



MUNICIPALITY OF  
ANCHORAGE

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ANCHORAGE



PARKS & RECREATION

**Memorandum**

**Date:** December 13, 2012

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**Cc:** Holly Spoth-Torres, Parks Superintendent

**From:** Mark McCaffery, Park Planner

**PRC 2012-43 Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and**

**Project:** Management Study Project Update

**Introduction**

The Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study is a baseline document that comprises the input of the community advisory group tasked with identifying site criteria and management strategies for additional disc golf courses in the Municipal park system.

The advisory group was created upon the directive of the Parks & Recreation Commission in May 2012, following the decision to designate Westchester Disc Golf Course as a winter-only course with availability for permitted events at Parks & Recreation's discretion.

**Planning and Public Involvement**

The advisory group consisted of local disc golfers, neighbors of Westchester Lagoon, and members of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Department. Meetings were facilitated through a contract with USKH. A list of participants is provided below:

Name	Affiliation
Michael Huelsman	Disc golfer and Westchester neighbor
Susan Miller	North Star CC
Dennis Gann	Westchester neighbor
Conan Dozeall	Disc golfer
Tim Kosednar	Disc golfer and course designer
David Wigglesworth	Westchester neighbor
Geoff Wright	Disc golfer and Westchester neighbor

Darren Haycke Jim Winchester Mark McCaffery Terry Schoenthal Kim Graham	Disc golfer and Westchester neighbor Parks & Rec Commissioner Park Planner USKH USKH
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## Meetings Overview

The advisory group convened for five meetings from August to December 2012. The following is a summary of the topics discussed at each meeting:

- **August 21:** Discussion focused on conflicts specifically at Westchester Disc Golf Course. Both conflicts and positive qualities of the group's experience with the course were used to inform a discussion on what site selection criteria should be considered when developing a disc golf course in municipal park land.
- **September 4:** The advisory group identified the criteria to be considered when selecting a site for disc golf facilities on Municipal park land. The discussion was prompted by a review of the criteria used for a disc golf study in Boulder, Colorado. The criteria was compiled and submitted to the group for further feedback.
- **September 19:** The meeting focused on potential management strategies to operate a successful disc golf course over time. To frame the discussion, the advisory group reviewed elements of existing cooperative use agreements Parks & Recreation has with various user groups. Examples of agreements disc golf user groups have made with other communities were also reviewed and discussed.
- **October 10:** The group participated in an exercise to evaluate existing parks for disc golf course feasibility using the site selection criteria they created in previous meetings. A draft of the baseline document including the vetted site selection criteria and management strategies was sent to the advisory group shortly following the meeting.
- **December 4:** Reviewed how advisory group comments were incorporated into the baseline document and received additional suggestions for potential parks that could accommodate a disc golf course. The group continued the

discussion of how to establish an organization that can represent disc golf users in Anchorage.

### **Baseline Document Summary**

The following lists the key site criteria and management components identified by the advisory group in the baseline document.

#### **Key Site Criteria**

- Size: Parks larger than 15 acres
- Conflicts: With neighboring residences, multi-use trails, other park uses, environment
- Parking: 3 – 5 spaces per hole (for 9 – 18 hole courses)
- Level of Play: Focus on the “recreational player”
- Course Character: Mix of wooded and open areas are preferred
- Restrooms
- Access: Preference multi-modal transportation areas
- Existing infrastructure: Can minimize development costs

#### **Key Management Components**

- Establish a user group/organization that can represent disc golfers
- Establish an agreement between user group and Parks & Recreation
- New course opening contingent upon establishing an agreement
- Potential elements of use agreement that defines responsibilities of user group and Parks & Recreation
  - Trash pick-up
  - Toilet maintenance
  - Level of use, vandalism, graffiti
  - Removal of trees/shrubs
  - Illegal activity
  - Notification and dispute resolution
  - Insurance (general liability)

#### **Next Steps**

Parks & Recreation will continue communicating with advisory group and others to work towards the establishment of an organization that represents disc golf users in Anchorage. The department has requested Legislative funding for the development of disc golf course(s) in Anchorage park land.

### **Staff Recommendation**

This baseline document was created through the joint input of the Municipality of Anchorage, neighborhood residents, and local disc golfers. Disc golf is a popular recreational activity to enjoy in our parks. To balance demand for this activity while maintaining park assets, future courses must undergo extensive siting analysis based on objective criteria in order to avoid conflicts with concurrent and equally popular park uses. A management agreement with an organized user group is needed to ensure the management costs of disc golf are shared by the user community. The site selection criteria and management recommendations from this document were the result of extensive input from the advisory group and will assist Parks & Recreation with evaluating potential disc golf course locations in order to foster a positive pattern of play in the community.

The Parks & Recreation Department believes that the Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study has met the objectives set forth by the Parks & Recreation Commission and recommends that the Commission pass the proposed resolution to approve the baseline document as submitted.

Prepared by: USKH, Inc.

# Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study

December 2012

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SITE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT STUDY**

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## **Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study**

### **Introduction**

#### ***Background***

Disc golf is a growing sport in the Anchorage bowl, and has a well-established following by all ages of residents. This fun and affordable game is currently being played at multiple Anchorage courses (See Appendix B for course location map), including Russian Jack Springs, Service High School, Kincaid Park, Hilltop Ski Resort, Hanshew Middle School, and Westchester Lagoon. These courses range in both skill level and size, but the most frequented course has typically been Westchester Disc Golf Course.

The lack of existing management guidelines and siting criteria were contributing factors in Parks & Recreation's decision to close the popular Westchester Disc Golf course for the summer of 2012 to rehabilitate areas damaged from heavy course use. The topic was discussed at the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting where concerns regarding disc golf activity and how it conflicts with other park uses, were brought up by neighbors of Westchester Lagoon and the disc golf community (see Appendix A for staff report). It was decided that Westchester will operate primarily as a winter-only course going forward, with availability for permitted events at Parks & Recreation's discretion.

The seasonal closure prompted a public forum by the disc golf community that demonstrated an interest in additional courses throughout Anchorage to accommodate the demand for this popular recreational activity. Sparked by a strong community response, Parks & Recreation decided to establish an advisory group to develop site criteria and management strategies to find suitable locations for additional disc golf courses.

#### ***Objective***

Comprised of members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Parks & Recreation Department, neighbors of Westchester Lagoon, and local disc golf players, the newly formed advisory group was tasked with 1) recommending site criteria to better locate disc golf courses, and 2) providing input on potential management strategies to minimize conflicts with disc golf and other park uses and ensure a prosperous, successful, and sustainable future for disc golf. Parks & Recreation contracted with USKH to facilitate the advisory group meetings and to develop the documentation necessary to reach the group's goals.

The final body of discussion, input, and comments, from the advisory group meetings were combined into the following Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study.

#### ***Process***

To collect the needed input from the advisory group members, a series of five meetings were held at the USKH offices on:

- 1) August 21, 2012 – Introduction of group members, review of objectives, scheduling
- 2) September 4, 2012 – Discussion of Site Criteria
- 3) September 19, 2012 – Discussion of Management Strategies
- 4) October 10, 2012 – Site criteria exercises
- 5) December 4, 2012 – Final Review of Baseline Document and Next Steps

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Notes from each meeting and supplementary information can be accessed at the project's website:  
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/ProjectDocuments.aspx>.

### Site Selection Criteria

The following criteria were identified to aid in the selection of a preferred site or sites for disc golf in the Anchorage Bowl. Course size, location, and number of holes will be contingent upon the criteria as applied to Municipal park land. Following are the key criteria for identifying a suitable site.

#### *Size*

National standards for disc golf indicate that a good rule of thumb for space requirements is one acre per hole<sup>1</sup>. The advisory group noted that this should be viewed as a guideline and not as a hard rule. The advisory group has suggested that a mix of disc golf opportunities including neighborhood 3-hole practice courses, 9-hole courses, and an 18-hole course would relieve pressure from a single 9 or 18 hole course. Neighborhood 3-hole courses have the greatest flexibility and can be accommodated in smaller areas because they are intended primarily for practice, for all skill levels and ages, and are not established to support regulation play. By contrast a 9-hole or 18-hole course would benefit from greater than 1-acre per hole to allow for some rotation of holes on the course.

Space requirements for courses also vary depending on the terrain and level of difficulty. An 18-hole course with varying topography and tree cover may be minimally accommodated in 15 acres, where an 18-hole course that is open and flat may require 20 acres or more to be challenging, even for simple recreational play.

#### *Conflicts*

Disc golf courses may conflict with concurrent park uses. Specific conflicts identified by the advisory group include:

- ***Neighboring residences:*** It is recognized that the presence and usage of a course in a neighborhood has been documented to be disturbing to adjacent neighbors, which has and could result in hostility between the community and course users. This conflict runs the risk of resulting in a course closure, and could negatively affect the sustainability of the sport in the given area. Without support for a course, the course may not be viable. Buffering and/or spatial separation between the course and adjacent neighbors is considered highly important. The distance recommended by a national source is 50 - 100 feet from edges of play to existing uses.
- ***Trails:*** The advisory group identified conflicts with trail users as equally significant to conflicts with adjacent neighbors. While proximity to the Anchorage trail system is desirable in order to provide access to the course, conflicts may occur when the holes on the course are too close to the existing trail system, whereby users are required to use the shared trail paths. The conflict is on high use trails where cyclist and runners may encounter slower groups of walking users. Congested trails with users traveling at different speeds can lead to accidents, injuries, and overall resentfulness between the trail users and the course users. This conflict can also occur when disc course users are required to cross trails in order to complete the game, or when players are forced to queue at trail locations to begin or continue play.
- ***Vehicular circulation:*** Experience, at both Westchester lagoon and in other communities, has demonstrated that conflicts between vehicles and disc golfers should be avoided. Considerations for course location should include ensuring stray discs are

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unlikely to be thrown into streets, and to avoid players crossing a public roadway. Also included in this category are parking lots. As with roads and trails, parking lots should have an adequate buffer of distance and vegetation from a disc golf course for the same issues of stray discs and safe vehicular circulation.

- **Other park uses:** Other park uses conflict with disc golf in varying degrees. For the purpose of this study, other designated park uses such as playgrounds, ball fields, dog parks, etc., should be considered as conflicting uses, and should not overlap with disc golf courses. While multiple uses are encouraged in Municipal parkland, input from the advisory group established a need for distance, separation, setbacks, and/or sufficient space for each designated use to minimize conflicts.
- **Illegal Activities:** The advisory group noted that illegal activities are a problem and cause conflicts with adjacent neighbors and other park users. These activities include drug and alcohol use, vandalism, late (after-hours) use, and other inappropriate actions. While these activities may be mitigated through site selection and course design, a separate discussion of management strategies is provided that is better equipped to address this issue.
- **Environmental Degradation:** It has been noted that disc golf courses have the potential for environmental degradation due to heavy course use. Vegetation can be severely impacted by consistently heavy foot traffic. It is also noted by the advisory board that additional holes per course can help with rotation of use, and act as a mechanism to relieve pressure to environmental damage. Additionally, areas that are known to be environmentally sensitive, such as special habitat areas including nesting areas and wetland areas, require careful buffering and protection.
- **Costs to Park Maintenance:** The conflicts sited above may increase requirements for Park Maintenance staff and Park administrators. Poorly managed and sited courses will likely result in more cost to the Department in the form of staff time or increased maintenance costs.

The advisory group did not identify hard and fast buffering requirements to meet these needs. As previously noted, guidelines for disc golf courses call for 50'-100' feet of separation from conflicting uses, preferably using a buffer of trees and bushes as opposed to open space buffers. The advisory group felt that distance should certainly be required for separation from residences, trails, and roadways, but might be viewed more as a guideline for some other park uses. It was also noted that for 3-hole practice areas in neighborhood parks this could probably be flexible based on neighborhood input and review of the specific circumstances of the location.

A site criterion that could better mitigate conflicts with disc courses would involve using greater acreage than the standard 1-acre per hole. Increased acreage for uses would lessen competition of space within a park and would reduce conflicts, as disc golf is a single use activity that requires a separate space. Ultimately, careful site selection and course design is required to mitigate the conflicts listed above.

### **Parking:**

Parking is an important consideration for courses that are 9-holes or greater. For courses of that size, people will drive from other parts of Anchorage to use the course. Failure to address parking will result in spill-over into adjacent neighborhoods, parking on grassed areas, ultimately causing damage to park assets. Other locations, including a study for Boulder, Colorado, have identified the need for 3-5 spaces of parking for each hole, but may vary considerably based on course popularity and accessibility<sup>11</sup>. This

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should be considered in addition to any other park uses that require parking. For larger courses, parking should be considered a requirement.

### ***Level of Play:***

Although level of play does not specifically affect site selection criteria, it does indirectly. There is consensus among the advisory group that any new course should focus on the needs of recreational players (versus competitive players). The impact of this is that a recreational course does not have to strictly comply with the requirements of a competitive course for hole lengths and orientation and thereby has greater flexibility to adapt to various sites. The purpose of orienting a new course to the recreational player is to engage more people with this recreational opportunity. Engaging more recreational and inexperienced players places a premium on site selection in order to reduce any conflicts course users might have with other park users.

### ***Course Character:***

Like other park users, disc golfers are attracted to settings with good views, a mix of open and wooded areas, and a mix of nearby activities. This is especially true for casual and recreational players. The advisory group noted that courses with a mix of open areas and wooded areas offer the right level of challenge for recreational players. The advisory group noted that courses in parks nearby nodes of other activities and services may appeal to users with limited time for recreation.

### ***Restrooms:***

For courses of 9 holes or more, restrooms should be mandatory<sup>11</sup>. These can be portable toilets placed as needed.

### ***Access:***

The location of disc golf courses should preference access by as many transportation modes available including roadways, bicycle/pedestrian trails and walkways, and public transit. As noted under the "Conflicts" heading, care should be taken to avoid conflicts between the course itself and these various modes of transportation.

Where possible, disc golf courses should be located to afford pedestrian access from surrounding residential neighborhoods and serve areas with sizable populations. Some members of the advisory group noted that the Westchester course serves a sizable residential area in close proximity making it pedestrian accessible. One suggestion was to identify potential parks that are large enough to host a disc golf course within a mile or so from existing high schools or middle schools.

### ***Existing Infrastructure:***

The advisory board noted that identifying locations with existing infrastructure, such as restrooms and parking lots, that could support disc golf, would be optimal. This acknowledges that there will be costs associated with development of a new course and that the most likely means of advancing a course toward completion will be to minimize development costs. As an example, development of a new parking lot for 45 or 50 vehicles could cost \$500,000. Identifying a location with an existing parking lot serving that many vehicles may reduce development costs.

### ***Existing Master Plan:***

The advisory group noted the importance of reviewing the relevant master plans of parks where potential courses are considered, and engage the public, including community councils, with any future disc golf course plans. This process is compulsory for the Parks & Recreation Department, but should be

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considered forethought, as the existence of a master plan on a preferred parcel of park land can help with promoting the installation of a disc golf course, or it may deter such use if previously deemed inappropriate. The Park Plan does not identify level of service standards for the number of disc golf courses to serve Anchorage's population. Although this baseline document does not represent a needs assessment for disc golf courses in Municipal parkland, the advisory group supports the Department's discretion and careful analysis to determine the feasibility of additional disc golf courses in our parks.

## **Management Strategies**

Disc golf provides opportunity for Anchorage residents of all ages to get outdoors and participate in an activity that encourages social interaction and physical exercise. Support of this activity on park lands is well within the scope and mission of Parks & Recreation, if courses are properly sited and managed. As with many sports or activities that occur on park lands, the practice of playing disc golf on an established course within a municipal park can and does result in conflicts with other park users, conflicts with adjacent neighborhoods, public safety concerns, and environmental damage to the course itself through heavy ongoing use. The selection of an appropriate site can reduce or eliminate many of the conflicts and other problems common to disc golf courses, however it is unlikely that it will be possible to identify a perfect site and eliminate all conflicts.

As a result, within the advisory group, there is general agreement that some of the issues and conflicts, previously identified, are best addressed through management of the disc golf course. This management effort may in part be accomplished through the Parks & Recreation department, but given limited resources, management of disc golf courses in our community might best be accomplished through an organization representing disc golfers and disc golf supporters. This approach has strong precedent in our community. Local soccer players, baseball players, and Nordic skiers all have established use agreements with the parks department allowing them to manage resources in support of their activity to a level higher than Parks & Recreation can provide due to staffing and budget constraints.

Generally, these groups are organized in such a way that they can enter into legally binding agreements with Parks & Recreation, as they can collect donations or solicit sponsorships, and they can accept some level of responsibility for the upkeep of the resource they are using and they can impose some conditions of use on their membership<sup>11</sup>.

This advisory group has not set out to establish such an agreement within the context of this baseline document, but rather to provide input and guidance on what components might be addressed in a future use agreement. As described below, the advisory group discussed 1) issues related to the establishment of an organization that can represent disc golf users, and 2) issues which might be considered in such a use agreement.

### ***1) Establish an organization that can represent disc golf users in Anchorage:***

This desire was expressed by the advisory group as being an important goal, but may prove to be challenging. As disc golf is a sport that tends to have a high turnover rate, due to a predominantly younger and transient population, collecting enough long lasting members may be difficult to form a strong organization.

That said, there was agreement that it would be very helpful if such an organization existed for the purposes of representing the interests of disc golfers, ultimately providing organization for clean-ups, course monitoring, and policing of the disc golf use. Of specific concern is the ability to form a well-organized non-profit to fill this need. It would be very desirable if this organization could be set up as a non-profit entity under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) so that it could accept tax-deductible contributions. However, it is not easy to either set up or maintain such an entity. An initial organizational strategy might be to form a disc golf organization under the umbrella of another non-profit organization, or as a project under an existing non-profit<sup>11</sup>. This umbrella non-profit would provide a means of taking

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monetary donations that will be needed to fulfill the requirements of a future use agreement, but could also be used for general improvements and other organizational needs.

Additionally, a disc golf organization could assist with the recruitment and management of volunteers for clean-ups, course rotation (relocation of baskets to allow natural course recovery) and other activities that would help to fulfill the requirements of the use agreement. A remaining concern is that Parks & Recreation may not be able to enter into a binding use agreement with an organization that does not have some legal status. The need to establish a disc golf organization will remain an ongoing effort.

### ***2) A use agreement will likely contain a number of clauses that anticipate potential impacts of providing park space for disc golf:***

Such a use agreement would be similar to the agreements already in place for soccer and baseball in Municipal parks, although the agreement would need to recognize that because disc golf is not a team sport, the ability of the association to control the conduct of the group it represents is limited. It would also address key concerns and spell out responsibilities of disc golf players (through a disc golf organization) and the Municipality's share of maintenance and upkeep for the course. The agreement would offer a means of resolving disputes and establish the repercussions (to include possible closure) if the requirements of the agreement are not met. Following are examples of clauses that have been included in existing agreements between user groups and the Municipality that might be considered for the management of Anchorage disc golf courses.

- ***Clean-up and trash pick-up:*** The disc golf organization (Permittee) shall ensure that those areas affected by the Permittee's activities are maintained in a condition that is free of trash and other deleterious materials. For trash pick-up, the association might pay to have trash removed on a more frequent basis than what Parks & Recreation would consider routine to avoid overflowing bins, but the organization could also consider a policy that requires any trash carried in, to be carried out.
- ***Maintenance of toilets:*** This example clause could require the Permittee to maintain an agreed number of portable toilets, suitably located to service disc golf course users, and appropriate in number to the course use.
- ***Level of use, vandalism, and graffiti:*** The use agreement could focus on the actual condition of the course and might be addressed by language such as: *The Permittee shall monitor the area for vandalism, graffiti, and course wear due to level of use. If such damage does occur, either within the area of the disc golf course or on private property adjacent to the course, the Permittee shall be responsible for repair, or replacement of property or remediation/relocation in the event of excessive wear on the course.* This responsibility might be better handled if the disc golf organization and Parks & Recreation could meet to discuss use issues, and also to determine the appropriate repair work. It was also suggested by the advisory group to recruit volunteer support to monitor course use on a regular basis to determine a rough number of rounds-per-day. The intent of course monitoring is to establish a baseline of current usage and to help identify at what level of use should remedial actions, such as the rotation of baskets or temporary relocation of the course, be implemented.
- ***Removal of trees or shrubs:*** The Permittee shall not remove any trees or shrubs for the purpose of improving or modifying the course without written permission from the Parks & Recreation Department.

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- **Illegal activity:** Disc golf courses are subject to all Municipal laws as they pertain to parklands. The Permittee shall post course rules at the beginning of the course, perhaps on a sign-board provided by Parks & Recreation. A disc golf organization can be pivotal in conveying responsibilities of course use to organization members and the public.
- **Notification and dispute resolution:** A disc golf organization shall serve as the point of contact for any notifications from Parks & Recreation. Parks & Recreation may revoke this permit at any time if deemed in the best interest of the Department, or the community. Prior to any closure, Parks & Recreation will notify the disc golf organization of its intent and seek to remedy any cause for closure. Although other use agreements do not appear to include such a clause, the advisory group strongly suggested that incorporating some means of dispute resolution would be beneficial to ensure sustainable use of the park and to provide specific steps and protocols prior to any closure if the requirements of the agreement are not met.
- **Parks department responsibilities:** Establish that in a public park, Parks & Recreation is responsible for a pre-determined level of support, including, but not limited to, maintenance, mowing, some level of trash removal, and signage.
- **Insurance:** The user group retaining general liability insurance is a common clause in use agreements, and is often necessary for permitted use of park facilities. This element serves as a way to formalize accountability between the Parks & Recreation Department and a disc golf organization.
- **Special Events:** A special events clause can better illustrate the frequency of tournaments within a park, any provisional work or preparation deemed necessary, and procuring the required permits, or appropriate protocol (additional toilets, safety signage, etc.), to better facilitate events. Special Use permits are provided by Parks & Recreation which define the responsibilities of the Permittee and Parks & Recreation.

A number of other items were discussed as a means of managing and funding disc golf courses in our community. These included organization of volunteers for clean-up and maintenance of a disc golf course, seeking out of commercial sponsors for the course, collection of fees or donations for course use and other means of improving course quality and reducing conflicts. Most of these ideas, however, would not be incorporated into a use agreement, but rather offer the means for a disc golf organization to comply with the clauses incorporated into a use agreement.

The advisory group has indicated a strong opinion that if a single course is identified that garners the same popularity as the Westchester location, many of the problems that occurred at Westchester Lagoon would simply occur again at some new location. While not reaching any specific conclusion, several members of the advisory group expressed a hope that offering more options, in the vicinity of Westchester, for playing disc golf in our community would diffuse the impact on any one location and reduce the problems that have been concentrated at Westchester lagoon. It was also expressed that any future disc golf courses could suffer the same problems identified at Westchester lagoon, and could bring these issues into additional neighborhoods.

Overall, it is not the objective of this group to identify the appropriate number of disc golf facilities to serve the demand for this activity, but to provide Parks & Recreation with recommendations to diffuse issues through careful site selection and the best possible management strategies available.

## **Site Analysis Exercise – A Review of Course Site Criteria**

For the purposes of refining the site criteria, six municipal parks over 15 acres in size were reviewed and discussed with the advisory group. The exercise was intended to test the criteria generated by the advisory group in order to determine if any further changes or modifications were needed. The purpose of the exercise was not to pick the best sites for future disc golf courses. Listed below are the parks reviewed during the exercise:

- 1) **Davis Park (Mountain View):** This 90+ acre park has adequate space for a large course, and does have existing parking and a trail system. The group noted that the topography was relatively flat, the neighborhood was perceived as being unsafe, and extensive clearing and pruning of existing vegetation would be necessary to create a course. The park was also considered to be too distant to encourage former Westchester lagoon players.
- 2) **Eastchester/Sitka Park (Chester Creek Greenbelt):** Similar to the Westchester course, this location is on a popular trail system, providing convenient access from downtown and midtown. Drawbacks included the lack of existing parking, existing wetlands and potential environmental issues, the viewshed from adjacent neighborhoods, and the heavy use of the trail.
- 3) **Charles W. Smith Park (Chester Creek Greenbelt):** The group responded positively to Charles Smith Park due to its access and proximity to Westchester lagoon. There was also sentiment that neighbors and other stakeholders would respond positively to the change of use in the northern woods which chronically experiences a consistent population of homeless camps. It was expressed that disc golf users may displace such activity in a park. This park does have an adequate acreage for a small-to-medium-sized course, and has parking at the nearby Mulcahy Stadium & Sullivan Arena parking lots. It has an existing buffer of trees from the adjacent neighbors, and does have some amount of varying topography, alternating from wetlands to a steep bluff. The most significant issue for this site is the wet areas and the potential for environmental damage.
- 4) **Earthquake Park (West Anchorage):** This large park has sufficient size, and has the most challenging topography from all the parks discussed. It was noted by members of the advisory group, that such attributes, along with the park's strong natural beauty and adjacent viewshed of the Cook Inlet, could make it a professional-level destination course that could attract tourists. Site issues included the limited amount of parking, possible environmental issues with steep terrain, unstable soils, wetlands, heavy pedestrian use at the nearby Coastal Trail, and possible neighborhood resistance.
- 5) **Centennial Park (Northeast Anchorage):** This classic Anchorage park has adequate space, with a very natural, wooded, and undulating terrain. It has some parking, but overall, this park is a distant location from the downtown and midtown population, and has very limited access points. It was thought to be too remote, and to have insufficient infrastructure, which would increase development costs.
- 6) **Russian Jack Springs Park (Northeast Anchorage):** As Russian Jack Springs Park has an existing course in place, available parking, and adequate acreage, the group responded positively to an additional course in the southwest corner, in the vicinity of the abandoned campground location. The site enjoys a strong aesthetic quality with views of the mountains and the city,

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along with diverse topography, naturally challenging all levels of users. There are existing trails that would help with access and site circulation. Noted drawbacks from the advisory group included potential community resistance to any tree removal in forested areas. Additional issues included sensitive habitat on site, and a possible use overlap with the biking and skiing trails.

### **Conclusion**

This baseline document was created through the joint input of the Municipality of Anchorage, neighborhood residents, and local disc golfers. Disc golf remains a popular recreational activity to enjoy in our parks, and in order for it to be sustainable in the community, future courses must undergo extensive siting analysis based on objective criteria in order to avoid conflicts with concurrent and equally popular park uses. A management agreement(s) with an organized user group is needed to ensure the management costs of disc golf are shared by the user community. It is the hope that the site selection criteria and management recommendations from this document will assist Parks & Recreation with evaluating potential disc golf course locations in order to foster a positive pattern of play in the community.

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- II. 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Appendix L1. “Disc Golf Study.” Boulder, Colorado. Prepared September 2005 and updated October 2006.
- III. City of Homer. “Land Use Agreement and Permit”. Jack Gist Recreational Park Association. June, 2012

## **Appendix A: Staff Report to Parks & Recreation Commission on May 10, 2012 regarding 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **ANCHORAGE DISC GOLF SITE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT STUDY**

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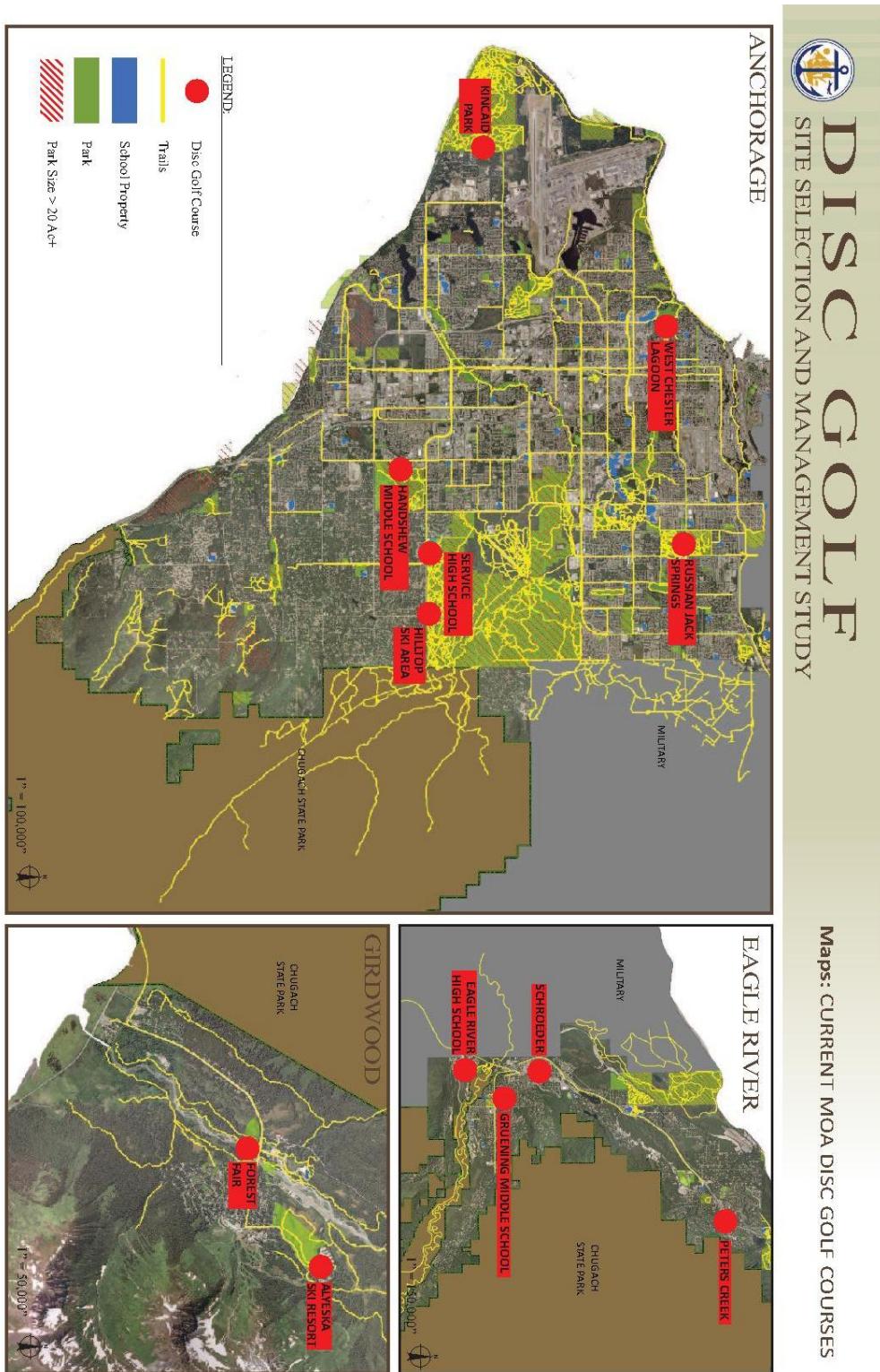
*The forum also generated the following statements regarding the closure of the Westchester disc golf course:*

- *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.*

## ANCHORAGE DISC GOLF SITE SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT STUDY

### Appendix B: Current Courses in Anchorage



**Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study**  
**Public Comments / MOA Responses**

COMMENTOR	COMMENT	MOA RESPONSE	USKH EDITS <i>(comments correspond to highlighted changes to the plan, asterisked comments are not associated with changes)</i>
The following comments to the Draft Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study were collected from October 10 to November 14, 2012. Additional edits to the final baseline document were incorporated from the final advisory group meeting held on December 4th and can be referenced in the meeting minutes posted at the project website.			
<b>Site Selection Criteria</b>			
Susan Miller	SIZE "National Standards": Question: What level of competition does this national standard assume? That is, is this the space requirement for all levels of play or just the "competition" levels?	Clarify "national standards" language and provide citation.	<i>This rule of thumb applies all competition levels. Endnote was included referencing typical sizes for various disc golf courses.</i>
Susan Miller	CONFLICTS: "Disc golf players inherently conflict with adjacent uses": I don't agree. When I played, I did not interfere with other bike trail users or persons living in houses adjacent to the course. I did not leave any trash or violate any laws. I don't think I'm unique in that.	Revise language to state that disc golf potentially conflicts with adjacent uses.	Language was revised.
Susan Miller	NEIGHBORING RESIDENCES: "...important potential conflicts..." Should a few neighbors' opposition to disc golf close a course if the great majority of neighbors want the course open?	Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	NEIGHBORING RESIDENCES: "Buffering and/or spatial separation are very important between a disc golf course and adjacent residences." Agreed, but the amount of separation required doesn't seem definite. Also note: Many golf courses have very expensive houses built right on the courses, and, predictably, golf balls land regularly in the owners' yards. I don't think the owners consider this a "conflict."	Acknowledged	*Acknowledged.

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Susan Miller	TRAILS: "...conflicts <u>may</u> occur when the course layout is superimposed on the existing trail system. This conflict can occur when there is inadequate buffering between the course and the trail system and <u>when disc course users are required to cross trails in order to complete the game or when players are forced to queue at trail locations to begin or continue play.</u> I'm not sure what this means. I don't consider it a conflict when disc golf players walk on a trail to get from one hole to the next. Also, waiting for a turn to play a hole shouldn't be considered a conflict unless the players are blocking access to the trail for other users.	<i>Clarify areas where this potential conflict may occur.</i>	<i>Additional language was added to address high use and high speed trails versus walking course users sharing trail.</i>
Susan Miller	VEHICULAR CIRCULATION: "public right-of-way": What does "public right of way" mean? If it means "streets and highways," it might be better to say that. I'm still not sure what was happening along these lines at Westchester and whether the problem still exists or has been resolved by course redesign.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>"Public right-of-way" has been removed and now has street, roadway, and thoroughfare as substitutes.</i>
Susan Miller	VEHICULAR CIRCULATION: "... parking lots should be separated from a D.G. course.": Why? Was there a problem with the location of the Westchester parking lot? A more detailed description of the nature of the problem might help, unless there is already some other document that describes this and that could be referred to..	<i>Clarify the relationship between parking lot and course.</i>	<i>Additional language was added to address issues.</i>
Susan Miller	"OTHER PARK USES" I don't understand this.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Additional language was added to hopefully clarify conflict.</i>
Susan Miller	ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: <u>The Westchester Lagoon course was closed for the summer of 2012 specifically to address environmental damage.</u> Is there any documentation describing exactly what the environmental damage was, how it has been repaired, and whether alternative means of addressing the problem were considered?	<i>Consider including citation that explains community advisory group involvement and Parks &amp; Recreation Commission hearings last spring.</i>	<i>MUNI press release on October 24, 2012 explains environmental degradation causing the closure and then reopened for winter use after repair.</i>
Susan Miller	"... 50-100 feet of separation from conflicting uses...": Just a thought: How is the separation distance measured? What are the two points between which it is measured?	<i>Will research separation distance. One thought is to use the existing fairway area and measure 50 - 100 feet from the edges. On holes without a defined fairway, the distance could be measured from imaginary line from tee box to pin.</i>	

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Susan Miller	"A key impact of addressing conflicting uses is that in most cases greater area is required than the basic 1-acre per hole." I don't understand that sentence.	Revise language.	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	RESTROOMS: "For courses 9 hole or more restrooms are required. These can be portable toilets placed as needed." Restrooms are certainly highly desirable. I'm not sure they are required - especially if the Parks Department expects someone else to clean them.	Acknowledged	*Acknowledged.
Susan Miller	ACCESS: Westchester Lagoon has served <u>serves</u> a sizable residential area in close proximity. .  [I'm not sure if this comment belongs here or if there should be a separate criterion for it: Proximity to Sizable Populations. I think it is important to place the courses near (within walking distance – maybe half a mile) of sizable population areas (residential and business areas).]	Acknowledged	Additional criterion added.
Susan Miller	EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE: "Another example that was brought up is the campground at Russian Jack Park. The campground is no longer used for that purpose, but with bathrooms already in place, parking available and a mix of open and woods areas, it could potentially serve well as the core of a disc golf course. Futher the existing roadways provided a hardened surface, resistant to the wear and tear that damaged the lawn areas at West Chester lagoon. This Russian Jack "example sounds awfully close to a recommendation. Is it really necessary?	<i>Russian Jack was one of several examples reviewed by the advisory group to test site selection criteria. Existing infrastructure was identified as a desireable criteria by the advisory group. Russian Jack possesses this quality and was noted in the report.</i>	<i>Russian Jack reference has been removed.</i>

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David Wigglesworth	<p>"A majority of opinion from the A.G. suggests that offering more options for playing disc golf in our community would diffuse the impact on any one location and reduce the problems that have been concentrated at Westchester Lagoon. A minority opinion is that there is no concrete evidence supporting this conclusion and providing additional disc golf courses will simply bring the problems identified at Westchester Lagoon to additional neighborhoods." Thanks for trying to express this. The AG does not represent a balance of user groups so I am hard pressed to use the terms minority or majority and instead of making this too polarized what about saying something to the effect:</p> <p>"While not reaching any specific conclusion, several members of the AG expressed a hope that offering more options...would diffuse etc, etc. While other members expressed an equally valid opinion that offering additional courses could simply bring the problems addressed at the lagoon course to additional neighborhoods." Going forward, it will be critical for parks to take the AG comments on site selection and further refine the criteria and adequately consider up front unintended consequences associated with identifying new course locations or adding additional baskets to park areas</p>		<p><i>Paragraph has been rewritten.</i></p> <p><i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i></p>
David Wigglesworth	<p>TRAILS: "adjacent" neighbors. As with the vehicular bullet below trail conflicts are a real safety issue with respect to stray discs and courses superimposed on existing trails. Moreover, alcohol/drug issues associated with disc golf courses also creates personal safety issues – this point underscored by many public comments including those provided by the former president of the Alaska Disc Golf Association.</p>	<p><i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i></p>	<p><i>Paragraph has been rewritten.</i></p>
David Wigglesworth	<p>VEHICULAR CIRCULATON: ...as with "roads": and trails</p>	<p><i>Add "and trails"</i></p>	<p><i>Change has been included.</i></p>
David Wigglesworth	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: "specifically": Not specifically, but For several reasons, including the need to address environmental damage.....</p>	<p><i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i></p>	<p><i>"in part" has been substituted for "specifically".</i></p>

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David Wigglesworth	...but might be viewed more as a guideline for some other "uses". I guess this all depends – there are specific legal issues associated with damaging wetland habitat, not to mention harassment of migratory birds, nesting, etc.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	"park uses" has been added for clarification.
David Wigglesworth	Each individual site must be assessed to determine space requirements for "buffers". And also recognition of the fact that disc golf is really a single use activity that requires a separate space. We don't put traditional golf courses on trails systems for example.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
David Wigglesworth	PARKING: ...adjacent "neighborhoods". And impacts to Park land e.g. the parking lot at Westchester overflow and cars parked on grassed areas, embankments, and where ever they could. This damaged park assets.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
David Wigglesworth	LEVEL OF PLAY:... recreational "players". Not sure I agree with this line of argument. I would argue that recreational player courses that are the most difficult to manage and would require a most rigorous compliance with siting and other management criteria. Poorly sited rec courses are likely to generate significant conflict with other park users, experience the negative social side of disc golf (alcohol, social conflicts) and are the most difficult "user" population for the disc golf association to manage. These courses put more burden on the Parks department and are hard to manage even with the best user management agreement.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	*Acknowledged.
David Wigglesworth	COURSE CHARACTER: ... recreational "players". These are many of the same attributes that attract other users to our Park lands and as such achieving course character for disc golf should not be at the expense of other users who want to enjoy these same attributes on our public lands. (e.g. bird watching, quiet space, picnics, etc). This reinforces the need for clear separation of disc golf since it by and large is a single use activity. Just like baseball or soccer fields having a clearly defined space.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	*Acknowledged. Definition of singular space has been added to other sections.
David Wigglesworth	I guess an important criteria is to consider is if there is a master plan or other document that articulates the manner in which a park should be managed and used. Siting criteria need to consider this.	<i>It's compulsory for Parks &amp; Rec to review existing Master/Site Plans when considering additional uses in our parks.</i>	Section has been revised.

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Dennis Gann	A majority of opinion from the A.G. suggests that "offering more options...": I'd be specific in noting: more options in the vicinity of Westchester	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been added.</i>
Dennis Gann	"it is not the purview of this group to identify the appropriate number of disc golf facilities..." But a general comment on the need for individual dg park "carrying capacity" and a general dg "needs assessment" would be very appropriate for us to recommend.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>See newly added "Existing Master Plan" section. This has language regarding capacity</i>
Dennis Gann	"... because they are intended primarily for practice, {insert} all skill levels and ages, and..."	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Sentence has been rewritten to include recommendation.</i>
Dennis Gann	CONFLICTS: Disc golf "courses" players inherently conflict with adjacent "concurrent" uses.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Sentence has been rewritten to include recommendation.</i>
Dennis Gann	ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: "Additonally..." Perhaps a note here on alternating/rotating holes is in order as a mechanism to relieve pressure and environmental damage.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	
Geoff Wright	All noted punctuation, font, and formatting changes throughout piece	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Document has been updated per punctuation, font, and formatting revisions.</i>
Geoff Wright	The advisory group (A.G.) has indicated a strong opinion ... this activity. This is important, but it is a management issue, not a site-selection issue. I suggest that we move this thought to the other document.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Section has been relocated to "Site Management".</i>
Geoff Wright	CONFLICTS: Disc golf players inherently conflict with adjacent uses. Perhaps consider rewording. Disc golf does conflict with other uses, but no more so than other trails users. (For example, biker and walkers conflict.) This statement connotes something unique about disc golf.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Paragraph has been reworded.</i>
Geoff Wright	VEHICULAR CIRCULATION: As with roads, parking lots should be separated from D.G. course. Perhaps include guideline here re: amount and type of buffer preferred.	<i>Noting that a disc golf course may present a conflict to a nearby parking lot may be as far as we can go. Each site will need to be carefully reviewed to minimize conflicts including vehicle circulation.</i>	<i>Some language has been added. This will require further advisory group input for resolution.</i>
Geoff Wright	ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: "The Westchester Lagoon course was closed for the summer of 2012 specifically to address environmental damage." I don't think the rationale for the Westchester closure needs to be included in this document. I think pointing our the potential for environmental degradation due to foot traffic is enough.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Paragraph has been reworded.</i>

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Geoff Wright	"The A.G. did not identify hard and fast buffering requirements to meet these needs. Other guidelines for disc golf courses call for 50-100 feet of separation from conflicting uses." It should probably also be noted that buffers of trees, bushes, etc. are preferred to open space buffers.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	PARKING: "Other locations, including a study for Boulder, Colorado, have identified the need for 3-5 spaces of parking for each hole. It might also be useful to note this will very considerable based on course popularity and accessibility.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	LEVELS OF PLAY: "Unlike other courses in the city, the course at Westchester Lagoon is very much oriented to recreational players." Again, I don't think we need to mention the Westchester course in this context.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	COURSE CHARACTER: "... right level of challenge for recreational players," and further noted that the mixed terrain and scenery at the West Chester lagoon course serves as a good example of the preferred setting type.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	ACCESS: West Chester lagoon has served a sizable residential area in close proximity, and serves as positive example of this kind of pedestrian access.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE: "Another example that was brought up is the campground at Russian Jack Park. Do we want to stray into the realm of potential sites here?	<i>Russian Jack was one of several examples reviewed by the advisory group to test site selection criteria. Existing infrastructure was identified as a desireable criteria by the advisory group. Russian Jack possesses this quality and was noted in the report.</i>	<i>Russian Jack language has been removed from section.</i>
<b>Management Strategies</b>			
Susan Miller	"Local soccer players, baseball players, and Nordic skiers..." Note: Soccer and baseball (and softball) are team sports, requiring sponsors and league membership. They aren't comparable to disc golf. The Nordic skiers probably are comparable. But, bicyclists, walkers and runners that also use the trail system have no such user agreements, I assume.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>*Acknowledged.</i>
Susan Miller	"... and they can impose some conditions of use on their membership." Note: I would be interested to know what conditions of use the Nordic ski association imposes on their members with respect to the trails.	<i>Acknowledged.</i>	<i>*Acknowledged.</i>

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Susan Miller	<p>"A new disc golf course should not open until such an agreement is in place." Note: (1) The above paragraph does not seem to be about the first element " establishment of an organization that can represent disc golf users."</p> <p>(2) I'm not sure I agree with the last sentence. There was considerable discussion of this, but I'm not sure there was consensus. Would the city build a course, but then not open it for lack of an organization willing to enter into a user agreement? Would the city close existing courses for lack of such an organization or agreement?</p>	<p><i>Advsory group meeting notes reflect a concensus that additional courses in the Municipal park system would prompt a management agreement to ensure the course can be successfully operated to protect the park asset.</i></p>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	<p>A. Disc golf appeals to a <u>unique demographic "wide variety"</u> of users that may be <u>somewhat resistant</u> "make it difficult" to forming "form", a strong organization. Note: I'm not sure what "unique demographic" is intended to mean. Do we have any information on who the users are? The primary users may be of a particular age group and sex, but I'm sure they aren't the only users. That said, there was agreement that it would be very helpful if such an organization <u>needs to exist</u>... and has suggested they would be willing to do so for a disc golf organization. Note: Has this been confirmed? Who in the Parks Foundation is the source?</p>	<p><i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i></p>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	<p>2) A: "other deleterious materials" Meaning? For trash pick-up, the Disc Golf User Group might pay to have trash removed on a more frequent basis than what Parks and Rec would consider routine to avoid overflowing bins How is this handled when other parks, like Valley of the Moon, have overflowing trash bins?</p>	<p><i>Overflowing trash bins may be the result of a permitted function at a park, such as the rental of a pavillion at Valley of the Moon. Parks &amp; Rec are notified when a permitted event is scheduled and can respond to the additional volume of trash.</i></p>	<p><i>Deleterious is referencing any drug and alcohol debris, including beer cans, alcohol bottles, and drug paraphernalia. Routine maintenance is how trash is handled currently.</i></p>
Susan Miller	<p>2) B: Permittee shall <u>maintain</u> XX portable toilets suitably located to service course users. Note: Does this mean the Disc Golf organization would be expected to pay for the portable toilets or clean them?</p>	<p><i>Acknowledged</i></p>	<p><i>This is an example clause and will require further assessment.</i></p>
Susan Miller	<p>2) C: This was brought up by disc golf advocates. I am not sure this needs to be in a use agreement. I don't think it needs to be in a use agreement. It might be better to include a provision requiring periodic meetings between the organization and the Parks Department to discuss issues and decide whether anything like this might be occasionally useful.</p>	<p><i>Acknowledged</i></p>	Paragraph has been rewritten.

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Susan Miller	2) C: "... in the event of excessive wear on the course." This is better, but do you want the organization to do the "repair" without Parks Department input? Also, how about solving the "excessive wear" problem by redesigning the course to, for example, replace some grass with gravel?	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	"Permittee shall post course rules at the beginning of the course. Illegal activities on the course, without efforts to self-police, may result in closure of the course." Permittee shall post course rules at the beginning of the course <u>on a sign-board provided by the Parks Department</u> . Illegal activities on the course <u>by members of the disc golf organization</u> , without efforts to self-police, may result in closure of the course.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	Paragraph has been rewritten.
Susan Miller	2) G: "...maintenance, mowing, some level of trash removal and signage?" Yes.	Acknowledged	*Acknowledged.
Susan Miller	2) H: Insurance: The permittee shall defend and hold harmless the MOA in the event of any loss, damage, or injury to persons or property as a result of using the site for the disc golf activity. (This is common in use agreements, but may be difficult for a disc golf group.) No, I don't think this is reasonable. I would be interested in seeing the Nordic Ski Associations use agreement.	Acknowledged	*Acknowledged.
Susan Miller	"... collection of fees..." Note: Was there any support for collecting fees from disc golfers?	<i>Fee collection exists at Russian Jack Springs Golf Course. Tournaments require a special permit that triggers a daily use fee.</i>	<i>Although not the preferred method, fee collection already exists on current course locations. This baseline document does not disregard existing courses.</i>
David Wigglesworth	"... adjacent neighborhoods..." Public safety concerns	Acknowledged	Language added.
David Wigglesworth	"... a perfect site is unlikely." Self-policing to address these issues is not a viable option. Continued erosion of the parks budget (staffing and maintenance capacity) coupled with increasing opportunities for disc golf, will result in continued conflicts. Site selection can help address this...but Disc Golf now needs to held to a higher standard (both professional and rec users)...and management and use activities/agreements need to be formalized.	<i>Acknowledged. Limited capacity of Parks &amp; Rec prompts the necessity for disc golf course user stewardship.</i>	*Acknowledged.

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David Wigglesworth	"The Disc Golf Advisory Group has not set out to establish such an agreement..." Language issue here...the AG was not charged with creating such an agreement?	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Clarification has been added as baseline document is not a use agreement, but a sound board to collect input for a future use agreement.</i>
David Wigglesworth	2) F: "...shall serve as the point of..." Needs to identify specific individuals with accountability and authority to act.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>As a Disc Golf Association does not exist yet, it is difficult to specify individuals.</i>
David Wigglesworth	2)H: "... may be difficult for a disc golf group." Other element in the use agreement should be special events (tournaments, etc) Other elements include periodic review of agreement, user group updates to parks and rec commission.....I guess this gets to formalizing accountability elements of such an agreement for both Parks and Rec and Disc Golf group. Often times agreements are signed and parties are not held accountable.	<i>Acknowledged. User agreements with the Municipality often need to reviewed and resigned on an annual basis.</i>	<i>Section has been added.</i>
Dennis Gann	"... Anchorage residences {of all ages} to get outdoors..."	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	"... however the ability to identify a perfect site, {and eliminate all conflicts} is unlikely."	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	" ...representing disc golfers {and disc golf supporters}".	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	"... parks and recreation department can <u>reasonably be expected to (remove)</u> provide {due to staffing and budget constraints}. Call me idealistic but I want to live in a world where parks are fully funded to support maximum usage.	<i>Acknowledged.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	"A new disc golf course should not open until such an agreement is in place." I would like to leave an option for a local neighborhood or local user group to be responsible for any particular park and that may not come about until a dg park is in place.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Sentence has been removed from document.</i>
Dennis Gann	1) A. "... a well-organized non-profit {or project under an existing non-profit} to fill this need. An initial organizational strategy might be to form a disc golf association under the umbrella of some other non-project organization. As in comment above, a project under an existing non-profit may fully fulfill this need without a stand alone newly created org.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	1) A: "The Parks Foundation may not be a suitable alternative to provide that status." Perhaps this has been discussed and I missed it but has this been fully investigated or is this statement simply speculation?	<i>Remove.</i>	<i>Sentence has been removed from document.</i>

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Dennis Gann	2) C: "... vandalism, graffiti, and course wear..." As with many parks these are often the result of non users—I don't want to see a good-intentioned organization straddled with the repair expense from non-user damage.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	* <i>Acknowledged.</i>
Dennis Gann	2) F: "Although other use agreements do not appear to include such a clause, the advisory group suggested that incorporation some means of dispute resolution might be beneficial." I feel this is important and we should more strongly advocate for a process including specific steps and protocols prior to any closure.	<i>Acknowledged</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Dennis Gann	2) H: "...shall defend..." Defend?-that's a high bar fro a start-up org. Hold harmless, yes. Doesn't the state and muni both state that they are not responsible for accidents in parks?		<i>Word has been removed from sentence.</i>
Geoff Wright	All noted punctuation, font, and formatting changes throughout piece		<i>Punctuation, font, and formatting has been updated.</i>
Geoff Wright	Such a use agreement would be similar to the agreements already in place for soccer and baseball in Municipal parks. Perhaps include this agreement in an appendix?	<i>Consider adding an example use agreement for reference.(NSAA)</i>	* <i>Acknowledged.</i>
Geoff Wright	"...shall maintain XX portable toilets..." Do we need to specify a number here? I think we can probably be generic or simply say "as appropriate to course use".	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
Geoff Wright	2) C: The permittee shall monitor the area for vandalism, graffiti, and course wear due to level of use. If such damage does occur, either within the area of the disc golf course or on private property immediately adjacent to the course, the permittee shall be responsible for repair, or replacement of property or remediation/relocation in the event of excessive wear on the course. This seems problematic. Why would one presuppose that all vandalism that occurs on houses adjacent to a disc golf course would be the responsibility of disc golfers?	<i>Revise language. Damage can prompt discussion between user group and Parks &amp; Rec to determine best solution.</i>	* <i>Acknowledged.</i>
Geoff Wright	2) H: (This is common in use agreements, but may be difficult for a disc golf group.) It would be interesting to see how the NSAA handles this for skiers. There's a good parallel here: both groups maintain an area that anybody can just stop by and use, and I'm sure that the liability concern is much higher with skiing than disc golf...	<i>Consider adding an example use agreement for reference.(NSAA)</i>	* <i>Acknowledged.</i>

**Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study**  
**Public Comments / MOA Responses**

Geoff Wright	A number of other items were discussed as a means of managing and funding disc golf courses in our community. It seems like discussion regarding managing the popularity of courses is missing and should be included in this document. I believe that the discussion from the site selection document should be moved here.	<i>Incorporate comments into paragraph rewrite.</i>	<i>Language has been included.</i>
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