

Mickey Barker

Golf

The game of golf and Memphis are synonymous with one another. And when it comes to golf in Memphis, Mickey Barker's fingerprints have been and continue to be all over it.

Mickey joined the Memphis golf community in 2001 when he was named the General Manager and Head Pro at The Links at Galloway. Upon arrival at Galloway, Mickey dived into his role, immediately overseeing a \$3.5 million renovation to the course and clubhouse in 2001. Mickey remained in that role until 2014, and his work there was recognized by many across Memphis, so much so that he took on the position as the Administrator of Golf for the City of Memphis Parks Commission that includes seven public links courses. He remains in that role today — 11 years later.

It's over the last decade-plus that Memphis golf has benefited greatly from Mickey's passion and love of the game. Under Mickey's guidance, complete rebuilds were done at Fox Meadows (2017, 2018, 2022), Pine Hill (2023; \$9 million) and Audubon (2024; \$9 million). He also oversaw the opening of the \$2.5 million OP9 course, in collaboration with the Overton Park Conservancy, in 2022.

Outside of construction and renovations, Mickey's impact on the game of golf in Memphis has been immense. Only one year into his Administrator of Golf tenure, Mickey's vision to grow the game was realized when he implemented free greens fees for youth under 18 at all City of Memphis courses. In 2018, he, along with the Tennessee Golf Foundation, brought First Tee Tennessee/Memphis to the Links at Whitehaven. A year later, Mickey hired the Memphis Parks Commission's first Player Development Coordinator and implemented a Tournament Series. As a result, more than 1,500 tournament rounds of golf are played each year.

In 2020, Mickey's vision of golf growing in the city hit a major obstacle with the worldwide pandemic shutting down courses locally, nationally and around the world. Undaunted, Mickey worked diligently with the City of Memphis administration to keep the city's courses open.

Mickey, though, is not done spreading the game to others around Memphis. Up next — and underway — is bringing First Tee Tennessee/Memphis to Audubon and providing the organization a permanent home with a new clubhouse.

For his tremendous efforts, Mickey was named the 2022 Tennessee PGA Golf Professional of the Year. Among his many other honors are: 2015 West Tennessee Golf Professional of the Year, 2015 West Tennessee Bill Strausbaugh Award (contributions through mentoring) and 2016 Richard Eller Award (growth of the game). In 2019, Mickey was inducted in the Lipscomb University Athletics Hall of Fame.

Please welcome to the Hall of Fame, for golf — Mickey Barker.