



The Loop Course

*The Loop at Forest Dunes, designed by Tom Doak, was named "Best New Public Course in America" by Golf Digest in 2016.*

## A Blue Ribbon Standard In Northern Michigan

ROSCOMMON, NORTHERN MICHIGAN: Etymology (the study of words) reveals an unusual history behind the term *blue ribbon*. "Today, *blue ribbon* commonly refers to the best fishing rivers in America," reported Don Helinski, director of operations at Forest Dunes. "The term originates from *blue riband*, an accolade from the early 1900s awarded to the passenger liner with the quickest speed crossing the Atlantic Ocean."



Forest Dunes provides intimate lodging options and chose to stake its reputation on golf.



The Weiskopf Course

### A DYNAMIC CHOICE

Forest Dunes, a three-hour drive north of Detroit, quickly established itself on the golf scene in 2003 when its Weiskopf Course, set within the Huron National Forest, was named "Best New Upscale Golf Course in America" by *Golf Digest*. To this day, the course remains on its list of "100 Greatest Public Golf Courses."

Complementing the Weiskopf Course is a Tom Doak Course with a twist—the first reversible design to open in the world. "The course offers two distinct layouts using the same 18 greens, but playing clockwise one day and counterclockwise the next," described Helinski.

"The combination of two of golf's best architects makes Forest Dunes an appealing draw," said Helinski. "The Weiskopf Course benefits from a landscape sculpted from ancient glaciers. Its front nine is typical Northern Michigan with treelined fairways. When you make the turn, the back opens into a wasteland, dunes setting."

"The Doak Course is a different experience. It's walking only and plays firm and fast. Your best strategy from 35 yards out to the pin might be to putt the ball."

Long summer days affords the opportunity to combine outdoor activities.

"Less than a mile from Forest Dunes is the South Branch of the Au Sable River, known by avid fly fishermen for its 12-mile stretch of blue ribbon trout fishing," touted Andy Partlo, proprietor of Old Au Sable Fly Shop. "The river runs through public land and is strictly catch-and-release. Its natural habitat produces brook and brown trout that are healthy and vigorous."

"Golf and fishing have common threads," concluded Partlo. "Giant muscles and strength don't guarantee success. Proper form and finesse are required to win the day." ■

*For information, please visit [ForestDunesGolf.com](http://ForestDunesGolf.com).*