



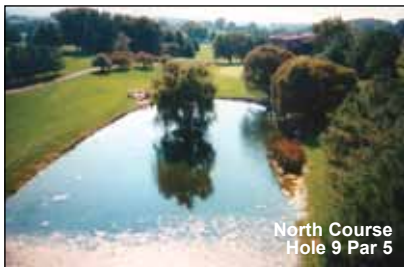
Bowling Green Country Club ~ Double Mints

Nick Ciattei

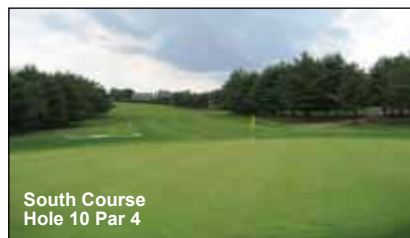
For us golf enthusiasts that can't get enough of the game, the mid-Atlantic golf landscape is fortunate to have several facilities that offer more than just the normal 18-hole layouts. After all, we took the day off to play; we might as well play long and hard and get in an extra 9 or full 18 holes. Bowling Green Country Club in Front Royal, Virginia, provides that opportunity and does it with two distinctly different courses.

The formula of quality golf at a decent tariff has always been the structure at Bowling Green Country Club. Shenandoah Valley golf legend Lynwood Morrison put that recipe in place when developing the courses in the late 1980s and early 90s. Since then, a loyal following of local and visiting golfers from Northern Virginia and bordering states have made Bowling Green one of the busiest and most affordable, user friendly golf destinations in the area.

The North Course opened in 1984 and even though there have been several changes made, the layout remains one that is very playable and a lot of fun. Measuring in at just less than 6500 yards from the tips, Bowling Green-North is no pushover because of tight fairways and moderately sized greens. The par 71 features several lakes and towering willows. One change from the original design that Morrison laid out is on the 170-yard, par 3 fourth, which has been transformed from a plain-Jane into an exciting, bulk-headed island green hole. Try not to let the splashing fountains distract you from this signature gem in the valley. Eight is another nice par 3 where a large pond protects the entire left side of the green, whose subtle dips can be a setup for some tough pin placements. The par 5 ninth is a true risk-reward hole with a drive from an elevated tee to a tight landing area. The second shot needs to carry a pond, and the lay-up area is narrow adding to the challenge. The back nine on the North Course is punctuated with several short par 4s characterized by tricky undulating greens. The two par 3s on the inward nine are long holes where level par is a good score. Another noteworthy trait of the North Course is a wet weather creek that comes into play on no less than eight holes.



North Course Hole 9 Par 5



South Course Hole 10 Par 4

This year, the South Course at Bowling Green Country Club celebrates its 20th year. Shorter than its older sibling, South is known for its large greens and wider fairways and is a favorite among seniors and women for its very playable length, a tick under 6000 yards. Another reason golfers love the South Course is because of its lack of hazards.

There's a good chance you are going to finish with the same ball with which you started. Better skilled players still find enough on the table to keep things interesting, especially the closing holes. There are a couple of short par 4s on the front nine of this par 70 that can be reached by the big hitters. The back nine at Bowling Green-South heats up with a tough stretch starting at the fourteenth, a par 4 well known for its roller coaster fairway. Two more treacherous par 4s follow. I've always found the fifteenth to be just plain difficult from tee to green. Sixteen is the longest of the lot tipping at 450 yards and wows you with stunning views of the valley and Blue Ridge mountains. The uncommonly beveled green on the par 3 seventeenth offers up a stern test. The reachable par 5 closer gives you that always welcome chance to end with a birdie dance.

Bowling Green Country Club General Manager Brian Jones notes that all of the bunkers on both courses have been totally renovated over the last couple of years. Jones stays a busy man running the golf operations, along with head professional Mike Farewell, as well as overseeing an incredibly successful banquet and wedding business. Two separate clubhouses provide excellent venues for those special celebrations.

I had the privilege of knowing Lynwood Morrison on a personal and professional basis before his passing. I always thought of Lynwood as a kind-hearted, hard-working man. We had a mutual admiration of the way we took on life in both our businesses and families. He would be proud of the way the current regime operates the two wonderful courses and facilities at Bowling Green Country Club.



South Course Hole 17 Par 3

For more information visit bowlinggreencountryclub.net.



North Course Hole 4 Par 3