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11th Hole Laurel Hill Golf Course
By
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What Club Would You Hit?



Today's golf hole photographic illustration is of the 11th hole at Laurel Hill Golf Course, located in Lorton, VA. Run by the Fairfax County Authority, it's the crown jewel of golf courses in Fairfax County.

Designed by golf course architect Bill Love, he has created an impressive 18-hole course on land occupied until 2000 by a maximum-security prison that was operated by the District of Columbia Department of Corrections as the Lorton Reformatory and Correctional Complex. The transformation of the forbidding property, formerly marked by guard towers, 25-foot walls and razor wire, to perhaps the area's premium public golf address is an intriguing success story. In fact, you can see remnants of the prison guard towers to the left of the 11th green and behind the 12th tee. It also housed Cold War-era Nike missile installations.

Perched on one of the highest points in the area and on land which formerly served as the prison dairy farm, Laurel Hill measures 7,102 yards from the back tees and has a par of 71. It has a course rating of 74.6, and a slope of 145, meaning it's built to test highly skilled players



4th Hole Laurel Hill Golf Course

I've played Laurel Hills Golf Course many times over the years. There are five par 3s; each is distinctive. The fourth hole has a stunning, 188-yard drop from the tee ground to the green. The 8th, 14th, and 16th holes from the back tees are all well over 200 yards. The most memorable par 3, however, is the 11th hole. It's brilliantly conceived, with two teeing areas, one over a vegetation-filled ravine and the other next to one of the course's three silos, leftovers from the prison-farm days. It's where you see the old Lorton Reformatory with guard towers and brick prison buildings in the backdrop. It's a regular stop at the VSGA One-Day Golf Tournament. I've also played GolfStyles Washington Solstice Survival – three rounds of golf from different tees in one day – making for a very long day. On that day, I hit a hybrid three-iron to an eight-iron.

This column, digital paintings, and photograph were adapted from a chapter in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the Golf Photography Gallery Section of pbsstudios.com

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings in the series based on photographed golf holes.

Give me a like and leave a comment. Let me know what you think about the series.

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