

Here's a Hole-by-Hole View Of Rush Creek Golf Club

By TOM FULLER

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Rush Creek stretches over 260 acres of rolling prairie and natural marshes. No matter what level game you play, the course was strategically designed to offer new and challenging experiences each round. Three sets of tees have been placed to accommodate a variety of skill levels.

Rush Creek is home to a large variety of plant and animal life, ranging from nine different species of naturalizing grasses to striped gophers, muskrats, red fox and snapping turtles.

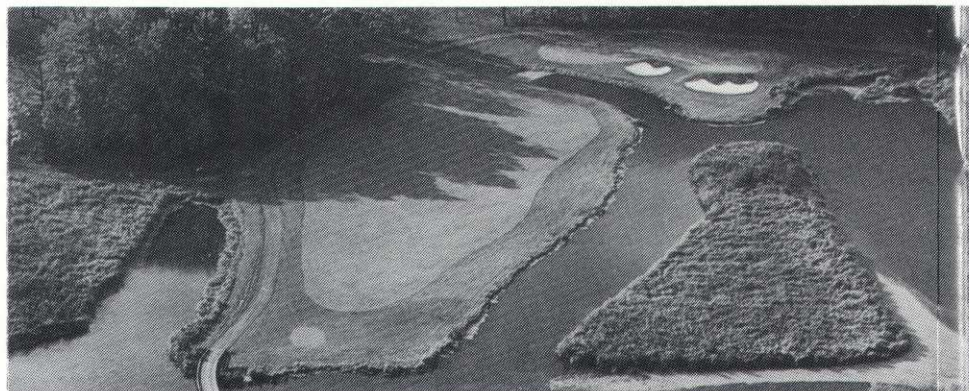
Over two dozen types of birds: larger species — pheasants, owls, hawks and smaller feathered friends — chickadees, killdeer and hummingbirds. There also are a variety of water fowl inhabiting the many ponds and wetlands scattered around the property. Great blue herons (not to be confused with Rush Creek's touring golf professional Tim Herron!) co-exist with swans, egrets and ducks.

The flora and fauna change with the seasons, as does the color palette seen through the golf course. Wildflowers in hues of yellow (coreopsis, black-eyed Susan, rudbeckia and goldenrod among others) are complemented by bleeding hearts, bachelor's buttons and blue flax. Aquatic plants include white and yellow water lilies and purple loosestrife.

Take note of the variety of bird boxes dotting the golf course and be alert for environmentally-sensitive habitat signs.

1 399 Yards Par 4

Don't miss this generous fairway, as the left rough is riddled with ridges and hollows that penalize errant tee shots. The approach is downhill to a long, narrow green protected by a bunker on the left.



2 525 Yards Par 5

Water extends down the entire left side of the hole, while a long stand of pines protects the right. Accuracy is essential through the green, as the putting surface is surrounded with trouble. Bold play may result in an eagle, but any mistake could mean disaster.

3 173 Yards Par 3

Don't be fooled by distance. This uphill hole requires a well-struck tee shot to reach the diagonal green that is protected on the right by two steep-faced bunkers. The left side consists of hillocks, mounds and grassy hollows that bleed onto the green.

4 336 Yards Par 4

Bunkers guard the premium landing areas from the elevated tees. The approach is only a pitch but tends to be tricky as the green rises 25 feet from the 150 yard pole and is surrounded by grassy hollows. Accuracy is essential as the green slopes off on all sides.

5 417 Yards Par 4

A 35-foot drop from the tees to the fairway can help you gain distance on your drive but mature trees

lining the saddle-shaped fairway call for accuracy. The approach requires a delicate shot over a pair of fore-bunkers while a large, deep bunker guards the entire left side of the green.

6 340 Yards Par 4

The tee shot must be carefully placed atop a narrow plateau with trees protecting both sides of the fairway. Your approach, although not more than a pitch, must carry the front bunkers and yet be delicate enough to hold a shallow green.

7 203 Yards Par 3

Don't be distracted by the view from the tees which are 30 feet above the green. This lengthy hole requires precise club selection with the green nestled amongst three bunkers and a small finger of water on the right. The narrow green leaves little room for error.

8 581 Yards Par 5

A long fairway bunker on the left side captures many tee shots. Take your time on your second as a pond borders your landing area on the left while large mounds flank the

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right side. A rather small green requires a delicate shot that must carry a deep bunker in front.

9 452 Yards Par 4

A distant bunker near the outside of the dogleg marks the line of play. The approach shot is played downhill over a shallow swale that includes a small pond. Don't miss this shot right, as a long, narrow bunker guards the entire right side of the green.

10 575 Yards Par 5

The elevated tee shot is best played near the two fairway bunkers away from the wetlands on the right. Those trying to reach the green on their second must negotiate the ominous bunker short of the green while not losing their shot right of the green in the wetlands.

11 410 Yards Par 4

A tee shot that can carry the left portion of the fairway bunker and pond will leave a much easier shot into the green. The approach to this green must be accurate, and even then will leave most players with a putt that can frustrate even the avid golfer.

12 186 Yards Par 3

The downhill tee shot to this wide but shallow green will require precise club selection, as it is almost entirely surrounded by water. Don't forget to factor in the 16-foot drop from tee to green. Once safely on the putting surface, a small ridge that bisects the green warrants a second look.

13 345 Yards Par 4

This short, yet difficult hole requires accurate shot-making as it is bordered by water on three sides. Although the approach is little more than a pitch, the shot must carry water short of the elevated green, which is edged with two bunkers and a grassy knoll in back.



14 359 Yards Par 4

This hole plays slightly uphill as it turns from right to left. The second shot must carry three bunkers guarding the front left of the green, which is shaped like a punch bowl and slopes sharply from the back toward the front.

15 143 Yard Par 3

Although short in length, this challenging hole includes a huge bunker short of the green that is larger than the green itself. The putting surface sits at the base of tall mounds, with bunkers guarding both the right and left sides. Accuracy is essential.

16 450 Yards Par 4

This long hole flows downhill from tee to green and is bordered by a strategically placed fairway bunker that sits to the left of the best landing area off the tee. The large green may make your approach easier, but the contour of the green poses yet another challenge.

17 411 Yards Par 4

The sloping fairway is downhill off the tee with a 20-foot drop to the ideal landing area, which is just right of the fairway bunker. The collar of the putting surface is covered with a series of grassy hollows which will capture any approach shots that are off the mark.

18 569 Yards Par 5

This lengthy finishing hole requires the first two shots to be played over a small section of lake and wetlands, leaving an approach to a green that is flanked by a shallow bunker in front. A small ridge divides the green, making pitching to the back left very difficult.

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