

FOOTHILLS GOLF CLUBHOUSE

The Golfer's Golf Course

Featuring 36 holes and a driving range with expansive mountain views—as well as an executive course, Par 3—Foothills Golf Course is one of the Denver Metro Area's most popular public courses. However, the original clubhouse, built in 1974, was no longer serving the needs of daily golfers and the nearby community. In turn, the Park & Recreation team sought a new design with an expanded restaurant and terrace (including an indoor-outdoor bar), events space to accommodate various tournaments, and storage for a new fleet of electric carts.

While Foothills is a public course, many of those who frequent the facility are regulars, creating a sense of ownership among the course's patrons. With this in mind, JNS' vision was to elevate the expected quality of a public clubhouse facility through the use of several sustainable features, including a mass timber approach, a highly insulated metal rainscreen, glazing that provides ample daylight throughout the space and strategically placed shading devices along the western exposure of the building.

At the same time, one beloved feature of the original clubhouse was a 10' elevated story above the course, allowing for sweeping views of the Front Range to the west. Our proposal was to raise the entire main level above the 18th hole—a design strategy that required a series of retaining walls and other features to mitigate the grade difference. This new elevation also provided a wonderful opportunity for a west-facing deck and to treat the earth outside the building like an amphitheater, allowing for more indoor-outdoor activation and capacity for larger group events.

Another noteworthy upgrade from the previous facility's design was the inclusion of expanded lounges for socialization and dining, featuring direct bar access and integrated shade structures

throughout all outdoor spaces. Aesthetically, the most noteworthy aspect of the new clubhouse is the heavy timber structure, which is left exposed to showcase eye-catching glulam columns, beams and roof decking throughout the building.

Location: Jefferson County, Colorado

Client: Foothills Park & Recreation District

Role: Architect, Interior Designer

Scale / Scope: Clubhouse Facility, Pro Shop and Restaurant

Year completed: Under construction (Opening October 2023)

The clubhouse at Foothills Golf Course in Jefferson County, Colorado cost \$16.8 million to build. Construction began in January 2022 on the 28,000-square-foot clubhouse.

The Foothills Park and Recreation District considered renovating the previous 9,500-square-foot clubhouse built in 1974, but decided to build a new one instead. The new clubhouse opened and attracted more traffic to the course.

\$601.00 per square-foot



Jefferson County public golf course debuts \$17M clubhouse

Karoline Leonard June 7, 2024 0



The new clubhouse at Foothills Golf Course. (Courtesy photo)
Foothills Golf Course's new \$16.8 million clubhouse opened last week, attracting a noticeable increase in traffic for the course, according to the facility's executive director.

Foothills Park and Recreation District, which oversees the public golf course at 3901 S. Carr St., began construction on the 28,000-square-foot-clubhouse in January 2022.

Executive Director Ronald Hopp said the district weighed options between renovating its previous 9,500-square-foot clubhouse built in 1974 or tearing it down to build a new one.

“We thought our community deserved a new one,” Hopp said. “The original was woefully inadequate. We are one of, if not the busiest golf course in the state of Colorado, so our community and beyond deserved that enhancement.”

Hopp said 142,343 rounds of golf were played at Foothills Golf Course in 2023, with over 60,000 buckets of range balls sold on the driving range that year.

The new clubhouse maintained one beloved feature of the previous clubhouse: an elevated story overlooking the course above the 18th hole.

Designed by JNS Architecture + Interior Design, the new clubhouse has an expanded restaurant and terrace space, indoor-outdoor bar, golf simulator room, event space and storage for the course’s golf cart fleet.

Foothills Park and Recreation District encompasses a portion of unincorporated Jefferson County bounded, with a few exceptions, by C-470 on the south and west, Hampden Avenue on the north and Sheridan Boulevard on the east. The district is made up of 2,400 acres across four regional parks, 43 community or neighborhood parks, 21 greenbelts and two golf courses.

Hopp said the new Foothills clubhouse isn’t just for established golfers.

“It’s a great place to go for a meal or a drink, there’s a simulator for indoor golfing and maybe learning to play, and the new clubhouse steps up the opportunities with spaces for rent, for events or weddings and more,” Hopp said.

The new clubhouse had a soft opening in April and was officially unveiled in late May once the final touches and landscaping was

finished. Hopp said he had hoped that construction of the clubhouse would be faster, but supply-chain issues caused delays.

“It was worth the wait,” Hopp said.

Hopp said the course’s busiest time of year is late spring and summer. In recent years, the month of May has been higher than typical, but he said last month there was an even more noticeable increase in traffic at the golf course.

Foothills Golf Course opened in 1971 and has 36 holes, lighted driving range, lighted short-game area and lighted practice putting green.

Patrons can choose from the 18-hole regulation course, nine-hole regulation course and an executive nine-hole course. For adults, costs vary between \$14 and \$57 depending on the day and course. Carts, clubs and balls are available for rent. Residents of the district receive a discount on fees