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Black Desert Resort emerges as crown jewel among St. George-area golf venues

Tom Haraldsen
The City Journals

There are 11 golf courses in the St. George area, and another eight within 20 miles. All but two are public or municipal, and each offers a variety of beautiful landscapes and challenging topography.

Few have garnered as much attention recently as the Black Desert Resort in Ivins. This multi-million-dollar resort broke ground in February of 2021. Last fall, it opened by hosting a PGA Tour event known as the Black Desert Championship. In May, it will host an LPGA Tour event with the same name. For any golf course to host events from both professional tours is rare (Pebble Beach and Augusta National come to mind), but for it to happen in Utah makes Black Desert's legacy already impressive. Developer Patrick Manning has the PGA contracted to do a second event this fall and the LPGA for a total of three years.

Manning first saw the property where he is building the Black Desert Resort more than 20 years ago. He came to Utah after a friend of his told him, "you gotta see this land." So Manning and his wife flew out from their home in Florida and have never looked back.

"My wife and I stood right about where the resort center is built, and I told her, 'I can't explain the feeling I have — it's suffocating,'" he recalled. "I had the overwhelming feeling that we needed to sell everything we had and move here. It took some convincing, but she agreed, and we made the move, and I've never regretted it for a day."

Fast-forward almost two decades to when Manning envisioned a championship golf course, since he'd already designed more than 150 of them around the world. Manning acquired 3,000 acres of land for the resort, portions of it split among Ivins, Santa Clara and St. George boundaries. The 7,400-yard course also features an amazing short game facility with a driving range, a chipping range and the largest putting green in the country, with 36 holes.



Nestled among Southern Utah's soaring red cliffs and foreboding black lava flows, Black Desert Resort near St. George is quickly becoming the top golf destination in the state. The venue has already been the stop for a tournament on the PGA's Fall Tour, with an LPGA tournament slated for the next three years. Photo courtesy Black Desert Resort.

Manning has connected with Utah Tech University in St. George to offer both the school's men's and women's golf teams a home course and practice facility.

You don't need to wear a collared shirt to play here. At the practice facility, golfers can climb out of a nearby hot tub and start putting away wearing shorts. Manning said his

goal was elegance without pretense.

"It rivals any practice course and facility of any other college or university," he said. "I've always wanted this to be a project that benefits not just players, but our neighbors and friends in the community,

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BIG BUSINESS\$

It's hard to know for sure, but some estimates put the annual economic impact of the golf industry in the United States upward of \$100 billion

Golf has long been considered a sport of leisure and prestige, attracting players of all ages and backgrounds. But beyond its reputation for offering relaxation and enjoyment, golf has also become a significant economic driver in the United States. The game generates billions of dollars in revenue each year, supporting businesses and communities across the country. From green fees to golf course construction, the sport's economic impact touches multiple sectors, benefiting not only golf enthusiasts but also the broader U.S. economy.

Green Fees and Memberships

The most direct source of revenue for golf courses comes from green fees and memberships. Green fees are the charges players pay to access a course for a round of golf, while memberships often provide access to exclusive clubs and discounts. Green fees can vary depending on the course's location, prestige and difficulty, with public courses typically offering rates between \$20 and \$100 for 18 holes. However, at high-end resorts or exclusive country clubs, green fees can exceed \$300 per round.

As of recent data, the U.S. golf

industry generates approximately \$20 billion annually from green fees and memberships alone. According to the National Golf Foundation (NGF), there are over 15,000 golf courses in the United States, with millions of rounds of golf played every year. The memberships, which provide golfers with unlimited access or discounted rates, make up a substantial portion of the total. For instance, premium country clubs charge between \$5,000 and \$20,000 annually for membership dues, with some prestigious clubs reaching fees of over \$100,000 for initiation. Given these figures, it's clear that memberships contribute significantly to the financial success of golf courses across the country.

Lessons and Instruction

Golf instruction is another key economic component of the sport. Professional lessons and clinics are essential for both beginners and seasoned golfers looking to refine their skills. These services can take place in one-on-one settings, group lessons or specialized camps, all of which come with a price tag. The cost of golf lessons can vary significantly based on the location, the instructor's expertise and the format of the lesson. On average, individual golf

lessons cost around \$50 to \$150 per hour. Renowned instructors or golf pros at high-end clubs can charge upwards of \$300 per hour for one-on-one lessons.

The Jim McLean Golf School at The Ledges Golf Club in Heber City offers individual one-hour lessons at a cost ranging from \$115 to \$190 for nonmembers and \$100 to \$165 for members.

The school also offers a two-day Junior Golf School for youth ages 5 to 13 with five total hours of instruction for \$250.

For the serious learners, there are nine-hole playing lessons with one of the school's master instructors for \$450 or an ultimate package that includes a morning of instruction, a nine-hole playing lesson and lunch for \$950.

The golf instruction sector, including private lessons, group clinics and golf schools, is estimated to contribute approximately \$1.8 billion annually to the U.S. economy. This figure includes not only direct revenue from lessons but also the economic benefit derived from travel, accommodations and related

expenses when golfers attend instruction programs at various resorts or golf schools. Golf instruction also spurs other industries, such as travel and hospitality, where golfers often visit destinations known for their golf academies.

Equipment and Apparel

No golfer is complete without the necessary equipment, and this area of the industry has witnessed tremendous growth over the years. Golf clubs, balls, apparel and accessories make up a substantial portion of the sport's economic footprint. Golf equipment manufacturers like Titleist, Callaway, TaylorMade and Ping generate billions in sales each year. On average, an individual golfer will spend around \$700 to \$1,000 annually on new golf clubs, balls, bags and accessories. High-end clubs can cost thousands of dollars, while premium balls and accessories like GPS devices and rangefinders also add to the costs.

In total, golf equipment and apparel account for an estimated \$8 billion in annual revenue in the United States. Apparel alone repre-

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GOLF COURSES-NORTHERN UTAH

Ranked by Slope

BUSINESS JOURNAL **List**

	Course Name Address	Phone Web	Slope (Back Tees)	Rating (Back Tees)	Par (Back Tees)	Tournaments Hosted 2024	Greens Fees per 18 Holes	Private or Public	Total Yardage from Tips	Dress Code?	Course Record	Amenities	Head Pro
1	Red Ledges Golf Course 205 Red Ledges Blvd. Heber City, UT 84032	435-657-4054 redledges.com	155	77.2	72	11*	\$150 w/Mem.	Private	7,551	Y	65	Full dining, driving range, putting green, chipping green, two pools, tennis	Jon Paupore
2	Victory Ranch Golf Course 7865 N. Victory Ranch Lane Kamas, UT 84036	435-785-5000 victoryranch utah.com	146	75.9	72	*	*	Semi-Private	7,576	Y	62	Restaurant, double-sided driving range, short game area, putting green	Andrew Fetsko
3	Eagle Mountain Golf Course 960 E. 700 S. Brigham City, UT 84302	435-723-3212 eaglemountain gc.com	142	72.3	71	10*	\$38	Public	6,725	Y	64	Full driving range, 2 practice greens, full-service snack bar	John Patzwald Director of Golf
3	Homestead Resort & Golf Club 700 N. Homestead Drive Midway, UT 84049	435-654-5588 playhomestead gc.com	142	71.8	71	30*	\$35-65	Public	6,669	N	62	Practice facilities, restaurants, lodging rooms, meeting space, Crater Hot Springs, swimming pools	Wayne Clark Golf Operations Manager
3	Willow Creek Country Club 8505 S. Willow Creek Drive Sandy, UT 84093	801-942-1954 willowcreekcc. com	142	73.5	72	2	\$105* w/Mem.	Private	7,046	Y	63	Driving range, 3 practice greens & short-range game, banquets, pool complex	Carl Sarahs Director of Golf
4	Soldier Hollow Golf Course Silver 1370 W. Soldier Hollow Lane Midway, UT 84049	435-654-7442 stateparks.utah .gov/golf/soldier- hollow/teetime/	141	75	72	*	\$25-85	Public	7,627	N	62	Large practice area, pro shop, lessons, full-service restaurant	David Simm
4	Stonebridge Golf Club 4415 Links Drive West Valley City, UT 84120	801-957-9000 golfstonebridge utah.com	141	73.6	72	57	\$36-50	Public	7,131	Y	64	Driving range, banquet room	Clark Garso
5	Riverside Country Club 2701 N. University Ave Provo, UT 84604	801-373-8262 riverside countryclub.org	140	73.4	72	12	\$150	Private	7,102	Y	62	Golf, tennis, pool, athletic club, dining	Chris Moody, Pro Travis Byron, Asst.
6	Canyons Golf 3636 Willow Draw Road Park City, UT 84098	435-615-4728 canyons golfcourse.com	139	68.9	69	50*	\$65-225	Public	6,069	Y	66	Restaurants, spa, lodging	Darren Ingram
7	Park Meadow Country Club 2000 Meadows Drive Park City, UT 84060	435-649-2460 parkmeadowssc. com	138	74.8	72	*	\$185	Private	7,403	Y	62	Golf practice facility, clubhouse, restaurant, locker room, pool, fitness, pickleball	Nick Owens Director of golf
7	Thanksgiving Point Golf Club 3300 W. Clubhouse Drive Lehi, UT 84043	801-768-7401 thanksgiving pointgolf.com	138	76.2	72	80*	\$85	Public	7,700	Y	62	Driving range, Bistro Grill, meeting space	Brett Johnson
8	Jeremy Ranch 8770 N. Jeremy Road Park City, UT 84098	435-649-2700 thejeremy.com	137	74	72	11*	\$125 w/Mem.	Private	7,092	Y	65	Full-service clubhouse, dining facilities, fitness facility, locker rooms, Nordic Track	Jake Hanley
8	South Mountain Golf Course 1247 E. Mike Weir Drive Draper, UT 84020	385-468-1480 slco.org/golf/ southmountain	137	73.3	72	20*	\$30-60	Public	7,008	N	65	Restaurant, putting greens, practice facility, range	Brian Schramm
9	Bountiful Ridge Golf Club 2430 S. Bountiful Blvd. Bountiful, UT 84010	801-298-6040 bountifulridge golf.com	135	71.3	71	2	\$32+	Public	6,518	Y	59	Pro shop, practice facilities, restaurant, lessons	Kent J. McComb
9	Riverbend Golf Course 12800 S. 1040 W. Riverton, UT 84065	385-468-1460 slco.org/golf/ riverbend	135	72.5	72	6	\$40	Public	6,882	N	64	Restaurant, driving range, pro shop	Steve Young
10	The Ranches Golf Course 4128 E. Clubhouse Lane Eagle Mountain, UT 84005	801-789-8100 theranches golfclub.com	132	72.7	72	8*	\$35-59	Public	6,819	N	62	Practice facility, driving range, chipping & putting green, full-service grill & beverage cart	Mason Christison, Pro Rob Hammer Director of Instruction
11	Mt. Ogden Golf Course 1787 Constitution Way Ogden, UT 84403	801-399-1129 ogdencity.com	131	70.2	72	12*	\$28-32	Public	5,993	N	60	Putting green, pitching/chipping area, café	Todd Brenkman
12	River Oaks Golf Course 9300 S. Riverside Drive Sandy, UT 84070	801-568-4653 sandy.utah .gov/golf	130	70.5	70	30*	\$35-42	Public	6,269	N	62	Cafe, catering/banquets, driving range, conference room, A/V	Mitchell Stone



Tips for setting up your company's golf tournament

Tom Haraldsen
The City Journals

Every year, hundreds of Utah companies, organizations and even churches put on golf tournaments. They are generally four-person scramble events, designed to promote camaraderie and help even the most novice or inexperienced golfers have some fun with friends or co-workers.

They also serve another purpose in many cases — raising money for charitable causes. Businesses sponsor holes and usually have representatives at the tee boxes to hand out swag with company logos. Many businesses donate door prizes for raffles held during lunches hosted by the tournament sponsor. For those who are just starting out to play the game, it's a great way to "break in."

So how do you start to organize a golf scramble? Here are some tips:

Choose the date and site. Many courses book early for these types of events. Usually a four-person scramble can involve as many as 144 golfers — meaning two four-person teams can start on the same hole, one team behind the other. So be sure your course can handle that many golfers (most can) and set your time schedules accordingly. If you plan to have a "shotgun" start at 9 a.m., plan on then hosting your lunch and/or awards event about 1:30 p.m. And choose a course that's appropriate for the skill level of your golfers — something relatively flat and easy to walk, even though golfers are usually in carts.

Set your budget. You probably hope to make some money on this event, so figure the greens and cart rental fees, plus costs for food or beverage, into your budget. The average cost for a scramble in Utah in 2024 was \$70 per player minimum. Some were higher, depending on the course and the sponsor of the title event. Be sure to cover your hard costs.

Recruit players. This shouldn't

be too difficult if you, as the title sponsor, have a network of friends and fellow business owners who like golf. Most golf courses will allow you a little flexibility in reserving times, so if you get into this and find you can only fill 120 spots (30 teams), set up a cut-off time so you can finalize your course reservations. It's important to get a good number of players so that the scramble is fun and competitive.

Create a registration form. This is something you obviously need to do. If you are figuring handicaps into team scoring, that's information you'll need. This also helps create a mailing list for contacting golfers in the future.

Food and drinks. A very important part of any scramble are munchies. The amount of food and drinks you need will depend, of course, on the number of players. It is important to order food and drinks that are appropriate for the event.

Sponsors and prizes. Many companies will sponsor a hole for a set fee. This can include them offering swag (golf balls, tees, ball marks, hats, etc.) to players as they come to a tee box. They may also want to offer prizes for your raffle (tickets sold to

players is another great way to raise some money for a cause). You'll also want prizes for your top teams — trophies or gift cards or even golf equipment. Some courses will offer gift certificates from their pro shops.

Choose a format for the scramble. Most four-person events allow each player to tee off on a hole, with the best shot played. This continues to the green, where all four players have a chance to make the final put. Some tournaments add twists just for fun, like allowing "one throw" from a sand trap per round. And most have prizes for the longest drive and closest to the hole, both for men and women. Your ability to obtain prizes will determine what contests within the actual round you want to offer. In some cases, you can also buy an inexpensive insurance policy for a grand prize — like a new car or truck for the first golfer getting a hole-in-one on a designated par three. Make sure that par three is a difficult one!

Volunteers. This is a very important element for any entity putting on a tournament. You'll need helpers for registration, scoring, food and beverage and to monitor a hole if you do the large hole-in-one giveaway. You'll need someone to marshal the

start, sending teams and carts to their respective starting tees for a "shotgun" start.

Teeing off. Again, each group of four will tee off at the same time, but on different holes. This is usually called a shotgun start — everyone hears a horn or even a shotgun blast signaling them to begin. If you have 36 teams, they will go off with one following the other. Do not have all eight golfers playing in one group. Most courses will make that rule mandatory before you begin your tournament.

Finishing it off. You should have at least one if not two volunteers at the clubhouse, ready to collect the team scorecards as they come in. Your scoring rules may depend on whether you want to include golfers' handicaps (usually a problem if many of the players don't have registered handicaps) and you may wish to divide your teams into "flights." For example, you could take the top 18 teams and place them in A Flight, and the bottom 18 teams into B Flight. That allows for more teams to get first-, second- or third-place prizes, and it also helps even the playing field a bit for just occasional golfers. This doesn't usually cause much concern, since almost all scramble tournaments are conducted in the spirit of fun.

Post-tournament. Once the tournament ends, keep a few things in mind. Send thank-you notes or emails to the players, volunteers and the staff at the golf course. Publish the results on social media or, if the event was used as a fundraiser for a local cause, see if local newspapers or media outlets will run the results. And evaluate the scramble — what worked well, what didn't work at all, what could be improved?. Was the cost and effort worth it, and would you do it again? If you think you might want to make this an annual event, then let participants know you'll be back in touch next season.

Have fun, make new friends, and hit the links for a day of memories, mulligans and more!



Businesses like the Texas Roadhouse in Taylorsville hold scramble golf tournaments each year to benefit local charities. Photo by Tom Haraldsen

GOLF COURSES-SOUTHERN UTAH

Ranked by Slope



	Course Name Address	Phone Web	Slope (Back Tees)	Rating (Back Tees)	Par (Back Tees)	Tournaments Hosted 2024	Greens Fees per 18 Holes	Private or Public	Total Yardage from Tips	Dress Code?	Course Record	Amenities	Head Pro
1	Coral Canyon Golf Course 1925 N. Canyon Greens Drive Washington, UT 84780	435-688-1700 coralcanyongolf.com	148	75.2	72	15	\$150	Public	7,146	Y	64	Driving range, putting green, chipping green, lessons, pro shop, restaurant	Marco Leoni, Pro
2	Copper Rock Golf Course 1567 W Copper Rock Parkway Hurricane, UT 84737	435-215-4845 copperrock.com	146	75.8	72	N/A	\$93	Public	7,227	Y	*	Stay & play vacation rentals, clubhouse restaurant and pool, event center, 18 holes of challenging play	John Horton
3	Entrada at Snow Canyon Country Club 2537 W. Entrada Trail St. George, UT 84770	435-986-2200 golfentrada.com	140	73.8	71	7	\$250*	Private	7,083	Y	67	Golf shop, driving range, fitness center, restaurant, locker room, pickleball, tennis, aquatics, hiking	JR Cummings, Pro Kaden Hamp Assistant Pro
4	Black Desert Resort 1500 E Black Desert Dr. Ivins, UT 84738	435-252-9736 blackdesertresort.com	139	75.4	72	N/A	\$350 (non-resort guests)	Private	7,393	Y	60	Driving range and putting green, tee gift for every player, 12-minute tee times, high tech carts, food and beverage	Zachary J. Kelly
5	Sand Hollow Championship 5625 W. Clubhouse Drive Hurricane, UT 84737	435-656-4653 sandhollowresorts.com	137	74	72	3	\$100-125	Public	7,170	Y	60	Practice bunker complex, clubhouse, Wee course	Tyler Ott
6	The Hideout Golf Club 648 S. Hideout Way Monticello, UT 84535	435-298-8120 hideoutgolf.com	136	71.9	72	18	\$10-38	Public	6,652	N	67	Driving range, lessons, pro shop, snack shop	Jeff Simon General Manager
7	Moab Golf Club 2705 E. Bench Rd. Moab, UT 84532	435-259-6488 moabgolfcourse.com	133	72.9	72	14	\$54-74	Public	6,765	N	61	Pro shop, practice facility, lessons, snack bar/grill	Rob Jones
7	Sunbrook Golf Club 2366 W. Sunbrook Drive St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4400 sgcity.org	133	73.9	72	80*	\$18-65	Public	6,823	Y	64	Practice facilities, pro shop, grill	Reed McArthur
8	Green Spring Golf Course 586 N. Green Spring Drive Washington, UT 84780	435-673-7888 golfgreenspring.com	132	72.7	72	4	\$45-85	Public	6,859	N	60	Located within 40 minutes of Zion National Park, driving range, snack bar	Kevin Soderquist Course Manager
8	Sun River Golf Club 4210 Bluegrass Way St. George, UT 84790	435-986-0001 sunrivergolf.com	132	73.3	71	6	\$89	Public	7,061	Y	59	Grass tee driving range, chipping green, practice sand facility, putting course, restaurant	Larry Ricketts
9	Bloomington Country Club 3174 Bloomington Drive E. St. George, UT 84790	435-673-2029 bloomingtoncountryclub.com	130	72.7	72	22*	\$360-460/month	Private	6,945	Y	62	Range, restaurant, lounge, pool, tennis courts	Mark Boggs
9	Sky Mountain Golf Course 1030 N. 2600 W. Hurricane, UT 84737	435-635-7888 skymountaingolf.com	130	71.1	72	22*	\$68-88	Public	6,306	N	63	18 holes, range, practice green, grill	Kent Abegglen
10	Southgate Golf Course 1975 S. Tonaquint Drive St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4440 sgcity.org	129	70	71	12*	\$19-33	Public	6,218	Y	59	Driving range, grill	Eron Deming
10	St. George Golf Club 2190 S. 1400 E. St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4404 stgeorgegolfclub.com	129	73.9	73	*	\$19-33	Public	7,271	Y	62	Full-service golf shop, practice green, cart rental, club rental	James Hood
11	Palisade Golf Course 2200 E. Palisade Road Sterling, UT 84665	435-835-4653 stateparks.utah.gov/palisade	128	69.8	72	30*	\$40-45*	Public	6,290	Y	62	Full-service golf shop, driving range, restaurant	Jordan Van Orman
12	Dixie Red Hills Golf Course 645 W. 1250 N. St. George, UT 84770	435-627-4444 sgcity.org	119	65.8	68	10*	\$25-35 for 9 holes	Public	5,462	Y	26 for 9 holes*	Driving range	Allen Orchard

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SKY MOUNTAIN
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BUSINESS OF GOLF

from page 13

sents a growing segment, with golfers increasingly purchasing clothing tailored to the sport, including performance-enhancing fabrics and stylish attire that can be worn both on and off the course. Leading brands like Nike, Adidas, and Under Armour continue to expand their golf-specific product lines, and as a result, sales of golf apparel are projected to surpass \$2 billion annually. The growth of golf-inspired lifestyle apparel has helped integrate the sport into everyday fashion, broadening its economic impact.

Golf Course Construction

Finally, the construction of new golf courses and the renovation of existing ones represent a significant economic activity tied to the sport. As the popularity of golf continues to grow, the demand for new courses remains strong. In recent years, however, the number of new courses being built has slowed, as many regions already have a saturation of golf offerings. Nonetheless, the economic value generated by constructing new golf courses is substantial. The costs associated with designing, permitting and constructing a golf course can range from \$1.5 million to \$3 million per hole, meaning the total cost for an 18-hole course can easily surpass \$30 million.

The U.S. golf course construction industry generates approximately \$1.8 billion annually, according to reports from the NGF. This figure includes not only the direct construction costs but also the related economic benefits such as employment, the sale of construction materials and the subsequent increase in local tourism. A new golf course can have far-reaching effects on local economies, providing jobs for workers during construction and ongoing employment opportunities once the course opens. Additionally, golf courses often become focal points for real estate development, with surrounding properties often increasing in value, further benefiting the economy.

Golf's economic impact in the United States is far-reaching and multifaceted. From the revenue generated by green fees and memberships to the booming golf equipment and apparel industry, the sport plays a vital role in driving economic activity. Collectively, the golf industry's total economic output is estimated to exceed \$90 billion annually, making it one of the most influential sectors in American recreation and tourism. The sport's combination of leisure, competition and business opportunities ensures that golf will continue to be a significant force in the U.S. economy for years to come.

Editor's Note - Research for this article was done with assistance of a large language model (AI). The Business Journal recognizes that AI engines can provide inaccurate information but believes the data in this story substantially portrays the economic impact of golf in the American economy.

BLACK DESERT

from page 11

including our college students.”

The course was the final design work of late PGA great Tom Weiskopf, which he worked on in collaboration with fellow architect Phil Smith. It was Weiskopf's 73rd course, and that number resonates around the resort. The stylish “Club 73” adjacent to the putting green features a super-cool vibe — TVs outdoors and misters to keep guests cool as they sit and drink or dine. There's a full-size bronze statue of Weiskopf on the grounds, and his widow Laurie Weiskopf was present along with her two sisters in October when the first Black Desert Resort Championship PGA tournament was held.

That event came about when Manning invited PGA officials to come view the course. It's difficult getting either the men's or women's tours to add new courses, but Manning said once the PGA folks toured the course, they signed on. The LPGA was already onboard.

“One particular PGA official came up on the tee at No. 18, looked at the view, and said there was nothing like it on any other course he'd seen,” Manning said. Said Weiskopf before he passed away: “It's one of the most beautiful vistas and places that you could ever just stand there and (do) a 360 turnaround and look at all these beautiful mountains.”

Black Desert combines Bentgrass from tee to green, with narrow strips of Kentucky bluegrass on the borders against the ever-present surrounding black lava. The PGA players enjoyed abundant sunlight in October, but late-afternoon rounds were accompanied by shadows and at times gusty winds. At 3,000 feet above sea level, golfers certainly enjoyed increased ball flights and low humidity.

Manning's plan includes development of a mega-resort, with a downtown village, an amphitheater, 400-plus hotel rooms, 20 restaurants (all original and no chains), a waterpark, and numerous trails and activities related to the nature of the area. Much of the work is still in progress, and some phases of development will likely run over several years. At one time Manning had planned to build a large arena capable of hosting NBA or NHL games, but he put that plan on hiatus this winter and may revisit it later.

The nearby Virgin River is a habitat for various endangered fish species, and Black Desert has partnered with the Utah DWR Southern Utah Region to work with Melinda Bennion, a native aquatics biologist. The project is designed to protect the Virgin River chub, a species found only in the Virgin River. The resort is also developing projects aimed at protecting the desert tortoise and creating pollinator gardens to safeguard endangered species such as the monarch butterfly.

In addition to environmental stewardship, Black Desert Resort is committed to energy efficiency and water conservation. The resort was recognized with a 2023 Utah Green Building Award for implementing high-efficiency HVAC systems, low-voltage wiring, efficient irrigation systems, water recycling methods and energy reuse.

Green fees at Black Desert Resort are \$300 for 18 holes. Utah residents are being offered a promotional discount for rooms during the preview period that runs through March 31. Rates for Utahns start at \$199 a night and include a \$50 resort credit. Reservations can be made at blackdesertresort.com.

“My goal has always been to make this everyone's resort,” Manning said. “I think we're well on our way.”

Golf in Dixie

In addition to Black Desert, there are many fine courses for golfers to enjoy in and around St. George. Here's a listing:

The Ledges at St. George (public)
1585 Ledges Parkway
Estimated green fees: \$135

Entrada at Snow Canyon (private)
2537 W. Entrada Trail
Estimated green fees: \$125

Dixie Red Hills Golf Course (public)
645 W. 1250 N.
Estimated green fees: \$35

Sunbrook Golf Club 3 courses (public)
2366 W. Sunbrook Drive
Estimated green fees: \$50

Southgate Golf Club 2 courses (public)
1975 S. Tonaquint Drive
Estimated green fees: \$60

St. George Golf Club (public)
2190 S. 1400 E.
Estimated green fees: \$84

Bloomington Country Club (private)
3174 S. Bloomington Drive
Estimated green fees: \$100

SunRiver Golf Club (public)
4210 Bluegrass Way
Estimated green fees: \$90

Black Desert Resort at Entrada (public)
1500 E. Black Desert Drive, Ivins
Estimated green fees: \$300

Green Spring Golf Course (public)
588 N. Green Spring Drive, Washington
Estimated green fees: \$85

Coral Canyon Golf Course (public)
1924 N. Canyon Greens Dr., Washington
Estimated green fees: \$125

Sand Hollow Resort 3 courses (public)
5662 W. Clubhouse Road, Hurricane
Estimated green fees: \$130-185

Sky Mountain Golf Course (public)
1030 N. Sky Mountain Blvd., Hurricane
Estimated green fees: \$88

Copper Rock Course
1567 W. Copper Rock Pkwy., Hurricane
Estimated green fees: \$150



At the turn

"The Oasis," a stop between the front and back nine-hole halves of the Black Desert Resort golf course in Ivins, provides refreshments and restrooms for players at the new championship layout. Photo courtesy Black Desert Resort.