

Course Review: Stewart Park Golf Course

The last course of any golf week is always a bit of a challenge, and Stewart Park in Roseburg was no exception as we polished off Golf Week 2014. Miles-wise, it was a long week. Newberg to Sutherlin, Myrtle Creek and Ashland, then over to Klamath Falls for the bulk of the week, a side trip from K-Falls to Lakeview and Christmas Valley (and one to Crater Lake), then back home with the stop in Roseburg. Needless to say, we were pretty stiff standing on the first tee.

Stewart Park first opened in 1960. The 9-hole layout is the only public course in Roseburg. Operated by the City of Roseburg, it sits amidst — you guessed it — Stewart Park, a huge parcel with several different recreational opportunities.

We played the gold tees, which are the equivalent of whites at most courses. Our nine was 2,900 yards and par 35. If you play the “back nine” there are some alternate tees that stretch the course a couple of hundred yards, make par 5s out of two par 4s and total par 37.

The first thing we want to talk about is the friendly Stewart Park staff. Patrick (we think) was the fellow behind the counter that day. We were dismayed to hear that the course generally has logo balls, but just happened to be out. Patrick scrambled around and came up with some fill-ins for us, very generic Stewart Park Men’s League balls. That was an extremely kind gesture that we very much appreciated. He was also interested in our Quest and astonished to hear how many miles and courses we’d played the previous seven days.



The elevated tee box on No. 8 at Stewart Park, looking for a birdie on the 272-yard par 4. Pete got one!



Tired, stiff, sunburned, just plain pooped. Last course of Golf Week 2014 at Stewart Park in Roseburg.

For being in Southern Oregon in mid-August, Stewart Park was nicely green as long as you were on or near a fairway. Spray it off (which we did occasionally that day) and you’d find some dry, brown grass, but hey, you’re not supposed to be out there anyway.

Stewart Park has the occasional sand trap and a half-dozen or so ponds, but the course is very playable. You start out with a long par 5 that doglegs right. It looks like you can cut the corner, and, if you are more familiar with the course, maybe you can. Two of us tried and failed miserably.

For our money, Stewart Park’s best stretch of holes is 6-7-8. No. 6 is a 318-yard par 4. Sounds easy. But you’ve got a 90-degree dogleg left at the end protected by a grove of mature trees, plus the green is elevated at least 75-feet, maybe more. You stay higher up on the No. 7 tee, shooting down across a pond very much in play on a 154-yard par 3. You go back up to an elevated tee box on No. 8, an otherwise straightforward short par 4 of 272 yards. You come home on a long, straight, 404-yard par 4.

Stewart Park is a great little community golf course that offers enough challenges for an experienced player to enjoy, but is playable for a newcomer or beginner. It was a good end to Golf Week 2014.