

Frequently Asked 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.
- **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 was the survey 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:

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- 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.
- 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 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.

In addition to this 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.

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 trees to be removed for safety reasons have been identified by a certified arborist. All other trees will be retained.

Approximately 3975 sq ft of vegetation will need to be cleared for fairways. Some of this vegetation includes dense patches of Vine Maple (which can be considered a shrub or a small tree). Additional understory vegetation will be trimmed but not removed where needed to create clear fairways.

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 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.

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 will 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.

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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 exceed's the County contribution. The remainder of the project costs are covered by Northwest Disc Golf Association through external funding sources and in-kind contribution.