



Goose Creek Golf Club ~ History in the Making

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Folks in Northern Virginia will tell you that no area has changed as much over the past 60 years as Loudoun County has. Some may point to growth in Fairfax and Prince William counties, but no other landscape has made an about-face like what has happened in the county of Loudoun. What was once predominately farmland and horse farms has now matured into the perfect mix of housing and retail while holding on to its countryside charm in many areas. Goose Creek Golf Club, however, has hardly changed since it was built in 1952. Yes, the area surrounding the course has been dramatically transformed, but Goose Creek in Leesburg has remained virtually the same as it was more than 60 years ago.



You will not find any housing, swimming, or tennis at Goose Creek. You will just savor some of the finest and most affordable golf in all of Northern Virginia and appreciate its splendid location right off Rt.7, the main connector through the county. The approximately 100-acre course boasts one remarkable distinction. Golfing great Ben Hogan shot the course record of 59 in the late 1950s. This unmatched accomplishment is portrayed in a series of timeless photographs that grace the clubhouse walls. Arnold Palmer has also played this course. The King entertained a crowd estimated at 1,500 spectators during the 1972 Loudoun Memorial Hospital Golf Tournament. The two names, Hogan and Palmer, go hand in hand with classic golf just like the Goose. Now, we can't guarantee you a super low score or a huge gallery, but we can assure you that you will be smitten by Goose Creek.



Although there have been some tweaks to the course over the years, Goose Creek has not changed as much as its surroundings have. Most notably, in 2007 popular architect Rick Jacobson redesigned a couple of the holes, which harmonize very well with Designer Bill Gordon's original layout. The 6410 yard par 71 has been deemed a shot-



maker's layout that requires knowledge and strategy over power.

The front nine at Goose Creek Golf Club opens with an uphill par 5 and downhill par 4. Having modest lengths, they both afford good scoring opportunities. The par 3 third gives testament to the seamless quality of the course, being one of the more recently

designed holes, and plays uphill at nearly 170 yards from the tips. Avoiding Tuscarora Creek, a tributary of the course's namesake, and the deep bunkers on the left must be your first goals. Successfully handle the two-tiered green to accomplish your mission. A series of par 4s from holes four through eight shape an interesting part of the course in which each hole plays over, around, or next to the Tuscarora. The sixth hole is rated the hardest at Goose Creek playing 411 yards with O.B. down the entire left side. A demanding drive over the creek will set up an uphill second shot. Par here is a keeper. Both seven and eight may be short by today's par 4 standards, but Goose Creek's signature small pop-up greens add to the challenge. The par 3 ninth, a story in itself, has achieved the reputation as being one of the toughest par 3s in the region. The hole plays from a tee box set back in the trees to a narrow sloping green perched onto a hillside. A deep bunker to the right and some considerable environmental areas are just part of the quandary on this infamous hole, rated one of the most difficult at Goose Creek.

Longer than the front side, the back nine at Goose plays somewhat easier with extra free space. Goose Creek itself borders the left side of three par 4s that open the inward side, with each hole getting progressively more daunting. Thirteen, the first of two lengthy par 3s on the back, plays 236 yards from the blues. Water down the left in the form of an attractive pond can distract the task at hand. Back to back par 5s on holes fourteen and fifteen form a scoring





Hole 15 Par 5

zone on the back side. The first plays uphill to a two-tiered green that slopes significantly from back to front. The later hole plays downhill with hazards crossing the fairway and near the green that demand your complete attention. Two of my favorites, sixteen and seventeen, par 3 and par 4 respectively, combine both length and beauty. Feathery

native grasses surround both of the green complexes. Goose Creek ends with a short par 4, rated the easiest hole on the course, so put a circle on the scorecard because that birdie will keep you coming back for more.

Goose Creek Golf Club maintains excellent conditions that are as good if not better than some of the costlier clubs in the region. The bentgrass fairways provide country club playing surfaces without the “Bushwood” tariff. I am pleased with the pace of play, one noticeable and favorable trait at the Goose. Don’t expect an agonizing five plus hour round here. Play normally requires four hours or less. The course website provides online tee times and everything you need to know about memberships, gift certificates, outings, and much more. Members are privy to a great in-house event schedule. Greens and tee boxes are located in close proximity to one another making it an ideal course for walkers. Women appreciate this course also. In the days of longer, overly demanding layouts, Goose Creek brings us back to “hit it, find it, and hit it again.” Wednesday women’s and Thursday men’s leagues are held here in season. Plus, Loudoun Junior Golf Association originated here where children from 8 years and up can participate in either their Traditional or Masters memberships. As you can see, the course stays pretty busy. General Manager Jeffrey Berg and his staff do a first-rate job handling the events, members, and daily fee players that frequent this establishment.



Hole 17 Par 4

We end this string of words on a real positive note. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recently approved Goose Creek’s plan to renovate the golf course and construct new practice facilities and a new clubhouse. I find it so refreshing to hear that it looks like one of our great ole golf institutions, Goose Creek in Leesburg, will be around for another 60 years. 🏌️

For more information visit goosecreekgolf.com