

# Course Review: Mountain View Golf Course

Ask people if they've played Mountain View Golf Course in Boring, and frequently the response is, "Is that the course with the hole down the cliff?" Yes, *that's* Mountain View. Built in 1964, Mountain View is an underrated Portland-area course that offers some great views of Mt. Hood, offers golfers 18 holes of a true variety and drains reasonably well for winter play. One downside of Mountain View is you never quite know what you're going to get in terms of pace of play. It's usually not real busy, but when it is, it can crawl along.

Mountain View is not overly long. The white tees measure just over 5500 yards, the blues are 6000. It's a little quirky in its layout. The par 36 front nine has only one each par 3 and par 5. The back nine has three par 3s and two par 5s for a par 35, that's not unusual, but how they come at you is. You start with a par 3 on No. 10, followed by a short par 4. Then you've got back-to-back par 3s, followed by consecutive par 5s before coming in with three-in-a-row par 4s.

The quirky nature is further evidenced when considering No. 4 is a 432-yard par 4, and No. 14 is a 411-yard par 5. All of the other par 4s are considerably shorter than No. 4; most are 350 or under. There are tree issues on most holes at Mountain View, bunkers guarding some greens but no fairway traps, and water seriously in play on eight holes. Many of the tree-lined fairways also have severe undulations, so you can get a lot of uneven lies.

If that's not enough, the greens at Mountain View feature many extreme slopes. Putts are quick and they'll break a lot. What constitutes a "gimme" is up to you and your buddies; putt out every hole and your score will rise for sure.



The gauntlet that will make or break you at Mountain View is Holes 12-15. No. 12 is Mountain View's signature hole (photo above). You tee off on a cliff — frustratingly, often off a mat — targeted at a small green 180 feet below. There's no fairway, just the cliff face. The scorecard says 180 yards, but you need little more than a wedge. A well-struck tee shot is fun to watch as it soars through the air and then makes a huge crater when it strikes the green. If you hit the green, your ball stays where it lands! Hit it short and you're in the crud at the base of the cliff. Hit it long and you're wet; there's a small creek that runs behind the green. It's *that* hole.

It's followed by another par 3, 164 yards and very narrow, guarded by a treed hillside on the right and more trees plus the creek on the left. Many people relax after finishing No. 12 and find immediate trouble here. Next is the aforementioned short par 5. A stream crosses the fairway about 180 from the tee, so you need to fly the ball 200 yards or lay up. If you keep your ball dry off the tee and hit a decent second shot, it's not that hard. *If*.

The following par 5 No. 15 is a doozy. That same creek crosses its fairway, and right where the water is — again, about 180 off this tee as well — the hole makes a sharp dogleg left and heads uphill. There are scattered trees along the left side of the fairway with enough gaps that you can be tempted to cut the corner. If you don't make it, though, it's off the course property and OB. If not for No. 12, this could be the hole people talk about after their round at Mountain View.