long-term. In many cases, clubs are far more welcoming and attainable than many outsiders realize.

Ultimately, that's what this guide is really about.

Not exclusivity.

Not status.

But community, belonging, shared experiences and the many different ways golf continues bringing people together throughout Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

West Bend Country Club

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A Few Notes Before You Begin

This guide is not intended to rank Milwaukee-area private clubs from “best” to “worst.” Every club included here offers a different culture, atmosphere and membership experience.

Some clubs participated directly in this project through interviews, questionnaires and club-provided information, while others were covered editorially based on my own experiences, photography and research. Membership structures, pricing, waiting lists and amenities can evolve over time, so prospective members should always contact clubs directly for the most current information.

Most importantly, I’d encourage anyone seriously considering membership to spend meaningful time around a club before making a decision. Play the course if possible. Visit the clubhouse and practice facilities. Talk with members.

Every club reveals its personality eventually, and finding the right fit matters far more than rankings, reputation or assumptions from the outside.

Photo: Blue Mound from the 18th fairway (photo: Jerry Rossi)

My Story

For most of my life, private clubs felt completely out of reach.

Growing up, everybody I knew who belonged to a country club seemed wealthy in a way that felt unattainable to me. You'd hear stories about six-figure initiation fees, monthly dues that rivaled mortgage payments and food-and-beverage minimums that sounded absurd. I barely even considered the possibility of joining one someday because I assumed private clubs simply weren't meant for people like me.

At that point, I'd only played a couple private clubs in my life. I loved golf, but my golf world revolved around public courses, calling pro shops to *hunt for open tee times* and trying to squeeze in as much golf as possible within whatever budget I could justify.

At the same time, I was also a couple years into building WiscoGolfAddict. The season before joining North Hills, I played 124 rounds at 74 different courses. I was completely immersed in the game - driving all over to experience new places, explore architecture and play as much as possible while balancing work and life.

I loved it, but financially it wasn't exactly sustainable.

Then, in 2012, I started looking through my credit card statements and realized something surprising: I had spent over $10,000 the previous year on tee times, range balls, food, drinks and point-of-sale purchases at public courses. Oddly enough, it was that realization that first got me thinking about private club membership.

At the time, I was living in a condo across Appleton Avenue from North Hills Country Club in Menomonee Falls. I had walked by the club and its practice facilities for years without thinking I'd ever even play it. Out of curiosity more than anything, I decided to look into it.

What I discovered challenged many of the assumptions I'd long carried about private club life.

Because of my age - in my early 30s at the time - North Hills offered a younger membership category that made joining far more realistic than I had ever imagined. Instead of feeling impossibly exclusive, it made sense. I wrote a check for my first year's membership that night before ever even seeing more than the range.

That decision ended up changing my life in ways that had very little to do with golf.

At the time, I only had one friend at North Hills: Kyle. Kyle and I both grew up in Hartland and played golf together a couple of times over the years, but we weren't close. That changed quickly after I joined.

North Hills Country Club

The first winter after joining, before the golf season had even started, I'd walk across Appleton Avenue to the clubhouse for dinner or a drink after work and sit at the bar with whoever happened to be around. The membership skewed much older at the time, and I was one of only a handful of members in their 20s or 30s. Regulars quickly started introducing me to people they thought I'd enjoy spending time with, and before long I had invitations to regular games, member events and weekend groups.

Early on, the club still distributed printed membership directories, and when I'd get home I'd occasionally jot down notes about people I'd met - what they did for work, what we talked about or how to remember them. I was one new member trying to become part of a community of hundreds that existed long before I arrived, and I understood how much it matters when somebody remembers your name and makes the effort to genuinely get to know you. I always recommend a similar practice to anyone joining a new private club.

One of the things I remember most about that first offseason was how welcoming everybody was. At North Hills, few people cared about what kind of car you drive, where you work or how much money you make. There were plenty of successful people there - business owners, attorneys, doctors, executives and community leaders - but once you walked through the clubhouse doors, everyone was simply another member.

Within a few months, it had become my home away from home.

I spent entire weekends there. Thirty-six-hole Saturdays turned into dinner and drinks afterward. Weeknights meant squeezing in quick loops after work or grabbing cocktails at the bar while talking golf, sports, business and life with whoever was around. Saturday morning money games became a ritual - multiple tee times packed with scorecards spread across patio tables afterward while somebody calculated winnings and losses down to the last dollar.

The winner was never me, but I could care less. I loved all of it.

One of my closest friendships to come from North Hills started early after I joined when I ran into another younger member, Jeff, who had joined around the same time I did and was out playing with his dad. We started talking golf afterwards at the bar and - of course - had to head out for an emergency nine. Before long we were playing together regularly, and over the years he's become one of my closest friends. Looking back, that kind of relationship-building happened naturally at North Hills. There were only a handful of younger members there at the time (very different now - a common trend across clubs in Southeast Wisconsin), and people who loved the game and enjoyed spending time around the club inevitably gravitated toward one another. Many of my favorite friendships in life today trace directly back to moments like that.

The club gradually became a center of my social life. Over time, I watched Packers, Brewers and Bucks games with fellow members, attended weddings, celebrated birthdays, spent holidays together and built friendships that have now lasted more than a decade.

Over the years, I also had the chance to spend time around legendary Brewers broadcaster Bob Uecker at the club. Like so many others there, he was welcoming, hilarious and endlessly enjoyable to talk with. Some of the conversations I had with him remain among my favorite memories at North Hills.

I brought my now-wife Kelly there for one of our first dates in 2014 so she could meet some of the friends I'd made there over a Friday night fish fry. We were married there in 2016. We even bought a home on the sixth hole.

Now our kids are growing up there.

Today, I no longer maintain a full golf membership as life, work and family priorities have evolved, but in many ways my emotional connection to the club has only deepened over time. We're still around regularly as social-plus members. Our kids run around the patio during live music nights, participate in junior golf and hug members they've known since they were babies. Some of the people I first met as a single guy in my early 30s now feel like extended family.

North Hills Country Club

North Hills Country Club

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Why Private Clubs are Booming Again

For many golfers, private clubs long carried a very specific reputation.

They were often perceived as expensive, exclusive and reserved primarily for wealthy families or established business circles - places that felt intimidating, inaccessible or simply disconnected from the everyday golf experience most players knew through public golf.

That perception still exists to some extent today.

But over the past several years, something interesting has happened. As golf participation has surged nationally and throughout Wisconsin, private clubs have experienced a significant resurgence of their own - not simply because of prestige or exclusivity, but because more golfers are searching for something deeper and more consistent within the game.

According to data from the National Golf Foundation (NGF), on-course participation in the United States has grown from 24.3 million golfers in 2019 to 29.1 million today - an increase of nearly 20%. More than 500 million rounds have been played nationally in four of the past five years despite the country having more than 2,000 fewer golf courses than it did during the early-2000s “Tiger boom.”

That combination - surging demand paired with reduced supply - has fundamentally reshaped the golf landscape.

Public golf, especially in Wisconsin, remains the foundation of the game. Wisconsin is one of the most public-golf-oriented states in America, with roughly 88% of its golf facilities open to public play according to NGF data.

The state's golf identity has long revolved around accessible daily-fee golf, weekend buddy trips and golfers willing to drive hours across Wisconsin simply to experience a great course.

But the explosion in participation has also created new realities that many golfers now feel firsthand. Tee sheets at desirable public courses fill faster than ever. Weekend rounds are increasingly difficult to book. Pace of play concerns have become more common. Greens fees at many high-demand facilities have risen substantially as operators attempt to balance overwhelming demand with rising maintenance and operating costs.

For a growing number of golfers - especially highly active players, younger professionals and families deeply invested in the game - private club membership has started to feel less like a luxury purchase and more like a lifestyle decision.

That shift helps explain one of the most fascinating statistics in modern golf: while overall on-course participation has grown roughly 20% since 2019, private club membership has increased approximately 46% over the same period according to the NGF.

Importantly, that does not mean golf is becoming "more private." Private club members still represent less than 8% of all players nationally. Public golf remains overwhelmingly dominant, especially in Wisconsin. Instead, what appears to be happening is that a growing segment of golfers are embracing private clubs as part of a broader lifestyle and community experience surrounding the game.

Tripoli Country Club

As Erik Matuszewski of the National Golf Foundation explained to me while discussing these trends, "Private clubs became an escape - local, communal, social and outdoors… something families could do together."

The pandemic accelerated many of these shifts, but it did not create them entirely. Golf offered something people increasingly struggled to find elsewhere: in-person community, outdoor recreation, unstructured social interaction and shared experiences across generations. Private clubs happened to provide those things in a highly consistent environment.

At the same time, clubs themselves have evolved significantly.

Many Milwaukee-area clubs today look very different than they did twenty years ago. Clubs across Wisconsin and the country have reinvested heavily into their facilities as financial conditions improved throughout the golf industry. Expanded patios, renovated clubhouses, family programming, junior golf initiatives, fitness amenities, pools, simulators, wellness offerings and enhanced dining experiences have become increasingly common. Many clubs now resemble lifestyle communities as much as traditional golf properties.

That evolution has been especially noticeable among younger families and professionals.

Many clubs that once struggled to attract younger members now feature active junior golf programs and strong contingents of competitive younger players, packed patios on weekends and select weeknights, family-oriented events and thriving social calendars that extend far beyond the course.

Milwaukee Country Club

Intermediate membership categories have helped make clubs more financially attainable for younger adults, while flexible work schedules and hybrid work environments have also allowed many members to integrate club life more naturally into their routines.

Wisconsin's broader golf boom has only reinforced those trends.

According to research commissioned by the Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA) and conducted by Radius Sports Group, golf generates an estimated $6.44 billion annual economic impact within Wisconsin while supporting more than 56,000 jobs statewide. More than 11 million rounds are played annually across Wisconsin's 528 golf facilities, with nearly 1.8 million golf-related visitor trips occurring each year. WSGA membership itself has reportedly grown between 5% and 10% annually since COVID, while junior golf participation has also expanded significantly in recent years.

Those numbers reinforce something many Wisconsin golfers already feel intuitively: golf is no longer a niche activity. It has become deeply woven into Wisconsin's culture, tourism economy and social fabric.

Private clubs are part of that larger story.

What's happening at clubs throughout Milwaukee reflects a broader search for connection and community in an increasingly fragmented world. Faster rounds, reliable access and high-quality golf conditions certainly matter. But for many members, the deeper appeal comes from having a place that feels familiar - somewhere they can regularly spend time with friends, family and familiar faces.

That emotional connection is difficult to quantify.

But it may ultimately be the biggest reason so many golfers continue embracing club life today.

Wisconsin Club Country Club

Wisconsin Chapter
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Wisconsin Golf Course
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WGCSA.com

Why Private Clubs Are Booming Again

THE GAME. THE COMMUNITY. THE MOMENT.

Golf isn't just having a moment. More people are playing, more rounds are being played, and more families are choosing private club life than at any time in the last two decades.

"Private clubs became an escape – local, communal, social and outdoors... something families could do together.

– ERIK MATUSZEWSKI
National Golf Foundation

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

National trends. Wisconsin impact. A growing game.

NATIONAL GOLF TRENDS

29.1M
ON-COURSE GOLFERS
in the U.S. in 2025
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

+20%
GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION
since 2019
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

500M+
ROUNDS PLAYED
for 4+ consecutive years
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

-2,000
FEWER GOLF COURSES
than during the early 2000s boom
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

+16%
AVERAGE ANNUAL ROUNDS
since 2020 vs. 2014–2019 average
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

A DEFINING TREND IN MODERN CLUB GOLF

+46%
PRIVATE CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SINCE 2019
One of the strongest growth periods in modern private club history.
Source: National Golf Foundation (NGF)

WISCONSIN CLUB TRENDS

5–10%
ANNUAL WSGA MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SINCE COVID
Source: Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA)

5,000+
WISCONSIN JUNIOR MEMBERS IN YOUTH ON COURSE
Source: Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA) & Youth On Course

THE POWER OF GOLF IN WISCONSIN

$6.44B
ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
Source: Radius Sports Group on behalf of WSGA

11.24M
ROUNDS PLAYED ANNUALLY
Source: Radius Sports Group on behalf of WSGA

56,595
JOBS SUPPORTED BY GOLF
Source: Radius Sports Group on behalf of WSGA

1.8M
GOLF-RELATED VISITOR TRIPS
Source: Radius Sports Group on behalf of WSGA

528
GOLF COURSES IN WISCONSIN
Source: Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA)

A GROWING NICHE WITHIN A PUBLIC-GOLF STATE

73%
OF MILWAUKEE-AREA GOLF COURSES ARE PUBLIC-ACCESS
(79 TOTAL COURSES IN THE MILWAUKEE-WAUKESHA MSA)

Milwaukee ranks among the nation's most public-golf-oriented major metro areas.

<8%
U.S. GOLFERS WHO BELONG TO PRIVATE CLUBS

Private clubs remain a relatively small portion of the broader golf ecosystem despite rapid recent growth.

SOURCES: NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION (NGF) | WISCONSIN STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION (WSGA) | RADIUS SPORTS GROUP | YOUTH ON COURSE

What Club Life Actually Feels Like

For people who have never belonged to a private club, it's easy to imagine the experience incorrectly.

From the outside, private clubs are often perceived as overly formal, intimidating or transactional - places where members quietly disappear into exclusive dining rooms while obsessing over status, dress codes and who belongs. While some clubs around the country may lean into that atmosphere, the reality at most Milwaukee-area clubs is far more relaxed, social and welcoming than many expect.

A perfect club day for me used to start early on a Saturday morning at North Hills. I'd head over knowing there would already be members filtering through the locker room and bar area getting ready for one of the regular money games.

Somebody would be grabbing a Bloody Mary or beers pre-round, somebody else would be finishing a "North Hills breakfast" or a hot dog, and everybody would be talking like they were about to go shoot the round of their life.

The range would be full of members loosening up while simultaneously talking trash to their future opponents and reliving the great shots they hit the week before that they were convinced would carry over into that day's action.

In the locker room you'd hear metal locker doors slamming shut, showers running at what felt like impossible water pressure and members moving in every direction trying to get to the first tee on time.

Outside the locker room, the pro shop staff, caddies and club room attendants would already be greeting members by name, asking who they were playing with that day, whether they were walking or riding and who looked "hot" coming into the weekend games.

There's an excitement and optimism to club golf that's difficult to describe unless you've experienced it yourself.

At North Hills, one of my favorite weekly traditions revolved around the Saturday morning games. Multiple tee times would be reserved for these regular groups, and after the round everybody would gather for lunch, drinks and scorecard calculations while John Casper entered scores into his famous Excel spreadsheet to determine who owed what. The same guys somehow always seemed to win, the same guys usually lost and everyone in between would spend the next several hours reliving missed putts, impossible lip-outs and the one swing that could have changed the entire outcome.

The golf itself mattered, of course, but the atmosphere surrounding it mattered more.

Most great club days didn't end after 18 holes, either. Somebody would inevitably decide to go back out for another loop after lunch, I'd bring guests out for the afternoon or set up another match with whoever was still hanging around. Thirty-six-hole days slowly turned into dinner, cocktails and hours spent sitting around the patio long after sunset.

West Bend Country Club

There's also plenty of humor woven into club life. Every club has its sayings, legends and recurring characters. At North Hills, one of the most common expressions is, "You read your putts from memory," because the greens are so fast and subtle that members swear local knowledge matters more than eyesight.

Another favorite of mine comes from longtime member JD Townsley: "I may not be good for much, but I'm always good for a drink."

That spirit captures Milwaukee club culture well. Not the drinking, but the cameraderie.

The golf may be the foundation for it all.

But the relationships are what make it matter.

The start to a great day at Tuckaway Country Club

Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms in Cedarburg

Understanding Milwaukee’s Private Club Culture

One of the most interesting things about Milwaukee’s private club scene is how different the clubs feel from one another.

From the outside, people unfamiliar with private clubs often imagine them as interchangeable - beautifully manicured golf courses paired with stately clubhouses and polished dining rooms. But after years spent playing and photographing clubs throughout Wisconsin, I’ve found the opposite to be true. Every club develops its own traditions, personality and social rhythms over time. No two clubs ever feel exactly alike.

Within a relatively compact geographic area, the region features everything from nationally significant Golden Age courses to modern championship layouts, understated hidden gems and highly active family-focused clubs. Some clubs are deeply rooted in golf history and architecture. Others revolve more around family life, social activity and community. Some are highly competitive and golf-obsessed. Others feel more relaxed and culture-driven.

That diversity is one of the things that makes Milwaukee’s private club scene so compelling.

The best club for someone is rarely the one with the biggest reputation, the highest national ranking or the most expensive membership. More often, it’s the one where the culture and vibes of the club align naturally with that person’s life.

For some people, that means finding a serious golf environment with highly competitive games, active tournaments and members who want to play and practice constantly. For others, it means finding a place where their family feels comfortable spending time together, where the social atmosphere feels welcoming and where the club naturally becomes part of their weekly routine.

There is no universally “correct” private club experience.

Milwaukee’s club culture also tends to feel more understated and relationship-driven than many outsiders expect. While every club has its own expectations and traditions, most Milwaukee-area clubs are far less formal than the stereotypical image many people carry of private golf. In my experience, the atmosphere at most clubs here feels more grounded, golf-centric and community-oriented than performative or status-driven.

Members certainly take pride in their clubs - and they should. Golf enthusiasts in Milwaukee are incredibly passionate about the game and fiercely loyal to the places where they belong. They believe their superintendent has the best conditions, their golf professional runs the best events, their course has the best greens or their club has the best overall atmosphere. That pride is part of what gives each club its own personality and energy.

At the same time, the strongest clubs tend to share something in common: members genuinely enjoy spending time together there.

West Bend Country Club

Some clubs feel deeply multigenerational, where grandparents, parents and children all grow up around the same traditions and events. Others feel younger and more energetic, with lively patios, active locker rooms and groups of members constantly organizing games and trips together.

None of those approaches are inherently better than another.

They are simply different expressions of club culture.

That's why "fit" matters so much.

Ultimately, the best way to understand a club is not through rankings, marketing materials or initiation fee comparisons. It's by spending time there. Reach out to the membership director. Ask to visit the club for dinner, spend time at the practice facility or play a round with a member. Most clubs genuinely want prospective members to experience the atmosphere firsthand because culture and fit matter just as much to the club as they do to the individual considering membership.

Walk the patio. Sit in the clubhouse. Meet members. Watch how people interact with one another. Pay attention to whether the atmosphere feels welcoming, competitive, family-oriented, relaxed or somewhere in between.

Every club reveals itself eventually. The challenge - and opportunity - is finding the one that feels most like your place.

The Wisconsin Club Country Club

West Bend Country Club

Finding the Right Club Fit

One of the biggest misconceptions people have about private club membership is that the golf course itself is the most important part of the decision.

Certainly the golf matters. It should. If you're making a significant financial and lifestyle commitment to a club, you should genuinely enjoy the course and want to play it regularly. But after years spent around private clubs throughout Wisconsin, I've become convinced that the golf course is only part of what determines whether someone will truly enjoy club life long-term.

The people who seem happiest at clubs are usually not the ones who simply found the "best deal" or the highest-ranked course.

They're the ones who found an environment that naturally aligns with the way they want to live, play and spend their time.

That fit can look very different depending on the person. Some members are searching for highly competitive golf games and active tournament calendars. Others want a place where their families feel comfortable spending time together. Some value networking and business relationships. Others simply want a welcoming place to practice, play a quick nine holes or unwind after work around people they genuinely enjoy being around.

One of the biggest mistakes I see people make is choosing a club primarily because their friends belong there or because the golf course has a certain reputation, while ignoring whether the club realistically fits into their everyday life.

Geography matters much more than many people initially realize.

The clubs that become most meaningful are usually the ones members can comfortably and naturally work into their routines. If getting to the club feels like a major production every time, members often find themselves using it less than expected and eventually struggle to justify the cost long-term.

The strongest clubs become places members naturally stop by even when they are not planning to play golf - to practice for an hour after work, have dinner with family or simply spend time around people they enjoy seeing.

Convenience helps create familiarity, and familiarity eventually becomes community.

Another common mistake is approaching private club membership purely as a transactional golf equation. Every club has members who join primarily because they found a good deal or calculated they could reduce their per-round golf costs compared to public golf (especially as juniors). There's nothing inherently wrong with that, but the members who tend to thrive at clubs are usually the ones who immerse themselves in the broader life of the club itself.

Westmoor Country Club

At North Hills, there's a joking term for members who show up only to play golf and leave immediately afterward without engaging socially: "trunk-slammers." They pull into the parking lot, grab their clubs from the trunk, head to the first tee, finish their round, put their bag back in their trunk and leave without ever really becoming part of the fabric of the club.

The members who seem happiest long-term are usually the ones who participate in the life of the club - playing in events, spending time around the clubhouse, meeting other members and gradually building friendships over time.

That doesn't mean someone has to be naturally outgoing or instantly comfortable in every social situation to enjoy club life. In fact, many people initially feel intimidated when joining a private club for the first time. I certainly did.

When I joined North Hills, I was nervous about everything from club etiquette to interacting with business owners and executives who were far more successful and established than I was. I worried about breaking rules, saying the wrong thing or somehow not fitting in.

What surprised me most was how quickly those concerns faded.

At a good club, people tend to equalize more than outsiders expect. Nobody really cared what I did professionally or how much I made. What mattered was whether I was enjoyable to spend time around, courteous to members and staff, willing to participate and able to keep up pace-wise on the golf course.

That last point may sound funny, but it's true.

The Legend at Merrill Hills

Nobody cares what you shoot. They care whether you play painfully slow golf.

The people who tend to integrate best into club culture are usually the ones who are open-minded, respectful and willing to engage with others - from fellow members to the golf staff, servers, locker room attendants and grounds crew.

Over time, smaller communities naturally form within the broader membership. Golf groups develop. Families become close. Traditions emerge. At North Hills, for example, one member organizes an annual group trip to Pine Hills Country Club each year (my number one private club in Wisconsin and reciprocal club for NHCC members). What started as a golf outing gradually became a tradition built around shared experiences and friendships.

That's another reason why visiting clubs in person matters so much before joining.

Pay attention to the atmosphere around the clubhouse and practice facilities. Watch how members interact with one another. Observe whether the staff seems warm and engaged. Ask yourself whether it feels like an environment where you'd genuinely enjoy spending time - not just playing golf.

It's usually the moment when the club stops feeling like simply a golf course and starts feeling like somewhere they genuinely want to be.

That's when a membership starts becoming something much bigger than golf.

Tripoli Country Club

Club Snapshots

A closer look at some of southeastern Wisconsin's most distinctive private clubs

The following club snapshots provide a closer look at several of the Milwaukee area's private clubs through the lens of golf, membership culture, amenities and overall club experience.

Some clubs contributed information directly through interviews and questionnaires, while others are based primarily on my own experiences, observations and years of covering Wisconsin golf.

These snapshots are intended to provide context, highlight what makes each club unique and help readers better understand the diversity of private club life throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

The par four 14th at Blue Mound Golf & Country Club (photo: Jerry Rossi)

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

10122 W North Ave, Wauwatosa

One of Wisconsin's most architecturally significant courses, Blue Mound Golf & Country Club is a masterful Seth Raynor design that delivers a pure, golf-first experience defined by bold template holes, elite conditioning and timeless Golden Age character.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Architect
Seth Raynor (1926)

Membership

Golf Membership
200-299 members (limited availability)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Pricing not disclosed

Amenities

Practice
Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green

Club Amenities
Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf

On the Course

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club is a pure expression of Seth Raynor's architectural brilliance - a Golden Age design defined by bold template holes, strategic nuance and some of the most compelling greens complexes in the entire Midwest.

The course has been thoughtfully restored through the club's "Raynor's Vision Realized" initiative, bringing it back in line with its original intent while continuing to refine playability and presentation. Expanded fairways, rebuilt bunkering and continually evolving greens and surrounds all contribute to an experience that has only improved over time.

What separates Blue Mound is the quality and character of its putting surfaces. Maintained at an elite level, the greens are as interesting as they are exacting - demanding creativity, precision and a deep understanding of angles on every approach.

With width off the tee and multiple strategic options into greens, Blue Mound stands as one of Wisconsin's most historically significant courses and quite possibly its most architecturally important.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club is a Seth Raynor gem and a golf-focused club that allows members to walk on and play at nearly any time, without the use of tee times. The expectation is for a pace of play of one hour and thirty minutes for nine holes, creating an experience that is both efficient and enjoyable.

As the club celebrates its centennial season in 2026, the staff prides itself on a universal, member-first mindset built around a "can do" attitude and the belief that "yes is the answer - what is the question?" That approach carries through every aspect of the club and helps define the overall experience.

What makes Blue Mound special is not only the Seth Raynor golf course or the iconic clubhouse, but the membership itself - a group that is truly one of a kind.

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

All bunkers have been reshaped with drainage added, along with the addition of new tee boxes and expanded fairways.

The club also completed a restoration titled "Raynor's Vision Realized," bringing the course back in line with Seth Raynor's original plan. While that project has been accomplished, work will continue in ways that enhance the golf course and overall experience.

Off the course, the club completed a full kitchen renovation in 2024 and remodeled the front-of-house private event space in 2025. The parking lot is also scheduled to be resurfaced this April.

The approach on 18 at Blue Mound (photo: Jerry Rossi)

The drivable par four sixth (photo: Jerry Rossi)

BMGCC's thrilling end to the front nine (photo: Jerry Rossi)

Blue Mound Golf & C.C.

Membership Details

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	50-59	**60-69**	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	35-44	**45-54**	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

Golf-focused	Family-focused	Business networking
Traditional country club	Multi-generational membership	Relaxed / casual culture
Social / events-driven	Other	

More on the Blue Mound Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 13 • Par 3 • 185/170/150 • Hcp. 14

Blue Mound's par three thirteenth is a classic Seth Raynor Redan and one of the most striking examples of template architecture on the course. The angled green features a pronounced high right side designed to feed well-struck shots toward the middle and back.

Misses are penal, particularly short and left where a bunker guards the approach, while anything long can quickly run away down a sharp falloff. Playing a mid- to long-iron, the hole demands both precision and an understanding of how to use the contours.

Blue Mound Golf & CC

Wauwatosa (Seth Raynor)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,858	133 / 72.9
6,390	128 / 70.8
5,933	124 / 68.8
5,071	120 / 69.4

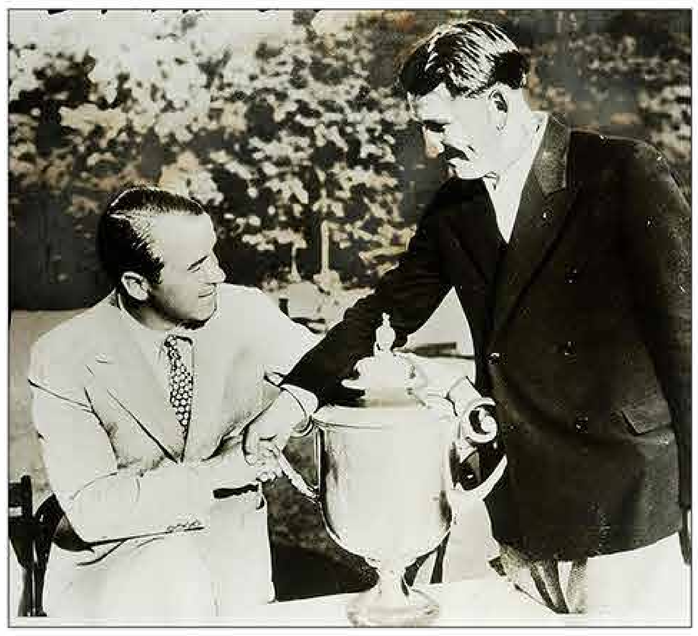
The spectacular tee shot on the Redan 13th at Blue Mound

A Championship Legacy

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club has long held a place on the national stage, most notably as the host of the 1933 PGA Championship, won by Gene Sarazen. It remains one of only a handful of clubs in Wisconsin to have hosted a major championship, cementing its status among the state's most historically significant venues.

More recently, Blue Mound played a key role alongside Erin Hills as a co-host site for stroke play during the 2011 U.S. Amateur and 2022 U.S. Mid-Am, showcasing its Seth Raynor design to the country's top amateur players. That partnership will return in 2027, when the two clubs again share hosting duties for the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship.

Across generations, Blue Mound has proven to be a challenging and worthy test for elite competition, reinforcing its reputation as one of the premier championship venues in the Midwest.



Gene Sarazen at the 1933 US Open

Blue Mound's greens and bunkering are second to none in Wisconsin (photo: Jerry Rossi)

The clubhouse and pool area at Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon

Ozaukee Country Club

10823 N River Rd, Mequon

One of Wisconsin's few courses designed by legendary architects William Langford & Theodore Moreau, Ozaukee offers a fantastic combination of a high-end, architecturally significant golf experience with terrific family-friendly amenities and programming.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Architect

William Langford & Theodore Moreau (1922)

Membership

Golf Membership

200-299 members (limited availability)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Pricing not disclosed

Amenities

Practice

Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green • Golf simulator/indoor golf

Club Amenities

Swimming pool • Kids camps/youth programming • Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf

On the Course

Ozaukee Country Club offers a slightly more understated expression of Langford & Moreau architecture than the Links Course at Lawsonia or front nine of West Bend.

The design's brilliance reveals itself more with each round. The greens complexes are the defining feature - heavily contoured, well-guarded and consistently among the best-conditioned in the state, demanding creativity and precision on nearly every approach.

At just under 6,800 yards, it's a stout test for a Milwaukee-area private club, especially as a par 70. Its unique mix of five par threes and three par fives adds to the challenge, with the par threes, in particular, forming one of the more cohesive and memorable sets in the area and fully showcasing the character of Golden Age architecture.

Combined with a strong tournament pedigree and an authentic, unpretentious atmosphere, Ozaukee holds its own within the upper echelon of Milwaukee-area private clubs and remains a course that continues to grow on you with each visit.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

What we are most proud of at Ozaukee Country Club is the consistency and authenticity of the experience, both on and off the golf course.

Our course conditioning is maintained at an impeccable level throughout the season, and we take great pride in preserving the integrity of Langford & Moreau's original Golden Age design. The course challenges players in a unique way, particularly around our heavily contoured, well-guarded greens, which require creativity, precision, and thoughtful shot-making.

Equally important to us is the atmosphere surrounding the game. Our members enjoy a highly personalized golf experience, with an accessible tee sheet, a welcoming and professional golf staff, and a culture that values hospitality as much as competition.

The day doesn't end on the 18th hole. Our clubhouse offers expansive views of the course and provides a first-class setting to relax after the round, where members are greeted by a friendly, polished team that knows them by name and takes pride in delivering genuine service.

What truly sets Ozaukee apart is the combination of championship-level golf, historic design, and a warm, unpretentious club culture that makes every visit feel special.

The downhill par three sixth hole

Driving range & clubhouse (photo: OCC)

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

2024 - New grounds and greens maintenance facility

2025 - Pool expansion and remodeled pool locker rooms

2026 - Kitchen renovation

2027 - Clubhouse renovation

Anything Else You'd Like Readers to Know?

We are currently in the process of completing a comprehensive Golf Course Masterplan that will guide the long-term preservation of the course.

The plan focuses on reinforcing the character of Langford & Moreau's original design while making thoughtful improvements to infrastructure, playability, and practice facilities. Our goal is not to change the identity of the course, but to ensure that its strategic qualities and classic features remain relevant and enjoyable for future generations of members.

This effort reflects our commitment to continuous improvement while staying true to the history and traditions that make Ozaukee such a special place to play.

Ozaukee Country Club

Membership Details

200-299 members (*limited availability*)

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	**50-59**	60-69	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	**35-44**	45-54	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

- **Golf-focused**
- **Family-focused**
- Business networking
- **Traditional country club**
- **Multi-generational membership**
- **Relaxed / casual culture**
- Social / events-driven
- Other

Who Should Prospective Members Contact to Learn More About Your Club?

Kari Miller, Director of Member Relations
Email: kari@ozaukeecc.com
(262) 242-2450, ext. 106

More on the Ozaukee Experience

Favorite Hole

Ozaukee Country Club
Mequon (Langford & Moreau)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,785	132 / 73.0
6,381	128 / 71.2
5,610	122 / 67.6
5,460	128 / 71.3

Hole 5 • Par 5 • 540/535/502 • Hcp. 3

Running alongside Mequon Road, the par five fifth is a fantastic three-shot hole with a tumultuous greens surround that features a deep swale and four bunkers leading to a raised, heavily sloped putting surface.

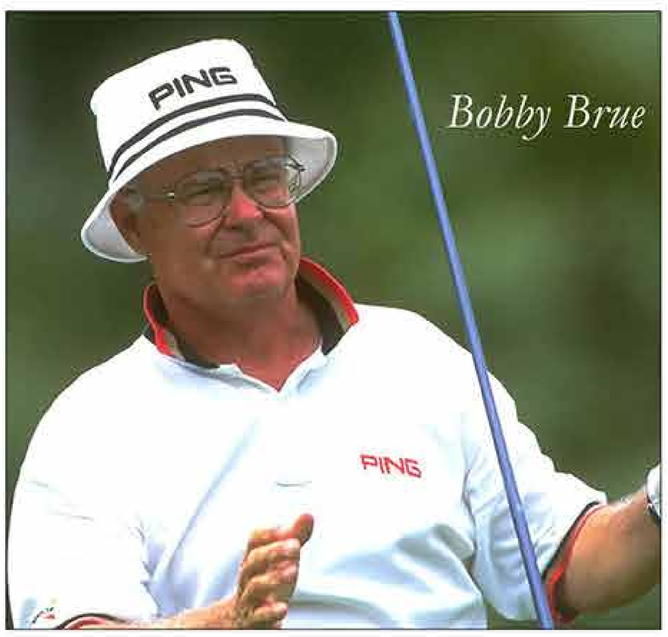
Simple enough off the tee, the fifth gets challenging on the approach shot, which will need to catch and hold the putting surface.

The par five fifth along Mequon Road

A Tradition of Exceptional Leadership

Few clubs in the Milwaukee area can match the legacy of leadership at Ozaukee Country Club, where a succession of highly respected Head Golf Professionals has helped shape both the culture of the club and the experience of its membership.

From Bobby Brue's decorated tenure to Rich Tock's steady leadership and now Jason Rasmussen, that continuity has been a defining element of Ozaukee since 1965 - reinforcing a culture built on respect, relationships and a genuine appreciation for the game.



Bobby Brue

"We take great pride in creating an experience our members genuinely look forward to."

-- Jason Rasmussen, Head Golf Professional at Ozaukee Country Club

A view of the par four eighth green with the clubhouse beyond (photo: OCC)

Ozaukee Country Club

The closing approach shot on 18 at Tuckaway presents a tremendous uphill challenge

Tuckaway Country Club

6901 W Drexel Ave, Franklin

Tucked into the southern suburbs of Franklin, Tuckaway Country Club has quietly become one of the Milwaukee area's most complete private club experiences. With deep tournament roots and a challenging, modernized layout, Tuckaway blends championship-caliber golf with a lively, amenity-rich atmosphere.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Architects

Ken Killian & Dick Nugent (1967)

Membership

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Pricing not disclosed

Amenities

Practice

Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green • Golf simulator / indoor golf

Club Amenities

Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf • Kids camps / youth programming • Tennis courts • Pickleball courts • Swimming pool

On the Course

Tuckaway Country Club is one of the Milwaukee area's top championship tests - a modern, tour-tested layout that blends length, strategy and playability.

Debuted at its current location in 1967, Tuckaway hosted the Greater Milwaukee Open for more than two decades and will welcome the Wisconsin State Open again in 2026 - reinforcing its place among Wisconsin's top competitive venues.

A 2019 renovation by Jeffrey Brauer added length and modernized the course, which can now stretch beyond 7,200 yards. From the back tees, elevation changes (especially on the opening and closing holes), strategic bunkering and tree-lined corridors demand precision, while multiple tee options keep it playable for all skill levels.

Large, undulating greens complexes and a demanding finishing stretch allow Tuckaway to challenge elite players while remaining enjoyable for everyday rounds.

Tuckaway has carved out a unique niche as the premier private club option in Milwaukee's southern suburbs, pairing a championship-caliber course with a strong, active club atmosphere and amenities that elevate the member experience.

More on the Tuckaway Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 9 • Par 4 • 442 /424 /403 • Hcp. 1

A long, demanding par four, the ninth is one of Tuckaway's most challenging holes and a fitting finish to the front nine. The tee shot plays to a wide but rolling fairway, where the left side is preferred to avoid drifting toward unseen water and to maintain a better angle into the green.

The approach is the real challenge - often a long iron or even hybrid played from sidehill or downhill lies into an elevated, heavily canted greens complex with significant contouring. It's not uncommon to face a lengthy approach here, making par a strong score and setting a demanding tone heading to the back nine.

Tuckaway Country Club

Franklin (Killian, Nugent)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
● 7,218	139 / 74.8
○ 6,699	133 / 72.4
◉ 6,398	129 / 71.0
◉ 5,636	124 / 67.6

19 26
TUCKAWAY
COUNTRY CLUB

The ninth is one of two challenging finishing holes at Tuckaway

Championship Pedigree

For more than two decades, Tuckaway served as the home of the Greater Milwaukee Open, welcoming legends like Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and Lee Trevino.

That legacy continues today, with multiple State Open hostings and a return in 2026 - reinforcing Tuckaway's place among the state's premier championship venues.

The event's path through Milwaukee-area clubs adds another layer to that legacy, beginning as the Milwaukee Open at North Hills in 1940 before rotating through venues including Tripoli and North Shore in Mequon, a 21-year run at Tuckaway and ending in 2009 at Brown Deer Park, where Tiger Woods made his professional debut.

At one time, the GMO boasted the Tour's second highest purse.

Welcome to the first tee at Tuckaway

Tuckaway offers south-siders one of the area's best championship tests

The beautiful, modern clubhouse at The Legend at Merrill Hills

The Legend Clubs

Multiple Locations Across the Milwaukee Area

Offering one membership across four distinct properties, The Legend Clubs deliver a unique private club experience unmatched in the region. With Brandybrook in Wales, Bristlecone in Hartland, Merrill Hills in Waukesha and Bergamont in Oregon, members enjoy a variety of golf experiences, amenities and social events.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Merrill Hills - C.H. Hardy (1929)
Bristlecone - Scott Miller (1996)
Brandybrook - Ron Kuhlman (2003)
Bergamont - Andy North (2005)

Membership

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Pricing not disclosed

Amenities

Practice

Driving ranges • Short game areas • Practice putting greens

Club Amenities

Multiple clubhouses & dining venues • Private event spaces • Fitness facilities • Swiming pools • Tennis courts

On the Course

A collection of four distinctly different layouts defines the golf experience at The Legend Clubs. The Legend at Merrill Hills, a 1929 C.H. Hardy design, delivers a timeless, Golden Age feel with subtle movement and slick, nuanced greens. The Legend at Brandybrook offers a more traditional modern layout with a comfortable, walkable flow, while The Legend at Bristlecone brings a bold, contemporary design with constant visual drama and a more demanding test.

In addition to these Milwaukee-area properties, members also have full access to The Legend at Bergamont in the Madison area, a 2005 Andy North design that adds another championship-caliber experience set across rolling terrain. Across the portfolio, the courses stretch to some of the longest yardages in the Milwaukee area, with championship-caliber slope and rating combinations that provide a strong test for competitive players.

Together, the four courses provide variety rarely found within a single membership, allowing players to experience different styles of architecture, strategy and shot values throughout the season.

More on the Legend Clubs Experience

Three Courses. Three tests.

The Legend at Brandybrook

Wales (Par 71)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
7,011	139 / 74.0
6,694	134 / 72.6
6,286	128 / 70.8
5,664	122 / 68.0

The Legend at Bristlecone

Hartland (Par 71)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,718	133 / 73.2
6,426	130 / 71.9
6,200	127 / 70.7
5,714	123 / 68.5

The Legend at Merrill Hills

Waukesha (Par 72)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,981	136 / 73.9
6,548	131 / 72.0
6,177	127 / 70.2
5,537	121 / 67.2

The 600-plus-yard par five third at The Legend at Bristlecone

A Membership Built on Variety

Unlike a traditional single-course club, The Legend Clubs are built around variety.

With four distinct properties, members can choose their experience day to day - from the classic challenge of Merrill Hills to the bold, modern designs at Bristlecone and Brandybrook, or a trip west to Bergamont for a championship-caliber round just outside of Madison.

That flexibility extends beyond the golf course, with multiple clubhouses, dining venues, practice facilities and social events creating a full calendar across their properties. It's a model that blends competitive golf with lifestyle and convenience, offering something different each time members tee it up.

The par three ninth at Brandybrook

The par four third at The Legend at Merrill Hills, one of four distinct experiences within The Legend Clubs

The eighth green and walking bridge on nine at Milwaukee

Milwaukee Country Club

8000 N Range Line Rd, River Hills

Widely regarded as one of the premier private clubs in the Midwest, Milwaukee Country Club blends timeless design with a refined, understated atmosphere. A standout stretch along the Milwaukee River provides some of the most scenic and memorable golf in the state, pairing natural beauty with a classic, thoughtfully routed layout.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Architect
C.H. Alison (1929)

Membership

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Pricing not disclosed

Amenities

Practice
Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting greens

Club Amenities
Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf • Tennis courts • Paddle tennis / platform tennis • Swimming pool

On the Course

A perennial Top 100 course in the United States, Milwaukee Country Club stands as the most prestigious and exclusive golf experience in the Milwaukee area. Designed by C.H. Alison, the course is a rare example of his work in the United States and one of Wisconsin's finest Golden Age layouts.

Recent work alongside Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf Design has elevated the course's bunkering and greens surrounds while preserving its classic character. Played as a walking-only experience with a premier caddie program, every detail is geared toward a pure and traditional round of golf

The back nine is among the best in the state, highlighted by a memorable stretch beginning at the eighth and ninth holes and continuing through a scenic six-hole run along the Milwaukee River.

With consistently exceptional conditioning and some of the most intricate greens complexes in Wisconsin, Milwaukee Country Club delivers a championship-caliber experience that always lives up to its reputation.

More on the Milwaukee Country Club Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 9 • Par 4 • 332 /332 /299 • Hcp. 15

A standout finish to the front nine, the short par four ninth at Milwaukee Country Club is as strategic as it is memorable. Playing from around 330 yards, it tempts longer players to take on the green, but the real challenge begins upon arrival.

An elevated greens complex guarded by a massive false front repels anything short, while bunkers and a difficult run-off beyond the green leave little margin for error. A beautifully constructed walking bridge adds to the hole's character, and with the clubhouse and comfort station waiting just beyond the green, it serves as a fitting transition into one of the most memorable back nines in the state.

Milwaukee Country Club

River Hills (C.H. Alison)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
7,117	132 / 74.0
6,880	130 / 72.9
6,357	125 / 70.6
5,434	116 / 66.3

The short, challenging par four ninth at Milwaukee

An Iconic Clubhouse Experience

Beyond the golf course, Milwaukee Country Club's locker room stands as one of the most distinctive and memorable spaces in the game.

Styled more like a classic German beer hall than a traditional locker room, the space features tall vaulted ceilings, simple metal lockers and a timeless, understated character that reflects the club's history. It serves as a central gathering place for male members, anchored by an exceptional daily buffet and a level of service that matches the club's reputation.

Paired with the club's traditional walking experience and exemplary caddie culture, it reinforces a sense of continuity and attention to detail that defines the entire Milwaukee Country Club experience.

MCC's ninth green and main clubhouse area

The tenth (left) and eighth (middle) at Milwaukee Country Club

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Tripoli's ninth and 18th holes finishing at their beautifully updated clubhouse

Tripoli Country Club

7401 N 43rd St, Brown Deer

Tripoli Country Club pairs classic Tom Bendelow architecture with a thoughtful, modern approach to the private club experience. The course moves across gently rolling terrain with a strong mix of elevation and variety, while recent investments in practice facilities and course improvements have helped elevate the overall experience. With a welcoming, active membership and a full slate of amenities, Tripoli continues to build on its foundation as a well-rounded north side Milwaukee club.

Club Snapshot

Architect

Tom Bendelow (1928); Andy Staples (2020)

Membership

Golf Membership

200-299 members (no waitlist - memberships available)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	**$10-$14K**	$14-$18K	$18K+

Amenities

Practice

Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green • Golf simulator / indoor golf

Club Amenities

Swimming pool • Tennis courts • Pickleball courts • Paddle tennis / platform tennis • Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf

On the Course

Tripoli Country Club is an excellent everyday golf club, combining classic design with thoughtful modern updates and consistently strong conditioning. Bendelow's layout moves across gently rolling terrain with a mix of uphill and downhill shots that create variety without making the walk ucomfortable.

Recent renovation by Andy Staples has modernized the course while preserving its character. Subtle length has been added, a new par three installed at 12, sightlines improved through tree removal, and previously awkward areas - notably the signature sixteenth where players would drive over the 12th green - were updated to create a better, safer playing experience.

The greens offer movement without excess severity, each nine ends at the clubhouse and the club features a great pace of play. Complemented by one of the top practice facilities in the region - also home to Marquette University's golf team - Tripoli delivers a very well-balanced golf experience.

Off the course, the experience is equally strong, with a full range of amenities and one of the best locker rooms around. Combined with its history hosting PGA Tour events and signature touches like the iconic windmill on sixteen, Tripoli offers a private club experience rooted in tradition and built for today.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

Founded in 1921, Tripoli Country Club is a premier, member-owned private club located just minutes from downtown Milwaukee.

Set across scenic rolling terrain, the club features a historic 18-hole championship golf course alongside a full range of amenities including dining, tennis, aquatics and year-round family programming. Known for its welcoming culture and strong sense of community, Tripoli has long provided a high-quality, family-focused club experience for its members.

Tripoli's partnership with Troon Privé enhances club operations, agronomy, food and beverage and the overall member experience while preserving its identity as a private, member-governed club. Through Troon's global network, members enjoy access to preferred rates and privileges at premier clubs and resorts worldwide - bringing added value and expanded lifestyle opportunities to the Tripoli experience.

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

Golf course renovation led by Andy Staples (2020) focused on improving playability, restoring classic character and creating a reimagined practice facility through a significant course rework.

Clubhouse bar and banquet space renovation (2024), along with the addition of two state-of-the-art TrackMan iO simulators.

New John Deere agronomy fleet (spring 2025), further enhancing course conditioning and daily operations.

Anything Else You'd Like Readers to Know?

The club has fostered a welcoming, neighborly culture where members genuinely build friendships and connections that go beyond their time together on the course.

The staff has worked to create a diverse variety of events for couples and engaging women's league events to welcome players of all skill levels.

The heartbeat of the club has become the Thursday Night Men's League, which draws nearly 80 players each week and grows the camaraderie amongst the membership.

Tripoli's par five second hole, along Good Hope Road

Tripoli Country Club

Membership Details

TRIPOLI COUNTRY CLUB 1921

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	**50-59**	60-69	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	**35-44**	45-54	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

- **Golf-focused**
- **Family-focused**
- Business networking
- Traditional country club
- Multi-generational membership
- Relaxed / casual culture
- **Social / events-driven**
- Other

Who Should Prospective Members Contact to Learn More About Your Club?

Devin Lowe, General Manager
Email: dlowe@tripolicc.com
Phone: (414) 351-7200

More on the Tripoli Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 16 • Par 4 • 444 / 423 / 331 / 326 • Hcp. 2

A true test and now fully restored to its intended challenge, the par four sixteenth stands as the most demanding hole on the back nine at Tripoli. Once vulnerable to modern distance, the hole has been reworked to eliminate the aggressive line over the treeline, bringing strategy and precision back to the forefront.

From the tee, positioning is critical. Even a well-struck drive leaves a long approach into an elevated green guarded by water and a pronounced false front that rejects anything less than a committed strike. With the club's iconic windmill and creek framing the approach, it's as visually memorable as it is exacting - a hole that earns its place as one of the toughest tests on the course.

Tripoli Country Club
Brown Deer (Tom Bendelow)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,588	130 / 72.4
6,269	127 / 70.7
5,578	122 / 67.9
5,121	117 / 66.0

TRIPOLI COUNTRY CLUB 1921

The signature par four 16th at Tripoli, adjacent to the logo-inspiring windmill

From the Architect

Milwaukee-area native and golf course architect Andy Staples, now based in Scottsdale where he leads Staples Golf Design, returned to Tripoli to renovate a course he played during his junior golf years. Recognized by Golf Inc. Magazine among the most innovative voices in the game, his history with both the course and the area made his work at Tripoli especially meaningful.

"Having grown up in the area, being able to work with Tripoli Country Club has been an incredible experience. I remember playing the course in junior golf - the iconic windmill, the contoured greens and the water hazards all come to mind. The club has a great history, incredible land and arguably the best original Tom Bendelow greens in existence. Our work aimed to highlight those greens and showcase the property. While the course could be considered short by some standards, accurate tee shots and choosing the proper angle of approach create a fun, architecturally engaging experience for members."

— Andy Staples

Andy Staples, Milwaukee-area native and Founder of Staples Golf Design

The penultimate par four 17th and its beautiful bunkering

North Hills has some of the most dramatic land for golf in the Milwaukee area

North Hills Country Club

N73W13430 Appleton Ave, Menomonee Falls

My home club, North Hills Country Club sits on one of the most gifted pieces of land for golf in the Milwaukee area with a classic 1929 design that pairs dramatic topography with small but exceptional greens, strong shot values, consistently excellent conditions and a welcoming, golf-first club atmosphere.

Club Snapshot

Course Information

Architect
John Barr (1929)

Membership

Golf Membership
200-299 members (no waitlist - memberships available)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	**$10-$14K**	$14-$18K	$18K+

Amenities

Practice
Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green • Golf simulator / indoor golf

Club Amenities
Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf • Kids camps / youth programming

On the Course

North Hills Country Club is the kind of course that grows on you with every round - a classic parkland layout that rewards precision, creativity and local knowledge. Typically played as a par-71 around 6,500 yards, it's not overwhelming by way of length, but its tight fairways, well-placed bunkering and some of the best greens in the area demand consistent shot-making throughout.

North Hills' putting surfaces have always been its key defining features. Small, quick and heavily contoured, they require a confident stroke and a deep understanding of how each green moves - members often say you "putt from memory." It's a course where handicaps tend to travel well and one that will sharpen every part of your game.

Conditioning has long been a point of pride, with immaculate fairways, lightning-fast greens and a level of detail that stands out among the area's top private clubs.

With a strong pace of play and walkable routing, North Hills delivers a pure, everyday golf experience - one that will soon be further elevated by a major renovation project led by Sam Beckman of Emergency 9 Golf that began on August 3, 2026.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

North Hills Country Club is defined by a strong commitment to restoring and elevating the golf course while preserving its original character. The goal is to continue improving the experience in ways that benefit players of all skill levels while staying true to the club's roots.

What makes North Hills special is the combination of a kind, welcoming membership and a genuine sense of ownership. Members don't just enjoy the club - they care deeply about the course, the experience and its future.

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

North Hills began construction on a comprehensive golf course master plan by Emergency 9 Golf on August 3, 2026, focused on modernizing the course while restoring elements of its original 1929 design. The project includes expanded teeing grounds, wider fairways, added length and expanded greens, along with improved cart paths and a recently installed state-of-the-art irrigation system.

The redesign is aimed at enhancing both aesthetics and strategic play for golfers of all skill levels. The course will remain open throughout construction, with the project scheduled for completion by June 1, 2027.

Anything Else You'd Like Readers to Know?

What stands out most about North Hills is the genuine, well-balanced experience it offers. Between a continued commitment to improving the golf course and a welcoming, engaged membership, the club has both a strong foundation and a clear vision for the future.

It's the kind of place where you truly feel like you're part of something.

A good tee shot on the downhill sixth should start right of the steeple

The short 15th is one of my favorite holes at North Hills

The par four 14th (middle) features a massive downhill plunge

North Hills Country Club

Membership Details

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	50-59	**60-69**	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	35-44	**45-54**	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

- **Golf-focused**
- Family-focused
- Business networking
- Traditional country club
- Multi-generational membership
- **Relaxed / casual culture**
- Social / events-driven
- Other

Who Should Prospective Members Contact to Learn More About Your Club?

Jennifer Rehl, Membership Manager
Email: jennifer@nhccwi.com
Phone: (262) 251-5750

More on the North Hills Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 7 • Par 3 • 186/169/1144 • Hcp. 13

North Hills' par three seventh is one of the most visually striking and historically unique holes on the course, playing uphill nearly 30 feet to a massive green set beyond the Menomonee River. Originally redesigned by A. W. Tillinghast in the 1930s, the putting surface is larger than any other on the property, featuring bold internal contours and a prominent spine that demands precise placement.

Club selection is critical on the climb, and while the green is expansive, finding the correct section is anything but simple - a fitting blend of challenge, character and history on one of the course's most memorable holes.

North Hills Country Club
Menomonee Falls (Par 71)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,718	133 / 73.2
6,426	130 / 71.9
6,200	127 / 70.7
5,714	123 / 68.5

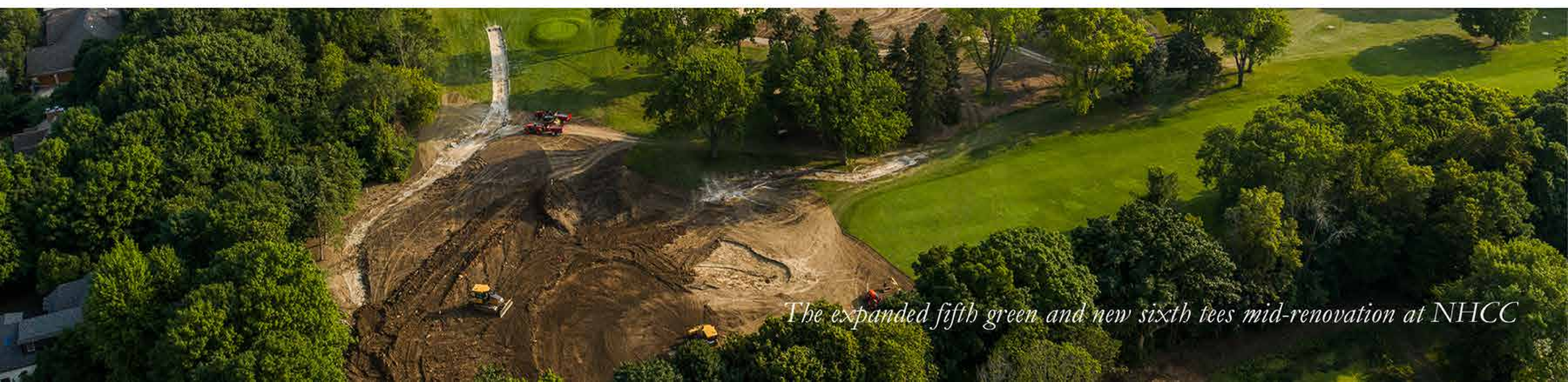
The tremendously beautiful and challenging par three seventh at North Hills

North Hills' Bright Future

North Hills Country Club is entering an exciting new chapter with a comprehensive master plan led by Sam Beckman of Emergency 9 Golf, focused on restoring the course's original Golden Age character while enhancing playability for modern golf. Drawing on historical imagery and original design intent, the project will include expanded greens, rebuilt bunkering, improved drainage and a thoughtful opening of sightlines across the property through strategic tree removal.

The restoration will also introduce added length, additional pinnable space and refined playing corridors, all while preparing the course for the 2029 Wisconsin State Amateur. With construction begun in earnest in early August 2026, the result will be a more visually striking, strategically engaging and historically authentic version of North Hills in early 2027 and beyond.

Plans for the renovated 7th (Emergency 9 Golf)



The expanded fifth green and new sixth tees mid-renovation at NHCC

The Wisconsin Club is one of the most amenity-rich private golf clubs in the Milwaukee area

The Wisconsin Club

6200 W Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee

The Wisconsin Country Club is one of Milwaukee's best-kept secrets - a welcoming, well-rounded private club that pairs a fun, strategically engaging golf course with an active, increasingly younger membership and standout food and beverage. Originally designed by Harry Smead in 1929 and recently renovated by Bruce Hepner of Renaissance Golf, it delivers a complete experience built on strong golf, a vibrant social atmosphere and everyday enjoyment.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Harry Smead (1929)

Membership

Golf Membership
200-299 members (no waitlist - memberships available)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	$10-$20K	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	$6-$10K	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Amenities

Practice
Driving range • Short game area • Practice putting green • Golf simulator / indoor golf

Club Amenities
Swimming pool • Tennis courts • Pickleball courts • Gym / fitness center • Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Kids camp / youth programming • Junior golf

On the Course

The Wisconsin Country Club is the definition of fun, fair and highly playable private club golf.

Outside of a couple early blind tee shots that reward local knowledge, the course is largely right in front of you - straightforward in appearance but demanding where it matters most: around the greens.

Thoughtful surrounds, sharp contouring and excellent greens complexes place a premium on approach positioning and touch, while a strong mix of par threes and fives keeps each round feeling balanced and engaging. It's a layout built on subtlety and strategy, where smart decisions and execution separate good rounds from great ones.

Originally designed by Harry Smead and opened as Brynwood Country Club in 1929, the course was thoughtfully restored and enhanced by Bruce Hepner in 2014, bringing renewed strategic interest and cohesion to the layout.

Conditioning is outstanding, with fast, consistent greens, excellent pace of play and a walkable routing.

Off the course, the back patio - with its circular bar and massive umbrella overlooking the closing holes - is a natural gathering spot and a perfect place to spend time after a round.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

We're most proud of the well-rounded experience we offer our members, from the golf course to the wide range of amenities available for individuals and families.

As part of Concert Golf Partners, we're able to continuously invest in the club and make meaningful improvements without assessing our membership, which allows us to focus fully on enhancing the overall experience.

That mindset carries through everything we do. We're always looking for ways to improve, whether through updates to the clubhouse, enhancements to the golf course or new initiatives that elevate the member and guest experience.

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

The Wisconsin Country Club has continued to invest in both its facilities and golf course in recent years. Updates throughout the clubhouse have enhanced member spaces, with additional improvements planned, including the installation of an artificial tee line this spring.

On the golf course, the club continues to build on the foundation of Bruce Hepner's 2014 renovation, following an ongoing master plan focused on refining green expansions, teeing areas and overall playability.

These incremental improvements, combined with a thoughtful tree management program and continued attention to detail, have steadily elevated both the strategy and conditioning of the course.

The dead-straight 15th - one of the area's longest par fives

The uphill, right-to-left blind tee shot on two

The ninth and 18th holes finish beside the clubhouse

The Wisconsin Club

Membership Details

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	**50-59**	60-69	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	**35-44**	45-54	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

Golf-focused	**Family-focused**	**Business networking**
Traditional country club	Multi-generational membership	Relaxed / casual culture
Social / events-driven	Other	

Who Should Prospective Members Contact to Learn More About Your Club?

Heidi Kleinrichert, Membership Director

Email: hkleinrichert@thewisconsincountryclub.com

Phone: (414) 353-8800

More on the Wisconsin Club Experience

Favorite Holes

Hole 8 • Par 3 • 173/151/137 • Hcp. 12 & Hole 11 • Par 3 • 146/137/131 • Hcp. 18

The opposing par threes on eight and eleven offer a great study in contrast, set across the course's central water feature and playing in opposite directions - typically leaving one into the wind and the other with it. Despite similar yardages, they play very differently.

The eighth is defined by its bunkering, with three traps guarding the right side and another short-left, while a green that rises on the right rewards a well-shaped shot. The eleventh is more deceptive, with one of the most intricate and heavily contoured greens on the course. A pronounced ridge and deep swales create distinct sections - especially on the front-right which makes distance control critical.

Wisconsin Country Club
Milwaukee (Par 72)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,802	135 / 72.8
6,421	132 / 71.0
5,817	126 / 68.4
5,266	122 / 65.7

The 8th (top) and 11th (bottom) play opposite one another

A Hidden Architectural Legacy: Harry Smead

Harry Smead may not be a widely recognized name in golf architecture, but his work at The Wisconsin Country Club tells a different story. One of just a handful of courses attributed to him, the layout showcases a thoughtful design style centered around creative, engaging greens complexes that continue to challenge and reward.

Smead's influence is perhaps most notable when paired with Pine Hills Country Club - widely regarded as one of Wisconsin's finest private clubs and my personal number one - where similar design traits can still be found albeit on a more severe tract of land. While much about his career remains unknown, the lasting quality of his course design speaks for itself.

The phenomenal par three 16th

The green on the par four seventh at dawn

West Bend features some of Langford & Moreau's most distinctive elevated greens complexes

West Bend Country Club

5858 County Hwy-Z, West Bend

West Bend Country Club features what I consider the best front nine in Wisconsin, a spectacular Langford & Moreau design set across the rolling terrain of the Kettle Moraine. The David Gill-designed back nine complements it well and continues to evolve under architect Kye Goalby, bringing greater cohesion to the overall design.

Club Snapshot

Architects
Langford & Moreau (front-1930), David Gill (back-1960)

Membership

Golf Membership
300-399 members (no waitlist - memberships available)

Initiation Fee (age 40+)

< $10K	**$10-$20K**	$20-$35K	$35-$55K	$55K+

Annual Dues (Age 40+)

< $6K	**$6-$10K**	$10-$14K	$14-$18K	$18K+

Amenities

Practice
Driving range • Practice putting green • Golf simulator / indoor golf

Club Amenities
Multiple dining venues • Private event spaces • Junior golf

On the Course

West Bend Country Club is shaped by some of the most dramatic terrain in the region, with rolling, wave-like landforms that give the course a striking and memorable character. The routing takes full advantage of the Kettle Moraine landscape, creating constant movement and variety throughout the round.

That land is paired with some of the most bold and distinctive greens complexes in Wisconsin. Elevated, contoured and often partially concealed from approach, they are the defining feature of Langford & Moreau's design and especially give the front nine its reputation as one of the strongest stretches of golf in the entire state.

The back nine introduces more pronounced elevation changes and a slightly different visual character, and continues to evolve under the guidance of architect Kye Goalby, whose thoughtful work is helping bring greater cohesion to the layout's overall design.

Conditioning is consistently excellent, allowing the landforms and green complexes to fully shine, while a strong pace of play enhances the overall experience. It's a course where classic architecture and natural movement come together, with visuals that can be deceiving and challenges that only fully reveal themselves as you play.

In Their Words

What is Your Club Most Proud of?

West Bend Country Club is most proud of the way it has preserved the character and architectural heritage of its golf course while continuing to thoughtfully plan for its future. What makes the Club unique compared to others in the region is the course itself, with Langford and Moreau architecture, especially the elevated greens for which their work is especially respected, paired with the natural topography of the Kettle Moraine. Together, those features create a golf experience with a distinctive identity.

The Club is also proud of its strong legacy membership. Many members grew up at West Bend Country Club and later chose to join themselves as adults, which reflects the lasting connection families have to the Club across generations.

Recent & Upcoming Projects & Upgrades

Yes. Most recently, the Club upgraded its indoor winter simulator for members, and it has seen record usage this year.

From a dining perspective, the Club also officially added a new outdoor dining space attached to the clubhouse last summer, creating additional dining options for members and guests.

Looking ahead, the Club has a 2025 Master Plan in place for the golf course, along with plans to install a new irrigation system in 2027.

Select portions of the Master Plan may also be completed at that time, though the full scope of that work is still being determined. The Club expects to have greater clarity on those plans in the coming months.

Anything Else You'd Like Readers to Know?

West Bend Country Club is especially proud to host the 125th Wisconsin State Amateur Championship this year, July 20 through July 23. It marks the first time the Club has hosted the event since 1986, when future PGA Tour standouts J.P. Hayes and Steve Stricker competed at West Bend.

The recently updated green and surrounds on 16

The par five sixth's beautiful green site

West Bend Country Club

Membership Details

Average Age of Golf Membership

< 40	40-49	**50-59**	60-69	70+

Average Age of New Members

< 35	35-44	**45-54**	55-64	65+

Which of the Following Best Describe Your Club's Overall Atmosphere?

- **Golf-focused**
- Family-focused
- Business networking
- Traditional country club
- **Multi-generational membership**
- Relaxed / casual culture
- Social / events-driven
- Other

Who Should Prospective Members Contact to Learn More About Your Club?

Patrick Cassidy, Membership & Marketing Director
Email: patrick@westbendcountryclub.org
Phone: (262) 334-9541

More on the West Bend Experience

Favorite Hole

Hole 7 • Par 4 • 361 / 349 / 349 / 322 • Hcp. 3

The seventh is one of the most visually intimidating and memorable holes in Wisconsin. At just 350 yards, it's not long, but finding the perched, volcano-style green is the challenge. It falls off on all sides and is incredibly difficult to hold, even with a wedge in hand.

Miss it, and you're left with a steep, delicate recovery where even a slight misjudgment can send the ball right back to your feet.

West Bend Country Club

West Bend (Langford & Moreau, Gill)

Yardage	Slope / Rating
● 6,887	135 / 72.9
● 6,578	132 / 71.6
● 6,207	129 / 69.9
○ 5,705	124 / 67.7

The dramatic volcano green on the par four seventh at West Bend Country Club

A Rediscovered Architectural Legacy: Langford & Moreau

For decades, courses designed by Langford & Moreau quietly existed without widespread recognition. Today, that narrative has changed.

Golf courses and clubs like West Bend, Ozaukee and Lawsonia Links are now celebrated for their bold shaping, elevated greens and distinctive architectural identity - features that were often underappreciated in earlier eras.

At West Bend, that legacy is especially evident on the front nine, widely regarded as one of the strongest stretches of golf in Wisconsin. While the club originally moved in a different direction with its back nine, current efforts are focused on bringing the entire property more in line with Langford & Moreau's vision - further reinforcing the significance of their work and its lasting positive influence on the game.

Classic L&M architecture on eight

West Bend Country Club's back nine from the sky

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Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms

Standout Club Experiences

One of the things I've enjoyed most while spending time around Milwaukee-area clubs is seeing how differently each one expresses its identity. Some clubs are rooted heavily in golf history and architecture. Others stand out because of their patios, locker rooms, family atmosphere or social energy. None of these recognitions are meant to be definitive rankings - they simply reflect a few of the experiences, environments and qualities that have stood out most *to me* through years spent playing, photographing and spending time around clubs throughout the Milwaukee area.

Golf Experience

My Favorite Overall Course - Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

My Favorite Front Nine - West Bend Country Club

My Favorite Back Nine - Milwaukee Country Club

My Favorite Greens - Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

Honorable mentions: Milwaukee, Ozaukee, West Bend

Best Golf Conditions - Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms

Honorable mentions: Blue Mound, Milwaukee, North Hills

Golf Experience (continued)

Best Practice Facilities - Tripoli Country Club

Honorable mentions: Hidden Glen, Milwaukee

Best Variety of Golf Experiences - The Legend Clubs

Most Competitive Golf Culture - Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms

Honorable mentions: Blue Mound, The Legend Clubs

Best Recent Renovation - Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

Honorable mentions: West Bend, Wisconsin Club

Most Memorable Par Three - 13 at Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

Most Memorable Par Four - 7 at West Bend Country Club

Most Memorable Par Five - 10 at Milwaukee Country Club

Most Challenging Greens - Hidden Glen at Bentdale Farms

Sounding targets on the range at Tripoli

Club Life & Social Atmosphere

My Favorite Patio Scene - North Hills Country Club

Honorable mentions: Bristlecone, Wisconsin Club

Best Social Scene - The River Club of Mequon

Honorable mentions: The Legend Clubs, Westmoor

My Favorite Locker Room(s) - Milwaukee Country Club

Honorable mentions: Tripoli, Tuckaway

Best Pool & Family Amenities - Tuckaway Country Club

Honorable mentions: Brandybrook, River Club of Mequon

Best Traditional Club Culture - Oconomowoc Golf Club

Honorable mentions: Chenequa, Milwaukee

Best Clubhouse - The Legend at Brandybrook

Honorable mentions: Ozaukee, The Legend at Merrill Hills

Dining & Atmosphere

My Favorite Quick Dining - "The Turn" at The Wisconsin Club

Most Underrated Club Experience - The Wisconsin Club

Honorable mentions: Merrill Hills, North Hills

Best Overall Setting - Chenequa Country Club

My Favorite Food / Dining - Westmoor Country Club

Honorable mentions: Chenequa, Hidden Glen

Publisher's Note:

As mentioned earlier, these are my *my thoughts* based on personal experience and I have spent much more time at some of these clubs than others.

I have not played North Shore in Mequon, for example. I have also only played Chenequa, Oconomowoc and The River Club of Mequon once so my experience at those specific clubs is limited.

I am also in no way a food critic.

The Wisconsin Club

FAVORITE PRIVATE CLUBS WITHIN 1 HOUR

No guide to private club golf around Milwaukee would feel complete without acknowledging a handful of exceptional clubs located just beyond the region's traditional boundaries.

Each sits within roughly an hour of downtown Milwaukee and offers something distinct - from Golden Age architecture and championship-caliber golf to beautiful settings, outstanding amenities and memorable club cultures.

These aren't rankings. They're simply five clubs that have left a lasting impression on me through years of playing, photographing and writing about golf throughout Wisconsin, and places I enthusiastically recommend Milwaukee-area golfers get to know better.

Strawberrry Creek is one of the state's finest modern private clubs

The Club at Strawberry Creek

14810 72nd St, Kenosha

One of Wisconsin's premier modern private golf clubs, Strawberry Creek delivers one of the state's finest contemporary golf experiences. Designed by Rick Jacobson on the former Thompson Strawberry Farm, the course pairs expansive fairways, dramatic bunkering and exceptional conditioning with a beautiful rolling landscape in Kenosha County.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Rick Jacobson (2006)

Distance from downtown Milwaukee
35 miles

Drive from Wauwatosa
42 minutes

Known for:

- Modern championship golf
- Exceptional conditioning
- Large greens complexes
- Resort-style amenities

Strawberry Creek
Kenosha

Yardage	Slope / Rating
7,172	136 / 74.8
6,674	130 / 72.5
6,173	125 / 70.2
5,663	120 / 67.9

On the Course

The Club at Strawberry Creek is defined by space, scale and variety. Set across more than 300 acres of rolling terrain, the course features broad fairways, dramatic bunkering and large greens complexes that create one of Southeast Wisconsin's most unique golf experiences.

Jacobson's design rewards thoughtful positioning without becoming overly punitive. Generous landing areas provide room from the tee, while strategic bunkering and strong greens complexes place a premium on approach play and decision-making.

One of the course's greatest strengths is its variety. From reachable risk-reward opportunities to demanding approach shots and a memorable finishing stretch, Strawberry Creek consistently gives players something interesting to think about.

Conditioning is consistently among the best in Wisconsin, with firm fairways, pristine turf and excellent greens allowing the architecture to fully shine.

Combined with a welcoming atmosphere and outstanding amenities, Strawberry Creek delivers one of the state's premier modern private club experiences.

Pine Hills' beautiful, rugged topography

Pine Hills Country Club

4914 Superior Ave, Sheboygan

My favorite private golf course in Wisconsin, Pine Hills is one of the state's finest Golden Age designs. Designed by Harry Smead in 1928, the course moves across dramatic terrain shaped by the Pigeon River, pairing bold green complexes, remarkable variety and unforgettable landforms to create one of Wisconsin's most distinctive golf experiences.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Harry Smead (1928)

Distance from downtown Milwaukee
58 miles

Drive from Wauwatosa
1 hour

Known for:

- Dramatic greens complexes
- Impressive topography
- Incredible par threes
- Memorable hole designs

Pine Hills Country Club
Sheboygan

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,495	132 / 72.3
6,166	128 / 70.7
5,762	126 / 69.8
5,212	121 / 67.1

On the Course

Originally designed by Harry Smead in 1928, Pine Hills Country Club breaks from convention in ways that remain memorable long after the round is over. Five par threes, four par fives and a collection of bold, heavily contoured greens place a premium on creativity, strategy and execution. Recovery shots around the greens are every bit as important as approach shots into them.

Several holes have become etched into my memory over the years, including the uphill par three fifth, the dramatic tee shot from beside the clubhouse on the tenth and one of Wisconsin's finest closing stretches at seventeen and eighteen. Each takes advantage of the property's gifted natural terrain differently, creating a golf experience that rewards repeat play and continues to reveal new details over time.

What ultimately elevates Pine Hills above almost every other private club I've played, though, is the stewardship of the property. Club leadership has demonstrated a remarkable vision for what Pine Hills can become, making thoughtful investments and partnering with architect Drew Rogers to enhance the course while remaining true to its architectural character. The result is a club that continues to improve year after year while preserving everything that makes it special.

Beautiful, strategic bunkering on the par three eighth at Kenosha

Kenosha Country Club

500 13th Ave, Kenosha

One of Wisconsin's most up-and-coming private clubs, Kenosha Country Club combines classic Donald Ross architecture with a clear vision for its future. Recent restoration work and strategic improvements have renewed focus on the course's architectural character, making it one of southeastern Wisconsin's most impressive private golf experiences.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Donald Ross (1922)

Distance from downtown Milwaukee
34 miles

Drive from Wauwatosa
44 minutes

Known for:

- Donald Ross architecture • Exceptional greens
- Strategic shot-making • Excellent walkability

Kenosha Country Club

Kenosha

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,750	132 / 72.8
6,365	129 / 71.1
5,615	122 / 67.7
4,815	115 / 64.0

On the Course

Kenosha Country Club showcases Donald Ross's ability to create compelling golf through strategic design and thoughtful use of natural terrain. The routing moves across gently rolling land with several memorable uphill approaches, creating a course that consistently asks players to think carefully about positioning and club selection.

Ross's influence is most evident on and around the greens, which remain the defining feature of the course. Restored contours, strategic positioning and subtle movement place a premium on approach play while rewarding thoughtful angles into the greens. The result is a layout that relies more on strategy and execution than raw power.

Recent work led by architect Drew Rogers has helped reestablish many of the features that make the course special while enhancing its overall presentation and playability.

Combined with strong conditioning, excellent walkability and renewed architectural character, Kenosha has become one of southeastern Wisconsin's most distinctive, historic private golf experiences.

Watertown's front nine is constantly shaped by Silver Creek

Watertown Country Club

1340 N Water St, Watertown

One of Southeast Wisconsin's most enjoyable everyday golf clubs, Watertown combines classic design, strategic shot values and a welcoming atmosphere on a property shaped by Silver Creek. Established in 1922, the club offers a golf experience that rewards precision and thoughtful course management while maintaining excellent conditions.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Unknown (1922), Larry Packard (1959)

Distance from downtown Milwaukee
50 miles

Drive from Wauwatosa
51 minutes

Known for:

- Classic course architecture • Welcoming community
- Excellent hole variety • Great conditioning

Watertown Country Club
Watertown

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,430	128 / 70.8
6,033	124 / 69.1
5,465	120 / 66.5
4,939	115 / 63.8

On the Course

Watertown Country Club is defined by strategy, precision and the constant presence of Silver Creek, which winds through the property and influences play on more than half the holes. While the terrain is generally gentle, the routing makes excellent use of the landscape, with the front nine moving across subtly rolling ground and the back nine introducing more pronounced elevation changes along the property's outer edges.

The course rewards placement over power. Mature trees frame many of the holes, while small greens and thoughtfully positioned hazards place a premium on approach play and distance control. At just over 6,400 yards as a par 70 layout, the course plays longer than its scorecard suggests and consistently challenges players to think their way around the course.

Recent improvements, including a complete bunker renovation and the addition of chipping and run-off areas around many greens by Craig Haltom, have strengthened both the strategy and presentation of the course. Combined with strong conditioning, excellent walkability and a vibrant golf culture, Watertown remains one of southeastern Wisconsin's most underrated private club experiences.

Big Foot is one of the most unique and intriguing private clubs in all of Wisconsin

Big Foot Country Club

770 Shabbona Dr, Fontana-on-Geneva Lake

One of Wisconsin's most unique and picturesque private golf clubs, Big Foot combines dramatic landforms, spring-fed waterways and unforgettable golf holes to create a golf experience full of character. Originally designed by Tom Bendelow in 1924, the club is building exciting momentum through an ongoing restoration effort led by Zinkand Golf Design.

Club Snapshot

Architect
Tom Bendelow (1924)

Distance from downtown Milwaukee
57 miles

Drive from Wauwatosa
56 minutes

Known for:

- Fun architectural quirks • Rollicking topography
- Spectacular clubhouse • Intensely contoured greens

Big Foot Country Club

Fontana-on-Geneva Lake

Yardage	Slope / Rating
6,777	136 / 73.3
6,410	132 / 71.6
5,629	124 / 68.1
5,297	120 / 66.6

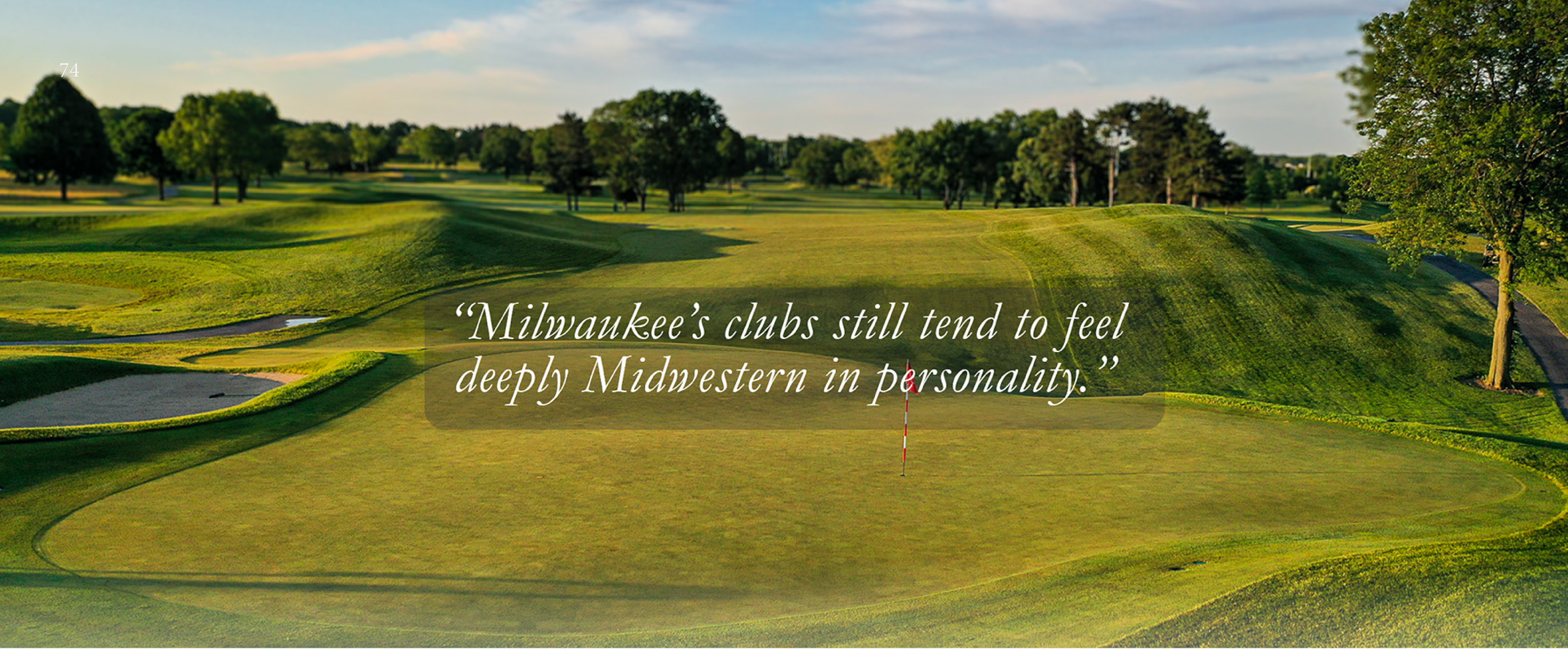
On the Course

Big Foot Country Club delivers one of the most memorable and character-filled golf experiences in Wisconsin. Doglegs move in both directions across rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes create thrilling shot values and intensely contoured greens complexes demand creativity and precision throughout the round. The routing is challenging yet highly playable, offering enough variety and intrigue to reward repeat play for years.

The course is complemented by one of the finest clubhouses in Wisconsin, where sweeping views, exceptional amenities and a relaxed atmosphere create a club experience that feels both luxurious and welcoming. Several elevated holes offer glimpses of Geneva Lake, adding to the property's natural beauty and sense of place.

Currently, architect Dave Zinkand and his team at Zinkand Golf Design are implementing a comprehensive master plan that includes hole rerouting, strategic redesigns and a complete returfing of the golf course. Already one of the state's hidden gems, Big Foot appears poised to become even better in the years ahead.

Pine Hills Country Club



"Milwaukee's clubs still tend to feel deeply Midwestern in personality."

The Future of Club Life in Milwaukee

One of the most interesting things about Milwaukee's private club scene right now is that many clubs feel simultaneously more modern and more community-oriented than they did a generation ago.

Over the past decade - and especially since the pandemic - private clubs throughout the area have experienced noticeable generational change. Locker rooms and membership rosters that once skewed heavily older are now filled with younger professionals, young families and members trying to integrate golf more naturally into the rhythms of everyday life.

When I first joined North Hills in 2012, there were only a handful of members anywhere near my age. Today, the club has nearly thirty junior and intermediate memberships under the age of forty. Similar shifts are happening throughout the Milwaukee area, including at some of the region's most established and historically prestigious clubs.

That generational transition is reshaping club culture in meaningful ways.

Many traditions and expectations that once defined country club life have softened or disappeared entirely. Some dress codes remain, but most clubs no longer require members to remove hats indoors or turn off their cell phones while on-premise.

Men's-only nights have largely faded away. Formal dining rooms that once sat at the center of club life have increasingly given way to patios, casual gathering spaces and family-oriented social environments designed to encourage members to spend more time at the club in ways that fit naturally into modern life.

Beautiful patios with outdoor dining and firepits have become central gathering spaces during the summer months. Junior golf programs continue growing rapidly. Practice facilities are being expanded and modernized. Clubs are adding simulators, fitness spaces, wellness amenities and family-oriented activities designed to make clubs feel active and relevant year-round rather than simply places members visit to play eighteen holes.

One area club's current renovation discussions include the possible addition of a Himalayas-style putting course designed largely around junior and family engagement. At Tripoli, recent investments transformed the practice facility into one capable of hosting Marquette University's men's golf program. The Wisconsin Club brought in Chef Adam Pawlak to help elevate and modernize its culinary program. Across the region, clubs are increasingly investing not only in golf, but in the broader experience surrounding it.

The golf courses themselves are evolving, too.

Many Milwaukee-area clubs are currently engaged in major architectural renovation and restoration projects intended to preserve and strengthen their courses for future generations. North Hills just embarked on a significant renovation led by Sam Beckman of Emergency 9 Golf. The Wisconsin Club recently completed major course work under architect Bruce Hepner. West Bend continues ongoing improvements with Kye Goalby. Milwaukee Country Club continues its long-term refinement work with Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf Design. Blue Mound has spent years thoughtfully restoring and refining its historic Seth Raynor course, while clubs like Ozaukee, Chenequa, Hidden Glen, North Shore and Westmoor are all actively evaluating or completing meaningful projects of their own.

Blue Mound Golf & Country Club

What's especially interesting is that these clubs are modernizing without losing the character that makes Milwaukee golf culture unique.

Unlike some private club markets around the country that increasingly feel performative or luxury-driven, Milwaukee's clubs still tend to feel deeply Midwestern in personality. The atmosphere at most clubs remains grounded, relationship-oriented and centered far more around community than status. Members still care deeply about the golf itself, of course, but they also care about the people they spend time with, the traditions they build together and the role clubs continue playing within their everyday lives.

In many ways, that may be the biggest reason private clubs continue resonating with a new generation of golfers and families.

Not because golf is becoming more exclusive.

But because people continue searching for places that feel personal, familiar and real.

Places where friendships develop over decades, families gather on summer evenings and members continue showing up long after the round itself is over.

Golf may be the common thread that initially brings people into these clubs. But community is what makes them stay.

And as Milwaukee's clubs continue evolving for a new generation of golfers and families, that sense of belonging may become more valuable than ever.

Oconomowoc Golf Club

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