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Olympia Disc Golf Facility Assessment



City of
OLYMPIA

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Acknowledgments

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I. Purpose of the Study:

During the past couple of years, Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation (OPARD) staff and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) have received numerous requests to create a Disc Golf park in Olympia. In 2005, a group of disc golf enthusiasts known as the South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association presented a formal proposal to PRAC requesting a portion of newly acquired park land in southeast Olympia be developed into an 18 hole disc golf course.

In response to the association's proposal City Council requested that OPARD staff include in their 2006 work plan a disc golf facility assessment providing them with needed information on the practicality and feasibility of a public disc golf course. The intended outcome of the resulting document will be to provide recommendations on whether or not to pursue some sort of disc golf facility and/or programming; and, options on how if at all to proceed.

Currently there is no mention of a disc golf facility or program in the Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This planning document sets the priorities of where available funds are spent for recreation facilities and programs. Olympia had a similar situation in the mid 1990's when the interest for a public skateboarding facility gained momentum ahead of any established standard in the plan. Outside of the work effort on this assessment there are no funds in the city's capital or operating budgets dedicated to disc golf facility development or programming. The plan's next scheduled update is in 2007.

II. Study Process:

The following steps were designed into the facility assessment to ensure sufficient/relevant information was gathered for evaluation; and, that there has been adequate public involvement in the assessment process.

Information Gathering:

- Conducted a public meeting on July 24th to educate and learn more about disc golf. Brainstorm in small groups focused on the following:
 - Need/Priority:
 - Funding/Coordination
 - Location Viability
 - Design Considerations
 - Development Cost Estimates
- Interviews with other jurisdictions that have either disc golf facilities and/or programs.
- Internet and phone research on facilities, costs issues and participation.

Information Analysis and Summarization: Using information from the public meeting, the City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, information from other jurisdictions and internet research staff developed informative document with recommendations.

Document Review and Presentation: The review of this document will be scheduled as an agenda item with the relevant governing bodies.

- PRAC Review with public comment accepted
- City Council Review with public comment accepted

III. What is Disc Golf?

Disc golf is played like traditional golf, but players throw a flying disc, or Frisbee, instead of a ball. The sport, which was first played formally in the early 1970's, shares with "ball golf" the goal of completing a hole in the fewest number of strokes-or throws.

The game starts by throwing a disc toward an elevated target, called a Pole Hole. The player progresses through the hole by throwing each consecutive shot from the spot where the previous throw landed. Terrain changes provide challenging obstacles for the golfer. At the finish, the "putt" lands in the target and the hole is complete. The differences between disc and ball golf is, disc golf rarely requires a greens fee, you don't get stuck with a bad "tee time", it is typically played in public parks, and people of all ages, male or female, can participate.



With a disc golf course accessible to the public, the sport of disc golf is easy to learn, convenient to play, and is an inexpensive recreational activity to enjoy. Unlike ball golf, the beginner will find some immediate success and enjoyment in the game. The sport can and is enjoyed by all ages and skill levels. Because the format of play is less formal and tee times are not scheduled; play is convenient and accessible.



Individuals with busy work and/or family schedules have the flexibility to play around other commitments. The only piece of equipment needed by a participant is the throwing disc.

Depending on one's skill level and interest; throwing disc's range in price from \$7 to \$15. A participant needs at least one disc to play the sport but as in ball golf there are a wide variety of disc sizes, weights, and designs to consider. The more skilled a player gets the more apt they are to use a variety of throwing discs.

IV. Who plays Disc Golf and why?

A common method used by cities in Washington to measure need to justify the development of recreational facilities is the Inter-Agency for Outdoor Recreation Committee's (IAC) SCORP survey. This survey updated every 5 years measures participation levels in outdoor recreational activities in Washington. Neither the 2002 version, nor the survey to be conducted in 2007 has disc golf listed. Without the standard planning resources to measure need and establish priority the assessment can only project the value and/or benefit to the community of public access to disc golf.

Disc golf provides an avenue to life long fitness along with the mental and emotional benefits attributed to recreational activities. Much like traditional golf, the sport requires a fair amount of walking. Depending on the length of the course and type of terrain, a casual game of between 9 and 18 holes provides quality fitness benefits. Disc golf is both family and professionally oriented. It provides a safe and productive after-school and summertime alternative for youth. Like many other sports, disc golf helps teach the values of fair play, inspires players to excel by continually improving one's skills, and provides a great venue for family and friends recreate and interact.

A disc golf course in a public park provides another opportunity for a desired activity in a public place. Having people in a park or on a trail playing disc golf daily would likely decrease the opportunity for undesired behaviors or activities.

Depending on the size and scope of facility built there can be economic benefits realized. Disc golf enthusiasts will travel to play new and interesting courses. People coming to Olympia undoubtedly will spend money in Olympia. Depending on the course's size and design; tournament play could be a component of the courses operation. Large tournaments will draw a significant number of people who stay overnight for they event; again spending money in Olympia.



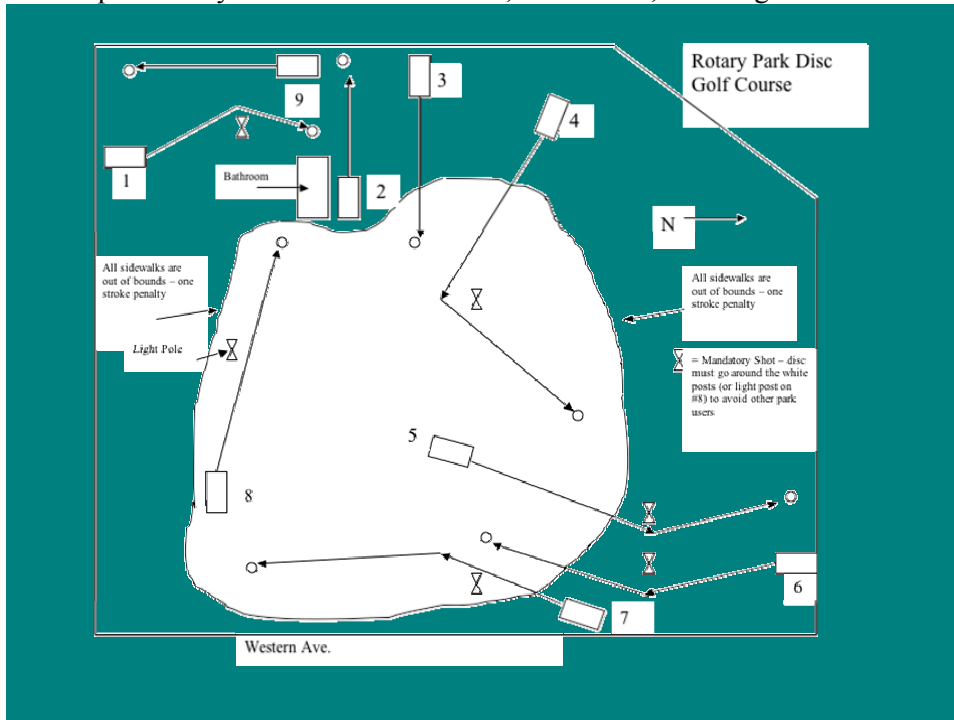
V. Where is Disc Golf played?

Current estimates project that there are over 1,300 disc golf courses in the United States; and that over 100 new courses are built worldwide each year. There are currently 29 disc golf courses in the state of Washington, and another 49 in Oregon (See listing chart on page 6). The closest facility to the Olympia area is about 25 miles away near Lakewood at Fort Steilacoom Park. A majority of the courses in Washington are on publicly owned land. Most of these courses have active participant interest groups that have partnered with the public entity.

<i>Washington</i>	<i>Oregon</i>
1. Fort Steilacoom Park, South Tacoma	1. Timber Linn, Albany
2. Riverside Park, Sumner	2. Central Oregon Com. College, Bend
3. Seatac Disc Golf Course, Seatac	3. Rooster Rock East & West, Columbia Gorge
4. White River, Auburn	4. Mingus Park, Coos Bay
5. Lakewood King County Park, Seattle	5. Benson State Park, Corbett
6. North Park, Seattle	6. Trout Creek, Corbett
7. Lake Fenwick Park, Kent	7. Adair Park, Corvallis
8. Juel Community Park, Redmond	8. Willamette Park
9. Lake Stevens Disc Golf Course, Lake Stevens	9. Willamette Pass Alpine DGC, Crescent Lake
10. Crystal Mtn DGC, Crystal Mtn	10. Dexter Park DGC, Dexter
11. NAD Park, Bremerton	11. Riverbend DGC at Milo McIver, Estacada
12. Bicentennial Park, Mountlake Terrace	12. Timber Park, Estacada
13. Terrace Creek Park, Mountlake Terrace	13. Westmoreland DGC, Eugene
14. Cornwall Park, Bellingham	14. McMenamins Grand Lodge, Forest Grove
15. Shady Oaks, North Bonneville	15. Sain Scoggins, Forest Grove
16. Columbia Park, Kennewick	16. Crow Road, Grants Pass
17. Thousand Trails, Leavenworth	17. Indian Mary Park, Grants Pass
18. Lake Retreat Campground, Ravensdale	18. Wolf Creek Park, Grants Pass
19. Dalaiwood Park, Olalla	19. Government Camp
20. Military Hill Park, Pullman	20. Portland Adventist Elem. School, Gresham
21. Sunnyside Park, Pullman	21. Rockwood Central Park, Gresham
22. Lake Retreat Campground, Ravensdale	22. Orchard Park, Hillsboro
23. Lucky Mud Disc Golf Course, Skamokawa	23. Crest Street Park, Klamath Falls
24. Downriver Disc Golf Course, Spokane	24. Camp Tadmor, Lebanon
25. Peace Bridge Disc Golf Course, Spokane	25. Juniper Hills, Madras
26. Stimpi Ridge Park, Spokane	26. Wortman Park, McMinnville
27. Miller Park, Fairchild Air Force Base	27. Holmes City Park, Medford
28. Fort Walla Walla Park, Walla Walla	28. Western Oregon University, Monmouth
29. Rotary Park Disc Golf Course, Wenatchee	29. Champoeg State Park, Newberg
	30. Ewing Young, Newberg
	31. Herbert Hoover Park, Newberg
	32. Ewing Young II, Newberg
	33. North Bend Park
	34. Mt Hood Ski Bowl, Government Camp
	35. Dabney State Park, Portland
	36. Tree Top DGC at Sorosis Park, The Dalles
	37. Camp Dakota, Scotts Mills
	38. Western Baptist College, Salem
	39. Riverfront Park, Roseburg
	40. Whistler's Bend, Roseburg
	41. Trojan Park, Rainier
	42. Rimrock DGC, Prineville
	43. Windsor Park, North Bend
	44. Philomath Middle School DGC, Philomath
	45. Pier Park, Portland
	46. Portland Lunchtime DGC, Portland
	47. Lake Selmac, Grants Pass
	48. Riverside Park, Grants Pass
	49. Pearce Park, Grants Pass

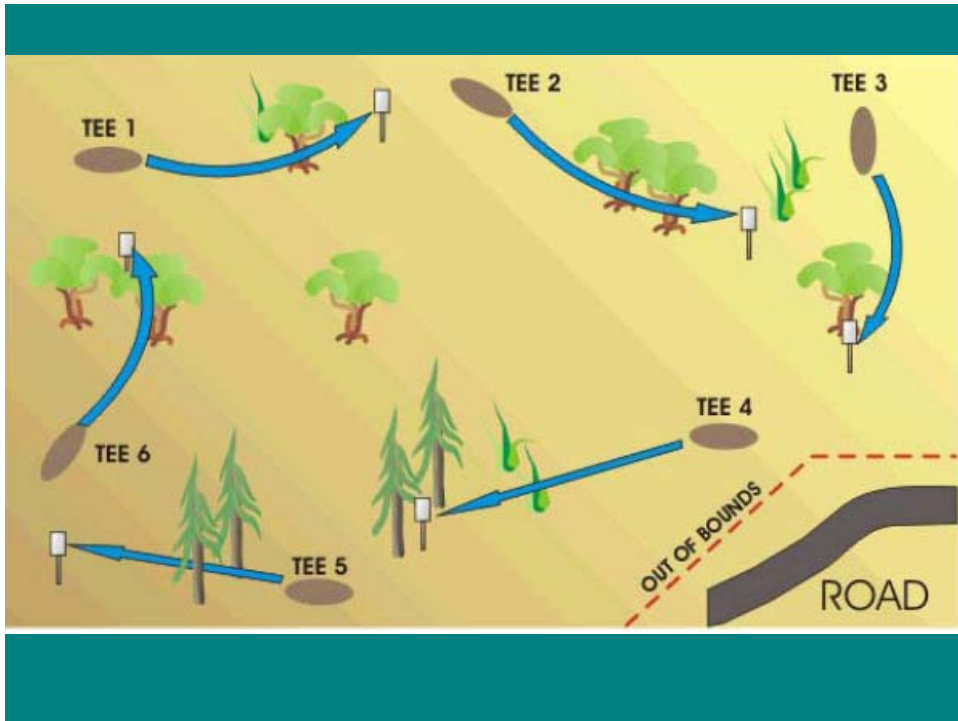
The City of Bellingham offers a 9 hole disc golf course in Cornwall Park. The small course was built in 1997 with the assistance of disc golf enthusiasts. The Bellingham Parks department estimates that the course averages 220 players per day. The City of Wenatchee recently completed the development of a 9 hole disc golf course in Rotary Park along the Wenatchee River. The course is designed into and a part of a walking/jogging trail. Wenatchee estimated an average of 60 players per day during the first year of operation.

Site Map of Rotary Park Disc Golf Course, Wenatchee, Washington



The sport of disc golf is relatively new and the nature of the game less structured than the more traditional game of ball golf. The variety of approaches to facilitate the need for a course of play is therefore considerable. The number of holes varies from 5, 9, 12, to 18. The 18 hole course in Fort Steilacoom has variations using optional tee locations that allow for 6 different courses of play. Typical permanent installations have 5, 9, 12, or 18 holes. There are also examples of 9 hole temporary courses being utilized.

Example of a 5 hole Temporary Disc Golf Course:



VI. How much do Disc Golf Courses cost?

Typically disc golf courses are designed to play the lay of the land. Fairways are not shaped or groomed to the level or extent of traditional ball golf; but rather utilize the existing conditions to create the challenge of the course. The ultimate cost for development is dictated by the specific site's existing conditions, land use requirements/regulations, the course's size, and proposed course layout. The following is a list of possible elements that may need to be incorporated in a course's development, affecting final project costs:

- Permitting processes
- Brush clearing
- Tree removal
- Tree and/or brush trimming
- Grading
- Seeding
- Irrigation
- Lighting
- Signage
- Cement tee pads
- Hole baskets



Example Tee Box, bench, & signage

Of the development elements listed above only signage, cement tee pads, and hole baskets have relatively predictable costs associated with them. Per hole, a typical installation of signage, tee pad, and basket can be assumed to cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Depending on the extent of remaining development elements required the cost estimate could increase an additional \$100 to \$15,000 per hole.

Estimated Cost for Development: \$1,600 to \$17,000 per hole

In the design of a disc golf course the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) suggests a standard of between 2 and 3 holes per acre of land depending on specific site conditions. This equates to between 3 and 4.5 acres for a 9 hole course, and 6 to 9 acres for an 18 hole course. Based on these standards and depending on the size of course being developed 3 to 9 acres would be required to accommodate disc golf. Current market values in the Olympia area dictate a cost range of \$80,000 to \$400,000 per acre.

Estimated Cost for Land: \$240,000 to \$3,600,000

To support a public disc golf facility infra-structure needs have to be addressed. If a course is being built on an undeveloped park site attention needs to be given to adequate parking, frontage improvements, and restroom facilities. Without specific sites to reference estimating a project cost even at a cursory level is not possible.

Estimated Cost for Infra-Structure Needs: Unknown



Friendly Grove Neighborhood Park Restroom & Parking

The ongoing operational investment to maintain the expected level of play for a disc golf course is dependant on the course size, terrain, natural features, and extent of support amenities. Typical courses are not groomed to the level of ball golf and do not require frequently mowed fairways. Assuming that the course uses the natural surrounding to create the course challenge, then maintenance would entail occasional or periodic trimming, clearing, mowing, and litter control. This type of commitment is similar to trail maintenance and projects to between \$ 400 to \$1200 per acre. For a nine hole course this equates to \$135 and \$600 per hole. If the course is built on an undeveloped park site and requires support facilities such as public restrooms and onsite parking the demand for resources to support ongoing operations and maintenance is much more significant. The current annual operational commitment at a typical neighborhood park in Olympia for restrooms and onsite parking is \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Estimated Annual Course Maintenance Cost: \$400 - \$1200 per hole

Estimated Annual Support Facilities Cost: \$10,000 - \$12,000

VII. Olympia's Public Meeting:

Disc golf has only been in formal existence thirty some years, and its initial popularity in the United States was on the east coast; making the gathering good information worthy of using in the assessment more challenging. Because the sport doesn't typically involve scheduled tee off times, or user fees; our ability to project community participation levels is limited as well. For these reasons, the public meeting became a vital component to the assessment process serving as a major conduit to information.

On July 24th, 2006 OPARD hosted a public meeting at the Olympia Center to kick off the Disc Golf Facility Assessment. The meeting was promoted by OPARD through public service announcements (PSAs) and received attention from the Olympian newspaper with



a feature article prior to the meeting. The South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association also promoted the meeting with a public introduction to disc golf event at the lawn area of Percival Landing in June of 2006; and by posting flyers at disc golf courses in the general vicinity of Olympia. A total of 36 individuals showed up and actively participated

in the meeting's informational gathering exercise. Meeting participants listed their place of residence plan as follows:

- Olympia 22
- Lacey 7
- Tumwater 2
- Other 7

The participants in the public meeting represented a wide spectrum of disc golf interests. Some expressed interest in an 18 hole professionally designed course that would draw people from outside the region. The attraction to this approach is that the facility would be challenging to everyone, and would bring tourist dollars to Olympia. Others in the meeting recognized the need to start somewhere and that a 9 or 12 hole course geared at the recreational level would be a good start. The attraction to this approach is that interest in the sport could grow with a facility available to the community. Ultimately interest and participation in disc golf in Olympia could grow to a point that warranted additional and/or larger courses.

The discussion at the public meeting on location included possible sites, how much land is needed, ideal terrain, and conducive natural environs. The group came up with a total of 37 possible sites in the surrounding area, of which 10 are within the Olympia urban growth boundary and under city ownership.

Other Jurisdictions

Site locations suggested in the public meeting outside Olympia's urban growth area far out number the potential sites that within our jurisdiction. Sites that may have potential include:

- St Martins College (pictured at right)
- The Evergreen State College
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Millersylvania State Park



- Lacey’s Wonderland Park and William Bush Park
- Tumwater’s Pioneer Park
- Thurston County’s Burfoot Park, and, undeveloped park sites one off Cooper Point Rd, one on the north side of Black Lake
- Port of Olympia’s Property south of the airport
- Olympia School District’s property adjacent to McLane Elementary School



South Puget Sound Community College

Input for the meeting participants focused on ways to approach development of a public disc golf facility that are both realistic and attainable. The group consensus was to develop a course on land already owned by a public entity. The South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association stated its intent to work in partnership with a public entity to develop and maintain a disc golf course.

OPARD Facilities

Of the 10 sites suggested at the public meeting 7 are properties are part of the City of Olympia park system. Later the document in (Olympia’s Approach) these sites are analyzed at a cursory level, they include:

- Mission Creek Property (undeveloped)
- Chamber Lake Property (undeveloped)
- Grass Lake Property (undeveloped, along sewer utility right of way)
- Friendly Grove Park (undeveloped wetland area)
- Priest Point Park (developed meadow area)
- LBA Park (developed jogging trail area)
- Yauger Park (nature trail area, and developed jogging trail area)

Other City Facilities

The City of Olympia has other land that may have potential for a disc golf facility which were not analyzed at cursory level for this assessment, they include:

- Old City Dump Site (undeveloped)
- Allison Springs Area (undeveloped)
- McAllister Springs (undeveloped)

VIII. Olympia's Approach:

Assessing the need for a disc golf facility in Olympia can only be done by projecting potential community value and benefit. Based on the information given at the public meeting, on the internet, and from phone conversations it is easy to conclude that a disc golf facility would provide some level of community recreational benefit. It is also easy to conclude that access to the sport will increase awareness and interest resulting in increasing levels of participation. As a side benefit, this higher level of active participation in our parks system would further promote desirable activities while diminishing the undesirable ones. Depending on the size and scope of the facility developed there could be economic benefits as well.

There a multitude of options to consider in the design of a disc golf facility. Fundamentally the most significant constraints facing any design option involves site limitations, and the projects total development and annual maintenance costs. These constraints influence the ultimate size and level of play of the facility. Being that our ability to assess real need for a disc golf facility is limited to a subjective approach of projecting community benefit; if an initial commitment of resources is made it should be small and measured.

Recognizing that disc golf isn't currently in the Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Comprehensive Plan the most cost effective and attainable approach to consider is developing a disc golf course at a developed park site already owned by the City of Olympia or by another public entity. Based on a recent phone survey of surrounding jurisdictions there are no disc golf facilities being contemplated. Issues to consider with sighting the course in an existing developed park center on impacts to the sites current designed use and natural surroundings. Public entities providing disc golf courses have found that continual and/or heavy usage on a course can result in damage to the natural environs.

Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course Tree Damage



Some examples: The City of Bellingham has discovered that over time the continual play on the course in Cornwall Park has damaged a number of trees along the fairways. Consideration is now being made to relocate some holes away from significant trees; or to relocate the entire facility to better suited area. The City of Chico, California inherited an 18 hole disc golf course with a recent land acquisition expanding Bidwell Regional park. Continual play over the years has stressed and in many cases destroyed a significant number of native oak trees. As well, heavy foot

traffic has created erosion problems that threaten the natural environs.

Throughout the research of disc golf facilities and programs on the internet staff found extensive coordination and involvement with local disc golf enthusiasts' was a consistent theme. Specific cities that were researched; Chico CA., Bellingham WA, Wenatchee WA, and Spokane WA all have had active associations involved from the beginning. For example, the City of Spokane working with a Spokane area disc golf association has developed 3 disc golf courses for public use. Now that the courses are built the association is responsible for performing ongoing course maintenance in coordination with the city; and is responsible for managing the course play.

The concept of partnering with a special interest group or association to provide public recreational opportunities is something Olympia has considerable experience and success with. Currently OPARD has working agreements providing public benefit with the Olympia Horseshoe Club, Olympia Area Rowing (OAR), and the Sand Man Foundation. Assuming the South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association is and remains a viable organization with an active membership level; OPARD is confident in partnering approach.

The Olympia community would realize public recreational benefits through access to disc golf. The nature of the sport is conducive to healthy activity for all ages and families at a very low cost. As a part of the 2007 Parks, Arts, and Recreation Comprehensive Plan update, staff should evaluate an appropriate inclusion of this activity into future park facility design. In the 2002 Plan, park land is defined and inventoried into four categories; neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, and open space network. Using the Plan's category definitions and information gathered through this assessment; the following is a cursory analysis of where disc golf fits in with respect to Olympia's park system:

Neighborhood Parks are a combination of playground and open areas designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size and serve an area of approximately one half to one-mile radius but serve all residents in the community. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for active and passive use, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, and art facilities. Neighborhood parks can serve an urban design as well as recreation function and are a core feature of neighborhood centers. Size ranges from 2 to 7 acres, with the optimum size being 4-5 acres.

Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course Tree Damage



Cursory Analysis

OPARD Staff conclude that there is little or no potential for incorporating a disc golf course in an existing or future neighborhood park. The optimum size of neighborhood parks 4-5 acres restricts the opportunity of including a disc golf course. Disc golf course standards suggest utilizing between 3 and 9 acres. As well, the service area for neighborhood parks is one half to one mile in radius providing this area with the functions of recreation, urban design, and core feature or neighborhood center. Introducing an ongoing community attraction such as disc golf would dilute these designed functions.

Community Parks are planned primarily to provide passive and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities also are encouraged. Community parks serve a large portion of the community. As a result, they require more in terms of support facilities such as parking, restrooms, covered play areas, art facilities, etc. Community parks may have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Size ranges from 15 to 50 acres, with the optimum size being 30-40 acres.

Cursory Analysis

OPARD staff sees potential in incorporating disc golf facilities into community parks. The optimum size for community parks (30-40 acres) would allow for a course without impacting other designed uses and functions. Future community park development provides the greatest potential or opportunity since the activity would be an element of the overall park design. The potential for incorporating a facility in one of Olympia's existing community parks is limited since functionality and features are already established.

- **LBA Park's** primary design function is organized field athletics. All of the park's available land is developed into functional use. Its current scheduled use is at capacity. The only potential area to consider would be to incorporate a disc golf course along the perimeter fitness trail. The concern here however is the trail's close proximity to both the property line and athletic fields.

L.B.A. Park Sign



- **Priest Point Park** is Olympia’s largest park with nearly (313 acres) and contains old growth forests as well as shoreline habitat. The park serves the region as a destination point for passive recreational enjoyment. In the 2002 Plan park inventory, Priest Point crosses functional lines by serving as an open space, neighborhood park, and community as well. Current park amenities include: picnic tables, picnic shelters, nature trails, playground, basketball court, rose garden, memorial garden, restrooms, and saltwater shoreline access.

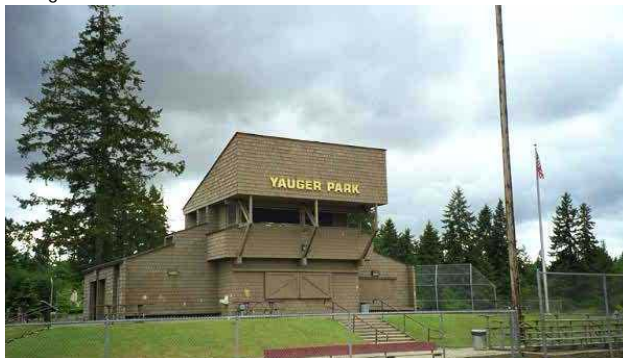
Priest Point Park Meadow



Although the park is abundant in acreage OPARD staff has concerns with incorporating a disc golf facility within any of the developed portions of the park. One concern is that a formal integration of the activity of disc golf would diminish the passive experience currently being enjoyed. Another concern is the predominance of significant native tree species and the concern of damage to these trees over time.

A majority of the park has been left undeveloped and serves as open space wildlife habitat. There may be portions within the undeveloped park that would be more conducive to a disc golf course. However, committing the needed resources to study this possibility would be costly and not inline with current system needs and priorities.

Yauger Park



- **Yauger Park** like LBA has a primary design function to organized field athletics. OPARD staff believes there may be potential for developing a disc golf course

along the fitness trail that surrounds the perimeter of the athletic field complex. It appears that there is sufficient buffer areas along the trail that could be used to create a challenging course and still limit the impact to other park uses.

Special Use Parks are miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses that fall into this classification include community gardens, art facilities, single purpose sites used for field sports, or sites occupied by buildings.

Cursory Analysis

OPARD staff sees no potential opportunities in incorporating disc golf into any of the parks system's current special use parks. Olympia's current special use park inventory includes: Percival Landing, The Olympia Center, Madison Scenic Park, Japanese Garden, Heritage Park Fountain, East Bay Waterfront, and the still to be developed West Bay Park.

There might be potential to incorporate a disc golf course within the future development of a special use park but that really depends on what is developed. Olympia has future plans for an arts center and possibly a swimming pool. If either is sited on a piece of land large enough to accommodate a disc golf facility then the potential is there.

Open Space Network are open space areas defined as undeveloped land that is set aside to protect the special natural character of Olympia's landscape. They may include, but are not limited to, wetlands; wetland buffers; creek, stream, or river corridors and aquatic habitat; forested or upland wildlife areas; ravines, bluffs, or other geologically hazardous areas; prairies/meadows; and undeveloped areas within existing parks. Trail development to allow passive recreation such as nature observation and hiking is permitted except in cases where wildlife conservation is the primary function. Parking and trailhead facilities such as restrooms, information kiosks and environmental education facilities also would be allowed.

Cursory Analysis

Open space areas mentioned by participants at the July public meeting include: Mission Creek Refuge, Grass Lake Refuge, and Chambers Lake. When considering incorporating the activity of disc golf in the areas serving the functions of passive recreation, wildlife conservation and habitat protection; OPARD staff has significant concern. Intergrading disc golf into to the open space will result in some level of negative impacts to the environment, to the function of passive recreation, and to the neighborhoods adjacent to the open space site. As well, these open space areas lack the infra-structure required to support the facility; parking, restrooms, and sidewalks.

A reasonable approach in considering the potential of disc golf in an open space area would be to evaluate the concept if and when a master plan is developed for the site. For example a master plan preceded specific design plans for the Grass Lake Refuge phased

in development. In the future a master plan will be done for the Chambers Lake site; this would be the most cost effective and responsible time to evaluate disc golf's potential.

IX. Olympia's First Step

Along with addressing disc golf in the 2007 Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan Update, what small positive step can Olympia make to address the public interest in the activity and its resulting community benefits? Through the cursory analysis of the current park system the site with the most immediate potential is the Yauger Park. The walking/jogging trail that surrounds the perimeter of the athletic fields has terrain and conditions quite suitable for providing challenging disc golf holes. How much impact this activity would have on the park's current uses is really unknown. Much like a church parking lot there is an abundant amount of time where major portions of the park are not in use. To measure both the interest in the activity and the impact on current use, staff proposes working with the South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association on a pilot study disc golf course at Yauger Park. A one year pilot study using temporary holes developed by the association under OPARD coordination would be a means of evaluating negative impacts and possible co-use potential. If after a year, the conclusion is that the activity is compatible with the trial, then OPARD would coordinate with the association on installation of a permanent course.