

Area golf courses

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created the par-three practice first hole. The other Black Bear trademark is a 300-foot long illuminated wall of water that fronts along I-75 north of Gaylord. (877) GOLF-175.

Black Forest The Black Forest course sits adjacent to the 18-hole course at Wilderness Valley. It opened seven years ago and was designed by Tom Doak. The 7,050 yard course is one of the longest in northern Michigan. It's been nominated for best new course by *Golf Digest*. 585-7090.

Green Trees Golf A par-60 course that plays to 3,100 yards, it's located two miles west of Gaylord off M-32. (989) 732-6006.

Marsh Ridge Formerly Old Norden Hem Resort, Marsh Ridge opened in 1992. The course features rolling hills and marshy areas, with water hazards on 12 holes. The par-72 course plays to 6,700 yards. Lighted driving range available. Located five miles south of Gaylord on Old 27. (800) 743-PLAY.

Michaywe, The Pines The Pines is heavily bunkered, with well-separated fairways cut through pines and hardwood. Water the seven holes. Plays to 6,835 yards from back tees. (989) 939-8911.

The Natural Located on 150 acres at Beaver Creek Resort, The Natural was originally part of the Snow Valley Ski Resort in the 1920s. Jerry Matthews designed the picturesque layout. The 440-yard 18th is the toughest hole on the top-notch course. (989) 732-1785.

Otsego Club, The Classic Designed by William H. Diddel, The Classic became the founding course of the Gaylord Golf Mecca. The signature hole, no. 18, is a par-four measuring 310 yards from the back tees and offers panoramic views. (877) GOLF-175.

Otsego Club, The Lake Voted the third best new golf course in America when it opened in 1987, The Lake Golf Club features beautiful views and water on 10 holes. Plays to 6,508 yards. Located on Opal Lake Rd., six miles south of Gaylord. (989) 732-5181 or (877) GOLF-175.

Otsego Club, The Loon This course is located between Marsh Ridge Resort and Michaywe' golf development on the south side of Gaylord. It's a par-71 course that plays to 6,800 yards from the championship tees. Call (989)-732-5181 or (877) GOLF-175.

Otsego Club, The Tribute Voted one of the top 10 new courses in America by *Sports Illustrated*. It was designed by Rick Robbins

and former PGA Tour player and NBC golf commentator Gary Koch. It features rolling elevation changes through forested valleys with spectacular views that stretch for 30 miles. The tee on the third hole overlooks the Sturgeon River Valley.

Rick Smith Tradition This course is designed for walking and is built to National Audubon Society specifications. One of the best courses in northern Michigan. (800) 444-6711.

Robert Trent Jones Masterpiece This challenging course at Sylvan Resort was designed by Robert Trent Jones. It's very hilly and wooded, with many elevated tees and greens. Water comes into play on four holes. From championship tees, it plays an imposing 7,046 yards. It's 6,399 from back tees. Treetops is six miles east of I-75 in Gaylord. (800) 444-6711.

Tom Fazio Premier Course The course was designed by Tom Fazio. Fazio, an internationally acclaimed golf course designer, said the Treetops course "should rank with my best work." (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 seven 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. (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. (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

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 one 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. It plays 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.



Record-Eagle file photo

Mike Tegel of Elk Rapids putts during the St. Francis Invitational at Interlochen Country Club.

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. (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 2.5 miles west of M-115 on M-55. 775-4763.

McGuires There are two courses at McGuires, one is a nine-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.

Interlochen Golf Club Golf Course



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