

Course Review: Langdon Farms Golf Club

Langdon Farms Golf Club is one of the most popular public play golf courses in the greater Portland area and rightly so. Located just south of Wilsonville and adjacent to I-5 near the Canby exit, Langdon Farms opened to rave reviews in 1995 and has continued to rank highly ever since.

Langdon Farms' pastoral setting isn't forced, it really was a working farm for the James Edgar Langdon family throughout most of the 1900s, producing flax, wheat, alfalfa and potatoes. Appropriately, the course features two distinctive barns. The Big Red Barn Clubhouse was built with the course. This signature structure houses both the pro shop and the excellent Langdon Grill, a popular local eatery for golfers and non-golfers alike. It was constructed from rustic wood and features a high, vaulted ceiling that you can't look at without wondering how much it costs to heat and cool the place. The other barn is a "real" barn dating back to 1908 and is in play on Hole No. 8, straddling the cart path. (Don once saw a person hit a ball cleanly through the barn during a tournament several years ago.)

Langdon Farms is beautifully maintained. In addition to the well-manicured tee boxes, fairways and greens, flowerbeds abound throughout the course, offering a variety of colors depending on what's in bloom when you play. Some holes offer spectacular views of Mt. Hood; others, views of Interstate 5. Seriously, despite the proximity of the freeway, the course is not notably noisy.

Renowned Oregon golf course architects Bob Cupp and John Fought joined forces in designing Langdon Farms as a links-style layout. Dynamic mounding, bunkering and water features abound throughout the track. Most of the fairways are slightly depressed, giving the course a unique look and feel.



You also have ample landing areas off of most tee boxes, and "links-style" means there are few trees in play. If you do stray off the fairway, however, be prepared for a thick rough or long, stringy natural grasses and weeds. There are a couple of man-made lakes, but water is really only in play on two or three holes, most prominently a large pond that guards the green on No. 3 and again on No. 18.

Most greens are very large, and few come without several undulations. Flat, straight putts are rare at Langdon Farms, but the greens roll quickly and true, so you can adjust your putting stroke if you can read the breaks correctly. You will also encounter some hellaciously deep bunkers on the course, plus a giant trap that splits Nos. 17 and 18 and has a half-dozen grass pews in the middle of it.

It's important to select the correct tees at Langdon, which plays longer than the listed yardages. The white are a little over 6000 yards; blue and blacks bump up to 6500 and over 6900, respectively. Don't bite off more than you can chew, especially if you're playing for the first time. Langdon Farms is flat enough to walk, though it's spread out and includes enough subtle elevation changes that it's a workout. We took a cart and enjoyed the day that way.

Langdon Farms justifiably enjoys a reputation as a great draining, excellent winter play course. In fact, among greater Portland courses, the only public course that rivals it is Chehalem Glenn in Newberg (we say that objectively). Langdon Farms also boasts large, state-of-the-art practice facilities, including 28 covered and lighted driving range stalls.