

Strikes n' Strokes

Bowling and Golf news GOLF COURSE REVIEW - SWAN VALLEY



Swan Valley is like two courses in one. The front nine has more hills and valleys than the back. It has an older type course look and also seems to play tougher, starting with this opening hole, a 189-yard, par-3 uphill with out of bounds on the left, water on the front right and trees protecting the back.

SWAN VALLEY GOLF COURSE

9521 Highland Green Dr, Thomas Township MI • 989.781.Golf (4653) • www.swanvalleygolf.com

SWAN VALLEY RATES (cart not included) Fees subject to change	Front (yards)		Back (yards)		Total (yards)
	Blue	3,116	Blue	2,957	Blue 6,073
	White	2,960	White	2,754	White 5,714
	Red	2,419	Red	2,401	Red 4,820
Open Golf	9 Hole	\$16.50	18 Hole Sr	\$21.00	9 Hole Open \$12.00
Saturday, Sunday and Holiday	18 Hole	\$27.00	9 Hole Jr	\$12.50	18 Hole Open \$24.00
9 Holes \$17.50	Senior and Junior Golf		18 Hole Jr	\$21.00	9 Hole Sr. \$10.00
18 Holes \$28.00	9 Hole Sr	\$12.50	Carts		18 Hole Sr. \$20.00
Open Golf - Monday to Friday					

Right, the second hole is a 578-yard, par-5 with a dog-leg left. Heavy hitters can cut the corner from the back tees.

There is a gully on the left side of the fairway. Right is better, but there are trees to contend with.

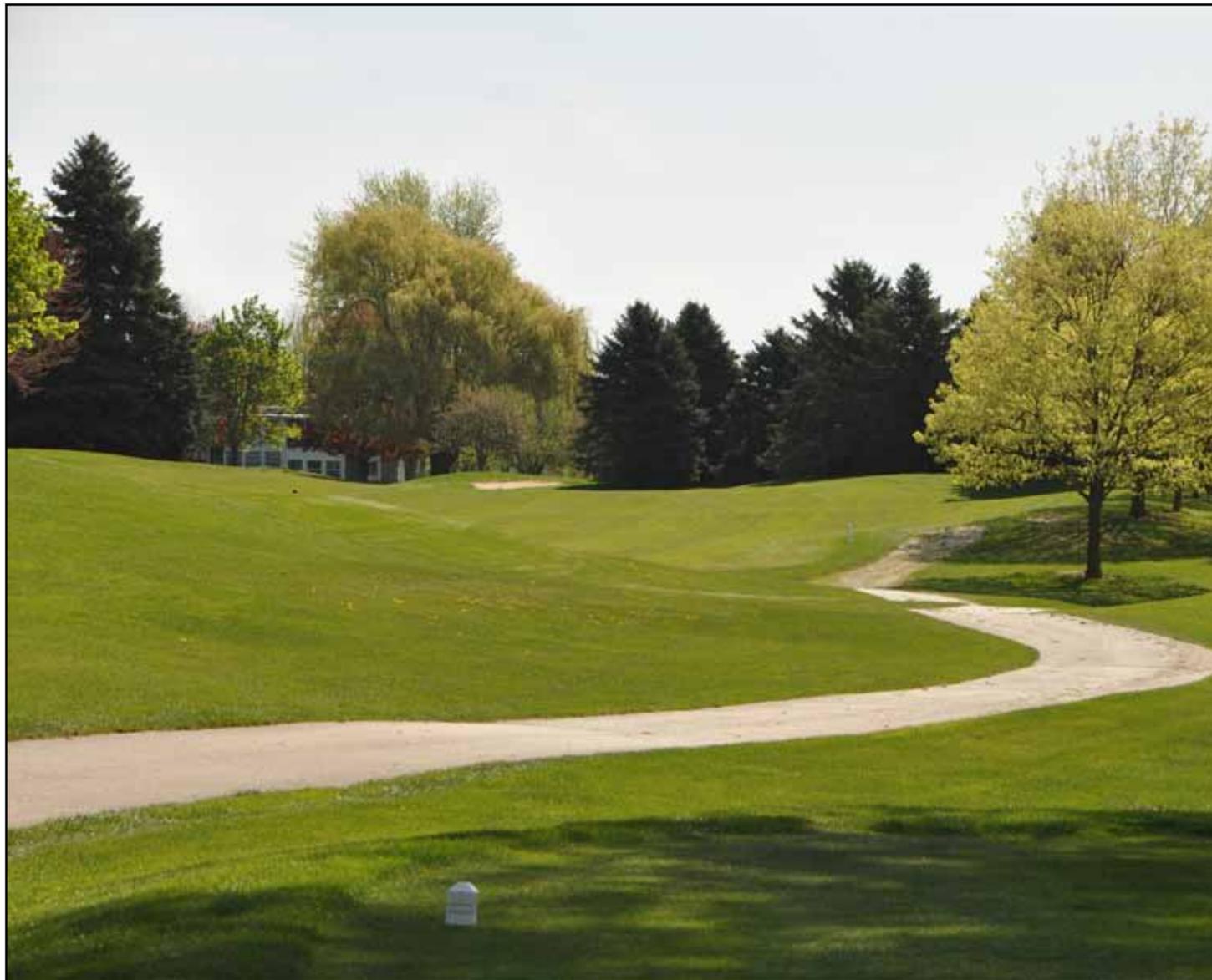
Below left, the third hole, a 391-yard, par-4, has a group of trees protecting the back of the green.

Below, right, The No. 4 green, measures 362 yards from the tips.

However, a narrow approach and a small green can be troublesome, especially if you are long into the green.

Notice the slope of the green sitting higher the golf cart.





Left, the No. 5 325-yard, par-4 hole has several slopes in the fairway between the 150-yard marker and the green.

The green is elevated protected by sand.

Pull the tee shot, it better be way left to have a chance to get over the trees.

Send it right and you will find it in the trees . . . way right it could get wet.

Below left, is the view from the tees on the No. 7, 367-yard, par-4.

The drive needs to be between the pines on the right and trees on the left.

Too far left and the trees will block the view to the green. Right, and the trees will get you.

There is a little landing right of the pines but you will be flirting with water.

Anything longer than 175, you might want to consider a lay up to the 100-yard marker.

Notice, below, the pond covers most of the front of the green.





Ed Stelzer tees it off on the No. 8 hole, shortest hole on the front nine but trouble on the left and right rough risks a feet below the ball shot. Bottom left, notice the sand on the approach to the green. There is also a left-side green bunker. Bottom photo, a 225-yard drive is required to get this view to the green on a very tough par-4. The river with trees on the bank guard the left, while the pond on the right can land some balls.





The No. 11 and 12 holes have similar characteristics. The 285-yard, par-4, has a body of water to carry on the tee shot. Normally it wouldn't be an issue, unless you dub the shot. There is a sand bunker on the left and pond on the right that protects this drivable hole. Right, the next hole is a 186-yard par-3 that is all carry. Below, No. 13 is a 362-yard par-4. A layup to the 150-yard marker is possible before the water but the next shot is all-carry. Most players drive to the right side of the pond for a shot into the green.





Above, the No. 14, 522-yard, par-5 needs a shot long down the middle to have a easy second shot to the fairway on the other side of the bridge. Too far left, is in a lateral hazard, too far right is out of bounds. If the tee shot is too short, the next one requires to push the ball to the right or carry a pond. Above right is the view just on the other side of the bridge. Below, another short par-4 has out of bounds on the right with sand traps protecting the green.





Above, Barry Schultz gets ready to tee off the hardest hole on the back nine. From the back tees, you must carry the pond, and, at the same time, avoid water on the left side of the landing area and the river on the right side. Both hazards run the length of the hole. The shot to the narrow green, below becomes tighter as it gets closer.

