



CAPE COD CERTIFIED

CAPE COD PURSUITS

The 12 Best Public Golf Courses on Cape Cod (2026), with Green Fees and Who They're For

A free field guide from the people who actually live here.



<https://www.cape-cod-certified.com/guides/best-public-golf-courses-cape-cod>

Cape Cod is one of the most underrated golf destinations in the Northeast. Within about an hour's drive you can play a windswept Scottish-style links above the Atlantic, a Donald Ross redesign, and a pair of nationally ranked town-owned tracks—most genuinely public, and most for less than a single resort round elsewhere.

The Cape has roughly 27 public courses. We ranked the standouts, told you honestly who each is for, and added a green-fee range. **Rates verified against course sources August 2026 where a figure is stated as exact. Green fees move with the season, day, and whether a cart's included — treat ranges as approximate and verify current rates on each course's site (most publish a 2026 rate sheet). Town courses also offer resident rates, so bring proof of residency.**

1. Highland Links — Truro

One of Cape Cod's oldest courses (dating to the 1890s, circa 1892); 9-hole Scottish-style links. There's nothing else like it on the Eastern Seaboard — a treeless, wind-raked nine on the Atlantic bluffs by Highland Light that the National Park Service calls “as close to the Scottish tradition as found anywhere in the eastern United States.” Famously walkable and unpretentious. **Who it's for:** Purists, walkers, and anyone who wants the most memorable round on the Cape. **Green fee:** Approx. mid-\$30s–\$60s — *verify current rates on site.*

2. The Captains Golf Course — Brewster

Town-owned; 36 holes (Port & Starboard); designed by Geoffrey Cornish and expanded by Brian Silva (1999). The Cape's most decorated public facility and its only 36-hole public complex — two championship-quality 18s in immaculate condition. **Who it's for:** Serious players who want two great tracks. **Green fee:** ~\$70–\$85 with cart in peak season; resident rates available — *verify on site.*

3. Cranberry Valley — Harwich

Town-owned; designed by Cornish & Robinson (1974). A perennial pick among the best municipal courses in Massachusetts — beautifully bunkered and a genuine test from the tips. **Who it's for:** Golfers wanting a top-tier muni without resort pricing. **Green fee:** ~\$70–\$80 with cart in peak season — *verify on site.*

4. Bass River Golf Course — Yarmouth

Town-owned; Donald Ross redesign (1914) — the first town-owned course on Cape Cod. A genuine piece of golf history; the Ross routing along Bass River is classic and strategic, and it stays open year-round (weather permitting). **Who it's for:** Architecture buffs, Ross fans, shoulder-season players. **Green fee (2026, from the course):** 18 holes **\$65 weekday AM / \$75 weekend AM** (\$47–\$57 afternoons); 9 holes **\$35** (after 2pm). Carts ~\$25 (18) / \$17 (9).

5. Dennis Pines — Dennis

Town-owned; the longer, tougher of the Dennis duo. Tree-lined, demanding, and long — the course locals point to for a real ball-striking test. **Who it's for:** Low-handicappers who like a stout layout. **Green fee (2026, from the course):** Dennis Pines and Dennis Highlands share **one identical rate card.** Peak season (May 8–Sep 7): 18

holes \$76 before 11am, \$64 11am–2pm, \$49 2–4pm, \$35 after 4pm — walking. Shoulder season weekend/holiday before 1pm \$60. Carts \$25 per rider (18 holes), \$20 for members.

6. Dennis Highlands — Dennis

Town-owned; the more open, forgiving sibling. Player-friendly and well-conditioned — a great pairing if you’re playing both Dennis courses. **Who it’s for:** Mid/high-handicappers and families. **Green fee (2026, from the course): Identical to Dennis Pines** — the two courses run off the same card. Peak 18 holes \$76 before 11am, \$64 11am–2pm, \$49 2–4pm, \$35 after 4pm, walking; carts \$25 per rider.

7. Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds — Marstons Mills (Barnstable)

Town-owned (opened 1992, par 71); open year-round, weather permitting. A well-kept, fair municipal layout and a mid-Cape staple. **Who it’s for:** All-around players and locals chasing off-season tee times. **Green fee:** ~\$50–\$65 with cart — *verify on site*.

8. Cape Cod Country Club — North Falmouth

Public despite the “Country Club” name (built 1928). A rolling, mature layout that rewards repeat play. **Who it’s for:** Upper-Cape players who want a quieter, classic feel. **Green fee:** ~\$45–\$65 — *verify on site*.

9. Falmouth Country Club — Falmouth

Public; 27 holes. Flexible mix-and-match nines on the Upper Cape. **Who it’s for:** Visitors and groups wanting flexible tee options. **Green fee:** ~\$45–\$65 — *verify on site*.

10. Sandwich Hollows — Sandwich

Public; just over the bridge. Rolling and scenic — an easy first or last round on a Cape trip. **Who it’s for:** Travelers wanting a round near the Canal, and value seekers. **Green fee:** ~\$45–\$60 — *verify on site*.

11. Holly Ridge — Sandwich

Executive / par-3 course. Short, friendly, quick — perfect for beginners, families, and short-game tune-ups. **Who it’s for:** Families, beginners, anyone short on time. **Green fee:** ~\$30–\$45 — *verify on site*.

12. Hyannis Golf Course — Hyannis

Public; central mid-Cape location. Solid, accessible, and unbeatably located if you’re based in Hyannis. **Who it’s for:** Visitors who want convenience and a fair round. **Green fee:** ~\$50–\$70 with cart in peak season — *verify on site*.

Best time for value

The season runs April–November, peaking June–September. The smartest value is a **mid-week round in May or September** — shoulder rates, thin crowds, firm turf. Twilight rates trim peak-summer costs too.

Winter golf on the Cape

Several coastal courses — notably **Bass River** and **Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds** — stay open year-round when weather allows, thanks to the Cape’s ocean-moderated climate. Always call ahead.

Public vs. private

A few famous names are **not** freely public: **New Seabury** (private golf community, Mashpee) and **Ocean Edge** (Brewster — the Nicklaus course is for resort guests/members) are resort-affiliated, and **Cape Cod National** (Brewster) is private. The Cape’s best *public* golf is overwhelmingly town-owned.

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