

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions

What is disc golf and how is it different from regular golf?

Disc golf is a flying-disc sport that works a lot like traditional golf, but with discs (similar to Frisbees) and metal baskets instead of balls and clubs.

Here’s a simple breakdown of what it is and how it differs from regular golf:

What disc golf is

- Players throw a disc from a designated tee area.
- The goal is to land the disc in a metal basket (the “hole”) in as few throws as possible.
- Courses typically have 9 or 18 holes, just like ball golf.
- You can play casually or competitively, and it’s usually free or very inexpensive once you have a few discs.

Key differences from regular golf

- Equipment: Disc golf uses flying discs instead of clubs and balls. Players often carry multiple discs (drivers, mid-ranges, putters), each designed for different types of throws.
- Targets: You aim for raised metal baskets with chains, not holes in the ground.
- Cost: Disc golf is much cheaper—courses are often free, and discs cost far less than clubs/greens fees.

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- Accessibility: Courses can be found in parks and forests, and the game is easy to learn for beginners.
- Pace and feel: Disc golf tends to be more relaxed, faster to play, and requires less physical space than traditional golf.

How popular is disc golf?

Disc golf is rapidly growing in popularity across the U.S. and globally. This trend has been documented through the increasing number of Professional Disc Golf Association members, as well as number of rounds played at local courses on the UDisc app.

Who is Northwest Disc Golf Association (NWDGA) and how are they involved in this project?

NWDGA is a Seattle-area based non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to working with cities, counties, and the state to build disc golf courses that are free and open to the public. Their goal is to make disc golf accessible to everyone by having courses close to where people live. Several members of NWDGA are local Fairwood residents.

NWDGA is partnering with King County Parks on this project through the Community Partnerships and Grants program (CPG). The CPG program works with community organizations to develop a wide range of projects on Parks property. Through this program King County contributes the use of land, and as available, may provide a small grant or funding for the project. Community partners contribute the other necessary resources. Partners often take on an element of maintenance and programming of the facility through a long-term agreement with Parks.

How was this project funded?

This project is a partnership between Northwest Disc Golf Association and King County Parks. King County Parks has committed a total of \$65,000 to the project to date, to cover direct project costs as well as granting funds to Northwest Disc Golf Association through the Community Partnership and Grants Program. The total project value exceeds the County contribution. The remainder of the project costs are covered by Northwest Disc Golf Association through external funding sources and in-kind contribution.

What permits does this project require?

This project will require a clearing and grading permit. The County is also required to apply for a floodplain development permit for this project to establish that no work will be happening in a floodplain.

Environmental Impact Questions

What environmental assessments have been conducted?

A Critical Areas Study was conducted to determine the feasibility of the proposed project with respect to potential impact to critical areas. The critical areas study focused on wetlands and streams within the proposed project area.

A certified arborist reviewed the course design and provided recommendations on basket placement to avoid any removal of live trees, and provided additional mitigation strategies against undesired soil compaction.

The course concept was discussed with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDFW provided additional mitigation recommendations for the course and confirmed that no additional permits were needed from WDFW for this project.

Will SEPA be issued for this project?

Yes, SEPA will be issued for this project in August 2026.

Once SEPA has been issued, Parks will email all project stakeholders to notify them of the public comment period, including individuals that have reached out via email, nearby HOAs, nearby schools, nearby organizations, and frequent park user groups. In addition, we will take all our normal measures of notification for SEPA such as publishing the notice in the paper, posting it on this site - [Public notices - King County, Washington](#), posting signs at Petrovitsky Park, and mailing notices to all addresses within a 500-foot buffer of the project site.

Will trees or vegetation be removed or altered for the course?

The goal of this type of backcountry course is to look and find natural fairways that reduce the need for tree and vegetation removal as much as possible.

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The only trees slated to be removed for this course are dead hazardous trees or snags that pose a safety risk to park users. The number of dead trees identified for removal is 6. The trees to be removed for safety reasons have been identified by a certified arborist. All other trees will be retained.

The total anticipated clearing of vegetation is 6560 sq ft, 3975 of this will be for fairway/pathway development, the remainder will be for teepad, signage, and basket installation. Some of this vegetation includes dense patches of Vine Maple (which can be considered a shrub or a small tree). Additional understory vegetation such as ferns or branches will be trimmed but not removed where needed to create clear fairways.

Are there plans to restore or maintain natural areas around the course?

Yes. In response to feedback from community on concern for environmental impact to the project area, Parks and NWDGA are planning to maintain and restore the wetland buffers. A split rail fence will be installed around the wetland buffers to prevent Park users from impacting these critical areas and their buffers. In addition to this NWDGA will work with Parks to remove invasive species in the buffers such as Himalayan blackberry, and plant native species.

What environmental impact mitigation measures are being taken?

- The course was designed to use natural clearings to the greatest extent possible.
- The course will be built entirely outside of the critical areas identified and their associated buffers.
- Signage and rules will be posted to encourage users to stay on established paths.
- If errant discs are lost in vegetation, users will be asked to leave them behind. NWDGA will be responsible for collecting lost discs in a careful manner once a month. This method will be implemented to mitigate additional impact to vegetation from park users seeking lost discs.
- Particular areas of concern may be roped off or otherwise marked to further prevent users from entering those areas.
- Markers and signage will be installed around wetland buffers to indicate where buffers are located.
- Frequent mulching of course pathways and around trees along course will occur to mitigate soil compaction.

Community Input Questions

How can I provide feedback on the course or project?

Feedback on the project and design can be sent directly via email to the Parks project manager for this project, Charlie Hohlbein at chohlbein@kingcounty.gov.

Although King County Parks and NWDGA are in the process of applying for permits, feedback on the design is still welcome and can be incorporated up until the point of construction.

In addition to directly reaching out to Charlie Hohlbein, Parks will be issuing SEPA for this project in August 2026. There will be a formal public comment period on the environmental checklist for this project at that time.

How was the survey on this project proposal distributed, and who was invited to respond?

The goal of this survey was to generate as much feedback as possible from as diverse a range of audiences as possible, including feedback from local residents and frequent users of Petrovitsky Park. To do that, King County Parks used the following outreach strategies:

- Survey responses collected both online and in person to ensure data from a diverse range of audiences.
- A toolkit to promote survey participation was shared with Northwest Disc Golf Association, eight frequent sports field user groups, three neighboring homeowner associations, and Councilmember Dunn's office, and flyers were distributed to two nearby schools, one faith organization, and one community club, to increase awareness of survey through various stakeholder channels. In addition to this, we worked with Department of Local Services in addition to King County Parks' existing community contacts to reach as many local organizations as possible.
- King County Parks staff conducted 15 hours of in-person surveying at the park over four weeks, conducting the surveying on varying days and hours, to reach and receive feedback from people visiting the park at different hours of the day.
- Lawn signs and flyers with a QR code to complete the survey were posted throughout the park to reach and receive feedback from people visiting the park frequently.
- King County Parks published Spanish language radio ads and multilingual social media ads focusing on people within five miles around the park to ensure data from a diverse range of audiences.

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- All promotional materials were available in the top four languages spoken in the neighborhood: English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese to ensure accessibility of information and survey.

What were the survey questions?

1. King County Parks is considering building a new backcountry style disc golf course at Petrovitsky Park. If King County Parks were to build a new backcountry style disc golf course at Petrovitsky Park, I would...
Strongly support
Support
Somewhat support
Neither support nor oppose
Somewhat oppose
Oppose
Strongly oppose
2. Anything else you want to share regarding your response to question 1?
3. How often do you visit Petrovitsky Park?
Daily
Weekly
Monthly
A few times a year
Never
4. What is your main reason for visiting Petrovitsky Park?
Using the fields for organized sports or recreation
Walking or rolling
Taking children to the playground
Group outing (family, friends, school, faith group, community group, etc.)
Walking the dog
Having a picnic
Something else:
5. How did you hear about this survey?
From a sports or recreation organization

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Promotion by King County

From community (faith group, school, community organization, family, friends, etc.)

A sign or flyer

Somewhere else:

Demographic questions (All of which were non-required questions):

I live, work, play, or gather within about a 20 minute walk or 5 minute drive from Petrovitsky Park.

Yes

No

The zip code where I spend the most time is:

The language I speak most often at home is:

Spanish

Vietnamese

Russian

Somali

Chinese

Korean

Ukrainian

Amharic

Punjabi

English

Something else:

My racial/ethnic identity is:

Alaska Native

First Nation/American Indian/Indigenous

Asian, Asian American, or South Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino/a or Chicano/a

Middle Eastern/North African

Pacific Islander/Pasifika

White/European American

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Multiracial

I identify as:

I have a diagnosis or disability that influences my learning, working, or living activities.

Yes

No

My yearly household income is:

Less than \$30,000 \$30,000-\$49,999

\$50,000-\$76,999

\$77,000-\$99,999

\$100,000 and above

My gender identity is:

Woman

Man

Non-binary

I identify as:

My sexual identity is:

Asexual

Bisexual

Gay

Heterosexual

Lesbian

Queer

I identify as:

Maintenance and Course Safety

Who is responsible for course maintenance?

The course will be maintained through a partnership between King County Parks and Northwest Disc Golf Association. Parks will continue to maintain the space to current Parks/County standards, which includes taking care of trash and vandalism repair. Maintenance of course amenities such as new trails/fairways, baskets, tee pads, and signage will be the responsibility of Northwest Disc Golf Association.

How will conflicts between disc golfers and other trail users (families, pets, joggers) be minimized?

User conflict will be mitigated by signage, course safety rules communicated with disc golf users, and strategic course design. The course has been designed in a way that fairways do not cross the existing pathway used by families, pets, and joggers. A buffer zone has also been implemented in the design of the course between bordering properties and course baskets and the trail system and course baskets.

Will tournaments or events restrict public access to the woods?

No, tournaments will not restrict public access to the existing trail system.

Parking Questions

How will traffic and parking demand be addressed if the course attracts more players?

Parking will be addressed both through strategic scheduling of the course for off-peak parking hours and through an over-flow parking area. Disc golf users will be encouraged during scheduled events that could increase traffic congestion to use the school parking lot across the street. Parks has negotiated an agreement with the school for overflow parking access for such events.

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Bordering Property Questions

Will new neighborhood access points be opened?

No.

Will a buffer be maintained between the course and the bordering properties?

Yes, a minimum buffer of 50ft is maintained from the property line. In most areas this buffer is closer to 100 feet.

Will buffer zones of vegetation be maintained, or will trees/shrubs be cleared near property lines?

No trees or shrubs will be cleared near the property lines. No vegetation will be cleared in the 50ft+ buffer from the property line and the course features.

How will the county weigh input from bordering households compared to general community support?

As Petrovitsky Park is a public park, King County Parks will look for feedback from groups that represent a diverse array of various stakeholders that use the park, including but not limited to bordering households, community members that live within walking distance or a short drive away, regular park user groups, etc.

King County Parks will specifically look to bordering households as key stakeholders in providing feedback and input on course design. For equity purposes, Parks will also look to community members that live within walking distance or a short drive away and regular park user groups to provide feedback.