

HOLE BY HOLE DESCRIPTIONS

The Greenbrier® COURSE



Hole No. 1 Par 4, 423 yards The opening hole features a demanding tee shot, which needs to avoid the large oak tree on the left and the fairway bunker on the right. The second shot requires a middle to short iron to a slightly elevated, two-level green.



Hole No. 2 Par 4, 403 yards The signature hole of the course, the tee shot is the most difficult of the 10, with trees left and a pond to the right. The second shot is all carry to a green guarded by water with bunkers in front and behind.



Hole No. 3 Par 5, 475 yards A tee shot favoring the right side will allow longer hitters a go at the green in two. The second shot should also favor the right side, but the fairway bunker 75 yards from the green must be avoided. The third is a short pitch to a small two-tiered green.



Hole No. 4 Par 3, 177 yards The first of three wonderful par 3s, this difficult little hole requires the player to thread the needle between ravines on both sides and the deepest bunker on the course guarding the front right of the green. Club selection is difficult because of the elevated two-tiered green.



Hole No. 5 Par 5, 551 yards The most elevated tee on the course gives the player a beautiful view of the hole. Tee shots and second shots favoring the left side will give the player the best opportunity for a good score. A deep, elevated, well-bunkered three-level green makes the third shot very challenging.



Seth Raynor, Hole #1, 1930s



Howard Skidmore, Hole #6, 1962



Hole No. 6 Par 4, 456 yards The number one handicap is quite deserving of its ranking. A long tee shot down the right side is needed to have any chance of reaching the green in regulation. A fairway wood or long iron second shot must be hit very high to hold this shallow elevated green.



Hole No. 7 Par 3, 211 yards This downhill hole plays about one club shorter than its yardage. The best place to miss the green is short, as a shot missed on either side will catch deep bunkers.



Hole No. 8 (16) Par 4, 406 yards This very scenic downhill tee shot should favor the left side of the fairway. The middle iron second shot must avoid the water short and right of the green. The upper level of this two-tiered green actually slopes away from the player, which makes putting very deceiving.



Hole No. 9 (17) Par 3, 160 yards The last of three terrific par threes, water, bunkers and out-of-bounds guard the green. Please note the hole location, as this two-level, narrow green is 40 yards deep. Any tee shot not reaching the upper tier will roll to the front of the green.



Hole No. 10 (18) Par 5, 554 yards A tee shot down the left side is needed to leave an open second shot. The second shot should also favor the left side, avoiding the large pine trees in the right rough. The wedge shot to this gigantic double green is difficult to judge because of the size and depth of this green.



Victorious American Ryder Cup Team, 1979

History of The Greenbrier Course

The Greenbrier course was designed by Seth Raynor – a close associate of Charles Blair Macdonald, and one of the great architects of early American golf – and opened for play in 1924. It was later redesigned in 1977 by Jack Nicklaus in preparation for the 1979 Ryder Cup. In 1994, The Greenbrier played host to the Solheim Cup, making it the only resort course in the world to host both prestigious events. The course was also home to The Greenbrier American Express Championship, a PGA TOUR Champions event, from 1985 through 1987.

The heavily wooded course encourages and rewards shot shaping off the tee and precise approach shots into the greens. The well-bunkered and terraced greens require talent, touch and creativity on and around the greens. Sam Snead famously shot 59 in the final round of the 1959 Spring Festival, making him the first known golfer to accomplish the rare feat in competition. *Sports Illustrated* later called the round “the greatest competitive round in the history of the game.”

Since the 2017 golf season, following a catastrophic weather event that greatly impacted the course, The Greenbrier has been played as a 10-hole routing.