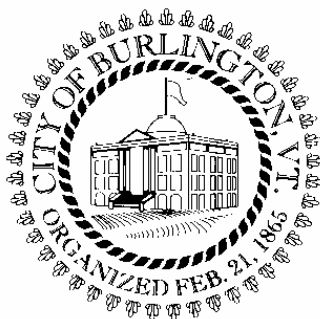



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Bob Kiss, Mayor 

RE: Disc Golf at Leddy Park

DATE: May 18, 2009

CC: Wayne Gross, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Burlington City Council

I know the Commission is in the process of reviewing a proposal to establish a disc golf course at Leddy Park. I've toured the proposed fairway course several times, heard testimony from the May public forum held recently by the Commission, and I've talked about disc golf with Wayne Gross and others. After a false start, I appreciate the efforts of the Commission and the Department to invite public testimony and to have an open discussion of this proposal.

During the mayoral campaign the issue of disc golf at Leddy Park was discussed. Faced with a request for a yes or no answer regarding disc golf I was clear then that my position was "no." As the discussion has moved along it's become clearer to me that disc golf is not an appropriate activity for Leddy Park in the areas where it's proposed and I recommend against it.

Open space at Leddy Park--in this case the woods in question--isn't wasted space. Pathways in place through the woods are a different type of resource already in use. The absence of activity in an area like this is often what recommends it. I'm convinced that the unused portions of the woods are a key factor in support of public testimony that identifies the presence at Leddy of Pileated Woodpeckers, and other flora and fauna that people highly value. It's clear that Burlington residents use the Leddy Woods for recreation and disc golf carved out of the woods is likely to be an intrusion on this use.

Saying no to disc golf at Leddy Park doesn't mean that it can't occur somewhere in the city. I don't have a recommendation for an alternate site nor is it essential that one be found. As a City we should encourage opportunities for recreation and exercise whenever appropriate.