Course Review: The Greens At Redmond

The 18-hole Greens at Redmond golf course is part of an overall "The Greens" development in the southern portion of town, which features housing, parks and some hiking paths in addition to the course. It's technically an executive course, but with only two par 4s per side and par of 29-29 = 58, it's really a par 3 course.

Opened in 1995, The Greens at Redmond does have noteworthy golf architect Robert Muir Graves to boast about. For a short course, there's a decent amount of yardage difference between the white tees (2909) and the blue tees (3554). Graves designed the course with Penngrass greens, a type of bentgrass, and 100 percent bluegrass fairways, somewhat unusual in Oregon.

The Greens at Redmond features man-made lakes, canals and fountains scattered throughout its 18 holes. In fact, there's basically water of some type on every hole. However, most of it is for show — the water really doesn't come into play all that often considering how much of it there is. There are lots of white sand bunkers to avoid, however; they are in play. The course also includes a number of unusual rock formations that Graves left put in designing the track.

For many people, The Greens at Redmond offers a round of relief from the many expensive, high-end courses that call Central Oregon home. It may be an executive course (or less), but it still features some stunning vistas of the Cascade Mountains — you don't have to pay \$100 to play golf with snow-capped volcanoes in view. The holes offer a wide variety in terms of challenge as well. Some holes are very difficult, others are quite routine. It's a good mix, and





you'll find a lot of husband and wife and/or parents and kids combinations on the course — there's a little something for everyone, no matter your skill level.

Maintenance at the course is sometimes uneven. You'll usually find the greens in good shape, but fairways and rough are sometimes longer than you'd expect. You also don't know what to expect as far as a time commitment. The Greens at Redmond draws a lot of locals as well as the Central Oregon vacation golfer, and it's not a layout that plays quickly. It's a much longer walk that the 3554-from-the-tips yardage would indicate. You've got some lengthy treks from greens to tees on several occasions. The course is flat and you can certainly walk it, but you'll be hoofing farther than you expect, and it'll wear on you on a hot day.

In that regard, you need to know that No. 9 does not come back to the clubhouse. The 10th tee is way out there, and there's no drinking water on the course, so you've got to stock up on liquids in the pro shop before you tee off. That's one improvement that The Greens at Redmond definitely needs to address, a couple of water coolers on the course would be a huge improvement.

The Greens at Redmond will never make any magazine's "must play" list in Central Oregon. They know that. It's still a great escape, and something a little different to try out on your next golf vacation.