



## The Top 10 Real Munis in America

*By: Tom Cunneff*

With green fees for residents costing about \$200 in season, U.S. Open-host Chambers Bay is a muni in name only. Here are the best municipal golf courses in the U.S. that locals can play for \$55 or less.



**10. Thunder Hawk**

*Beach Park, Ill.*

Designed by Chambers Bay architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., **this linksy layout** located between Chicago and Milwaukee is always in great shape. Locals can walk it for just \$52 during the week.



**9. Stevens Park**

*Dallas, Texas*

Completely renovated in 2011, **this classic design** has a creek coming into play on about 12 holes, great views of downtown Dallas, and beautiful gardens behind some of the greens. Anyone can play it for \$50 on the weekend, while juniors can tee it up for \$12.



### 8. Bethpage State Park (Red)

*Farmingdale, N.Y.*

Sharing the same designer, A.W. Tillinghast, as its more famous sibling Black, **this Golden Age design** sits on a grand piece of property and features a succession of sturdy, dogleg par fours. It's a real steal, too, for New York State residents who pay just \$48 on weekends.



### 7. Sleepy Hollow

*Brecksville, Ohio*

Located in the Cleveland area, this **classic Stanley Thompson design** dates to 1924 and features terrific views of the Cuyahoga River, a deep ravine, and steep, fast greens. Green fees are just \$39 on weekends for residents and non-residents alike.



### 6. Soldier Hollow

*Midway, Utah*

No relation to Sleepy, **this 36-hole complex** with an elegant, modern clubhouse sits high on a mountainside above town in the Wasatch Mountain range. Green fees for residents are only \$33, while non-residents pay just \$5 more.



### 5. Wintonbury Hills

*Bloomfield, Conn.*

Located just outside Hartford, **this manicured layout**, which opened in 2005, is Pete Dye's only New England design and features both open, links-style holes mixed with more tree-lined ones. Rates are \$55 for residents, \$25 for juniors.



#### 4. Gold Mountain (Olympic)

*Bremerton, Wash.*

John Harbottle III carved the host of the 2015 NCAA Men's Regional Championship out of a **thick forest on rolling, sandy terrain** and lined the holes with waving fescue. Best part is anyone can walk it for \$55 during the week.



#### 3. The Highlands of Elgin

*Elgin, Ill.*

With four holes built around an old stone quarry, **this linksy design** features generous, fescue-flanked fairways and a fair amount of elevation change for the area. Residents can walk it for \$42 on weekends, while non-residents pay just \$51.



## 2. Pinon Hills

*Farmington, N.M.*

Located near the Four Corners where Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico meet on a high-desert plateau, **this proverbial hidden gem** is well worth the trek, with red-rock mesas and sheer sandstone cliffs framing the holes. Green fees are only \$36 on weekends for anyone who lives within 100 miles and just \$47 for anyone who doesn't.



## 1. Butterfield Trail

*El Paso, Texas*

With its rugged bunkering, Tom Fazio took more of a minimalist-style approach to our **No. 1 Real Muni** than he has at most of his other designs. With its distant views of the red rock mountains, the layout's wide-open feel really captures the spirit of the Old West. Tri-County Residents can play it for \$55 during the week.