

Private golf club in Berkeley County that got tax breaks aims for fall opening

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While the 2024 Masters winds up across the state line at **Augusta National Golf Club**, an exclusive members-only venue is moving toward a 2024 completion date in the Lowcountry.

Tyler J. Rae with Philadelphia-based **Tyler Rae Design** is at work on **Old Sawmill Golf Club** in the rural Lebanon community of Berkeley County, saying it's expected to open in the fall of this year.

Rae has designed or reworked a number of championship golf courses, including the **Detroit Golf Club**, home of the **PGA Tour's Rocket Mortgage Classic**, as well as **Lookout Mountain Club** in Georgia. The latter was ranked by **Golf Digest** as the restoration project of the year for 2023. He announced on **X** earlier this month that his architecture firm had officially landed the Old Sawmill job.

The private club will include two layouts — an 18-hole championship-length course and a nine-hole par 3 to be called **The Lumber Yard** — on 465 acres of former farmland.

The names pay homage to a sawmill that operated at the site in the early 1900s, according to the club's website, which promises "impeccable playing conditions" but contained little other information.

The investors behind the deal include **Daniel Island Club** CEO **Greg Keating**. They bought the tract off Cypress Campground Road under the name **CCGC LLC** for \$11.5 million in early 2023. The ownership group then changed its name to **Old Sawmill Golf Club LLC** in November, according to public land records.

The project raised some eyebrows last year when a tight-lipped **Berkeley County Council** approved for the club financial incentives that originally were designed to help recruit major industrial employers. The "special source revenue credit" will refund a portion of Old Sawmill's property tax bill, which elected officials agreed to cap at \$153,000 for 20 years.

In exchange, the club has promised to invest nearly \$30 million and create 69 full-time jobs. It also will allow the county to hold an annual charity event.

It's believed to be the first time that such property tax breaks have been approved in South Carolina for a golf club, private or public.