



Making golf accessible

A new golf facility in Jefferson City, Missouri, has been designed to make the game accessible for people with disabilities

Millions of Americans with disabilities would like to learn to play golf. But a typical 18-hole golf course can make them feel uncomfortable or out of place. They might find it difficult to access the golf course, be concerned about how well staff will be able to assist them in learning the game, or worry about having an adverse impact on other golfers.

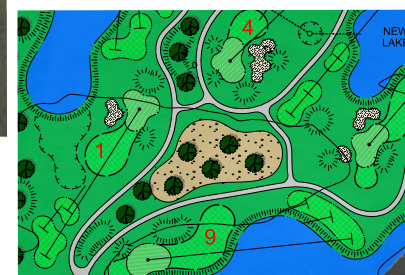
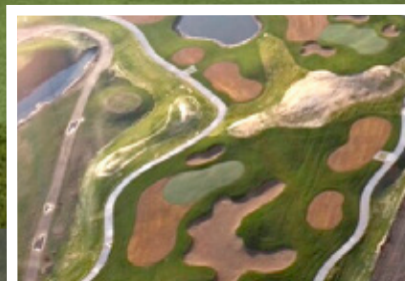
Addressing these issues, a new short course at the Missouri Golf Association's Ken Lanning Golf Center in Jefferson City, Missouri, was designed by Todd Clark, ASGCA, to be fully accessible for disabled people, as well as being suitable for children and beginners.

The Missouri Golf Association's Junior Golf Foundation shares the site of the Ken Lanning Golf Center with an existing nine-hole par-three course and driving range (Turkey Creek Golf Center) and the existing clubhouse is also home to the Missouri Golf Association's executive offices.

The new nine-hole par-three course features holes ranging in distance from 48 to 134 yards. Each hole has two zoysia grass tees and one synthetic tee, built adjacent to and level with the concrete cart path to allow easy access for people using wheelchairs.

The greens range in size from 2,700 to 3,050 square feet and are made of synthetic turf with sand infill. The synthetic turf allows for access by wheelchairs and motorized carts without the worry of damage. The greens can be playable quickly after rain as well, which is important given the site is prone to flooding. Each green is linked to the cart path with subtly sloped natural turf areas.

Three lakes were developed to capture stormwater for irrigation, and the fill material was used to add shape to this extremely flat site. All mounding and bunkering was kept very mellow, further allowing the entire site to be accessed by all golfers very easily.



Ken Lanning Golf Center

Location: Jefferson City, Missouri

Golf course architect:
Todd Clark, ASGCA
CE Golf Design
www.cegolfdesign.com

Project summary: An accessible short course was designed at the Ken Lanning Golf Center to provide children and individuals with disabilities the opportunity to learn and enjoy golf.

Partners: Wadsworth Golf Construction (construction); Missouri National Guard (construction donor); Turfwerks (irrigation design); Southwest Greens (artificial turf)