

## Course Review: Battle Creek (closed 2007)

While it seems a little silly to include a review of a golf course that no longer exists, since we *did* play Battle Creek Golf Course in Salem before it closed — and because it is included in the “Courses Played” count here on the Don and Pete website — we decided to go ahead with at least a half-hearted effort. You’ll find a similar review of the also-closed Colonial Valley Links in Grants Pass.

The impending 2007 closure of Battle Creek was at least announced well ahead of time. That gave us the opportunity to get there a couple of months before it shut down. Battle Creek was, in fact, the eighth course we played once we decided to embark upon “The Quest” to play every single golf course in Oregon.

Battle Creek was located off of South Commercial Street in Salem. It was surrounded by condominiums and apartment buildings, and the owners eventually scrapped it to simply build more housing.

Battle Creek, by the time we played it, wasn’t the best-kept course ever, but then that was to be expected. By the same token, they didn’t just let it go to pot, either. The greens were in pretty good shape, and the fairways were decent. The roughs were, well, rough. A little stream ran through the layout,



so there was water here and there, and a decent number of trees.

Here was the problem with Battle Creek, and what would have been the perfect solution. We’re not sure how many acres Battle Creek encompassed, but it simply wasn’t enough for 18 holes. Fairways and greens were crammed too closely together, errant shots landed you on opposing holes, and everything just felt crowded.

Rather than scrapping the course entirely, the best *golf solution* would have been a complete course remodel down to 9 holes. Developers could have intermingled upscale, golf course view housing with the new layout. There was plenty of room for both — though obviously, a 9-hole course would have limited how much housing was built. But we hate to see any course close, so this would have been an excellent option.

We were pleased that Battle Creek still had an ample supply of logo balls when we played, so we do have a collector’s item of sorts in our ball displays.

Alas, Battle Creek is gone and apparently also forgotten — the *only* picture we could find to steal off the Internet is the lousy one accompanying this review of Battle Creek’s entrance off of Salem’s South Commercial Street.

R.I.P. Battle Creek.