

# MARION DISC GOLF



At left, article author Rodney Travis attacks the basket at No. 9. At top is local Eagle Scout candidate Paul Combs who built the bridge that leads to new hole 7B, which is a Par 4.

## PLAYERS GUIDE TO SURVIVING & CONQUERING LOCAL COURSE

### Marion Disc Golf Course (MDGC)

Marion-Crittenden County Park  
**Hole by Hole Player's Guide**  
 By Rodney Travis

#### HOLE 1: 425 ft. - Par 4

MDGC opens with a short, forgiving Par 4. The elevated tee shot is wide open and should get over the creek midway through the fairway at 235 feet out. OB is far left and shouldn't come into play. The fairway is very wide and invites any driving style. There is often a swirling headwind requiring an over-stable fairway or distance driver. The approach is to an open flat green whose trees only pose danger to shots long of the basket. This tame drivable starting hole is a must birdie.

#### HOLE 2: 520 ft. - Par 4

The first of many difficult drives. An elevated tee-pad with a tight mandatory tree gap makes the tee shot requirement much harder. A low straight drive through the trees that finishes hard right is required on this dogleg right. A flat rim driver with a lot of skip is preferred here.

The approach is long and into a heavily wooded green sloping away toward a creek. The preferred gap is 45 feet left of the green, finishing right, and the disc will filter down to the basket. Safe layup zone is at the peak of the fairway prior to the tree line.

#### HOLE 3: 460 ft. - Par 4

The third hole is routed through a thick tunnel of trees with OB on the left and a large creek on the right. A slow straight drive that pans right rewards you with another demanding approach shot through the right or left gap. A precision mid-range will allow an aggressive putt for birdie. The green is divided into three distinct sections. Large guardian trees protect the left and front sides and water protects the right. Par feels like birdie.

#### HOLE 4: 535 ft. - Par 4

A flat, open, straight hole requiring only a tee shot that avoids the prevailing headwinds. A deceptively lengthy hole due to the wind and uphill fairway makes disc selection difficult at times. The approach is to an open flat green where your goal is to leave yourself a tailwind putt. Tricky birdie.

#### HOLE 5: 270 ft. - Par 3

The fifth is the first Par 3 and it is a good one. It runs alongside a thick tree-line and creek on the left to a tucked away basket on a plateau back in the woods surrounded by water. The trick is avoiding the overhanging low branches and swinging massive right to left turning shot. The hole favors righthanded backhand players. Safe miss zone is straight or right.



Author Rodney Travis has a +2 handicap at the Marion Disc Golf Course

#### HOLE 6: 255 ft. - Par 3

The sixth is a straight, uphill Par 3 with a heavily guarded green and low ceiling. Two large guardian trees to either side of the basket require tee shots to thread between them for the best approach angle. A neutral mid or controllable fairway is the disc of choice for most here. Avoid drives left as multiple trees and low branches make saving par extremely difficult.

#### HOLE 7: 355 ft. - Par 3

A demanding Par 3 that looks intimidating from the elevated tee. A low, tight gap through multiple large trees requiring a precise straight drive with a gradual left fade. The green is then protected by a large creek to the right, behind and left of the basket, making this one of the most difficult birdies to get at MDGC. Easy par, difficult birdie.

#### HOLE 8: 395 ft. - Par 3

The number two handicap hole gets its bite from a combination of length, large trees and a deep creek along the left side. The drive requires a tight right to left shot around a mandatory tree. It must sneak through a cluster of large maple trees, too. The basket is tucked tightly against the creek with low overhanging branches and all shots left of the pin filter towards the creek. Par feels like birdie.

#### HOLE 9: 370 ft. - Par 3

Another long Par 3 completes the front side. This one is uphill and has tight OB on the left. The ideal landing zone is left of the basket on top of the hill as any shot right of the basket will be heavily tree guarded and on a steep downhill incline. Those with shorter arms will want to test the OB left to give the best angle for their second shot to save par. Very difficult birdie.

#### HOLE 10: 280 ft. - Par 3

Everyone's favorite Ace Run, the 10th presents a short downhill drive over a small OB creek with little else to interfere. Swirling winds and some tall trees right of the green are the only obstacles to consider when selecting your disc and line. Laying up short of the creek still provides a relatively close look at two on this must birdie.

#### HOLE 11: 575 ft. - Par 4

The elevated teeing area and relatively wide tunnel gap allow the drive to glide out long onto a wide, open fairway where finishing left or right doesn't change much for the followup. The approach will be a long, downhill shot that must deal with swirling winds, making disc selection difficult day by day. The goal is to approach the green giving yourself a tailwind putt for birdie.

#### HOLE 12: 330 ft. - Par 3

One of the more difficult holes to park, the uphill drive must be threaded between tons of guardian trees on each side of the basket. Iconic twin tower trees short of the basket block most shots coming from the right and provide a very small window. A thick row of skinny saplings guard the front left approach as well. The basket is perched atop a steep sloping green where a missed putt will send a disc rolling 50 feet away. Par is good here.

#### HOLE 13: 415 ft. - Par 4

This is the start of "Amen Corner" and MDGC's four signature holes. If the wind is right, this can be drivable off the tee. Normal players must choose between left and right gaps that split a creek and large cluster of trees in the middle of the fairway. OB right and left protects the fairway and demands a long straight tee shot. The approach requires an uphill controlled toss that swings around low-hanging branches and fights swirling winds to get close enough for birdie. Short hole that should be birdied, but requires three excellent shots.

#### HOLE 14: 310 ft. - Par 3

An intimidating Par 3 where your tee shot must carry over the pond if you want to park it. Shots left short or that clip trees early will be swallowed up by the hazard. Swirling winds over the pond can cause havoc off the tee. There are three lines to choose from, safe right around the levee which takes birdie out; straight through the gap between the trees; and the risky left-to-right shot out over the water. A birdie here is a stroke on the field.

#### HOLE 15: 360 ft. - Par 3

This daunting Par 3 is all carry over the water from the tee if you want to be close enough to birdie. The safe drive must still carry a large portion of the pond and land in a small fairway flanked by trees left, an OB road right, then land on a slope that leads down to water. The green is highly elevated and sits on a ridge with a steep dropoff on the front and back. Par is an excellent score.

#### HOLE 16: 370 ft. - Par 3

Probably the most fun tee shot on the course. This highly elevated tee and wide, open fairway allows the player to bomb his drive and watch it sail. The green is heavily guarded with multiple trees in front of the basket and OB long. A small gap directly in front of the basket is the aiming point from the tee as any other shot short of the tree line will be blocked by more trees. Birdie here gains a stroke on the field.

#### Hole 17: 365 ft. - Par 3

The last Par 3 on the course, this one requires the same shot shape as Hole 5 only longer. The 17th doesn't give you any breathing room left off the tee and shots wide right will drift OB. Tee shots ending left or short of the basket will face a heavily tree-guarded green with a very low ceiling. The ideal play is to be long and right of the basket with a clear opening. Par is an excellent score.

#### HOLE 18: 435 ft. - Par 4

This finisher can be a lion or lamb even in perfect conditions. The 18th is drivable from the tee, has a wide landing area to the left and has tight OB right and an OB creek in the center of the fairway 350 feet out. Optimal lay-up area is just short of the creek leaving a 100-foot approach. Only perfect wind conditions allow the longest throwers to hit the green in one. Club selection is made difficult on both shots due to the wind and bowl like nature of the hole. The green is wide open and only has wind to protect it. Easiest hole on the course, must birdie.

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MARION DISC GOLF COURSE JUST THROWN!

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