



“Bear Lakes is a **premier destination** for golf in Florida. When Love Golf Design is finished with their work, we will offer two distinguished courses crafted by two well-respected golf brands synonymous with the rich tradition of the sport we revere and love to play.”

—CHARLIE ZACHARIAS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT BEAR LAKES



EXECUTIVE GOLFER OCTOBER 2024

Loving the **Links & Lakes** Combo

Bear Lakes Country Club—located minutes from every imaginable amenity in Palm Beach.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: As Bear Lakes Country Club celebrates its ruby anniversary (40th), the private facility is looking to the future to solidify its position as one of the best in a saturated South Florida golf market. After a reimagined clubhouse, renovation of its Lakes Course, and a complete reconstruction of what is now the largest Trackman solution practice facility in the country, the next phase in its evolution is a monumental redesign of its Links Course with Davis Love III at the helm.

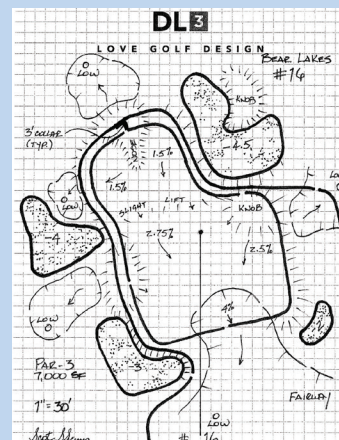
“There is a distinct advantage as a golf course architect to spend time driving a bulldozer. You quickly understand the dynamics of the land,” said Davis Love III, 21-time PGA TOUR winner and member of the World Pro Golf Hall of Fame. “If all you do is visit a site and wave your hand around, it can become expensive quickly. Since the lakes surrounding Bear Lakes Country Club are controlled by local governments, there is a strict policy of ‘borrow and replace.’ We needed to maintain the total surface area of water to mitigate water runoff during frequent afternoon rains.

“A redesign is different from a new build,” continued Davis. “On a redesign, you know the likes and dislikes of the membership right out of the gate. In some ways, you can be a hero if you make the correct decisions. It became clear during the first session with the Board at Bear Lakes that they loved the combo of choices with Links and Lakes designs to choose from. Although the

existing Links course isn’t quite a full reflection of a Scottish links course, its interaction with the ocean and sea breezes can’t be discounted.

“Mr. Nicklaus [designer of the original Links Course] provided a great palette to work with. My goal is to reduce the repetitiveness of holes so your eye gravitates toward the fairway corridors. Once our work is finished, we will define Florida links-style golf. Not every hole will provide a simple route to the pin, but I don’t believe you should have every approach shot well-guarded.” ■

For more information, please visit [BearLakes.org](https://www.BearLakes.org).



“The team at Love Golf Design honed in on the natural contours that exist on our property. Coupled with their skills, they are going to build a **legendary test of golf like no other** in our geographic region.”

—CHRIS HULL, COO & GENERAL MANAGER AT BEAR LAKES