



COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Five Exciting New Golf Courses Opening in 2024



There's always plenty of excitement when the calendar turns – a new year begins with a clean slate of goals, hopes, a fresh page to be filled.

For 2024 in the golf-course world, the excitement is wrapped around new-course development. This year is one of the busiest in recent memory in terms of openings in the United States.

While golf became the sport of the COVID-19 pandemic through 2020 and '21, most of the participation numbers have stayed steady as the world has navigated its way back to some semblance of normal.

With that, some serious energy has come back into course developments in a variety of spots throughout the U.S.

Nationwide, the National Golf Foundation (NGF) is tracking 69 new courses of varying lengths and type under construction, with another 47 in the planning stage. It's a far cry from the 400-plus that were being built 20 years ago but it's nearly double the three-year pre-pandemic average, the NGF said in a news release at the end of last year.

In 2023 the NGF said, there were "more new openings in the U.S. than any time in more than a decade." Two-thirds of brand-new course projects are private clubs, but two-thirds of "new course additions" are at public facilities.

While golf-course closures are still outpacing openings, the recent uptick in construction as compared to the last while is a positive sign for the game.

With 2024 underway, here are just five highly anticipated courses set to open this year.

Crossroads



(Patrick O'Brien/Palmetto Bluff)

The duo behind cult favorite Sweetens Cove (the nine-holer in rural Tennessee that's likely the buzziest nine-hole course in the U.S.) have brought that same kind of fun to Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, South Carolina. Tad King and Rob Collins of King Collins Golf have created a reversible nine-hole course about 15 minutes from Hilton Head Island. With no designated tee markers, golfers can play from wherever they choose. There's also a massive area on top of a ridge that is meant for shootouts, as it overlooks a handful of different greens.