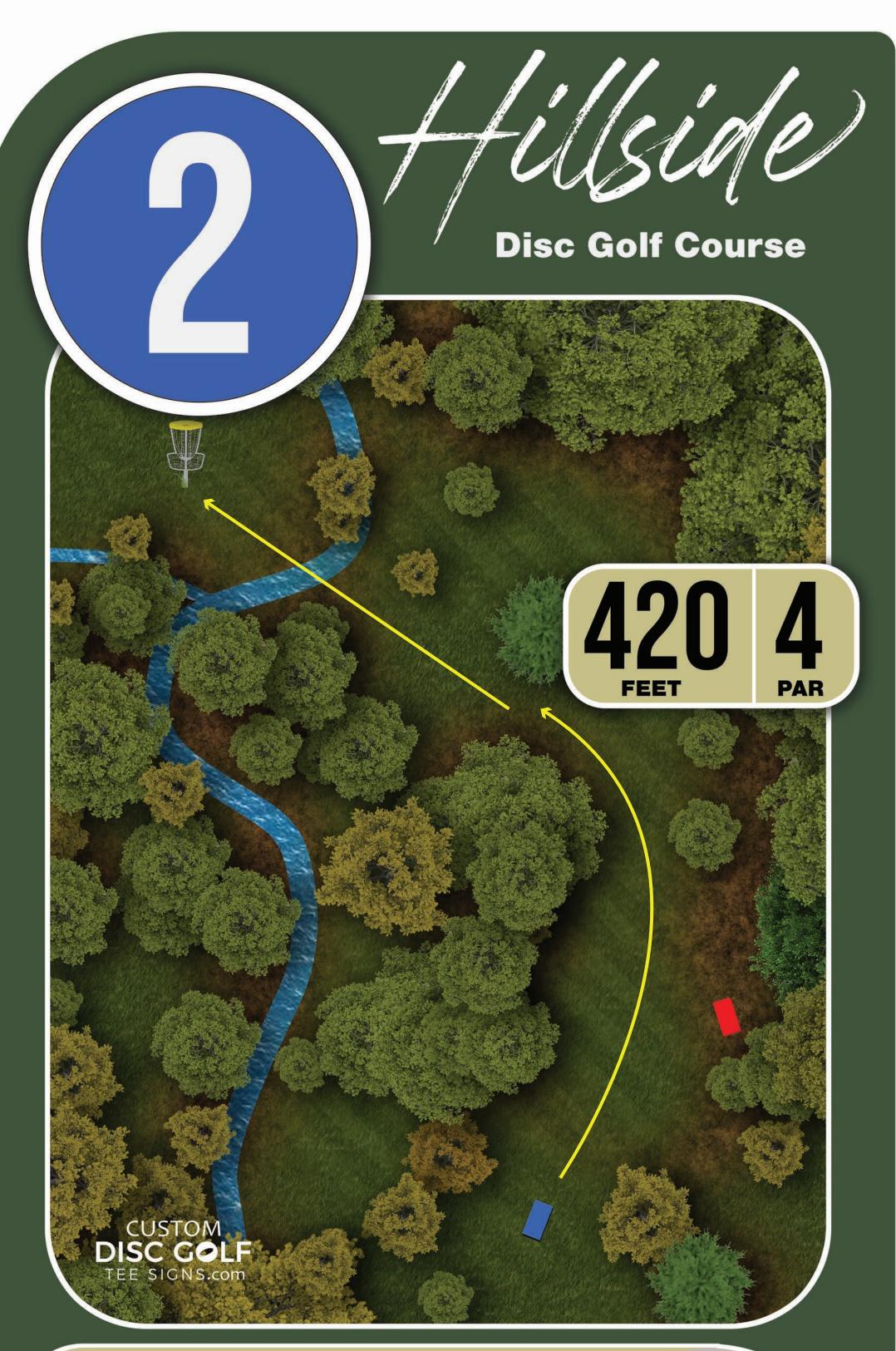


Blue Heron

Great Blue Herons in Louisiana primarily feed on fish, but they also consume amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals. They are often seen standing still in shallow water or slowly wading through the water, waiting for their prey to come within striking distance. When they spot a potential meal, they use their sharp beaks to catch and swallow it whole.

The Great Blue Heron is an iconic and important species in Louisiana's wetland ecosystem. They are admired for their beauty and grace and play a vital role in maintaining a healthy balance in their habitats.

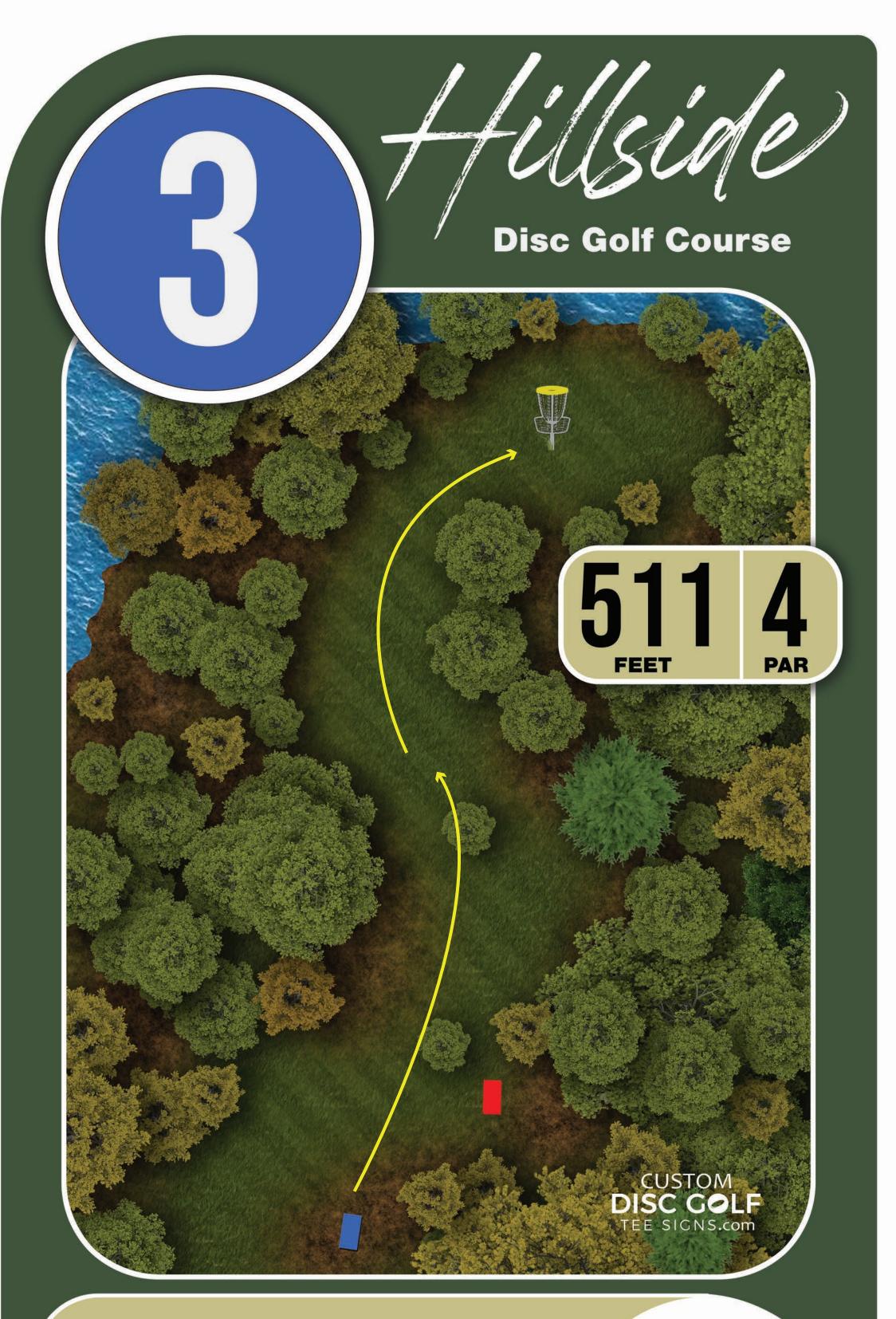




Wood Duck

The Wood Duck is a colorful and distinctive species of duck that is commonly found in Louisiana's wetlands, swamps, and wooded areas. These ducks are medium-sized, with males typically reaching around 20 inches in length and females slightly smaller. They have a unique appearance, with a colorful iridescent plumage, a white throat patch, and distinctive crested head feathers.





Cajun Chorus Frog

The Cajun chorus frog can reach sizes of up to 1-1/4". They have 3 broad dark stripes down their back and a white stripe along its upper lip. The frog is named in honor or M. J. "Jack" Fouquette of ASU – he was an expert in frog vocalizations. The cajun chorus frog can be found throughout Louisiana except for a small portion of northeastern and southern counties; typically found in open wetlands, flooded fields, etc.

The cajun chorus frog sounds like fingers running over a comb and can be heard February – April. In the winter, these frogs burrow into the ground and like wood frogs, they generate a type of antifreeze glycol to protect their organs.

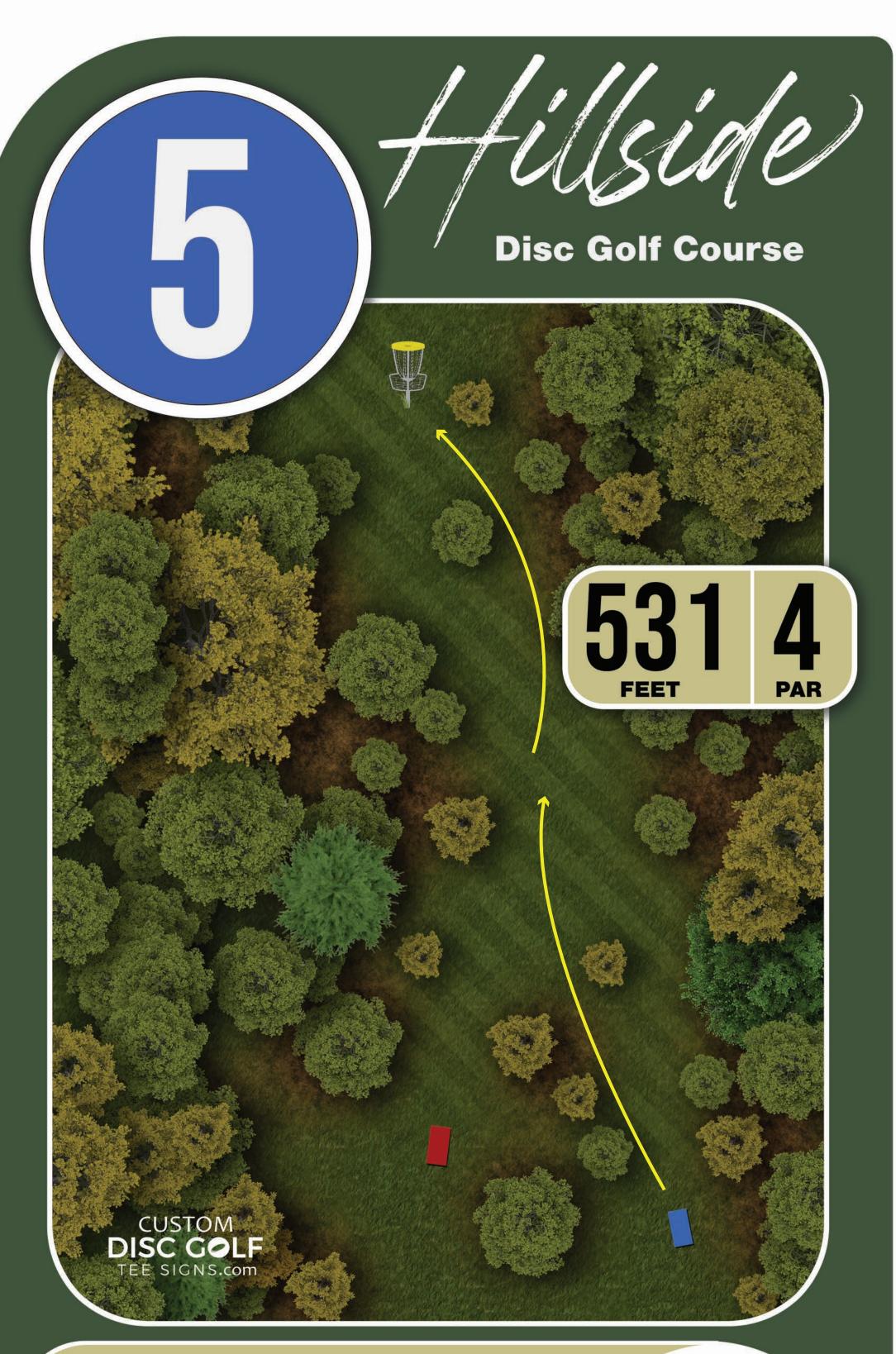




Pied billed grebe

Part bird, part submarine, the Pied-billed Grebe is common across much of North America. These small brown birds have unusually thick bills that turn silver and black in summer. These expert divers inhabit sluggish rivers, freshwater marshes, lakes, and estuaries. They use their chunky bills to kill and eat large crustaceans along with a great variety of fish, amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates. Rarely seen in flight and often hidden amid vegetation, Pied-billed Grebes announce their presence with loud, far-reaching calls.





Fox Squirrel

Fox squirrels are medium-sized tree squirrels with a long, furry tail. Fur color varies greatly in this species, from overall pale grey to black with white feet. The most common fur color is reddish-brown. Often the hairs are reddish tipped with brown, giving these squirrels a frosted look. The fur on their belly is always lighter in color.

Fox squirrels communicate many ways. They use a variety of sounds, including barks, chatters, distress screams, and high-pitched whines. They also communicate through behavior. For example, they will threaten one another by standing upright with their tail over their back and flicking it.

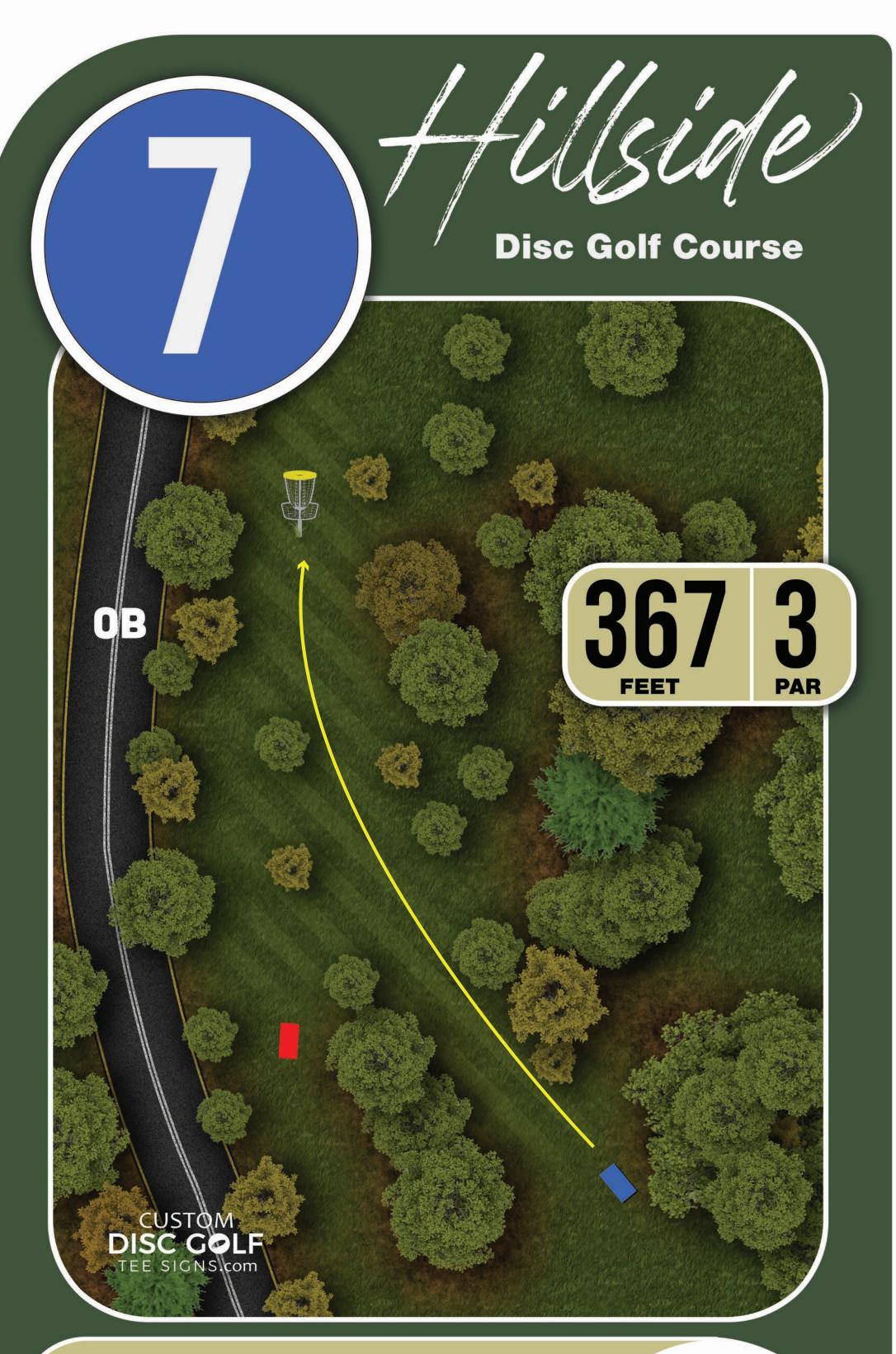




Black Vulture

With sooty black plumage, a bare black head, and neat white stars under the wingtips, Black Vultures are almost dapper. Whereas Turkey Vultures are lanky birds with teetering flight, Black Vultures are compact birds with broad wings, short tails, and powerful wingbeats. The two species often associate: the Black Vulture makes up for its poor sense of smell by following Turkey Vultures to carcasses. Highly social birds with fierce family loyalty, Black Vultures share food with relatives, feeding young for months after they've fledged.





Eastern Cottontail

Eastern cottontail rabbits—named for their short, cotton-ball-like tails—are the most common species of cottontail rabbits. These rabbits often live on the edges of fields, farms, and other open spaces far from highly populated areas. But sometimes they make their nests in yards and parks near more people.

When an eastern cottontail faces a predator—which include hawks, owls, foxes, snakes, and even dogs and cats—it uses its speed to keep it safe, sometimes hopping up to 18 miles an hour. All the zigging and zagging they do makes it harder for other animals to catch them.



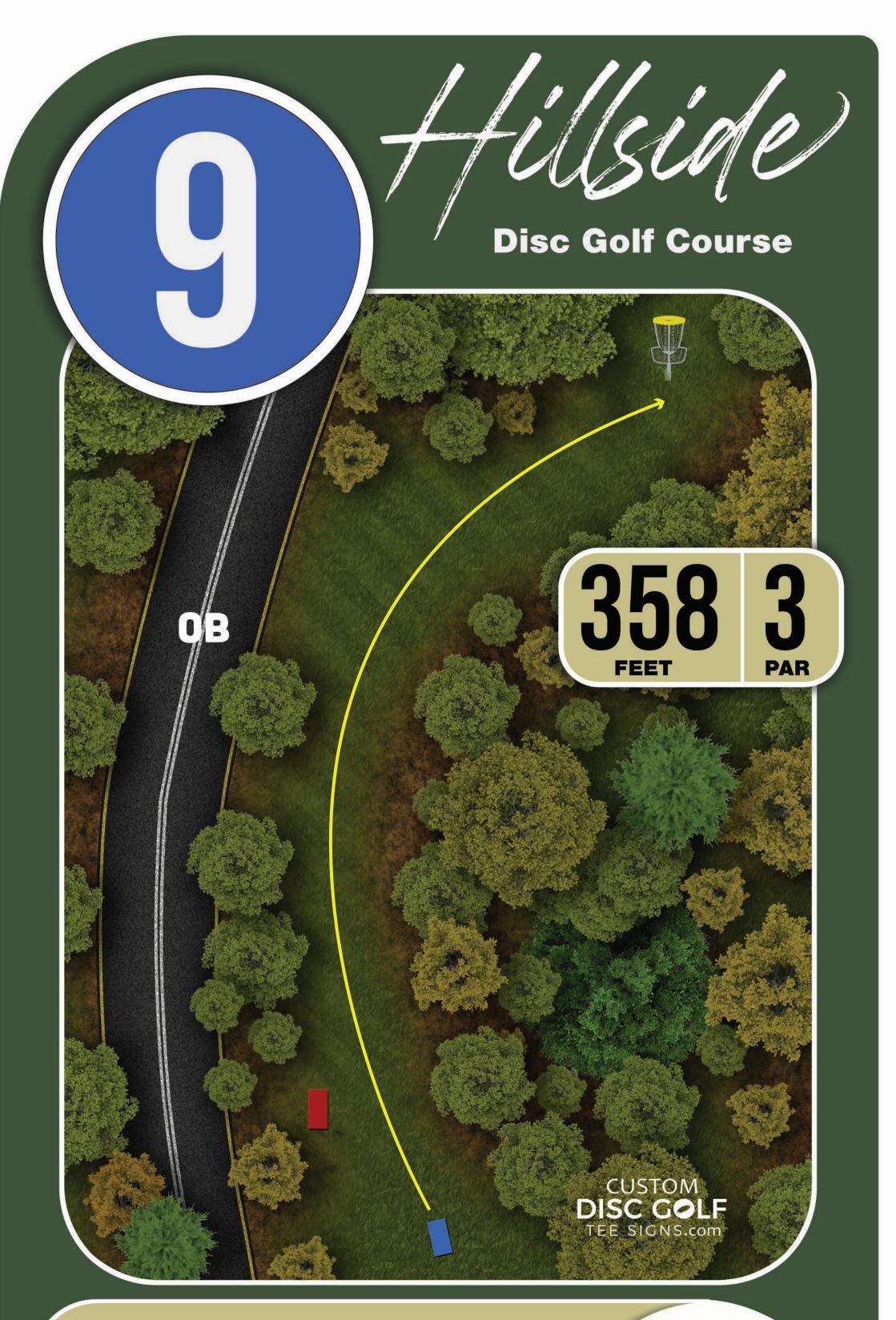


Barred Owl

According to the Louisiana Ornithological Society, barred owls are among the most common Louisiana owls in the Strigidae family. They're widely recognized for their brown and white striped plumage and distinct call that sounds as if the bird is asking "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?"

Barred owls are among the most beautiful species of owls in the Pelican State, and they're often described as cute because of their large and round brown eyes and fluffy faces. Unlike most owls, barred owls aren't fully nocturnal, which means they can be seen during the day.

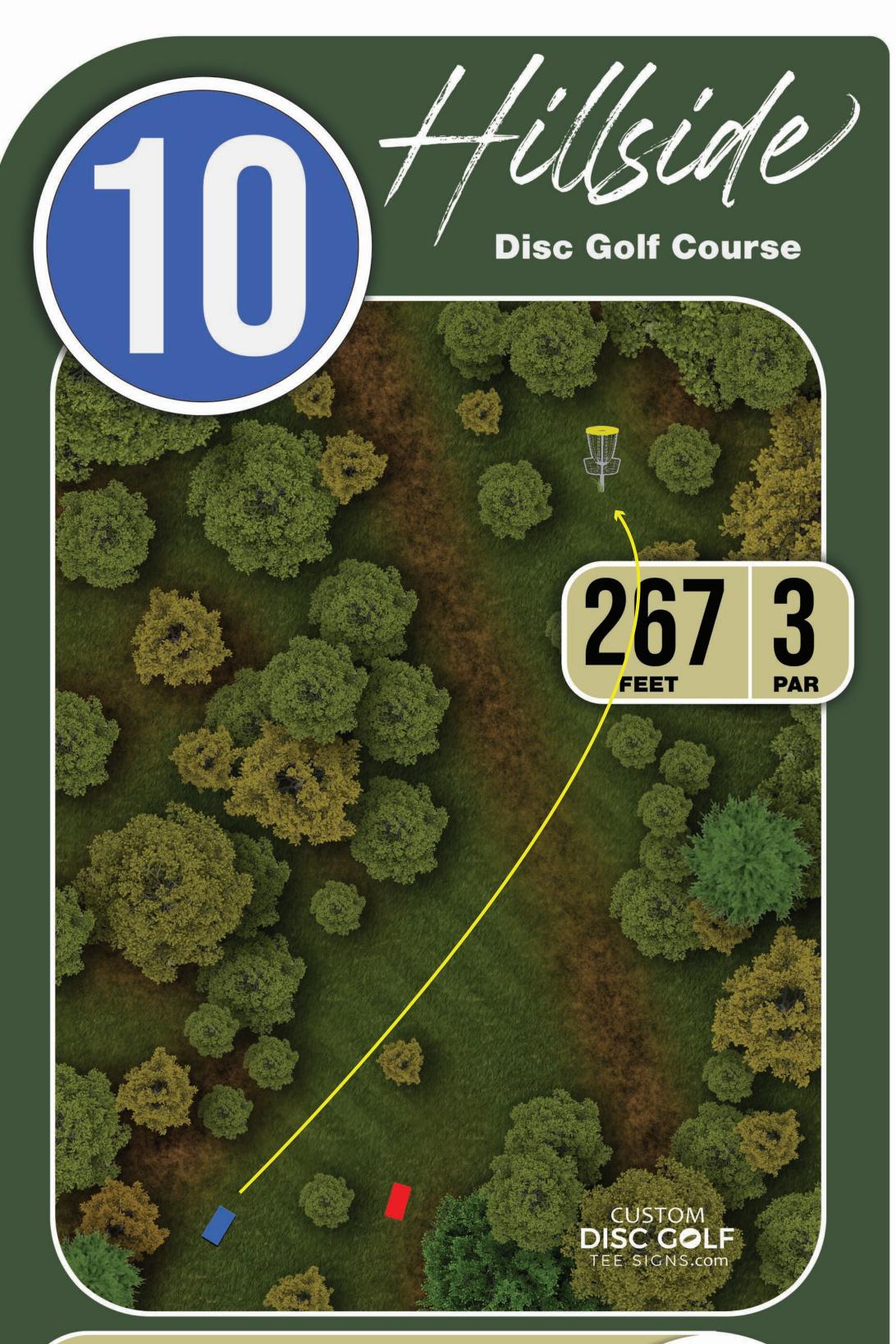




Evening Bat

The Evening Bat is a colonial species that is believed to migrate south in the fall. It builds substantial fat deposits in late summer and periodically falls into torpor in winter. Mating occurs in the fall. Females give birth in late May or early June to two or sometimes three pups. These pups are born pink and hairless with their eyes closed, yet are capable of flight within 20 days. The Evening Bat is a forest-dwelling species that roosts in tree crevices and behind loose bark, as well as in buildings. This species rarely enters caves but does participate in swarming activities at some cave entrances in late summer. They historically used tree hollows, but as forests have been cut, many have moved into wooden buildings.





Poison Ivy

Poison ivies can grow as small plants, shrubs, or climbing vines. They are commonly characterized by clusters of leaves, each containing three leaflets, hence the common expression "leaves of three, let it be". These leaves can vary between an elliptic to egg shape and will have either smooth, lobed, or toothed margins. Additionally, the leaf clusters are alternate on the stem. Clusters of small, greenish flowers bloom from May to July and produce white berries in the fall a few millimeters in diameter.

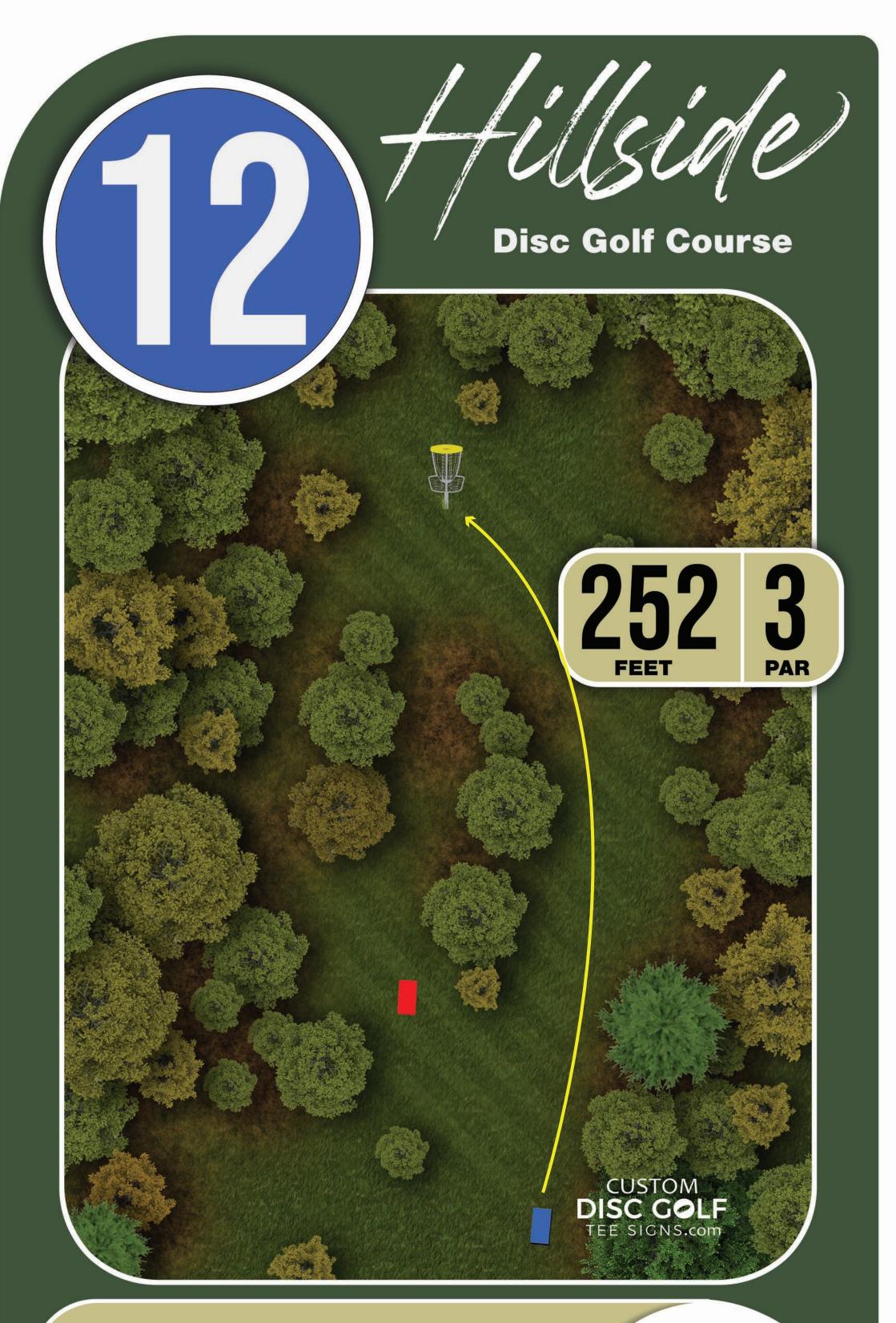




Killdeer

A shorebird you can see without going to the beach, Killdeer are graceful plovers common to lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, and parking lots. These tawny birds run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to check their progress, or to see if they've startled up any insect prey. Their voice, a far-carrying, excited kill-deer, is a common sound even after dark, often given in flight as the bird circles overhead on slender wings.





Long tailed Weasel

Small, long body with short legs and long tail. Brown upper and yellowish to yellowish white underneath. Chin is white. Tip of tail is black; tip is about 1/3 of tail length. Hair is moderately fine and relatively short. Found from southern Canada to Peru, throughout the United States and Mexico except for a small area in the southwestern region. Highly local in Louisiana. Usually found near water but lives in a wide variety of habitats including brushland and open areas such as woodlands, marshes, swamps, field edges, and riparian (riverbank) grasslands. Dens include burrows abandoned by other species, brush piles, hollow stumps, and tree roots.





Nine banded Armadillo

Armadillos are prolific diggers. They dig many burrows, as well as dig for food. The animal will not survive in areas where the soil is too hard to dig. Many other wildlife species use and benefit from abandoned armadillo burrows.

Although occasionally considered a nuisance by home owners, the armadillo's habit of digging up lawns is driven by its appetite for grubs, which can also harm lawns.

The armadillo eats insects and other invertebrates. They are skilled at digging for grubs and occasionally eat berries and bird eggs.

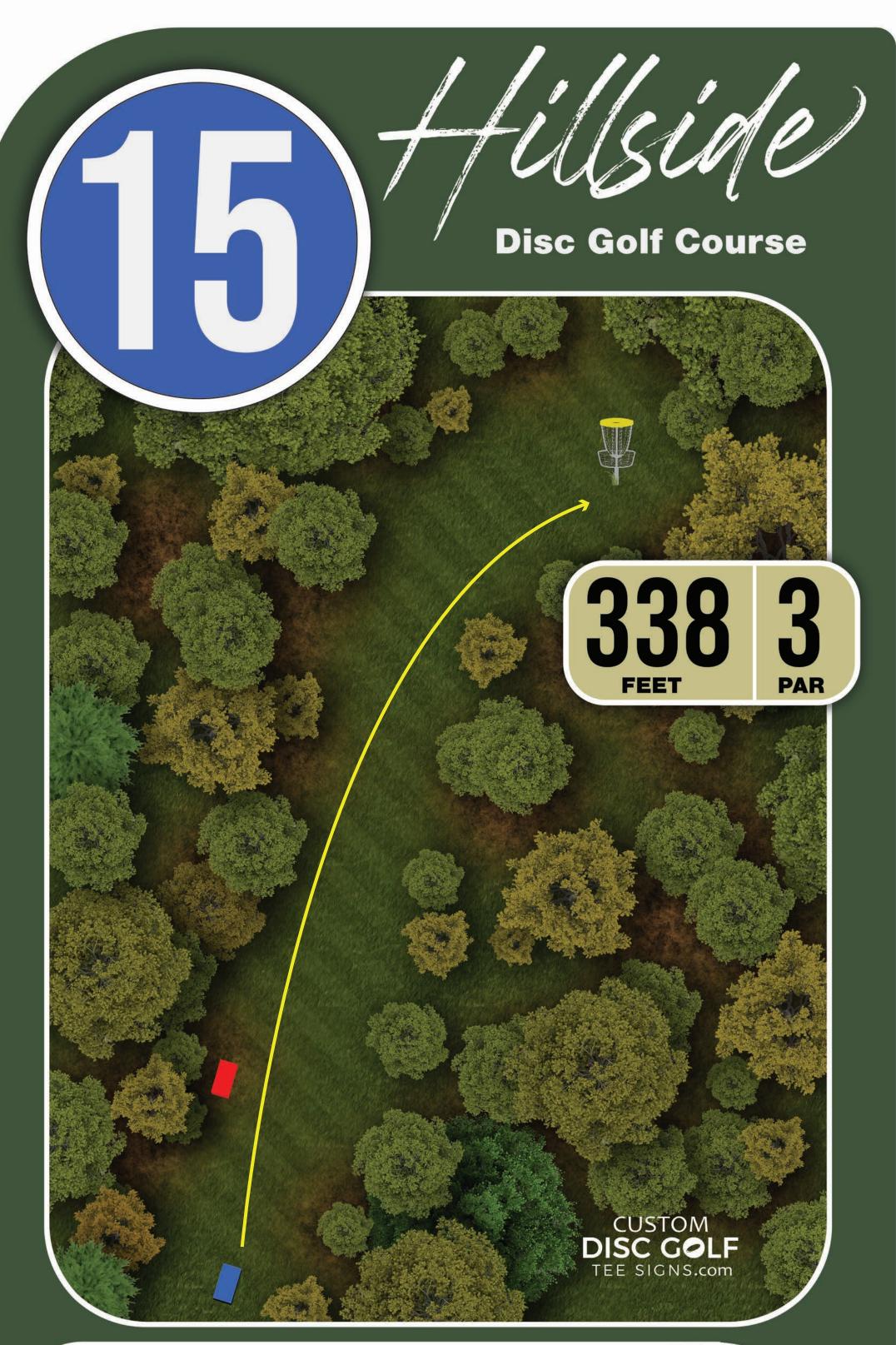




Brown Pelican

The Brown Pelican is a comically elegant bird with an oversized bill, sinuous neck, and big, dark body. Squadrons glide above the surf along southern and western coasts, rising and falling in a graceful echo of the waves. They feed by plunge-diving from high up, using the force of impact to stun small fish before scooping them up. They are fairly common today—an excellent example of a species' recovery from pesticide pollution that once placed them at the brink of extinction.

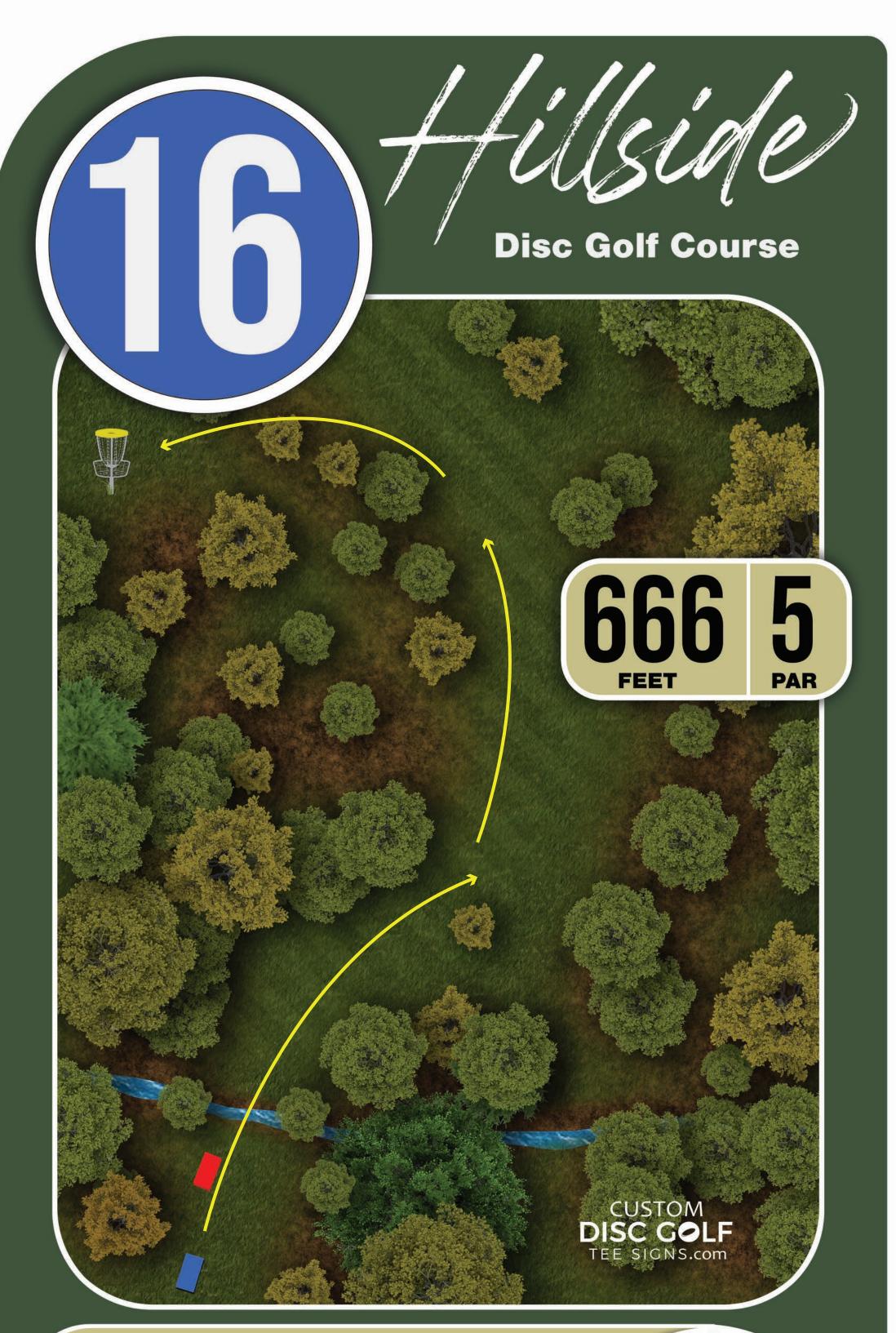




Northern Cardinal

The male Northern Cardinal is perhaps responsible for getting more people to open up a field guide than any other bird. They're a perfect combination of familiarity, conspicuousness, and style: a shade of red you can't take your eyes off. Even the brown females sport a sharp crest and warm red accents. Cardinals don't migrate and they don't molt into a dull plumage, so they're still breathtaking in winter's snowy backyards. In summer, their sweet whistles are one of the first sounds of the morning.



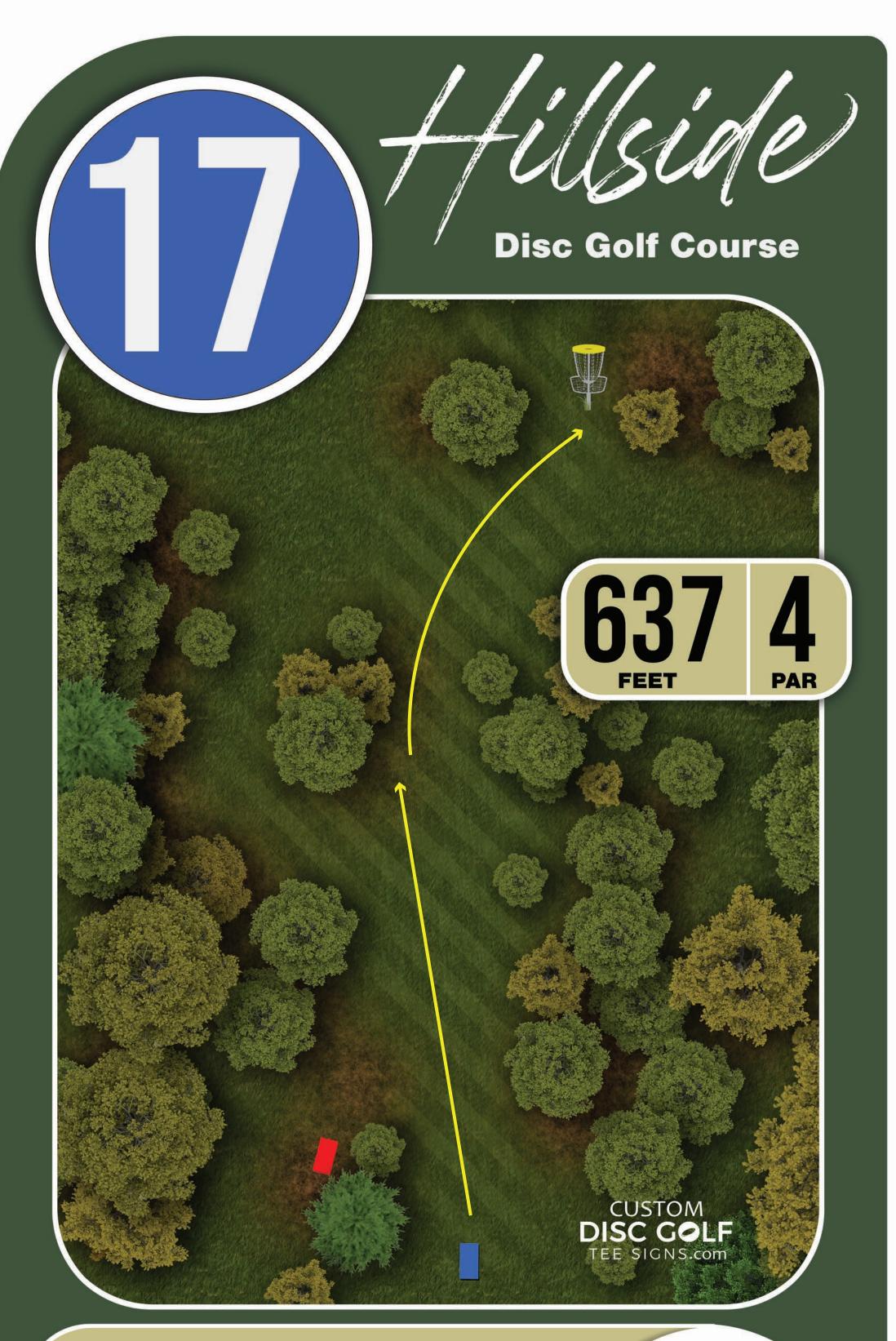


Black Widow

Black widow spiders are several species of arachnids in the genus Latrodectus that are known for the females' unique and striking appearance as well as their rumored tendency to eat their mates. They are the most venomous spiders in North America; however, their bite is rarely fatal to humans.

The females are the most distinctive, with shiny black bodies and a red hourglass-shaped marking on the underside of their round abdomen

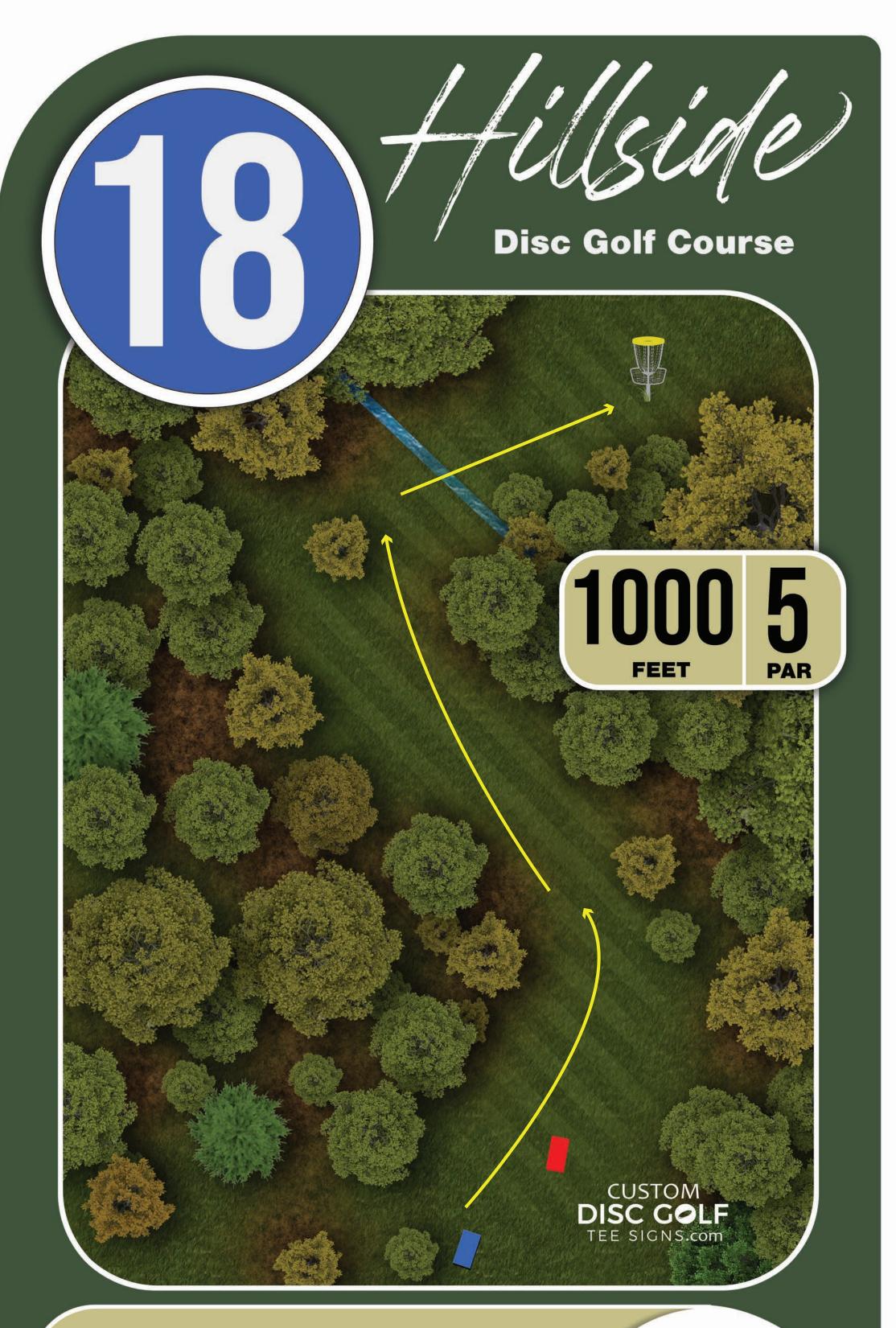




Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer than that. These regal birds aren't really bald, but their white-feathered heads gleam in contrast to their chocolate-brown body and wings. Look for them soaring in solitude, chasing other birds for their food, or gathering by the hundreds in winter. Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles have flourished under protection.





Bobcat

The bobcat, which is also known as the red lynx, or the bay lynx, is exclusively a North American wild cat. They are also the most common wild cat species in North America.

Other than feral cats, bobcats are likely the only feline predator with a breeding population within the state of Louisiana.

Biologists believe that both the bobcat and the Canada lynx are descendants of the Eurasian lynx whose ancestors crossed into North America via the Bearing Sea land bridge.

