



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION



Westchester Disc Golf Course

DATE: May 10, 2012
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Josh Durand
SUBJECT: Old Business **Westchester Disc Golf Course**

Since 2008, the Alaska Disc Golf Association (ADGA) and Anchorage Parks & Recreation have been actively working to improve the safety conditions and user conflicts at the Westchester Lagoon disc golf course. The completed improvements included realignment of the course, signage, new baskets, retention wall, steps, topsoil and seed. Although these improvements have somewhat improved course conditions and park and trail safety, the increased popularity of the course has compounded the problems. The Parks & Recreation Department continues to receive many complaints about the poor condition of the park near the disc golf course, trail conflicts and the deteriorating community park atmosphere.

In response to the growing conflict, the Department composed a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to propose solutions to resolve conflict and improve park conditions. This advisory group included two parks and recreation commission members, two Alaska Disc Golf Association Members and was led by Parks & Recreation Staff.

As a result of the public process, the Parks and Recreation Department has closed the disc golf course at Westchester Lagoon for the summer of 2012 to repair areas that are damaged from heavy course use. The course will be rehabilitated with topsoil and grass seed and damaged trees and shrubs will be replaced with new plantings. The course will re-open this fall for winter use and it will available for permitted events the following summers.

All repaired areas will be enclosed with temporary fencing to eliminate disturbance of the newly seeded areas. Protective enclosures will be installed over the basket mounts to facilitate future seasonal and permitted use of the course.

The public forum hosted by the disc golf community on May 2nd demonstrated an interest in additional courses throughout Anchorage to facilitate the growing sport. University Lake, Davis Park, Russian Jack Springs Park, Centennial Park, Arnold L. Muldoon Park and parks in the Government Hill area were the ideas presented by the group. Parks and Recreation recognizes the need for additional courses within Anchorage and will assist with the development of disc golf courses through proper planning, community support and fundraising.

The disc golf community also provided the following suggestions to allow the Westchester disc golf course to remain open during the summer months:

- Pin system – players purchase pins to financially support ADGA (similar to the NSAA pin system)
- Trash can at every hole

- Law and rule enforcement
- Volunteer trash pick up (2) times per month (Collaborative Minds volunteered this effort)
- Add another (9) holes at Westchester to dissipate the impact
- Add (3-4) more courses in Anchorage
- Have 2-3 baskets in other neighborhood parks

The forum also generated the following statements regarding the closure of the Westchester disc golf course:

- The course is great in winter
- The course should be (4) season
- The course should remain free
- The course is the best amateur course
- The course makes the neighborhood safer

ADGA will be nominating (3-4) individuals to represent the interest of the Anchorage Disc Golf Community as one voice. This group will work on a path forward including proposed courses and solutions to problems in existing courses.

Attachments:

- Community comments regarding the seasonal closure of the Westchester disc golf course.