

# Great Golf

## Kentucky State Parks Signature Series

To paraphrase author Greg Anderson, we should live for the journey and not the destination. But if you're traveling along the Kentucky State Park system's golf trail, you can do both.

The park system has 19 courses, including thirteen 18-hole tracks and eight courses that are part of the system's Signature Series. Many of the courses are tucked away in rural areas, with no housing developments on the fairways and often miles from major interstates.

Dan Strohmeier, the state parks' director of golf, calls this off-the-beaten-path situation both a negative and positive. Yes, it does take some driving to get to some of the courses, but that's part of the appeal.

"You have beautiful and scenic drives to the courses," Strohmeier says. "And then when you get there, you have natural settings, with some of them around incredible lakes. You get the same things at higher-end resorts thanks to Mother Nature, without the spas."

The newest addition to the system's Signature Series is the General Burnside Island course, which reopened in 2008 after a complete redesign. Sitting on a 400-acre island, the course offers plenty of views of Lake Cumberland, particularly from No. 6, with its huge boulders dotting the landscape.

But Dale Hollow remains the most popular Signature Series course for state park visitors, Strohmeier says. Brian Ault, who redesigned General Burnside, incorporated hills, ridges, and rock formations into Dale Hollow. No. 15, its signature hole, is a 194-yard par 3, which features a natural rock wall sloping down into a ravine short of the green.

In 2007, Dale Hollow opened a new pro



Wasioto Winds golf course at Pine Mountain State Resort Park is surrounded by mountaintop woodlands. Photo: Dean Henson

Series designation in 2001, Wasioto Winds is a links-style layout that sits at the base of the park. Although the course is primarily flat, there is one elevated tee box—

shop and driving range, perfect for warming up after a long drive. "This is a pretty demanding course, especially to drive two hours and get out on the first tee without loosening up," says Bruce Bottom, Dale Hollow's PGA professional.

Strohmeier says he has no favorite among the state's golf courses, but Bottom is a little less diplomatic. Besides Dale Hollow, Bottom says he prefers Hidden Cove at Grayson Lake and Eagle Ridge at Yatesville Lake. "Eagle Ridge is probably the hardest course in North America," Bottom says. "Putting a course on a mountain like that—it's worth the trip."

Wasioto Winds at Pine Mountain is another nationally recognized facility in Kentucky's stable of award-winning golf courses. The first to receive Signature

No. 12, a par 4 that features a "Beware of Poisonous Snakes" sign.

The mountaintop woodlands that surround the course offer incredible backdrops as golfers play their way past water hazard after water hazard. "It's hard—there's a lot of water," says park manager Stephen Eastin, referring to the 13 holes with water in play. "But I think we have some of the best greens in the state."

Bottom says the Kentucky State Parks courses stack up well against more well-known courses in Myrtle Beach, Florida, and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama. Strohmeier agrees. "Our top courses, I would put up against about any," Strohmeier says. "They've been nationally recognized, they're affordable, and they're very, very good." ■



# DESTINATIONS

## Golf packages

The highest priced greens fee is \$32 for 18 holes, and a golf cart is \$12.75 per person for 18 holes.

Kentucky offers two golf packages for park visitors. **Chip Shot** includes overnight lodging and 18 holes of golf with a cart. **Tee's and Zzz's** includes overnight lodging, breakfast and dinner, and 18 holes of golf with a cart. Prices range from \$59 to \$79 for the Chip Shot package and \$89 to \$109 for the Tee's and Zzz's package, depending on the time of year.

## Signature Series Courses

### Boots Randolph at Lake Barkley, Cadiz

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/lakebarkley](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/lakebarkley)  
(800) 325-1708 • 6,751 yards, par 72  
• opened 1972

### Dale Hollow, Burkesville

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/dalehollow](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/dalehollow)  
(800) 325-2282 • 7,023 yards, par 72  
• opened 2003

### Eagle Ridge at Yatesville Lake, Louisa

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/yatesville](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/yatesville)  
lake • (866) 906-7888 • 6,630 yards, par 71  
• opened 2003

### General Burnside, Burnside

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/general](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/general)  
burnside • (606) 561-4104 • 6,394 yards, par 71  
• redesigned and opened in 2008

### Hidden Cove at Grayson Lake, Olive Hill

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/graysonlake](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/graysonlake)  
(606) 474-2553 • 7,155 yards, par 72  
• opened 2003

### Kentucky Dam Village, Gilbertsville

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/kentucky](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/kentucky)  
dam • (800) 325-0146 • 6,694 yards, par 72  
• opened 1950

### Mineral Mound, Eddyville

[www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/mineral](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/mineral)  
mound • (270) 388-3673 • 6,561 yards, par 72  
• opened 2003

### Wasioto Winds at Pine Mountain, Pineville

(800) 325-1712 • [www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/pinemountain](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail/18hole/pinemountain) • 7,137 yards, par 72  
• opened 2001

For more information or to locate any of the 19 courses, go to [www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail](http://www.parks.ky.gov/golftrail).