Reston’s two golf courses have a land use designation of “private recreation use.” What exactly does this mean? It means that those who choose to use the amenities may pay to do so, and the rest of us do not have to pay for it. No County taxes; no RA dues = private recreation use. When it involves open space, even non-members gain advantages.

With recent new ownership of the golf course on Reston’s north side, Hidden Creek Country Club has come under Rescue Reston’s watch.

There is a lot more to Hidden Creek than just golf, although the golf course itself is a challenging par-71 Ed Ault designed course. It won awards for being contoured around the existing hills and stream. The “creek” of Hidden Creek is actually Colvin Run. North Course co-chair Sue Beffel has been monitoring the stream just below the golf course for over 10 years and reports that this stream regularly gets one of the highest quality ratings of any in Reston.

Reston Association pathways go around and through parts of the course and thus make this park-like setting available to all. Remember to always yield to the golfers! Two prominent community benches are available on the front and back nines. On the front nine, patrons of the W&OD Trail are often seen resting and enjoying the vista along the fourth fairway through to the eighth green. On the back nine, a meditation bench is situated on Wedge Drive where a breath taking elevated view of the eleventh and twelfth holes can be enjoyed.

Just like at Reston National Golf Course, there is edge habitat that is home to an abundance of wildlife. Hidden Creek has a notorious fox, well known by the members for its affection for stealing golf balls. Many players teeing off on the 17th and 18th holes have fallen victim to the golf ball thief. Bald Eagles are frequent visitors also.

The rolling hills serve another recreational purpose when the snow falls. Cross-country skiers and sledgers take to the white open spaces with glee. For generations, the big hill on the course between North Shore Drive and Isaac Newton Square has been referred to as “King Kong Hill.” Winter recreation with no fees, no taxes! This is just another of the benefits of Reston’s golf course open spaces.

Since 2012, Rescue Reston supporters have been successfully defending the green space at Reston National Golf Course. Located on the south side of Reston, it is a 166-acre Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Rescue Reston’s mission statement was recently expanded to include the green space at the 164-acre north course, Hidden Creek Country Club.

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