

# AREA GOLF LISTINGS

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course "should rank with my best work." 1-800-444-6711.

**Treetops Smith Signature:** Designed by Treetops pro Rick Smith, the par-70, 6,653-yard course is already considered one of the finest in the area. The course opened 6 summers ago and features big greens. The Signature greens average 8,000 square feet in size, while greens on most courses average 5,000 square feet. 1-800-444-6711.

**Threetops:** A par three course at Treetops. The holes range from 96 to 216 yards and two that have vertical drops of 90 and 170 feet. It was designed by Treetops golf director Rick Smith. 1-800-444-6711.

**Wilderness Valley:** This Valley course features large greens and tree-lined fairways. The course is located 12 miles east of Mancelona along C-38. (989)-585-7090.

## WEXFORD COUNTY

**The Briar at Mesick:** Nestled

on rolling terrain with woods, streams and ponds, Briar provides you with opportunities for all golf shots. The first nine holes features rolling fairways. It's the shorter of the two nines. The second nine is a little more open. The greens are some of the best around. This 18-hole course is located 26 miles south of Traverse City on M-115. It is 18 miles north of Cadillac and 1 mile east of Mesick. 885-1220.

**Bunker Hill Golf Club:** This nine-hole layout features tree-lined fairways. It's scenic and challenging. 775-3330.

**Caberfae:** Located in the heart of the Manistee National Forest, this course is undergoing a facelift that will take it from 18 to 36 holes. When completed in 2001, it will play to more than 7,000 yards. 862-3000.

**Cadillac:** Located on M-55 in Cadillac, just west of M-115 junction. The 18-hole course plays to 6,017 from back tees. 775-9442.

**El Dorado:** This unique course features wide fairways and big

greens and is located just off U.S. 131.

**Emerald Vale Golf Club:** This scenic layout features a combination of links style holes with rolling terrain that weaves through pines, hardwoods and meadows. It's a par 72 with 120 feet of elevation change. Located 35 minutes south of Traverse City and 15 minutes north of Cadillac near Manton. 1-800-890-3407 or 824-3631.

**Lakewood on the Green:** A scenic course, it is fairly short but challenging with tight fairways and slightly rolling greens. Water comes into play on five holes. Located 2½ miles west of M-115 on M-55. 775-4763.

**McGuires:** There are two courses at McGuires, one is a 9-hole layout that plays to 2,792 yards. The other is 18 holes and plays to 6,443 yards. This course features wide, rolling fairways. There are many trees, but the course is still fairly open. Well-kept greens are large and slightly rolling. 775-9947.



## THE INTERLOCHEN GOLF CLUB



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# Course construction continues

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\$179 per person for spring packages. For more details call (877) 678-0124 or click on [www.a-gaming.com](http://www.a-gaming.com).

On the opposite side of Torch Lake and across Lake Bellaire, Hawk's Eye, sister course to The Chief, is set to open its second nine holes. The first nine opened late last summer to rave reviews, according to developer Tom Rowe, whose father Grant helped develop nearby Shanty Creek into one of the premier golf course properties in the region.

"Play was way up on The Chief last season, and many of those who played it also took advantage of our low offer to play the nine-holes we opened on the new course," he said. "Comments were quite favorable. Most golfers found it a little less intimidating."

The Chief, with a 145 slope rating, is one of the toughest courses in the region, right up there with The Bear, the heady Jack Nicklaus course at the Grand Traverse Resort, which set the standard for tough.

"We asked Robinson to build a difficult course with The Chief, and he did," laughed Rowe. "With Hawk's Eye he was allowed to incorporate his philosophy, which is to make the course more player friendly. We wanted it to complement the first course, not duplicate it."

The new nine holes, slated to open mid-July, will actually be the front nine. The nine holes opened last summer were really the second nine.

The new course will feature large landing areas and large greens. For those that want challenge, they can play from the tips. It will play over 7,200 yards from the back tees and slightly over 5,000 yards from the forward tee boxes. It has four sets of tees on each hole.

Carved through a northern Michigan hardwood forest, the course pitches and rolls over hill and dale, much like the other course, but won't feature nearly as many blind shots as Robinson's first course.

A new clubhouse is slated for Hawk's Eye in 2004. Home sites are available around the new course. For more information on the new course and real estate development, call (866) 4-HAWK-18 or click on [www.golfthechief.com](http://www.golfthechief.com).

The other Robinson course, Hawk Ridge, is being developed at Skyline ski area just south of Grayling off I-75. The first nine holes were to open last summer and the second nine this summer, but things went wrong with the sprinkler system affecting the course seeding. It ended up sitting them back a year, according to developer and owner Jerry Balmes.

"We ended up having to correct the whole thing and lost a summer,"

lamented Balmes. "I had to sue the contractor, but were back on course now."

The first nine is expected to open this summer and the second nine will now open in 2004.

When finished it will not be a long course. It will play a little over 6,200 yards from the tips and around 4,800 yards from the forward tees.

"It's going to be a shot maker's course," added Balmes. "If you want to pound it, you'd better be accurate. The average player should find it very playable. Robinson likes to incorporate generous landing areas for the average hitter and large, deep greens. The farther out a player hit's the ball, the narrower the fairway gets."

Hawk Ridge will feature bent grass tees and greens and blue grass fairways. It will also have lots of sand traps—over 50—and several elevation changes.

"The golf course is being built on a ski hill," Balmes pointed out. "The land drops well over 200 feet from front to back. Some of the holes are pretty dramatic and very scenic."

To check on the opening of the new course or to reserve a tee time, call (989) 275-5445 or click on [www.skylineski.com](http://www.skylineski.com).

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