

# Loveland Golf Course Summer 2014 Update

City of Loveland,  
Golf Division

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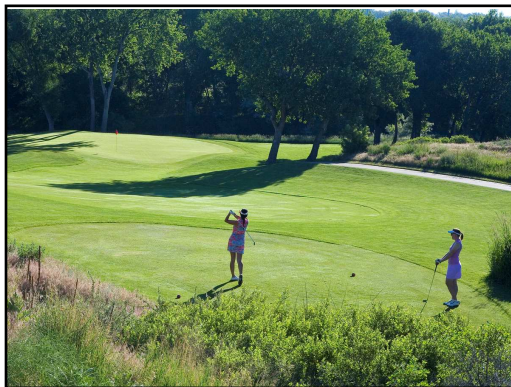
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## Mariana Butte Proves its Resilience



Golfers enjoy #11 at Mariana Butte

Mariana Butte is fully open for play; every inch of its Par 72, 6,745 yards. This declaration is cause for a very large celebration. Flash back to September 2013 when a historical volume of rain fell over Colorado and flooding was the top news story for weeks. Mariana Butte did not escape unscathed from this 100 year event and three of its holes #15, 16, and 17 were inundated with water and closed to play for the remainder of 2013 plus, a good part of the pre-season in 2014. "We had water, silt and sludge on the tees

and fairways of 15, 16, and 17. While we were able to get 15 and 17 cleared and ready for play fairly quickly, we had to wait for the river to recede on 16 to a point where we could get crews in to rebuild the bridge and cart paths and to begin the clearing process," said Steve Southard, Golf Manager for the City of Loveland. The Front Range flood of 2013 ushered in many changes to properties on both sides of Interstate 25 "The entire Big Thompson River corridor has changed due to the flood event," said Southard. "In fact, the Big Thompson River itself is wider, shallower, and has changed its course in many locations," he continued.

But a changing river cannot keep a great course down; in mid-April 2014, all 18 holes opened to play with hole number 16 temporarily playing as a par 3 or par 4 from a new set of tees on the "dry" side of the swollen river. Now however, even that restriction has been removed and golfers can once again enjoy a full course of golf. "With the 2014 spring runoff now behind us, playing conditions at Mariana Butte are, and will continue to be, excellent all season long," Southard stated. For tee time availability, visit [GolfLoveland.com](http://GolfLoveland.com) ♦

## A New Look for #9 Tee at The Olde Course

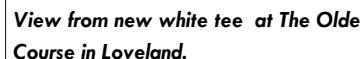
There is an old adage that states, "Nothing is ever 'all done' on a golf course." There are always improvements to be made, greens to tend, and fairways to mow. Any golfer who regularly plays the Olde Course would concur, and

point their clubs in the direction of the latest improvement to the course, #9 white tee—the new #9 white tee. "We are excited to open the new tee in early July," said Dennis Kling, Superintendent of The Olde Course in Loveland.

"Opening the new tee is the second step in the overall game plan for hole #9 and hole #5." Kling refers to a plan initiated in 2011 when The Olde Course hired Phelps/Atkinson Golf Design to develop a plan that could



only make it to the 150 yard marker. And with the improved cover between the holes, golfers will no longer be rewarded for cutting the corner.” said Steve Southard, CGCS, golf manager for the City of Loveland. During the process, trees will also be planted on the front end of hole #18 to improve the aesthetics and screen the golfer’s view of the maintenance building ♦



## Survey Says You Learned to Golf How???

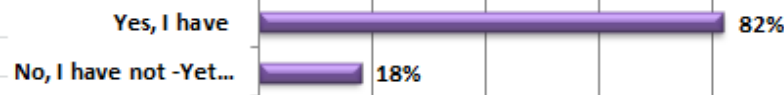


Recently, the Loveland golf division conducted an online survey and we asked our golfing customers to answer questions surrounding the topic of how people learn to golf? Respondents to the survey provided interesting insight on the ways that men and women, young and old begin to learn the sport of golf. "As we look to the future of golf in Loveland, we want to ensure that our courses provide ways for people to learn the sport of golf that match the way golfers really, actually learn to play," Steve Southard, CGCS, Golf Manager for the City of Loveland, commented.

The following are a few interesting results from the survey:

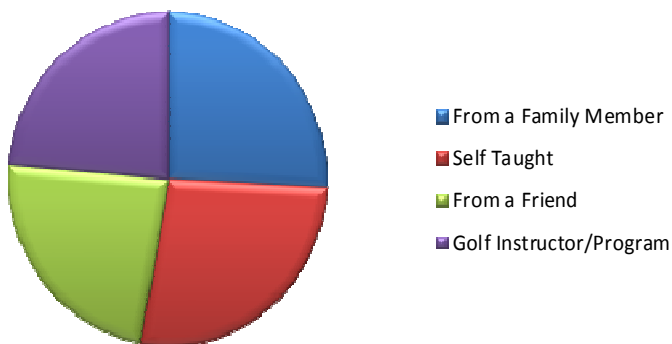
- 82%** of respondents have personally introduced someone to the sport of golf. To you we say, "Well done and thank you." Thank you for mentoring a new golfer. Many golfers shared they learned to play from their father or another family member and a special bond remains to this day over the experience. "My son and I learned the game together. Priceless!!!," to quote one respondent. Others learned later in life from a friend, neighbor, or colleague. If you've never shared your love of the game with another person, consider passing it on. Golf is a great way to connect with others and build lifelong relationships. The Loveland courses offer several easy-entry options including the Mini-Course at Cattail Creek and the new proficient practice areas on the driving ranges at Cattail Creek and Mariana Butte (see p 4).

### Have You Introduced Golf to Somebody...



- 53%** of respondents identified *quality social time with friends and family* as the key benefit of playing the sport. Others realized that golf can help with improving your health and wellness, especially if you walk the course.
- 55%** of respondents learned to play the sport after the age of 19. Beginning golfers may often assume other golfers have played their entire life; however, the majority of our responding golfers learned to play the sport as an adult; **9%** were over the age of 50 with they first picked up clubs.
- When asked why many people describe golf as intimidating, **44%** of survey takers responded that *other golfers were not welcoming*. **19%** cited the need for special equipment. **16%** identified golf etiquette as intimidating. Another **16%** identified the rules of the game as intimidating. **5%** responded that golf course staff was intimidating. "It can be intimidating for beginners to play with others they feel are far superior. It's up to the other players to make beginners feel welcomed and let them know that we all started as beginners at one time," one survey respondent offered as a gentle reminder.

### How You Learned to Golf



- 30%** of responding golfers learned to play from another family member. **27%** learned to play by self-teaching methods such as watching golf on television, reading articles, and imitating other golfers. **24%** indicated they learned to play from a friend. **19%** of Loveland golfers learn to play through a lesson program, individual lessons, or a college golf class.

- The Loveland golf courses recognize the different learning paths golfers take; to assist with learning and the easy transfer of knowledge, the golf division has constructed the mini-course, installed a separate "permanent" range mat area on the Cattail Creek driving range, created proficient practice opportunities on two ranges, and established a 3-Hole rate at Cattail Creek. ♦



## Yes! Your time on the Driving Range Can Be FUN and PROFICIENT!!!



Workers complete new practice area on the range at Cattail Creek.

*"Practicing by aiming at a target and repeating shots from 50 yards to 100 yards will lower your average score. And it is fun."*

One of the newest concepts in golf marries the traditional driving range experience with a new form of entertainment. The organization leading the way in providing this mix is TopGolf, headquartered in Dallas Texas.

TopGolf is an acronym for Target Orientated Practice (Top)-Golf. The TopGolf concept creates games that can be played using the driving range. Focusing players on targets and games increases the practice of distance control and aiming. As touring professional Justin Rose points out, many golfers just dump out a basket of balls on the driving range and begin slashing away and fail to improve. "Practicing by aiming at a target and repeating shots from 50 yards to 100 yards will lower your average score. And it is fun." said Steve Southard, Golf Manager for the City of Loveland.

The Loveland Golf Division is upgrading two areas, the lower tee at Mariana Butte and the west end of the tee at Cattail Creek to create niche areas for players who

want to use the range as both a proficient practice area and a form of entertainment. The hitting areas at these niche areas are wider than the traditional 11 foot bay, and at Cattail, range mats have been installed for players who are newer to the sport. The new range areas also boast targets set at distances under 100 yards. The targets at Cattail Creek are steel cattle tanks that create a ringing noise when hit. This is not only great feedback for the hitter, but creates excitement all along the range. The targets at Mariana Butte are 8' by 8' nets.

Southard continues, "How many people would enjoy playing darts if the only target available to hit was the bullseye? Most people would throw hundreds of darts and never hit the bullseye. We've added more targets to the range to allow for more enjoyment. Plus, now golfers can use the targets to play different fun games like 21."

But that's not all. Need more fun? Add food and drinks! Mariana Butte is a perfect facility to welcome the addition of appetizers and drinks to the driving range tee. Tables and chairs are now positioned behind the special tee areas and players are encouraged to eat, drink, and enjoy their time on the range.

So, grab your golfing or non-golfing friends and head out to Cattail or Mariana for a little fun on the range.

For more information visit our website [GolfLoveland.com](http://GolfLoveland.com) ♦

