

Course Review: Summerfield Golf Course

Summerfield Golf Course in Tigard is sort of southwest Portland's little secret. There's a prevalent misconception that you have to be a Summerfield resident or a senior to play there. Neither is true. Summerfield is a small, 55-and-over residential community — much like Charbonneau, but way smaller — and while we assume that Summerfield residents have some sort of tee time priority (which makes sense, it is technically a semi-private venue), by-and-large there are always tee times available for the general public.

Summerfield is located near the intersection of Highway 99-W and Durham Road. From the better-known King City Golf Course, you could hit a driver and bounce it off of 99-W on the fly and then roll it through the Safeway parking lot on the south side of the highway to get there in two. It's a 9-hole executive course that opened in 1973. With three par 3s and six par 4s, the course measures 2,343 yards from the farthest tees — there are two sets of slightly different tees if you want to play 18 — with the longest par 4 being about 350 yards.

Summerfield winds through its namesake housing complex, so depending on your level of competence, it can seem a little tight in places. Yes, hit it really poorly and you can whack a house, but generally speaking it's not *that* tight and you feel more comfortable as you get into the round. As you might



The No. 2 tee at Summerfield, a 181-yard par 3. As noted, several holes do have significant trees in play.



Approaching the No. 4 green. This 335-yard par 4 has one of the wider fairways at Summerfield.

expect within a retirement community, Summerfield is basically flat and easily walkable.

We found the course extremely well maintained, the greens in particular. The putting surfaces are of medium speed but very readable and very consistent. As far as hazards, there are bunkers, mostly greenside. There are a good number of trees about the course, so depending on the hole, you can be in some trouble if you spray it off the tee. Two holes have nice water features. No. 5, a 296-yard par 4, has a small pond immediately in front of the tee that's not in play unless you really duff it. But a larger pond starts about halfway up the fairway and extends all the way to the green; it's definitely in play if you hook your tee shot and on your approach shot. No. 9 is a short, 116-yard par 3 with a large pond immediately in front of the green and a fountain in its midst. At 116 the pond really shouldn't be a factor, but it catches its fair share of balls nonetheless.

There is some Internet chatter about slow play at Summerfield, particularly on weekends, and several comments about rude marshals. For the record, we played the course on a spring weekend, didn't encounter any serious issues regarding speed of play (we waited a short time on two of the par 3s) and didn't encounter any marshals, rude or otherwise.

Again, this is a nice course to play and you *can* play it. We're not Groupon people but apparently there are frequently Summerfield specials available there. The course is also listed on GolfNow.com. Incidentally, Summerfield has very good drainage and is quietly one of the best winter play options in the Portland area, so keep that in mind.