

Course Review: Oregon City Golf Club

The Oregon City Golf Club was originally built in 1922 as a nine-hole course and operated as a private, member-owned country club for its first 23 years. A hoped-for second nine was stalled by the Great Depression, and it wasn't until well after the course was sold and became public play that a back nine was added in 1960. The course has been owned by succeeding generations of the Herberger family since 1950, and has a friendly, family feel to it.

Oregon City is a relatively short track, just 5500 yards from the white tees and under 5900 from the back tees. Par is 71. We played Oregon City on a fall day with frequent foursome fillers Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack, friends of Don's since grade school.

Oregon City is a tight layout. We don't know exactly how many acres the course entails, but it's got to be close to the minimum you can have and squeeze in 18 regulation holes. There's a lot of back and forth, parallel fairway play. Regardless of what fairway you're on, there's generally another one on both your right and left. There is not a ton of variety to the holes. They are standard golf holes, nothing terrible, nothing overly unique or taxing.

You're biggest issue at Oregon City is trees. Like many mature Oregon golf courses, there are lots of trees and — *surprise!* — trees grow consistently year after year, narrowing the fairways accordingly. That's what's happened at Oregon City, creating a course that doesn't have a lot of elbow room. If you're good enough that you can draw or fade your shots on demand, you could score very well here. Most of us are just trying to hit it straight.

Oregon City is certainly a course you can walk. The terrain rolls a bit here and there, but it's mostly



flat. There are sand traps on 14 holes, virtually all greenside. The course has three ponds, but they're grouped together and only come into play on three holes: 8, 9 and 18. The rough isn't all that rough, and again, most of the time you're surrounded by adjacent holes, so unless you whack it off the course on one of the perimeter holes, you're not going to lose your ball easily at Oregon City, you're just going to face a tough shot to get back into *your* fairway.

The greens were average in almost every way, and as we've taken pains to point out in other course reviews, "average" doesn't mean "bad." Oregon City's greens are average size (which is neither good or bad). They are average speed and generally speaking, not too sloped, which leads to average break that's very readable. They were smooth and rolled consistently; putting won't be an issue for you here.

A good day at Oregon City would include a birdie or two on the par 3s. There are five of them, and they're not long. Three at right at 150 yards, the longest is 161 and the shortest is 139. No. 9 (155 yards) has water in play, but only if you're considerably right and short. Three of the four par 5s have some character. No. 3 (570 yards) zigzags right then left, while No. 6 (512) and No. 15 (443) are adjacent, mirror image dogleg lefts. No. 17 (487) is straight.

We hear that Oregon City drains well and is a good winter play course. There's a nice clubhouse and a practice putting green, but the course has no driving range, which is a negative.

