Walker Course gets high marks

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The Walker Course at Clemson University has been selected as the best public course in the Upstate by the South Carolina Golf Course Ratings Panel.

The panel's "Best You Can Play" listing was announced at a ceremony held at The Surf Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach on Sunday.

Also the home course for the Clemson University men's golf team, the Walker Course was designed by D.J. DeVictor.

The course measures 6,911 yards from its "Tiger Tees" and 5,934 yards from the white tees.

The final four holes of the course run alongside Lake Hartwell. The landscape includes a one-of-a-kind design on the 17th hole, where the green and four sand bunkers form a tiger paw.

The Furman Golf Club was the only other Upstate course selected among the 31 state sites. Twenty-seven of the selected courses are located in the Grand Strand and Lowcountry regions. Harbour Town Golf Links on Hilton Head Island and the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island were recognized as the top two public courses in South Carolina.

According to the panel, the criteria used for judging the courses included routing, variety, strategy, equity, aesthetics and experience.

The "Best You Can Play" rating is issued bi-annually. The Walker Course first appeared on the list in 2007. The Furman course made its first appearance in 2009.