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Hurdzan/Fry's Erin Hills Awarded 2017 U.S. Open

Erin Hills, a links-style course designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry of Hurdzan/Fry Environmental Golf Design, and Ron Whitten, Architecture Editor of Golf Digest has been awarded the 2017 U.S. Open Championship. Even before Erin Hills opened in late 2006, it had already been awarded the United States Golf Association's U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. It is scheduled to host the USGA's premier amateur event, the U.S. Amateur in 2011.

Located 35 miles northwest of Milwaukee, Erin Hills was selected by Golf Magazine as the "Best New Course of 2007." Erin Hills is a daily fee golf course built on glacial Linksland with a character of European golf that includes fast tight fine fescue fairways, rugged and natural eroded bunkers, and lay of the land undulating greens, like a bit of Ireland in Wisconsin.

The Championship qualities of the golf course include being able to vary the total yardage between 8,000 and 5,000 yards from over 100 tee locations. Because of the random placement of scores of bunkers, rolling links style topography, and an incessant but variable wind, Erin Hills is a unique experience that can present a stern test for the best golfers in the world, which attracted the attention of the USGA Championship committee.

Moreover the holes at Erin Hills are mostly designed to play from the tops of dunes down into the broad valleys, making almost every hole a spectator paradise for looking down on the golf action. Ample space was left in the middle of the golf course to accommodate a large tented commercial and hospitality area that is normal for major championships. Access from several major roads makes getting to Erin Hills easy.

"It is truly an honor to have our golf course selected to host the U.S. Open," says Dana Fry of Hurdzan/Fry, "for only a few times in history has a course been selected while the architect was still living. Now begins a long countdown to 2017 and the excitement is already starting to build."

Ron Whitten, a co-designer of Erin Hills remarked, "In my 40 years of studying golf courses, I've seen thousands of golf course sites, but none better than Erin Hills. The first time I saw our site, I knew it was special. The holes were there, waiting for discovery. The land was so vast, it seemed ideal for spectator vantage points. Our goals were to change the land as little as possible, create 18 great golf holes and make it a popular daily-fee course that could host championships."

"Erin Hills," says Michael Hurdzan, Ph.D. and president of Hurdzan/Fry, "is a culmination of my over 50 years of being around and involved in golf course design. To say this is a once in a lifetime honor is not an understatement, nor is it to say I am proud to be part of the Erin Hills team."

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