

Course Review: Springwater Golf Course

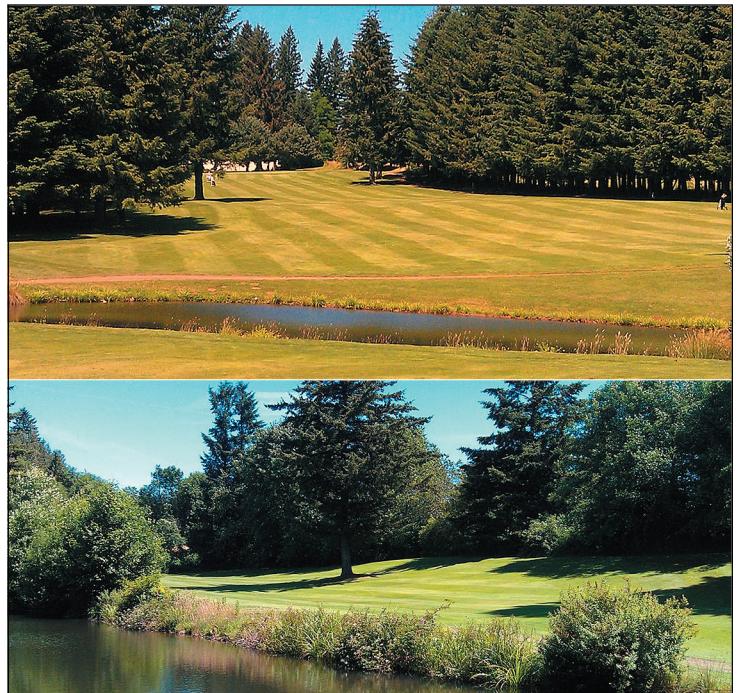
Springwater Golf Course isn't the easiest place to find the first time. It's located off of Springwater Road out in the countryside south of Estacada. If you're familiar with the area, Springwater is sort of tucked into the area between the McIver State Park campground and the Metzler Park Recreation Complex.

Springwater Golf Course is a unique little course, set in a wooded area that was once a family farm with berry patches, fields of grass and farm animals. Springwater still maintains a quintessential country atmosphere.

We were greeted by extremely friendly staff in a modest but functional small clubhouse. We played with usual suspects Dave Cadd and Mitch Nosack, who had arrived shortly before we did. Mitch, who is also a logo ball collector, had already made the requisite inquiry. No, they said, they hadn't had logo balls in a while, though they meant to order them again. One staffer went out to the course shop building and dug through a bin and turned up one old, scuffed Springwater logo ball. We decided that ball would go to whoever had the first birdie (assuming there was one). The woman behind the counter took our card and said she'd call when they ordered more — we'd heard that one before.



All prepared to yell "Fore!" off the first tee at Springwater Golf Course near Estacada.



A look at the gently rolling terrain that greets you at Springwater Golf Course.

There are two sets of tees at Springwater; as always we played the whites, which are 3,003 yards. Blues add another 200. Springwater opened in 1964 as a par 34, but changes have been made over the years to add more yardage and two strokes. The fairways are generally pretty wide, but there's still trouble to be found with water on several holes and some thick underbrush if you stray too far off course.

This is a course where local knowledge is king. There are some blind and semi-blind shots to be made, both off the tee and from a couple of fairways, and we made a few mistakes here and there that could have been corrected if we'd known the course better. That's not a criticism, that's just part of playing somewhere new.

Overall we had a great time, enjoyed the course and moved on. Oh, and Mitch sunk about a 30-footer on No. 8 to claim the lone logo ball. But all was not lost for Don and Pete. About three months after our visit, the phone rang. It was the woman from the Springwater pro shop, calling to say they had logo balls in! She offered to mail them, and Don had to argue with her to get her to accept payment. No one from any other course has ever followed up like that. Springwater gets the highest Don and Pete approval!