

Rocky River Golf Club

“Best bang for your buck”

When Rocky River Golf Club made the decision to convert to ultra-dwarf Bermuda greens several years ago, they were doing so by necessity since bent grass greens were not only difficult to maintain but were “unsightly” most of the summer. The conversion project not only improved the Dan Maples golf course, but also drew the attention of the North Carolina Golf Panel.

Owned by the City of Concord and managed by Embassy Suites, and operated under the watchful eye of the Director of Golf Ryan Brickley, Rocky River has climbed into the Top 100 golf course ratings at #88 in the state, and continues to be acclaimed by the 135 panelists as the “Best Bang for Your Buck” public course in Charlotte. Golfers not only get a good deal at Rocky River, but they get a guarantee that they will be satisfied with the greens and overall course conditions or get their money back.



“With our guarantee, our staff also provides the best customer services possible if you’re a member, an Embassy Suites guest or a daily rate player,” said Brickley. “Along with services, we want to make your golf game at Rocky River a great experience. To make that happen we offer a golf course in excellent condition, and a well-designed layout that is enjoyable to play.”

The credit for the course condition goes to first year Head Superintendent Joel White, a former assistant at Myers Park before joining Rocky River five-years ago as an assistant. White has also spearheaded a program that has selected Rocky River as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

The certification places the course on a list with more than 150,000 habitats across the country.

"It allows us to maintain a habitat for animals in our natural areas and keeps us moving in the right direction for sustainability," White explains. "There will always be 120 acres on the course where there won't be any development, so it serves as a sanctuary for wildlife."

Located in the shadow of Lowes Motor Speedway, the par-72 Rocky River layout measures 6,970 yards from the tips, down to a comfortable 4,754 yards from the front tees. Opened in 1997, Rocky

River utilizes many of the existing features of the area, including beautiful rock outcroppings and various species of native wetland grasses. Its a challenging golf course that has not been tricked-up for show, but plays well with no sharp doglegs or hidden problems. With the resurfacing of the greens, some severe slopes were reduced providing true rolls on what could be considered large greens.

With the size of the greens, golfers still need to concentrate on accurate iron play to avoid being on the wrong side of the green and having long challenging putts. Well-placed bunkers will also test your mental-approach of attacking a short-sided pin, or playing it safe in the middle of the green.



The Rocky River practice facilities was a joint effort between UNCC and Rocky River and features a state-of-the-art teaching studio, and private instruction area that includes a grass practice tee with 30 stations and target greens. Open during normal golf shop operating hours, the practice facilities offers right hand, left hand and ladies rental clubs. Private and group golf lessons are available from the PGA professional staff with rates listed online. Rocky River will be offering golf schools and clinics that utilize the private teaching facility and are developing video instruction packages.



The PGA teaching staff includes: Ryan Brickley, Floyd Gragg, Dave Miller and Brian Andora.

For more information on memberships, tee times, lessons, clinics or tournaments contact the Rocky River Pro Shop at 704-455-1200 or log-on at www.rockyrivergolf.com

For an extended stay, contact the Embassy Suites, just minutes from the first tee at Rocky River. With this hotel association, Rocky River is one of the few courses in North Carolina to offer a stay and play package with major hotel accommodations, their number is 704-455-8200 or visit www.embassysuitesconcord.com.