



Golf with a Capital

MSU

College Fun and Great
Golf Collide in Michigan's
Capital City of Lansing

By Brendan Dwyer, CTA / Manager of Marketing Communications, Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau

With Introduction by Glen Turk

When it comes to golf in Michigan's capital city of Lansing, you will never have a Spartan existence. Over 30 courses within a 30-mile radius plus all the trappings of a college town equals big fun for those who allow themselves to be immersed in Michigan State green and white. MGM was lucky enough to play Lansing's top four tracks last spring and came away completely impressed with the area as an emerging golf destination. Brendan Dwyer, CTA / Manager of Marketing Communications at the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, has volunteered to answer the below questions to delve further into what his metro-area has to offer.

1. If a golf group was planning a three day weekend what suggestions would you make for their itinerary? Please map out the three days with golf, food, and attractions.

Greater Lansing Michigan is a haven of classic, challenging, and scenic Midwestern golf courses. An amazing long weekend in Michigan's capital city could start out at **Hawk Hollow Golf Club**, offering a dynamic 27 hole, par-72 layout that is set in a scenic wooded area, offering a variety of elevations and unique shots. Numerous lodging options on Greater Lansing's east side serve as a comfortable home away from home for your group, and offer close proximity to restaurants, nightlife and shopping. After your group has put away the golf bags, make your way to the

Eastwood Towne Center and the fabulous local steak house **Capital Prime**. Mouth-watering cuts of meat and seafood along with premium service make this a truly premier destination. Day two of golf starts early at what is considered to be the area's best golf course, **Eagle Eye Golf Club**, near Hawk Hollow on Chandler Road. This challenging links-style course offers 18 incredible holes of golf, including the signature island green on No. 17. Truly magnificent shot values throughout play will keep even the most well-traveled golfers on their toes.

After the round is complete, head downtown to the **Lansing Brewing Company** to sit back and enjoy the sole, full-scale production brewery in the city of Lansing. Amazing and unique brews, as well as memorable mixed drinks from the on-site brewery and distillery, will have you warmed up and talking about the days fun in no time. Signature menu items served alongside the Angry Mayor IPA or the Official Union Golden Ale will be your best play of the day. For the last round of the weekend, head just a few miles from your East Lansing hotel and find **Timber Ridge Golf Course**. Carved out of scenic old growth Michigan woods this 18 hole, par-72 course gives an "Up-North" feel right here in Greater Lansing. Having recently received a 4.5 star rating from *Golf Digest Magazine*, this local gem rounds out a weekend of golf your group



Forest Akers, home of the Men's and Women's MSU Golf Teams.

will never forget. Before you head out of town, head down and explore the campus of **Michigan State University**. Classic college pubs and restaurants line the streets for a perfect lunch stop, as well as excellent shopping. Pick up a Spartan football or basketball jersey so you're wearing the right colors (GREEN & WHITE) for the next big game. While that's an incredible weekend of golf and exploration to be sure, you're far from done. The region offers over 30 golf courses within a 30-mile radius so make Greater Lansing your getaway golf destination!

2. Besides the courses you mentioned when answering question #1, what other courses should golfers experience while in the Lansing area if they are on a longer vacation?

I would recommend **Forest Akers Golf Course**, home of the MSU Golf Program, **The Emerald Golf Club**, and **Groesbeck Golf Course**.

Forest Akers Golf Course was designed by renowned golf course architect and MSU alumnus Arthur Hills, the West course is the home of the Michigan State Spartans golf programs and has been rated by Zagat as among the top courses in America. An all-weather practice facility was added in 2009 with 18 heated and covered stalls for year-round golf practice.

The Emerald Golf Club, known as the "gem of Mid-Michigan golf", is just a short drive north of Lansing.

A Lans-A-Lot of Golf

More Great Golf Options in Greater Lansing

Brookshire Inn and Golf Club –
www.brookshiregolfclub.com

Chisholm Hills Golf & Banquet Center –
www.chisholmhills.com

College Fields Golf Club – www.collegefields.net

Eldorado Golf Course – www.eldorado27.com

Grand Ledge Country Club –
www.grandlegdecountryclub.com

Ironwood Links Golf Course –
www.ironwoodlinks.com

Royal Scot Golf, Bowl and Banquet Center –
www.royalscot.net

Woodside Golf Course – www.hawkhollow.com
(one of America's only 12 hole courses)

Designed by Jerry Matthews, the course provides quality playing conditions and one of the best values in the area.

Groesbeck Golf Course is ranked among the top municipal courses in Michigan and is Lansing's best value for quality golf. This 18 hole course will challenge and entertain players of any skill level. The course is conveniently located near downtown Lansing.

3. Please discuss how blessed the area is to have so many premier golf courses within a 30 mile radius and what golf means to your region?

While not all members of the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Capital region boasts over 30 golf courses within a 30-mile radius. Warm summer days and cool nights makes for excellent grass growing conditions and green, lush fairways like you never see. All this comes together to make Greater Lansing one of the best golf destinations in the American Midwest.

4. Please discuss a few additional sightseeing attractions in and around Greater Lansing and why golfers should get off the links for a few moments and experience them?

While in Greater Lansing, come take a tour of our fully restored, Victorian era **Capitol Building**, now open on Saturdays. Plan a golf weekend in the autumn months and include in your weekend a **Spartan home football game!** From tailgating to joining the roar of the crowd to the thrill of a Spartan victory, you'll be opening up your schedule to come back for more. Also, we recommend making some time for our **Makers and Shakers Trail!** Craft beer and small-batch spirits enthusiasts will enjoy tasting and trying drinks of every kind as they stop at the 14 different participating establishments for one-of-a-kind cocktails and beautiful brews. For more information on all that Lansing has to offer and a complete list of all area golf courses, visit www.lansing.org.

Opening Credits

Eagle Eye GC in Lansing Debuts as 2016 Michigan Amateur Host Course

Eagle Eye Golf Club will play host to the 105th Michigan Amateur for the first time when the state's most prestigious amateur championship heads to this compelling venue, June 21-25.

Founded in 2003, Eagle Eye has quickly established itself as one of the state's premier public facilities and toughest tests of golf. A design collaboration of Chris Lutzke and Pete Dye, Eagle Eye has been a regular host of USGA Qualifiers, GAM Tournaments, PGA of Michigan Tournaments, and the Greater Lansing Amateur Golf Association All City Championship.

In 2014, *Golf Digest* named it the fifth best public course in Michigan.

The Michigan Amateur Championship begins with two rounds of stroke play, over a two-day period. At the completion of stroke play, the field is cut to 64 for the first round of match play. Match play continues for three days and six rounds until a champion emerges on the final afternoon of the tournament. As with all GAM tournaments, spectators are welcome and admission is free.



Eagle Eye's daunting par-3 17th hole.