

A golfer wearing a red polo shirt, khaki pants, and a blue cap is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a green tee box. The golfer is positioned on the right side of the frame, leaning forward with a golf club. The background is a lush golf course with a sand trap in the middle ground and a dense line of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is bright and scenic, typical of a high-quality golf course.

2021 Application

NGCOA National Course of the Year



September 9, 2020

New England Golf Course Owners Association
300 Arnold Palmer Blvd.
Norton, MA 02766

Dear New England Golf Course Owners Association:

Please accept our application for the 2021 National Course of the Year Award.

Spring Meadows Golf Course in Gray, ME is honored and humbled to be recognized for this prestigious award. This year, more than ever, we strived to continue to serve the public, our communities, and the game of golf in a year where an historic pandemic abruptly changed the landscape of the world. No one could have predicted this 'perfect storm' of uncertainty as we began to embark on our 21st season of play.

As an owner—and fan of the game—I was not only concerned for the future of golf at Spring Meadows but the game on a State and Regional level as well. We worked closely with other golf courses throughout Maine and New England to share information and discuss solutions upon re-openings in our respective areas.

Upon re-opening, golf was altered on several fronts; Spring Meadows Golf Course willingly adapted to State guidelines and regulations not only for the good of the game but also for public safety.

Despite numerous challenges, Spring Meadows Golf Course weathered the storm, maintaining its business model while adapting to change: we opened our doors to golfers of all skill-sets, genders, and age groups; exemplified the highest standards of the game of golf; served as ambassadors to the game of golf; and lobbied for the growth and economic development of the game.

Through proper social distancing, Spring Meadows continued to hold local business outings and host fundraisers for various local charities. A stated goal was to continue with our long-standing and popular weekly leagues, ranging from Women to Seniors.

Our staff was committed to promoting the game to our region's youth while maintaining one of the most beautiful New England courses. Our family-run golf facility, its staff, members, along with our valued guests, personify the definition of resiliency. Spring Meadows is proud of its exceptional course, our team's professionalism, the hospitality we present to our players, and overall contributions to golf and the people we serve. Our application shows the pride we take in preserving and promoting this fine sport.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Pollard
President and Owner
Spring Meadows Golf Course
Gray, ME



Spring Meadows Golf Course has always stayed true to its original confines; the course was built on family farm land and maintained its overall charm when architect Brad Booth laid plans for its transformation in the late 1990's.

Over the years, Spring Meadows has evolved from its humble beginnings when it opened nine holes to the public from October 1999 through the 2000 season, to a championship 18 hole golf course in 2001.

Spring Meadows quickly earned a reputation for being one of the best conditioned golf courses in Maine; within a few short years, Golf Digest described the course as “a venue worth the drive.”

The Spring Meadows Experience applies to giving golfers a unique and unforgettable round of golf, regardless of skill-set, gender, age or handicap.

Spring Meadows Course Rating of 69.3 and Slope of 120 for players with handicaps between 10-19 is inviting, challenging and forgiving with three par 5 holes, four par 3 holes and a wide variety of par 4 holes which require accuracy and creativity.

The par 71 course immediately begins with an elevated tee box overlooking a signature pond, that prompted the Portland Press Herald to write, “When you drive into the parking lot, you cannot wait to hit your first shot.” Truth be told, when you drive into the parking lot, you can actually see the layout of over a half-dozen holes.

Following that first shot, golfers are treated to a well-maintained course which is challenging, yet fair; fairways that are green and plush; undulating greens; scenic tree lines; ponds, brooks and bunkers; all surrounded by breathtaking views in a fun, relaxing and friendly environment.

Luke Gagne was hired as new groundskeeper in 2018 where today, the course plays firmer and faster from tee box to greens—all while maintaining its character and charm, making Spring Meadows one of the great golf destinations in New England.

For the last 15 years, Ben Morey has served as Spring Meadows PGA Head Professional where he upholds the standards, professionalism and rules of the game, continues to oversee the Pro Shop, governs tee times, regulates weekly league play, administers clinics and instructs lessons to anyone interested in the game.

Spring Meadows prides itself on its hospitality: its staff is friendly, helpful and insightful upon arrival. Tee times are spaced for a comfortable pace of play. Players are encouraged to uphold the standards and rules of the game; while the well-trained grounds crew manicure and uphold the overall condition of the course throughout the day.

“a venue worth the drive.”
-Golf Digest

“When you drive into the parking lot, you cannot wait to hit your first shot.”
-Portland Press Herald

Local businesses and charitable organizations continue to rely on the overall quality of Spring Meadows to host respective outings, all of whom are welcomed in the same manner as its regular members. Throughout the year, Spring Meadows hosts a number of leagues ranging from women to seniors, each with the intention of building camaraderie within the true spirit of competition.



Quality also comes in another form: value. Spring Meadows has never lost sight that it is a public course, therefore continues to provide it's customers a great value for their green fees dollars. That in turn, has led to thousands of repeat customers over the last two decades. Spring Meadows also offers a driving range, putting green, bar & lounge with inside/outside seating as well as a first-class banquet center.

Spring Meadows is conveniently located only 20 minutes from Portland, Maine and two hours from Boston, attracting golfers throughout New England. Twenty-one years after its opening, Spring Meadows remains family owned and family managed —and continues to treat its customers like family.



The Pollard Family has been synonymous with Spring Meadows Golf Course since its inception.

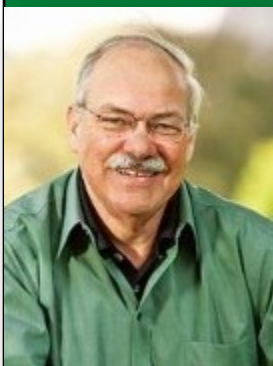
David Pollard, President and Owner of Spring Meadows Golf Course, has been instrumental in every facet of this course's success as a business and has been a terrific ambassador to the game for 20 years. His commitment and passion for golf resonates throughout his daily activities as a hands-on manager nine months out of the year.

His daily contributions range from warmly greeting customers upon arrival in Spring Meadows Pro Shop to lobbying on behalf of the game at the State Capitol in Augusta, Maine and at the Federal level in Washington, D.C.



Pollard instills confidence and trust in the people with whom he hires. They effectively run a successful golf course, including the Head Professional and Groundskeeper; Pollard understands their respective roles, contributions and positive impact they have at the course, allowing them to perform their jobs to their fullest capability.

Spring Meadows Ownership and Management remains fully invested in their community and surrounding areas by opening their course to local businesses and charitable outings. They regulate numerous weekly league events, including both women and seniors; hosts both Men's and Women's Maine State Golf Association events and serves as home course to Gray/New Gloucester High School's Golf Program.



Pollard continues to be heavily involved with various local golf associations and organizations: he currently serves as Vice President of New England Golf Course Owners Association and is a member of the National Golf Course Owners Association where he champions the growth and economic developments of the game.

It is not uncommon for Spring Meadows to book over 220 rounds of golf on a beautiful Maine summer day; Ownership and Management work long hours in unison to see to it that golfers go off on time, the pace of play is prompt, the course is well-maintained and customers are happy.

Pollard also serves as President of the Golf Maine Association, which is comprised of public golf courses seeking to attract out-of-state visitors interested in golfing in Maine, and is Director for the Maine Golf Hall of Fame.

The Spring Meadows Experience begins with exceptional ownership and management, they have a commitment and passion for the game that understands the needs of its customers.

Spring Meadows offers a unique playing experience at an affordable price at

one of the most well-maintained public golf courses in New England. The course personnel are active ambassadors for the game by upholding tradition and values and allowing golfers to play the game at a level comfortable to their skill-set.

Once again in 2020, Pollard's relationships with fellow golf course owners have led to some creative partnerships: "Maine's Golf Trifecta" is a lodging package that involves two other nearby golf courses, including one which serves as a resort with accommodations. This unique and all-inclusive destination 'stay-and-play' package offers golfers from all over New England—and beyond—lodging, golfing, food and more.

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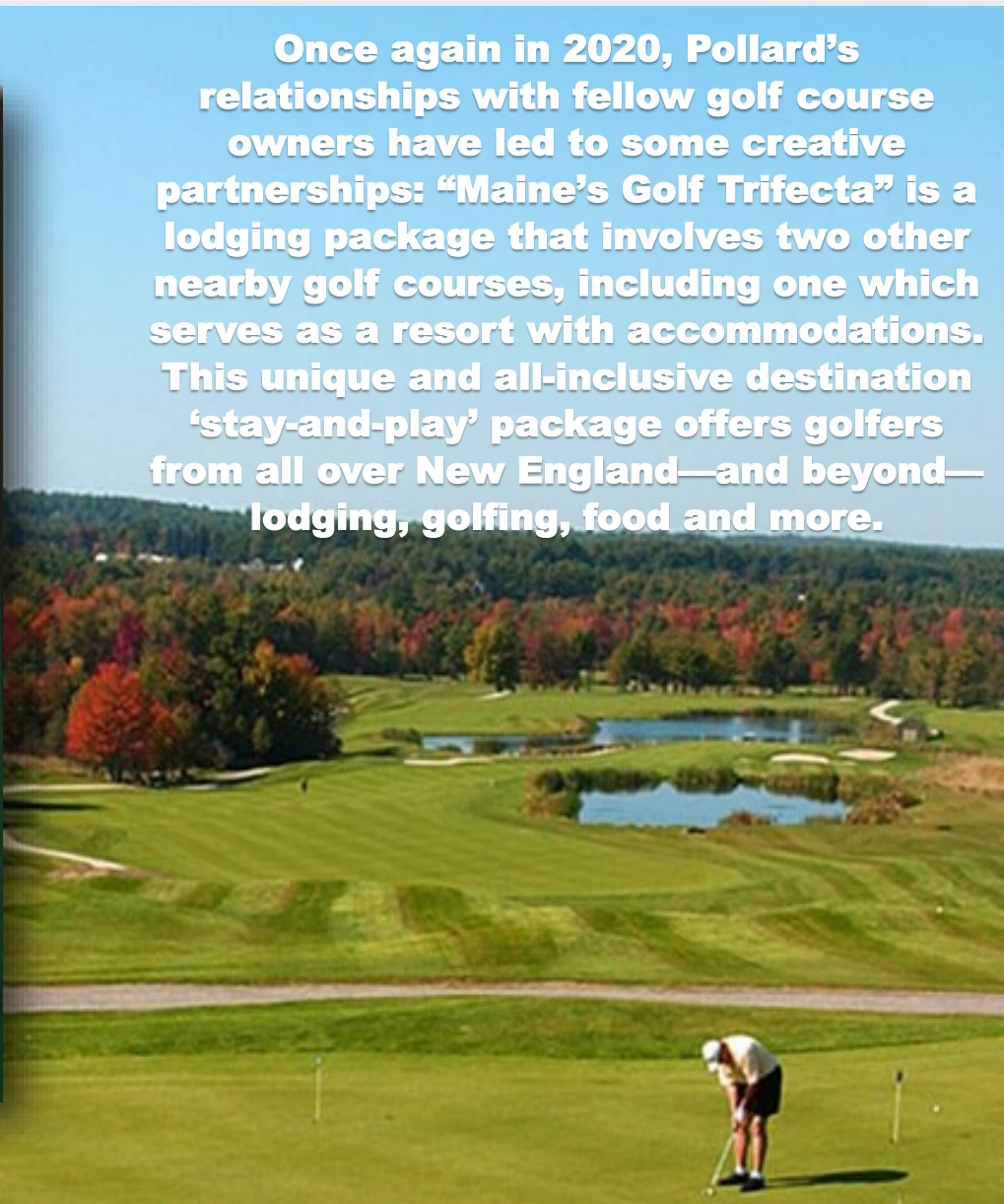
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Spring Meadows has remained fully invested within its community and surrounding areas for over 20 years.

David Pollard, who grew up in Gray, Maine, understands the relationship and special bond his public golf course has with local businesses, charities, schools, and the area's youth-not only in his hometown, but throughout Maine and New England.

Spring Meadows gives back to the community in numerous ways. The facility and staff are pleased to host local businesses, along with charities and their respective outings. The course is also well-known for holding fundraisers for local families affected by cancer. The staff also promotes the game to the area's youth and allows their hometown high school golf team to utilize their facilities as a home course.

No company is too small; each fundraiser is equally essential; each player is treated equally and seen as a long-term investment in golf. In 2019, Spring Meadows opened its course to local businesses to host their company outings, all of whom were treated to a well-maintained facility, staff professionalism, and the breathtaking scenery. The special day ends with a delicious meal at their banquet center.

The facility and staff are pleased to host local businesses, along with charities and their respective outings.

Spring Meadows reputation as a business-friendly golf course and its overall hospitality has attracted countless businesses throughout Central and Southern Maine for their outings or fundraisers.

These groups include the Associated General Contractors of Maine, Maine Guide Dogs, Maine Construction Financial Management, American Cancer Society, Peter Feeny Memorial, Atlantic Great Dane Trailers, Manufacturers of Maine, Maine Pharmacy along with the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad.

The Pollard family has always had a close relationship with Saint Joseph's College in neighboring Standish, Maine. Each year Spring Meadows Golf Course hosts the school's Annual Alumni &

Friends Golf Classic, which serves as one of the Athletic Department's largest fundraisers.

For the last ten years, Spring Meadows has hosted the annual Tee Up for Ta-Ta's Golf Tournament, which not only promotes awareness for breast cancer but also donates all proceeds to local families in need who are impacted by cancer.

The Tee Up for Ta-Ta's Tournament began in honor of Candace Forsley. The sister of Shipyard Brewing's owner Fred Forsley lost her life to cancer in 2008.



Fred, along with Peggy Pollard, Food and Beverage Manager of Spring Meadows, decided to organize the event to give back to those in need locally, while at the same time, celebrating Can-

dace's life.

Gray/New Gloucester High School has annually been the beneficiary of a charity tournament with proceeds going to its baseball and softball programs.

Spring Meadows also understands the importance of promoting the game and providing services to youth groups. The staff is pleased to host several youth clinics that not only teach the fundamentals but stresses the rules of the game and sportsmanship. Spring Meadows is also proud to serve as the home course for the hometown Gray/New Gloucester High School Golf Program, hosting daily practices and four home matches annually.

Each Fall, Spring Meadows offers golfers a special green fee rate in exchange for a donated canned food item for the local food bank.

Spring Meadows annual contributions to the local community has a tremendous and positive impact on those who rely on the course for its hospitality, playing conditions, and professionalism of the staff regardless of the occasion.

Reviews by patrons:

"Outstanding golf course."

"This is the best golf course I've ever played on..."

"Excellent design, play flows well."



Spring Meadows and the Pollard family's commitment to community goes beyond the game of golf, as the family renovated a rustic barn, which sits adjacent to the golf course. The Inn at Fogg Farm hosts events ranging from weddings, to reunions and business gatherings.



www.theinnatfoggfarm.com

Spring Meadows Estates



Over the last eight years, Spring Meadows transformed a portion of its property into an 18-unit residential development overlooking its course.

Throughout the entire project, the Pollard family contracted the construction to local businesses, who, in turn, employ dozens of local workers.



www.springmeadowsgolf.com



@springmeadowsgolf
@springmeadowsestates





Spring Meadows contribution to the game of golf began with the Pollard family's decision to transform their long-standing dairy farm into an 18-hole championship golf course in their hometown of Gray, Maine.

Twenty-one years later, Spring Meadows has provided numerous contributions to the game not only to its visiting players, members, businesses, and charities it hosts for outings but as an ambassador, promoting awareness, education, and growth of

the game.

Spring Meadows President and Owner David Pollard continues to work tirelessly as an officer with the New England Golf Course Owners Association. Pollard has proudly represented the game of golf at the Maine State Capitol Building floors in Augusta and Washington, D.C. Pollard works both behind-the-scenes

and along the front lines to push for legislation beneficial to golf by encouraging the economic impact a public golf course has within a community and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Spring Meadows continues to recognize and promote the PGA of America's 'Tee It Forward Pro-



gram,' allowing golfers to have more fun on the course and enhance their overall experience by playing from a set of tees best suited to their abilities.

As the facility prepared to embark on its 2020 season, Spring Meadows, along with every other golf course in Maine, faced the reality of possibly losing its entire season due to a historic pandemic. On March 15th, Maine Governor Janet Mills issued a Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency to Further Protect Health; basically, "non-essential businesses" were shut down until further notice.

David Pollard, who serves as President of Golf Maine, joined other course owners, managers, golf professionals along with other industry leaders from throughout the State in weekly zoom meetings hosted by the Maine State Golf Association. These meetings helped owners review, assess, and priori-

tize concerns for reopening Maine's golf courses during the COVID-19 crisis.

Pollard also serves as Director of the New England Golf Owners Association, where he participated in regular Zoom meetings to speak with fellow owners and lobbyists representing New England. These meetings shared Maine's efforts and concerns for reopening and working toward reopening courses throughout New England.

Maine Governor Mills would eventually announce the first phase of reopening the State, which included golf courses—with restrictions—and through collaborative efforts, Maine golf courses were allowed to open May 1st, 2020, with CDC guidelines in place. Spring Meadows and its staff were educated and became properly trained to closely follow CDC guidelines outlined by the State of Maine upon its reopening. Spring Meadows quickly adapted to policies, including social distancing, ranging from checking-in; on-course play; to serving food and beverages.

Club PGA Professional Ben Morey conducted his daily duties while overseeing league play, which remains a staple at Spring Meadows. The Monday Night Scramble; Senior League, Men's League, and Women's League all continued play with proper modifications to reflect the State of Maine guidelines.

In July, Spring Meadows Golf Course was asked to participate in the Sebago Lakes Chamber of Commerce's 'Keep the Sebago Lakes Region Healthy' program —part of a State-funded initiative for Covid-19 awareness. Spring Meadows was chosen as one of several local businesses within the ten town sector served by the chamber highlighted through the following Public Service Announcement, airing on cable TV throughout the region.

To watch the Public Service Announcement featuring Dave Pollard and Spring Meadows, copy and paste into your browser:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CbZMdju-yGk8fPaGlrwPHt_gHEKSG7p9/view

Through a collective effort of working with other representatives from golf courses throughout New England, adapting to change, and following guidelines, Spring Meadows Golf Course and its entire staff are incredibly proud of their efforts to contribute to the game of golf during an unprecedented time.

