



Get Houston Chronicle home delivery for only \$3 a week. Save 61%!

Going without a cart provides exercise, savings

Benefits of walking easy to measure in local golf courses

By **TODD HVEEM**
For the Chronicle

Dec. 29, 2009, 11:03PM



Karen Warren Chronicle

Brock Park Golf Course is considered 'the best-kept secret in Houston'.

In today's economic times, the best place to play golf isn't always at the best course but the most affordable one.

In fact, many exercise enthusiasts have turned to walking 18 holes instead of shelling out an extra \$10-\$20 for a cart.

It makes perfect sense. Golfers not only get to play the game they love but walk some four or five miles to boot. That surely has to be enough to burn off the morning bagel.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

FREE \$850 Value!

ADT

Home Security System!

1-877-246-7519

Mon-Fri 9am - 10pm - Sat 9am - 7pm - Sun 11am - 6pm EST

advertisement

"Unlike a lot of the players, I walk all the time when I play," said David Pocknall, who finished second in the 2009 Greater Houston City Amateur. "I just love to do it."

Owen Joyner, a two-time Houston Amateur champion, also loves to walk.

"Sometimes the walking courses can be harder to find," Joyner said. "But I play with a group who loves to walk all the courses (we can in the area)."

For those looking to double their pleasure, here is a guide to some of the best walking courses in the Houston area.

We also have thrown in a few affordable courses for cash-conscious players and some good bargains at any price.

Easy on the pocketbook

- Alvin Golf & Country Club — Nicknamed the "Friendliest Golf Course in Texas," Alvin Golf & Country Club offers memberships and green fee play for the public.

For only \$10, a player can walk 18 holes Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the rate goes up to \$15. Sundays and holidays cost \$18. Twilight rates (after 3:30 p.m. this time of year) are only \$7.

Advertisement

 **Save \$26 a month and lock in your price for ONE YEAR!**

Switch today! 1-877-866-8603

Print Powered By 



Get Houston Chronicle home delivery for only \$3 a week. Save 61%!

The course is open 364 days (closed on Christmas) per year and is starting new monthly tournament formats in 2010.

- Bayou Golf Club — The course, which is located in Texas City, is a Joe Finger layout that opened in 1974. The 200-acre site sits along Moses Bayou and features elevated greens and tee boxes.

The swirling winds off Galveston Bay and water on 12 of the 18 holes make this more than an average test.

Green fees are \$12 Monday through Thursday and \$15 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Seniors can walk for only \$8 during the week.

- Brock Park Golf Course — It is called the best-kept secret in Houston, but Brock Park actually is no secret. It opened in 1972 and is only 20 minutes from downtown at 8201 John Ralston Road.

Greens Bayou comes into play on four holes and different creeks cross four other holes.

For walkers, green fees are \$12 on weekdays and \$17 on weekends.

- Gus Wortham Park Golf Course — It's situated along Brays Bayou in the south central area of Houston. The course is wide open but does feature elevated tees and uphill carries.

For Houstonians who want to knock off work early and play a quick nine holes, it is located only five minutes from downtown at 7000 Capitol.

3 Boxes, 3 Bucks, Plus FREE Travel Mug!
No Kidding!
 for ONLY **\$3** plus FREE SHIPPING!
CoffeeClubValues6.com

advertisement

Walking green fees are \$15 during the week and \$20 on weekends.

- Sharpstown Golf Course — The course features four sets of tees that allow it to be playable for beginners and tough for grizzled veterans.

It is located one mile west of Highway 59 and one block off Bellaire Blvd.

Green fees are \$15 during the week, \$20 on weekends.

More for a little more

- Hermann Park Golf Course — This might be the crown jewel nestled in the center of the city.

The course was built in 1922 and renovated in 1997. A walker's paradise, the course is flat and nestled among hundreds of large oak trees.

Green fees range from \$20-\$30 depending on the day and time of the week.

- Glenbrook Golf Course — It first opened in 1924 as Rio Rita Country Club, a nine-hole course with sand greens. It was later bought by the city and opened to the public. It was redesigned in 1983 by architect Robert McKinney and now plays 300 yards longer and winds around Sims Bayou.

"We routed the course so you won't be just

Advertisement

Get Health Insurance As Low as \$49/mo
Get Your Free Quote Now & Save! HealthQuoteInsiders.com

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™



Get Houston Chronicle home delivery for only \$3 a week. Save 61%!

slugging your driver," McKinney said. "You are going to have to play every shot."

Glenbrook, which is located about 10 minutes from downtown, costs \$25 on Monday through Thursday and \$30 on the weekends.

More bang for more bucks

- Memorial Park Golf Course — The home of the Houston Open from 1951-63, the course might be the most famous of all the walking courses in the area.

It was renovated in 1995 and has been visited by more than 60,000 patrons per year over the past 15 years.

Green fees are \$26 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and \$37 on the weekends.

- Quail Valley Golf Course — The 36-hole establishment, which played host to the Houston Open in 1973 and 1974, features two 18-hole layouts in La Quinta and El Dorado.

La Quinta, a walkable course that is easy on the eyes and the scorecard, costs \$27 on weekdays and \$32 on weekends.

El Dorado, which recently underwent a renovation, costs \$37 on weekdays and \$42 on weekends.

Carts cost \$12.93 plus tax.

- Evergreen Point Golf Club — The course, which is located in Baytown, features water on 15 of 18 holes, more than 40 bunkers, magnolias and stone-creek bridges.

Get Proven, Proactive
IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION
 **LifeLock**
 #1 in Identity Theft Protection™
Call Now 1-877-670-1746

advertisement

Yet the green fees are only \$25 during the week (\$39 with cart) and \$35 on the weekends (\$49 with cart).

- Sienna Plantation Golf Club — Designed by Arthur Hills and Mike Dasher, the terrain is fairly flat, but the course has been contoured to provide elevation changes.

The cost for walkers is \$41 during the week and \$51 on weekends.

- Eagle Pointe Golf Club — The drive to Mont Belvieu might scare off some, but this course is well worth the trip.

This is not a walker's course but affordable at \$40 during the week and \$45 on the weekends.

The holes will rise and fall as much as 40 feet, and Cherry Point Gully and Old River weave their way around the layout.

There also is a waterfall and numerous ponds scattered around the course.

Best bang for more bucks

- Blaketree National Golf Club — The course, which is located between Montgomery and Magnolia, has been ranked among the top 25 public-fee courses in the state and as high as No. 2 in the state for medium-price layouts.

Advertisement

 **9/17: Homeowners Fail to Take Advantage of Gov. Refi Plan**
 \$90,000 Mortgage for Under \$499/Month!
RefinancingNow.org

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



Get Houston Chronicle home delivery for only \$3 a week. Save 61%!

The course features TifEagle greens and Bermuda 419 fairways. It has five sets of tees and puts a premium on accuracy off the tee.

Green fees are \$60 on weekdays and weekends. They include cart.

- High Meadow Ranch Golf Club — Located in Magnolia, High Meadow Ranch has been rated No. 23 in Texas by Golf Digest and has hosted the Southland Conference championship and the first stage of the PGA qualifying school.

The course requires accuracy, length and every shot in the bag. There are long, uphill shots into greens, several carries over water and thousands of huge trees.

Green fees are \$55 on Monday through Thursday, \$65 on Fridays and \$75 on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

thveem36@aim.com

Save up to \$500
on your auto insurance.

AutoInsureUSA.net

advertisement

Advertisement

Help people in need.
Donate your car, boat or RV

Free Towing ■ Tax Deductible
Call Toll-Free
1-877-225-9384

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™