

ELMHURST HISTORY HIGHLIGHT: ELMHURST GOLF CLUB

The Elmhurst Golf Club, a nine-hole course opened in 1900. The 70-acre course reached from Grace Avenue west to Quarry Road (later renamed West Ave.), and from Elm Park Avenue north to Alexander Boulevard.



Elmhurst Golf Club. M88.15.13

The clubhouse, designed by Prairie style architect Walter Burley Griffin, was a gathering place for people of all ages to play golf, eat, play cards, or enjoy the

view from the broad porch. The course was a popular social center with a full calendar of dinners, luncheons, dances, parties, and 4th of July fireworks. An invitation to a 1923 dance referred to "Elmhurst The Chummy Golf Club." The clubhouse had sleeping accommodations for non-resident members who wished to spend the night on golfing weekends.

According to a membership application, the course had sufficient hazards, natural and artificial, to make the course one of the most interesting and sporty in the vicinity." An early score card, dated 1901, lists each of the nine holes, its name, distance, and bogey. For example, Hole Three, known as The Sandpits, was 328 yards long and bogey was five strokes. In 1905 the annual membership fee was \$25.00. In 1919 there was an additional \$2.50 War Tax.

By 1924, Elmhurst was expanding, and land for residential construction was in demand. So a new, eighteen-hole golf course was laid out in Addison. The new \$160,000 clubhouse opened in

May 1928. Built in an English style, it included modern locker rooms, a large dining room, a ballroom, lounges, and glass enclosed verandas. The former golf course was developed in to College View Terrace Subdivision.

The Elmhurst Historical Museum has a program from the First Annual Outing of the Sandblasters at the Elmhurst Golf Club in 1932. The program has the words to the Sandblasters theme song to be sung to the tune of *The Sidewalks of New York*:

“Elmhurst, Elmhurst, that's the place for me
A bunch of jolly good fellows
Always full of glee.
Golf's the game they play there
That good old game of yore
All the time you hear them yelling
FORE FORE FORE!”

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County acquired the Elmhurst Country Club (formerly the Elmhurst Golf Club) in 1986 and renamed it Oak Meadows Golf Course. In 2015 it is still in operation at 900 N. Wood Dale Road in Addison.

By Nancy Wilson, Elmhurst History Museum staff, Updated July 2016