



Congaree Golf Club and Congaree Foundation

Stats and Awards

Opened: 2018

Yardage: 7,810

Par: 72

Designer: Tom Fazio

Awards:

- No. 39, America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses – [Golf Digest](#)
- Best New Private Course of 2018 - [Golf Digest](#)
- Best Golf Course Built this decade (2010-2019) – [Golf Digest](#)
- Among the Greatest Clubhouses in America – [Golf Digest](#)
- Among Top Three Golf Courses in South Carolina – [Golf Digest](#), [GOLF Magazine](#)
- Dream 18: The best 18 holes built in the last 44 years – [GOLF Magazine](#)

PGA TOUR Events

- 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree
- 2022 THE CJ CUP at South Carolina

Congaree Photos: <https://friedkin.canto.com/v/CongareeGolfClub/>

The Course

Congaree, an exclusive private club built on a former 2,000-acre 18th-century estate, is the vision of Dan Friedkin, chairman of The Friedkin Group, a privately held consortium of businesses in the automotive, hospitality, entertainment, sports and adventure industries. On sharing his vision of building the world's first philanthropic golf club with the late Robert C. "Bob" McNair, owner of the NFL's Houston Texans and chairman of The McNair Group, an important partnership was formed between the two friends. The two Texas businessmen owned other successful golf clubs – Friedkin the Diamond Creek Golf Club in Banner Elk, North Carolina, and McNair the Golf Club at Briar's Creek in Johns Island, South Carolina.

However, they sought something different, a new club model with a sustaining purpose shared among its Ambassadors to provide educational and vocational opportunities to underserved and ambitious youth through a shared passion for golf.

The remarkable golf course at Congaree is ultimately the mechanism for this new philanthropic model. Friedkin's directive was to find a great piece of land that was accessible from the Eastern seaboard. The inland property that would become Congaree stood out – from its sandy soil, perfect for building a golf course, to its historic feel.

Congaree is a Tom Fazio design, but unlike other courses, it is wide open with expanses of sand dividing holes and ancient live oaks dotting the landscape. It looks and feels like the courses of Australia's



Sandbelt, which feature sharp bunker edges and rolling hills, and the Heathland courses in Britain. Dan Friedkin wanted a course that embraced the natural surroundings of the property and would always play firm and fast.

It took nine straight months of logging pine trees and grinding stumps to clear space for the course, which Fazio routed through oaks up to 300 years old. Numerous mature live oak trees were discovered amid the heavy forestation during this process, and these were painstakingly moved and preserved to play an integral part in shaping various golf holes. When the finishing touches were complete, Congaree officially opened for play on January 1, 2018.

Congaree Foundation

At its heart, Congaree has a philanthropic mission to bring together individuals that share a philanthropic vision and a love for golf to better the lives of deserving young people through the Congaree Foundation. The Foundation, which is funded by Ambassadors who are invited join the award-winning club, has continued to deliver on its mission:

To positively impact the lives of young people, locally and around the globe, by providing educational and vocational opportunities through the game of golf.

Congaree Foundation does this through a number of programs and partnerships that operate at an international scale and much closer to home, addressing critical needs in the local Jasper County community such as education, professional development and food insecurity

Congaree Global Golf Initiative

Congaree Foundation's signature program is the Congaree Global Golf Initiative, an immersive collegiate preparatory curriculum and golf coaching platform tailored to serving both U.S. and international high school students.

Each summer, Congaree welcomes underserved and ambitious high school students who aspire to play collegiate golf and provides them with the highest level of athletic and academic consulting. By working with educators, guidance counselors and golf instructors, CGGI graduates are better prepared for the college admissions process and identifying which schools will be the best fit for them and come away equipped for future success.

Since the inaugural CGGI class in 2017, 138 students have gone through the program, with nearly all graduates going on to attend college. Through a combination of athletics and academics, these students have earned approximately \$2.73M in scholarship money. As of the 2022 fall semester, 48 students have gone on to play golf collegiately at schools including the University of Texas, University of Nebraska, College of Charleston and Elon University.

In 2022, Congaree Foundation launched its first international edition of CGGI, which drew 12 students from Europe and Africa to Archerfield Links in Scotland. This European camp expanded the impact of CGGI and allowed the Foundation to support more deserving students.

Sergeant Jasper Golf Club



Acquired by Congaree Foundation in 2021, the historic Sergeant Jasper Golf Club supports access to the game of golf by providing a new home to area high school teams and a quality public course for golfers throughout the Lowcountry.

In the past, the lack of available, quality facilities has been a roadblock for area high schools looking to establish their own golf programs. The Foundation has provided resources for and spearheaded significant improvements to the course so it can be a place that local golfers are proud to call their home. With access to the club provided at no cost, competitive youth golf can expand and flourish in the region.

- **Sergeant Jasper Photos:** <https://friedkin.canto.com/v/SergeantJasperGolfClub>

Lowcountry Food Bank

Congaree Foundation has partnered with the Lowcountry Food Bank to expand access to fresh produce in Jasper County so that kids in the community can focus on success in school, rather than where their next meal is coming from. Since the beginning of 2020, Congaree Foundation funding and manpower have helped the food bank serve thousands of families by distributing more than 2.3 million pounds of food and supplies.

Boys & Girls Club of Jasper County

Congaree Foundation has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Jasper County to support educational and mentoring opportunities for young people by building capacity for the club to serve more kids at area facilities.

Boys & Girls Club programs focus on helping youth develop the attitude, skills, values and behaviors that enable them to succeed in life by creating seeds of academic success, athletic performance, artistic expression, civic involvement and character development. Previous Congaree Foundation funding has supported the purchase of books to build the club's first library and the hiring of additional staff in their technology center to support members reading below grade level.

Established in 2020, the Congaree Career Launch program connects underserved youth in Jasper County to careers and educational pathways that lead to economic stability and future success. Funded by Congaree Foundation, the program will support access and exposure to workforce opportunities in industries represented in the Lowcountry region.

Youth Golf Instruction

In the spring of 2018, Congaree led a group of private golf clubs and nonprofits to offer the first girls golf instruction class at Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School (RHHS). This effort was met with overwhelming enthusiasm by the students and 102 signed up. That fall, the program expanded to include male and special needs students from RHHS and the Polaris Tech Charter schools. In total, 275 students participated. To support this exciting initiative, the Congaree Foundation has committed resources to maintaining the practice field and driving range at RHHS, which is now accessible to the community.

Congaree Foundation Scholarship



In 2021 Congaree Foundation began a partnership with Coastal Carolina University (CCU) with the creation of the Congaree Foundation Scholarship for the University's PGA Golf Management program. Beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, the Congaree Foundation Scholarship will be awarded annually to one incoming undergraduate student at CCU. Eligible students will be entering the University as full-time, first-year students in the PGA Golf Management program, will have participated in Congaree Foundation programming, and must be South Carolina residents.