

2026 Men's Mid-Master



June 23-25

Water Valley Golf Club

The Men's Mid-Master Takes On The Changes at

Water Valley

By Todd Saelhof

It's a big season ahead for Water Valley Golf Club. There are changes to embrace both on and off the course, with plenty of projects on the go and ready to be unveiled this summer.

And Alberta Golf is arriving once again to further liven up the summer schedule, with the 2026 Alberta Men's Mid-Master Championship setting up shop June 23-25.



"Alberta Golf's been really good to us, and we love hosting Alberta golf events because they sure appreciate us," said Water Valley's proud co-owner Jeremy Dueck, who's hosted a handful of top-shelf tournaments during the last four years. "I just like to be able to showcase what our superintendent, Ross Parsons, is doing," continued Dueck. "He's been here since he was 18 years old, so 30-some years, he's been here."

"Over the last five years, he's been able to kind of showcase the beauty in what he's doing out here — and he loves it. He looks forward to these events every year, being able to make sure that the course is in great shape." The 250 pass-holders of the semi-private course love to welcome the world, as well.

"Water Valley is a very tight, tight community," continued Dueck. "For us to be able to showcase their golf course, that makes most of the pass-holders very proud. And a lot of them are all locals, so the town itself is something that they're proud of."

While Water Valley promotes itself — and rightly so — as 'Alberta's hidden gem,' don't be shocked by a scorecard that doesn't exactly shout 'championship yardage.' Because it really is a 'drive-for-show, putt-for-dough' gauntlet of holes.

"It'll be a very good test for these boys" remarks Dueck "the challenge comes from our greens". "Every year, we host some event, and unfortunately, the golfers don't come out and do a practice round. They see the yardage on the card and they go, 'Oh, this could be just a little walk in the park'"

"But then they get onto the greens, which don't look slope-y and don't look fast, but they are slope-y and they're fast." So when it comes tournament time, they better have done their research if they want to compete and win the thing." Just to make sure Water Valley is keeping on top of its game, Dueck & Co. have made a few adjustments to the course.

Included among the tweaks is a lengthening of its signature hole, the spectacular 540-yard par-five fourth that is as visual of a delight as any in Alberta. "We put some tees back another 50 yards there, so it plays a little tougher."

"And then towards the end of your round, you've got hole 16, which we did a big renovation there five years ago when I first took over. We added a couple bunkers and some falloffs on the sides of the green. You have to carry all of that and water." And then there's what they've added this winter.

They've extended the green to wrap around the water to finish the fifth hole, installed an elevated tee-box on the sixth, lengthened the chute on the seventh to create a much bigger risk off the drive, moved the tee back about 40 yards on 11 and slotted a few well-placed bunkers — some deep ones, too — onto five and 11.

"It just makes the course a little bit longer. It'll make them think just a little bit more when they hit their approach shot on five and their tee-shot on 11."

"A lot of times people are like, 'Water Valley? Why can't we play at some private golf course in the middle of Edmonton or Calgary,'" Dueck said. "But once they come out here they see how we treat them ..."

"Every year, I'm going to make these little changes so that we can keep testing people and get some bigger events out here."

"I've been around golf all my life. And as a kid, I would be drawing up golf courses. And now for me to take it from the paper and to put it in real life, that's pretty special"

The changes are complete, including an expansion of the restaurant's outdoor seating area for post-round rewards and delights ...

Just in time for the Alberta Men's Mid-Master, a competition open to male amateur golfers age 40 and older with a Handicap Index of 15.0 or less.

"We go that extra step" added Dueck. "Whether it's customer service, the range, the quality of the golf course, and little things like that, I've always had golfers come up to me to thank me, thank our staff, or our PGA pro Matt Pilon for the way they've been treated."

"We know it'll be the same with Alberta's top golfers here again in June." ■