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[Mike August](#)

Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: New Point,
Virginia

 **Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** 
#769452 - 12/04/07 08:15 AM



With all the recent talk about disc wings and discs that can be thrown faster and longer, I began to wonder how many courses out there are on property that is used solely for disc golf.

For me, I won't design or build a course unless it is understood that this is to be the case. In our neck of the woods, we have one course that the rangers will keep others from using if they stray into it, but you have to call them out there to remove the people. At other times, they close the course for parking space for a large event (I did not build this course).

On the other hand, we also have a course where the land is not used for any other purpose, with the exception of the occasional history buff who wants to see Civil War earthworks out by Hole #15! We are blessed with a staff and administration that supports and enforces this.

The golf-only situation should be the standard, but I suspect it is the exception. How many golf-only public facilities do you know of? This is going to become more of an issue as discs get faster and more dangerous to be hit by.

From a safety and liability standpoint, it makes no sense at all to install a course where others will be using the same exact space from time to time. Additionally, if a fee is charged for the use of the course, there should not be

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any others using the same space for free.

[DavidSauls](#)



Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: Stoney Hill
Disc Golf Course

Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf [Re: [Mike August](#)]

#769480 - 12/04/07 09:01 AM

This would be ideal but, if we held to this standard, we'd have far fewer courses.

I've played a number of courses in state parks which were essentially in disc-golf-only areas. I've played many others configured where non-disc-golf usage was light, and tolerable. On the other hand, my local courses have heavy non-disc-golf activity near, and sometimes in, the fairways. (If we told the parks department we *need* an exclusive area, they'd probably tell us that they don't *need* disc golf at all!)

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[johnrock](#)

Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: The Rock
Yard Amarillo,
Texas

Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf [Re: [DavidSauls](#)]

#769488 - 12/04/07 09:17 AM

Maybe there is a way to designate on the course directory if a course has to share space with other property users? That way, travelers can choose more easily which course suits their wishes.

The game was easy until they added the wind!

Post Extras:

[Mike August](#)

Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: New Point,
Virginia

Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf [Re: [DavidSauls](#)]

#769500 - 12/04/07 09:41 AM

Nonetheless, I think it is a standard that we are going to have to adopt.

I have never understood the "more courses is better" mindset. So many awful courses have been built solely for the sake of having a course. I understand that there was a time when any offer to put in a course was taken, but I feel we are past that point in our growth. We now need to be more selective. I feel that the sport would be greatly advanced by having better quality courses than a high quantity of courses. High quality courses will impress those outside of the disc golf community and perhaps lead to a course installation. If they only see low quality courses, then they are not likely to take the sport seriously.

I like the idea of a note on the directory page for a course indicating whether or not the course shares space with other uses. I also like the idea of tightening

up the course design standards to require a golf-only space. I think it's time we take that plunge.

All that being said, I find myself less and less interested in building public courses unless they are golf-only areas. I think private courses provide the opportunity for growth in this sport with regard to course design evolution.

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[21730](#)



Reged: 01/16/04
Loc: Rocky Mount,
VA

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [Mike August](#)]

#769550 - 12/04/07 10:54 AM

Johnson St. park in High Point, NC comes to mind.

The course just put in in my neck-of-the-woods has to share space with [these](#) folks. How many other courses can claim such diversity?

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[DavidSauls](#)



Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: Stoney Hill
Disc Golf Course

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [Mike August](#)]

#769576 - 12/04/07 11:23 AM

Mike, I think "more courses is better" depends on where you are. I'm in a place with plenty of courses, and agree that we should have higher standards for any new courses. But if I lived with no courses within an hour's drive, I'd be more willing to compromise.

There might be a point that a disc golf course in a multi-use park exposes the sport to more non-players who might give it a try. I've even seen a few pitch-&-putt courses installed next to schools; lots of drawbacks but it does introduce the sport to the next generation.

As a private course owner, I hope you're right about that part. We certainly have no backups, never have to ask the general public to move, don't risk injuring anyone but ourselves, and don't have to lock our cars.

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[johnrock](#)

Reged: 11/03/03

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [21730](#)]

#769579 - 12/04/07 11:24 AM

Yard Amarillo,
Texas

Do you have to keep it between the fences on one hole? 😊

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The game was easy until they added the wind!


[Mike August](#)

Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: New Point,
Virginia

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [DavidSauls](#)]


#769597 - 12/04/07 11:37 AM

I don't have any problem with a pitch and putt next to a school; I see the value in that. But that's an exceptional situation. It's the public parks I'm more concerned with. We don't need any more disc golf courses in public parks where golfers are expected to encounter people aimlessly walking through a fairway with no knowledge of disc golf. That just does not work for me especially if I'm paying for the right to play there. I also think it portrays the sport as something not to be taken seriously.

I can't think of any other sports that allow people to walk through the playing area during the game. No ball golf course would allow it; nor should we.

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[DavidSauls](#)


Reged: 11/03/03
Loc: Stoney Hill
Disc Golf Course

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [Mike August](#)]

#769691 - 12/04/07 01:34 PM

True enough.

On the other hand, had this standard been applied in the past, I can think of some great courses and great events I would have never played. We host the Earlewood Classic, popular enough to have filled (90) in 4 days this year, on a course where we'll never get permission to keep the public out, even during our event. I just returned from the Charleston Classic, a great event on a fabulous temporary course, where nevertheless there were many instances of players having to stop and ask pedestrians to move (or, in my case, one homeless sleeper in the middle of the fairway). It was still better than not having the course at all.

Nonetheless, I agree with your premise, and for many areas, your notion that we don't need more courses as much as we need better ones. It should be a design standard to separate disc golf from other activities as much as possible, and a tournament standard to have exclusive use of the property during the tournament---if at all possible.

In the meantime, support your local private course, a step in the right direction.

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www.saulsinsurance.com/stoneyhill

[Steve West](#)

Reged: 12/03/03

 **Re: Courses on property set aside solely for disc golf** [Re: [DavidSauls](#)]

#769815 - 12/04/07 08:07 PM

It may not be a matter of choice. One of my governmental-type clients has this rule on the books:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in any potentially dangerous games involving thrown or propelled objects such as baseballs, horseshoes or similar objects, except in areas specifically designated for such use."

Which I see as a positive. While it doesn't mention disc golf specifically, it does practically force the client to designate an area specifically for disc golf.

Note, it is not against this rule for non-players to go into designated areas (like baseball fields). But, the practical effect is that no one sets up their picnic blanket in the outfield grass.

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Now, how do you make a disc golf course as obvious as a horseshoe pit?