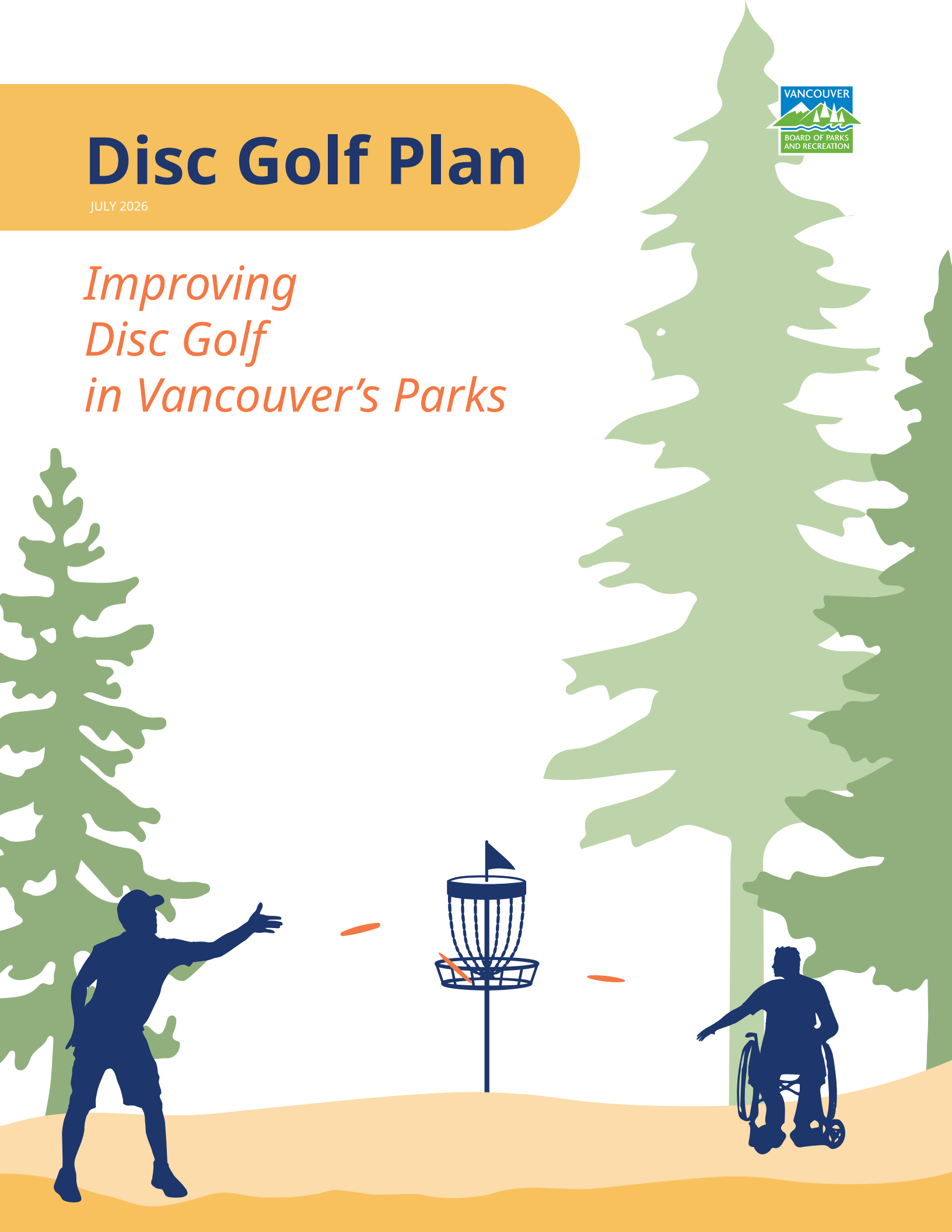


Disc Golf Plan

JULY 2026

Improving Disc Golf in Vancouver's Parks





SINCE TIME OUT OF MIND

The lands considered in this plan are managed by the Park Board and are the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples: the xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nation. We raise our hands to xʷməθkʷə́y̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, and səliłwətał for their guidance and stewardship since time immemorial.

Figure 1. A disc golf player throws a disc (AdobeStock)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Disc Golf Plan and its supporting documents were a cumulative and collaborative effort by the staff at the Vancouver Park Board and City of Vancouver, and the Community Advisory Committee. The team would like to thank all project interest holders and the public for taking the time to shape the future of disc golf in Vancouver parks.

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Vancouver Park Board and City of Vancouver Staff Senior Staff

Steve Jackson, General Manager, Parks
Tiina Mack, Director, Planning and Park Development
Doug Shearer, Associate Director, Park Planning and Policy (2024-2025)
Katy Amon, Senior Planner, Park Planning and Policy (2024-2026)

Leadership Committee

Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Board Relations Team
John Brodie, Director, Business Services
Rena Soutar, Manager, Arts Reconciliation & Culture
Pragya Grewal, Director, Financial Planning & Analysis
Amit Gandha, Director, Park Operations
Steve Kellock, Director, Recreation Services
Sarah Iacoe, Director, Strategic Ops & Board Relations

Project Management Team

Ali Canning, Planner/ Engagement Lead, Parks Planning and Policy
Brittany Morris, Project Manager, Parks Planning and Policy (2024-2026)

Technical Team and Working Group

Kasel Yamashita, Planner, Planning & Policy
Vonnice Zhang, Planning Analyst, Planning and Policy
Zhiwei Lu, Landscape Architect, Park Development
Rose- Marie, Landscape Designer, Park Development
Brock Wiederick, Archaeology, Infrastructure & Environment
Chad Townsend, Archaeology, Infrastructure & Environment
Francisca Olaya Nieto, Archaeology, Infrastructure & Environment
Dana McDonald, Archaeology, Infrastructure &

Environment

Karen Estrin, Engagement & Communication
David Harrison, Engagement & Communications
Godfrey Tait, Engagement & Communications
Gordon Savage, Risk & Compliance
John Odong, Park Operations
Tricia Meneghello, Park Operations
Ben Ozols- Mongeau, Park Operations
Dane Lulic, Park Operations
Dennis Luick, Business Services
Mark Halyk, Business Services
Miranda Knox, Business Services
Josie Riebe, Business Services
Jesscia Blackmore, Business Services
Yuna Flewin, Business Services
Kaeli McArter, Strategic Operations & Board Relations
Jennifer Trach, Recreation Services
Krista Voth, Arts, Reconciliation & Culture
Michelle Chung, Finance
Nicole Taddune, Landscape Architect, Park Development (2024-2026)
Amy Liebenberg, Accessibility Planner, Strategic Operations & Board Relations (2024-2026)
Alan Chen, Planning Analyst, Planning and Policy (2025)

Liaison Group

Corey McKenelley, VanCity United Disc Golf Club
Marti Doucet, VanCity United Disc Golf Club
Kevin Walton, VanCity United Disc Golf Club
Matt Vigneux, VanCity United Disc Golf Club
Brett Wells, BC Disc Golf Association

Community Advisory Group

City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee members



Figure 2.A disc golf player throws a disc (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

The Disc Golf Plan establishes a strategic framework for enhancing existing disc golf courses and expanding disc golf opportunities within Vancouver parks over the coming years. Developed through research, site inventory and analysis, best-practice review, and engagement with community members, local disc golf organizations, and other interest holders, the Plan responds to growing demand for the sport while balancing recreational, environmental, operational, and park management objectives.

Disc golf is a free, accessible, and inclusive recreational activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities throughout the year. Participation has grown significantly in recent years, both locally and across North America. Vancouver currently has two disc golf courses located in Quilchena Park and Little Mountain (Queen Elizabeth Park). With the planned removal of the Jericho Lands (a public course located on private property), as redevelopment proceeds, demand on the City's remaining courses is expected to increase, reinforcing the need to improve existing facilities and explore opportunities for additional capacity.

The Plan has been informed by a comprehensive engagement process that included online public engagement, a park pop up, interest holder meetings, site visits, and discussions with local disc golf organizations, park users, regional municipal representatives and relevant Park Board and City staff. Feedback highlighted strong support for improving existing courses, expanding opportunities to meet growing demand, enhancing safety and accessibility, and ensuring that disc golf continues to be thoughtfully integrated with other park uses. The engagement process helped validate priorities, identify opportunities and constraints, and shape the recommendations contained within the Plan.

The Plan recommends a phased approach to improving the quality, safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of disc golf facilities while supporting the shared use of park spaces. Key recommendations include enhancing existing courses through improved wayfinding, accessibility and environmental upgrades, safety improvements, and course modifications. These include reconfiguring the Quilchena course to 10 holes to improve safety, expanding the Little Mountain course into a full 18-hole facility, and developing a seasonal co-located disc golf course at Rupert Pitch and Putt to help meet future demand.

The Plan also recommends improving digital mapping and public information to better support disc golf players and other park users.

Together, these recommendations provide a practical roadmap for strengthening Vancouver's disc golf courses, improving the experience for current and future players, and supporting equitable access to recreation while respecting the diverse functions and values of Vancouver's parks.

Figure 3.A disc golf player throws a disc (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)



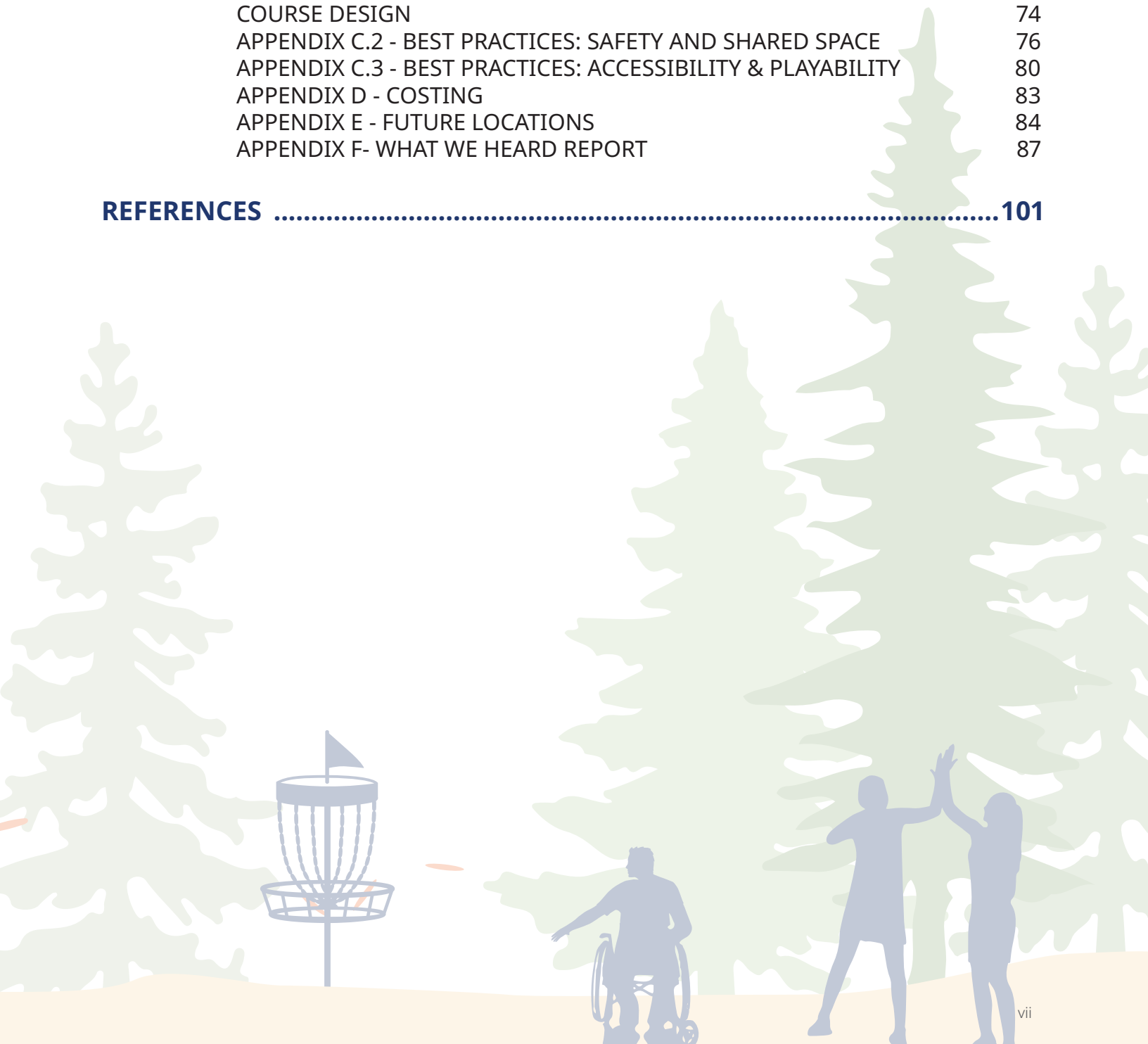
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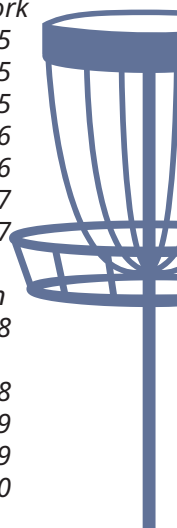
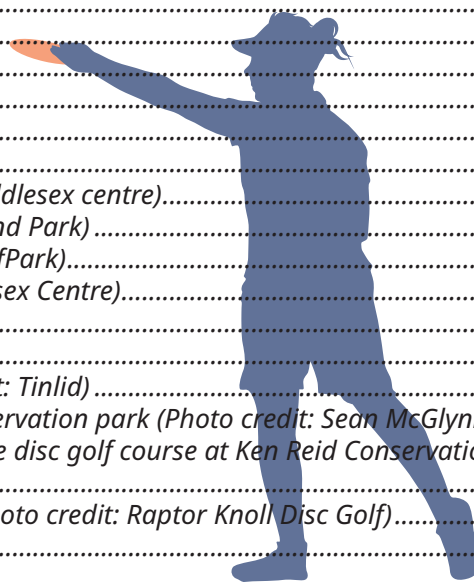


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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Figure 1 Disc Golf basket in a wooded field. (AdobeStock)



BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) has two disc golf courses within Vancouver parks, a nine-hole course at Queen Elizabeth Park (Little Mountain Course) and a 12-hole course at Quilchena Park. These were designed and installed in collaboration with the local disc golf communities, with initial installation in 1986.

Disc Golf is a free to play, low barrier to entry sport, accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities. It can be played year-round, providing an outdoor recreational activity that has been rapidly growing in popularity.

WHAT IS DISC GOLF

Disc Golf is a game played outside similar to traditional “ball golf,” however, it has some key differences. The object of the game is to throw a flying disc into a basket target, “hole,” in as few throws as possible. There are usually 9 or 18 holes within a course. Players start at the tee pad on hole 1, throwing the disc from the spot it lands until it reaches the basket. Players then move onto the next hole until the course is completed. The player with the lowest total cumulative throws or “strokes” for the course wins the round.

BRIEF HISTORY OF DISC GOLF

People have played with flying discs for centuries, with versions appearing in ancient Persian, Greek, and Roman cultures. The earliest known precursor to modern disc golf occurred in 1926 in Saskatchewan, where children played “Tin Lid Golf,” throwing tin lids into sandy targets. While no direct historical timeline connects this game to modern disc golf, similar disc-throwing games using pie tins emerged throughout the 1930s–1960s.

Similar to ultimate frisbee, disc golf was not formally invented but evolved through player creativity, as traditional ball sports were adapted using flying discs. Early “object courses” used natural and urban feature such as trees, poles, and fire hydrants as targets.

The sport began to formalize through the efforts of George Sappenfield and Kevin Donnelly, who came from backgrounds in children’s recreation and parks supervision. They worked with Ed Headrick at WHAM-O toy company to create the first frisbee golf event. When the first course was opened in 1975 in California it was an instant success. The Disc Golf Association (DGA) was established in 1976 to form a new international sport and to promote the installation and use of disc golf courses around the world.

The sport has grown rapidly, with over 16,000 courses globally and an estimated 1.26 million regular players, with countless more unlisted courses and casual players from across the globe (UDisc, 2025).



Figure 5. Diskobolos by Myron, 450B.C (Photo credit: British Museum)

UDisc is an app which allows players to locate courses, track stats, and record their scores. It covers courses globally, connecting people with community and leagues. There is a free and paid version. It is estimated about 1 in 5 players track with UDisc, providing valuable statistics on the sport.

CORE ELEMENTS IN A COURSE

A disc golf course requires little infrastructure. The course requires three main elements: tee pads, baskets and signage. A tee pad is where the player begins each hole. The placement and materiality will depend on course terrain, local climate and installation intention. Disc golf baskets consist of a chained basket and a base that is anchored to the ground with a centre pole. These chains make the quintessential sound when hit that all disc golf players strive to hear.

Well-designed courses include a range of shot lengths and shapes to cater to both beginners and more advanced players. Similar to ball golf, holes are designed to the expected number of throws a skilled player should take to complete the shot called “par.”

Land requirements depend on the course level you are creating and the landscape it is within. Recreational courses can have a range of sizes, however, most courses are 9 or 18 holes. The terrain and overall design can greatly impact the amount of space needed for each hole. (see Appendix C for further details on Course Design).

Queen Elizabeth Park's Little Mountain and Quilchena Park's disc golf courses are similar sizes and each cover roughly 3 hectares of shared parkland.



Figure 6. Disc Golf basket installation drawing (ACanning)



Figure 7. "Steady" Ed Headrick (Photo credit: DGA)

CHAPTER 2: INVENTORY OF CURRENT PARK BOARD COURSES

There are three disc golf courses within Vancouver: two within city parks at Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks and a private course on Jericho Lands (closing in the future, with redevelopment).

Disc Golf Courses in Vancouver

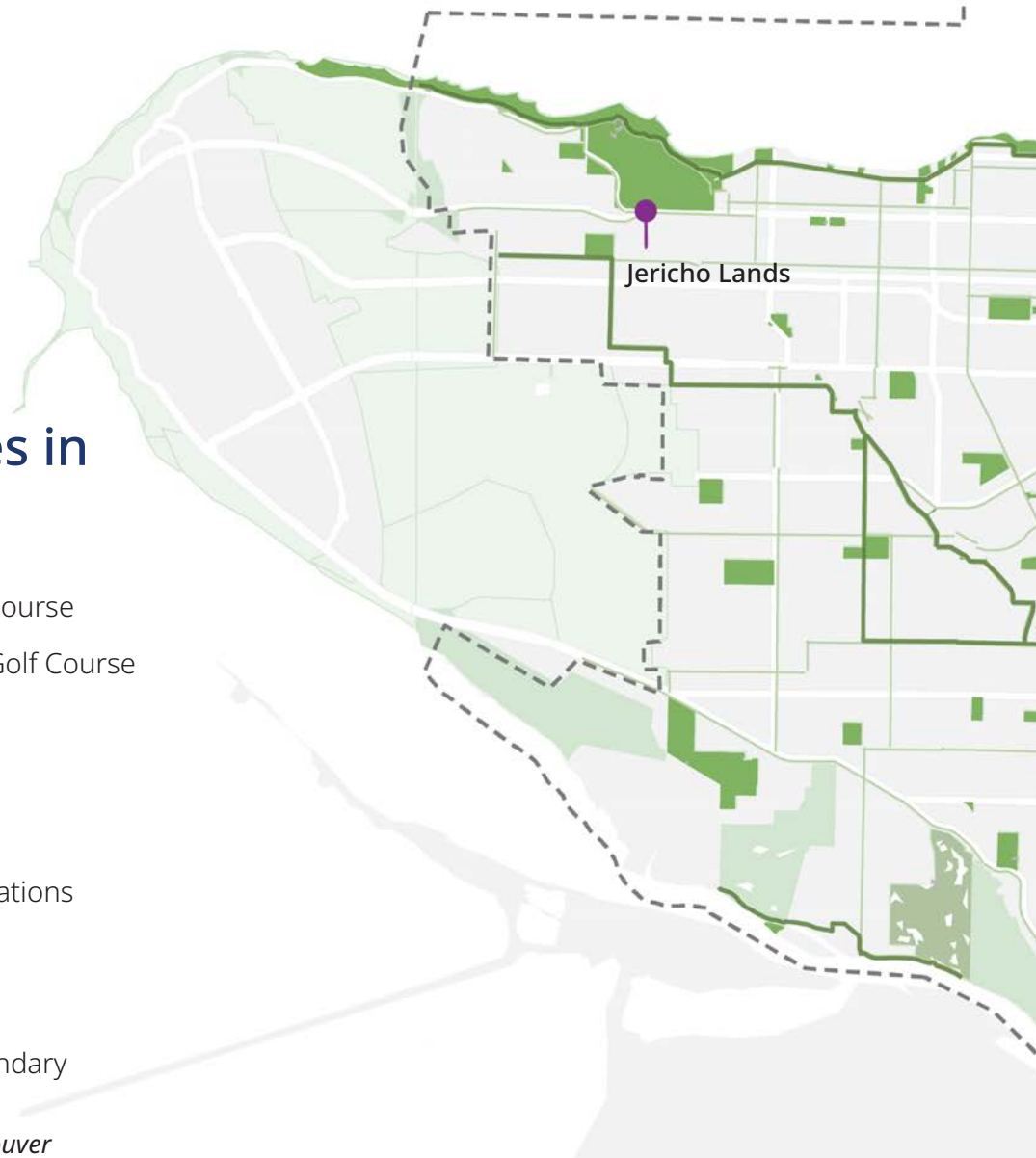
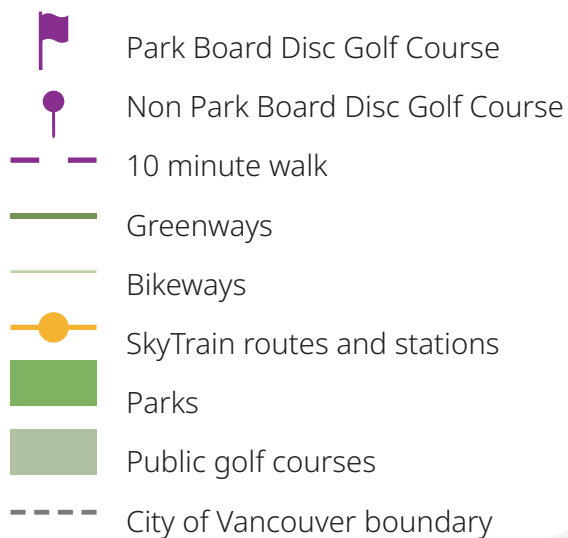
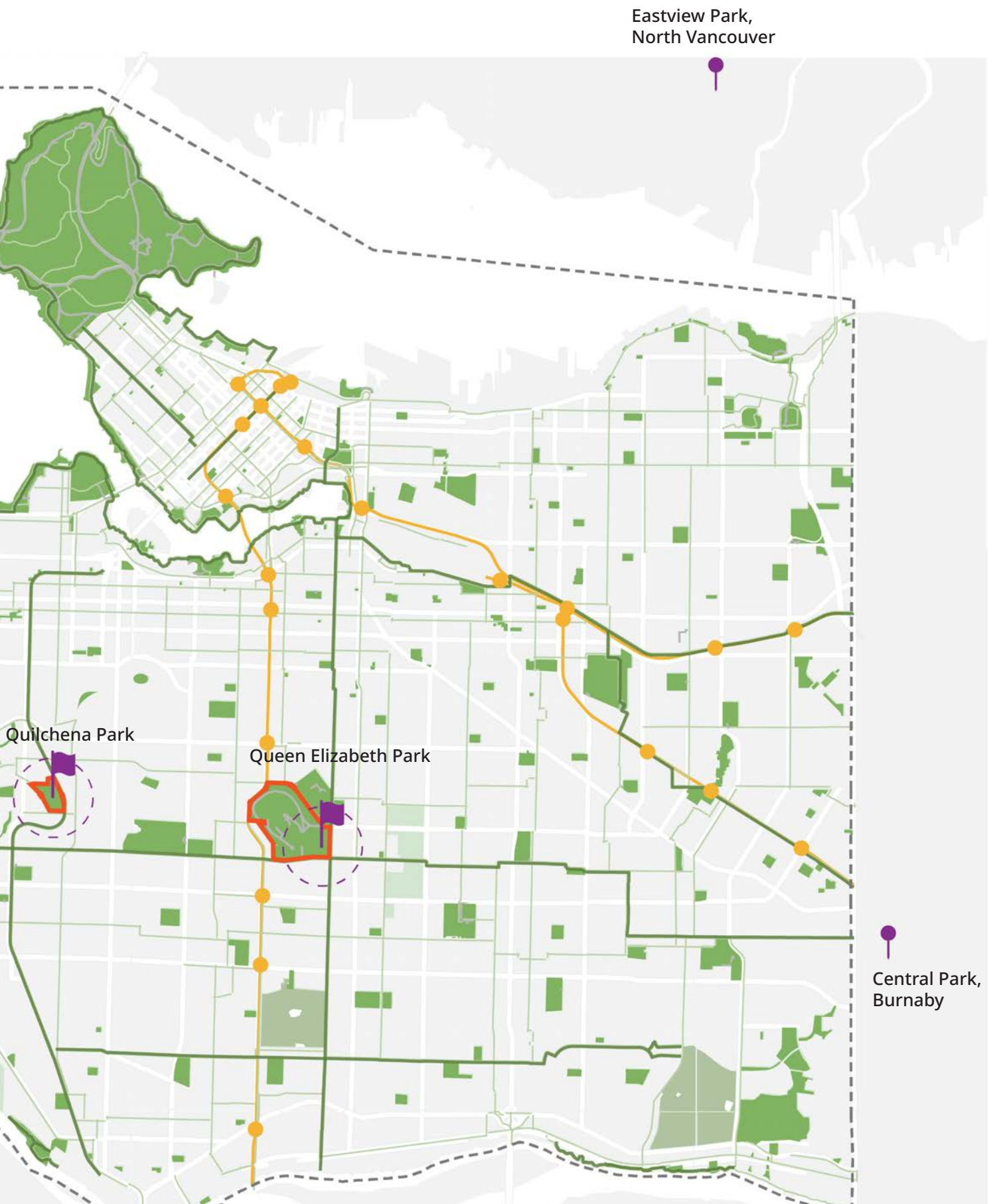


Figure 8. Disc Golf Courses in Vancouver



QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK LITTLE MOUNTAIN

Queen Elizabeth Park's Little Mountain Disc Golf Course

Queen Elizabeth Park is one of Vancouver's destination parks famed for its horticultural gardens, beautiful city and mountain views, and housing the Bloedel Conservatory. This 52-hectare municipal park contains many park amenities including pitch and putt, lawn bowling, sports courts, as well as many trails for walking.

As one of the City of Vancouver's most famous parks, many people might not realize that Queen Elizabeth Park is home to the Little Mountain Disc Golf Course. Established in 1983, this is one of the oldest disc golf courses in the province. Located in the southeast corner of the park, it has a recreational layout featuring nine baskets, 18 tee pads and a par 54 rating. Although not technically an 18-hole course due to the doubling of baskets, this

course allows for 18-hole play or the use of short and long shots for varying levels. Having a mix of open grass fields, treed areas, and a pond obstacle, this course highlights the natural beauty that Queen Elizabeth Park is known for. Please see Appendix A.1 for further site analysis.



Figure 9. View north from southwest corner of disc golf course (ACanning)



Figure 10. Queen Elizabeth Arboretum lookout (Photo credit: Vancouver Archives, 1955)

Queen Elizabeth Park

Did you know?

Little Mountain is the last remnant of an extinct volcano. It was used as a rock quarry in the beginning of the twentieth century to provide materials for the city's roads. By the 1920s, one of the rock quarries was converted to the city's water reservoir and by the 1930s, this area was given to the Park Board creating the sunken gardens and the City's first civic arboretum.

Legend

-  Pathways
-  Park buildings
-  Activity areas
-  Playing fields
-  Dog off leash area
-  Park boundary
-  Pond
-  Little Mountain disc golf course



Figure 11. Queen Elizabeth Park map (detailed course map on next page)

Little Mountain Course



Figure 15. Little Mountain Disc Golf Course

Legend

-  Tee pads
-  Baskets
-  Throw line
-  Practice baskets
-  Pathways
-  Pitch and putt fence
-  Pond



Figure 12. Basket 9/18 with unofficial pathway around pond (ACanning)



Figure 13. Person throwing at tee pad 1 (ACanning)



Figure 14. Tee pad 7 and 16 (ACanning)



Figure 16. View from hole 2 looking south (ACanning)



Figure 17. Queen Elizabeth Park connectivity

Legend

	Park Boundary		Nearest transit stops
	Greenways		Bus routes
	Rapid transit		500m walking
	Skytrain station		

Connectivity

Queen Elizabeth Park sits between Main Street and Cambie Street. These bustling neighbourhoods' were historically developed as street car corridors, leading to their walkable character and linear commercial alignments. Filled with a mix of residential and commercial development, this part of the city will see higher density population growth in the future. Located along the southeast corner of the park, the Little Mountain Disc Golf course is accessible by bike, transit (bus and SkyTrain) and car. The Ontario Greenway runs directly alongside the course and there is

one bike rack available on site. Transit access is easily accessed through nearby bus routes or from rapid transit SkyTrain stops roughly a 25 min walk away. Street parking is available on Ontario Street but the nearest accessible parking is up the hill near the dog park (800m away).



Figure 18. Man throwing a disc at Little Mountain disc golf course (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

QUILCHENA PARK

Quilchena Park's Disc Golf Course

First developed into a public park in the 1960s, Quilchena Park was one of the neighborhood's larger greenspaces with open fields and mountain views. A beloved, multi-purpose park, it's 7.69 hectares contains many neighbourhood amenities such as sports fields, gardens, walking paths, a playground, skate park, off-leash area and disc golf course. With access directly from the Arbutus Greenway, it is a well-used park, loved by many throughout the city for its varied activities.

The Quilchena Park disc golf course was first created in 2002, before many of the park amenities were added. With a mixture of open fairways and low-ceiling wooded sections, it features 12 baskets that now weave around the exterior of the park's walking paths and activity areas. Quilchena is known to be very busy during the summer and on nice days. Currently the disc golf course is overlaid with the remaining programming of the park. Pathways and benches are placed in areas that show the course alignment was not fully

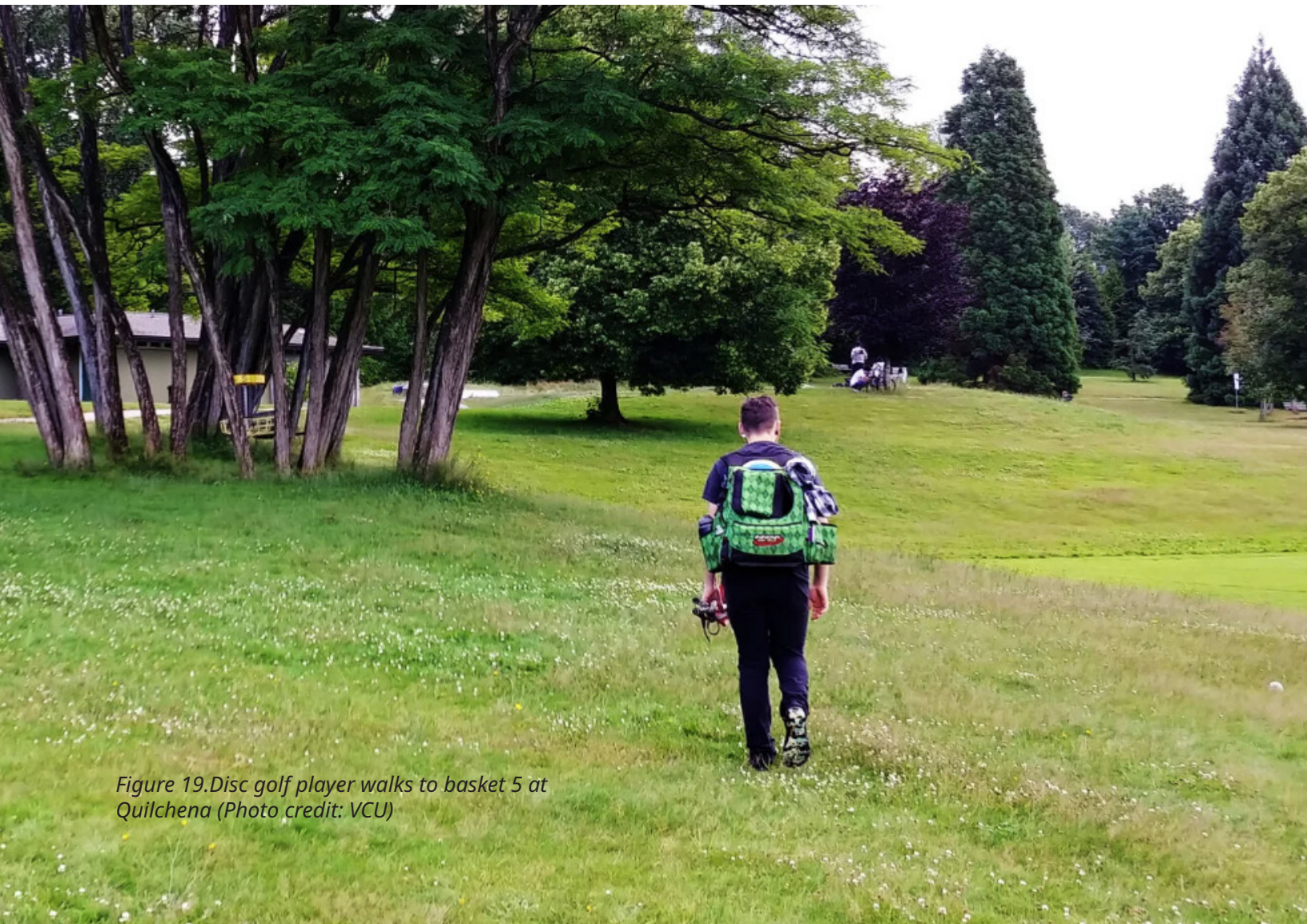


Figure 19. Disc golf player walks to basket 5 at Quilchena (Photo credit: VCU)

understood. Valley Drive park access points encourages people to walk directly across fairways of the disc golf holes which causes safety concerns and play delays. The challenge with this park is finding a solution for a historical disc golf course to be maintained, while reducing conflicts and hazards that have come from a layering of park programming. Please see Appendix A.2 for further site analysis.



Figure 21. Disc golf players at tee pad 11 (ACanning)



Figure 20. Tee pad and pathway overlap at Quilchena (ACanning)

Figure 22. Park entrance at W 33rd Ave and Valley Drive looking out from basket 12 (Photo credit: VCU)



Quilchena Park



Legend

	Tee pads		Activity areas		Washroom
	Baskets		Playing fields		Playground
	Throw line		Dog off leash area		Skate park
	Pathways		Park boundary		Water fountain
	Park buildings		Greenway		



Figure 24. Quilchena Park connectivity

Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Greenways
-  Rapid transit
-  Skytrain station
-  Nearest transit stops
-  Bus routes
-  500m walking

Connectivity

Situated in Vancouver's west side, Quilchena Park is in a residential area between W 33rd Ave (south), W 30th Ave (north), Valley Drive (west) and the Arbutus Greenway (east). The park has direct access by car and bike, while having bus stops located within 10 mins of the park. Due to the lack of direct transit access, the park is primarily a neighbourhood park with disc golf players being of the minority that travel there from afar.

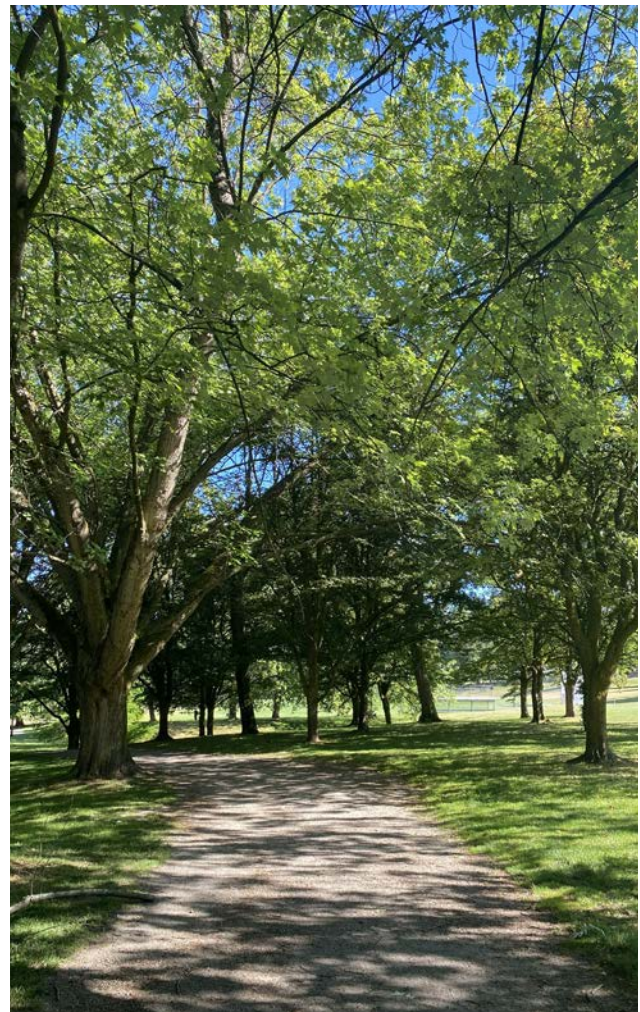


Figure 25. Pathway at tee pad 1 through the trees (ACanning)

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT



Figure 26. Disc Golf pop-up engagement (ACanning)



This chapter covers key insights gained through research and public and interest holder engagement. It summarizes analysis of current sport trends, highlights findings from engagement, and outlines established best practices that will guide future recommendations.

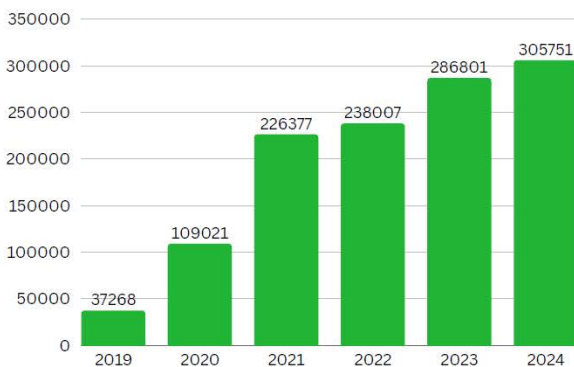
The scope of this plan did not include independent statistics collection. Information presented in this section draws from multiple sources, including discussions with neighbouring municipalities, input from our disc golf liaison group comprised of local leaders in the disc golf community, and a review of relevant online resources. Together, these inputs provide a well-rounded understanding of both community needs and industry standards and will form a strong foundation for the planning work that follows.

CURRENT TRENDS

Disc golf is a rapidly growing sport. Over 91 countries in the world now have disc golf courses, with 89% being free to play. Over 1.26 million unique players regularly used the UDisc app, and more than 21 million rounds of disc golf were recorded last year. Many additional casual players and rounds were not recorded (UDisc, 2026).

Disc golf is also thriving in British Columbia. Increasing need for outdoor games and rising demand for low-cost family activities surged since 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to BC Disc Golf. People were seeking healthy, outdoor activities with a sense of community and disc golf took off. In 2019, there were 37,268 rounds played in BC; that number grew 159% to 305,751 in 2024. There were more than 48,000 players in BC in 2024, which is a 65% year-over-year average since 2019. Players come from a range of backgrounds, with all age brackets represented. There is still a wide gender divide on number of players, with males representing the majority, however all genders are showing an upward trend (PDGA, 2023).

ROUNDS PLAYED BY YEAR IN BC



In **2024** that was more than
1 Billion Steps
taken on disc golf courses in **BC**



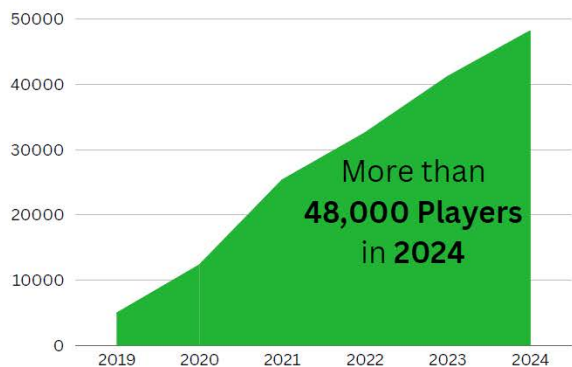
Figure 27. Disc Golf playing data in BC

VANCOUVER'S DISC GOLF COMMUNITY

Vancouver has one of the oldest disc golf courses in Canada. Queen Elizabeth's Little Mountain course was created in the 1980s soon after the sports inception. The BC Disc Golf Association (BCDGA) was created in 1990, aiming to grow the community and promote the sport. Vancouver's players united together and working with the Park Board created an additional course at Vancouver's Quilchena Park (2002) and a private course on the Jericho Lands in later years. The VanCity United Disc Golf Club (VCU) was established in 2013 and is currently the primary local non-profit organization within the city.

Following trends seen across BC, Vancouver's disc golf popularity has been steadily increasing. Each of Vancouver's three courses have seen substantial growth in rounds played since 2019. There were significant increases following 2020, with many local courses now reaching a "new normal" high number of players. In addition to increased play, there has been a consistent influx of new players entering the sport. Unlike rounds played—

UNIQUE PLAYERS IN BC BY YEAR



Average year-over-year increase is
65.6% since 2019



which experienced a sharp spike before stabilizing—player participation continues to grow, indicating disc golf’s popularity continually on the rise.

Queen Elizabeth’s Little Mountain course remains Vancouver’s most popular course and is ranked as the second most popular course in BC (UDisc Insights). In 2024, more than 14,000 rounds were recorded and over 2,600 players participated within Vancouver (UDisc, 2024), equating to more than 26,000 hours spent playing disc golf. These numbers only include people who track their games using the UDisc app, and therefore excludes casual players and untracked group play. A 2021 study estimated that only one in five players records rounds on UDisc (UDisc, 2021). In comparison, the Queen Elizabeth Pitch and Putt Course had a total of 39,839 rounds played in 2025.

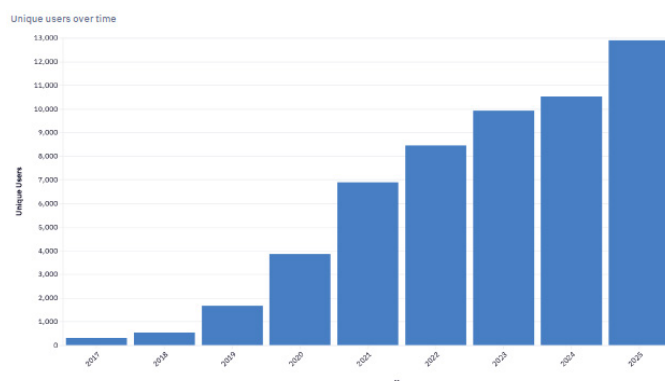


Figure 28. Metro Vancouver unique players recorded (UDisc)

Percentage increase in registered disc golf games on Vancouver courses from 2019-2024 (UDisc)

Queen Elizabeth 389%

Quilchena 586%

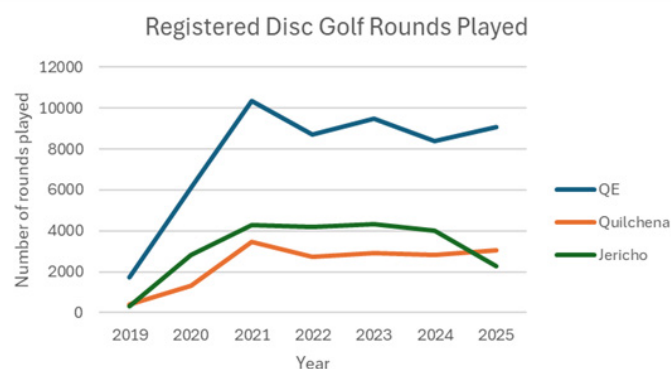
Jericho 1156%

REGIONAL DISC GOLF COURSES

The Lower Mainland offers a diverse and growing disc golf scene that caters to players of all skill levels, from casual urban rounds to more challenging forested layouts. These courses range in location with a mixture of public and private courses found in public parks, schools, and on private land.

Fourteen of the closest twenty courses to Vancouver (including the Park Board courses) are on public land and are free to play. Eastview Park in North Vancouver hosts a public community course under development, reflecting local efforts to expand the sport.

Figure 29. Registered Disc Golf Rounds Played



Note*: Jericho decrease in 2025 likely due to construction

Outside the city, Raptor Knoll Disc Golf Park in Langley stands out as an 18-hole destination course that is free to play. With forested terrain elevation changes and highly ranked reviews from the world's disc golf community, this course shows a premier design in a public setting.

The surrounding region provides many other varied courses within a drive including Dale Ball Passive Park in Langley, Mundy Park in Coquitlam, Robert Burnaby Park in Burnaby, Thornhill Park in Maple Ridge and Legacy Park in Squamish (see Appendix B for expanded list of Regional Courses). This mix of urban and regional courses make the Lower Mainland

a vibrant area for both casual play and more serious disc golf exploration. With the sports' continual popularity, it is expected there will be more courses added throughout the region in upcoming years.

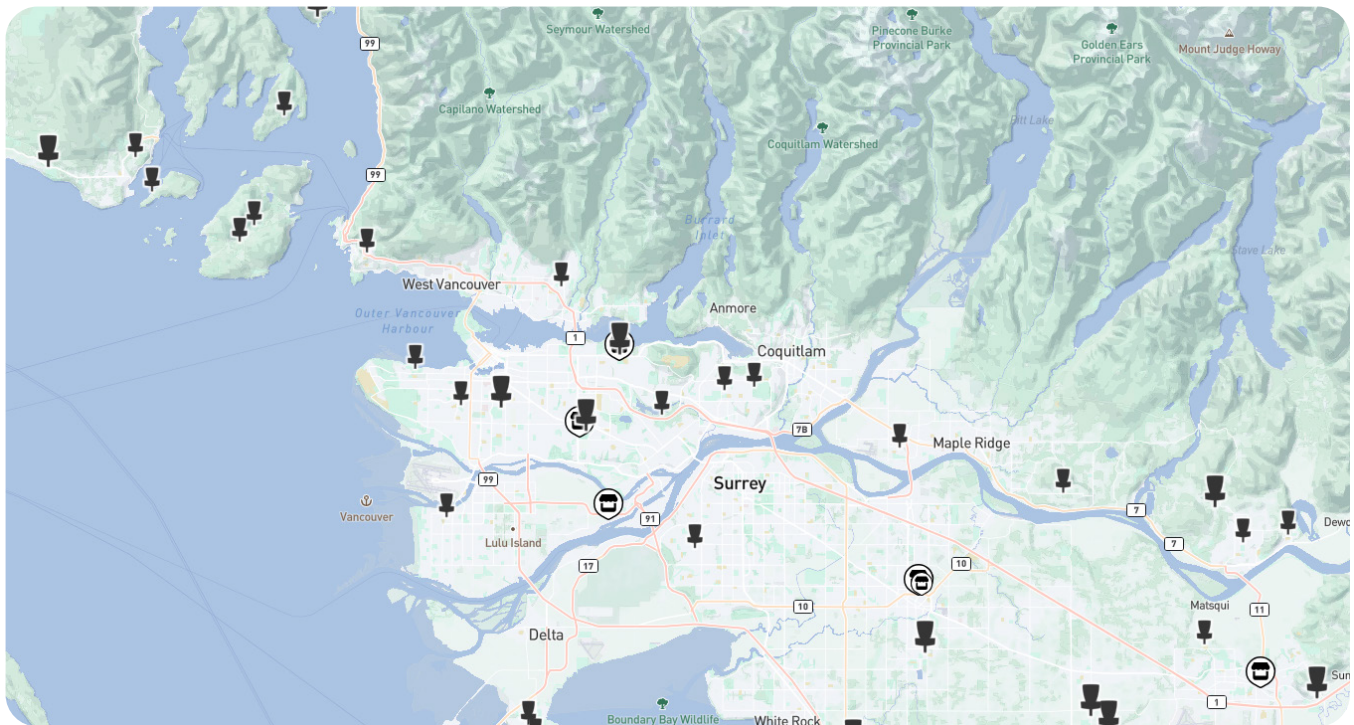


Figure 30. Regional courses map (UDisc, 2025)

WHY PEOPLE PLAY DISC GOLF

Accessible

Disc golf is played by a range of ages and abilities. Studies show players range from children to people in their eighties. The Professional Disc Golf Association showed membership increases in all age brackets, with the most significant increase in the youngest (below 25) and the oldest (above 75) age brackets (PDGA, 2023). Disc Golf courses are often in public parks, and game time can be customized. Without the need for scheduling or booking, this allows people to play when they can, for as long as they want.



A growing number of courses are being designed with opportunities for adaptive and accessible play. These adaptive course components will remove barriers and allow for more universal accessibility for people with physical and mental disabilities.

Affordable

Disc golf is a low-cost activity. After an initial cost to buy the discs (<\$20), disc golf is free to play on 89% of courses worldwide (UDisc, 2025). This is a rarity in an increasingly expensive city such as Vancouver.



Promotes Health and Wellbeing

Disc golf gets people moving, outside, and in nature. With benefits similar to going for a walk or hike, players take an average of 6500 steps or walk roughly 5km during an 18-hole round (UDisc). Physical benefits are complimented by the mental advantages of being outdoors in a park space, which has a positive effect on emotional wellbeing.



Creates Community

Disc golf is a sport driven by the community. This game can be played alone, but the majority of the time is socially played with friends and family, with many players easily joining in on a game if they come by themselves. Disc golf associations actively build community; they increase social interaction, provide a place of belonging, and generate a close-knit community that hosts many weekly leagues and events for people to join.



Stimulates Local Economy

Disc golf courses grow revenue for surrounding businesses. Community events stimulate local economy with surrounding sport shops and local online retailers being highlighted on the local association page (VanCityDG). Large events draw crowds and revenue increases can be seen in tourism where they are held (UDisc).



Repurposing underused places

Disc golf can often be built in park spaces that are underutilized or even neglected. Players bring people and eyes to a park and can reduce crime and vandalism in underutilized spaces (Sports Planning Guide. 2025) However, in Vancouver we have few underutilized park spaces, and with a growing population have a deficit of parkland to serve existing and future residents. This is our greatest challenge in a search for new or expanded disc golf opportunities.



ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement & Outreach

Public engagement for the disc golf plan included relationship building with the disc golf community, a park pop up event, social media outreach and an online Shape Your City survey. Posters were placed at all Vancouver community centres and key transit locations within the city to notify the public of the project. Signage was placed throughout Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks and in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Park Board social media advertised the project and provided links to the online project page.

The Shape Your City page had an online survey for three weeks in September 2025. It explored current experiences at Little Mountain and Quilchena Park near their disc golf courses, including favourite features, barriers to play, accessibility and shared user experience in parks.



Figure 31. Disc Golf Public Engagement (ACanning)

In addition to outreach to the general public, Park Board Staff attended two outreach events held by the Arts, Reconciliation and Culture department connecting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and organizations with Park Board projects. Staff also met with the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) to speak about opportunities the Disc Golf Plan has to reduce barriers and build inclusivity within the sport.

Municipal Engagement

Park Board staff spoke with representatives of other nearby municipalities including the City of Burnaby, City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and the City of Surrey. Regional courses were considered

within this Plan's recommendations. Staff will continue to engage with other municipalities to coordinate improvements and changes over time, when feasible.

Interest holder Engagement

A liaison group was created with local leaders in the disc golf community. Representatives from VanCity United (VCU) and the BC Disc Golf Association (BCDGA) met with staff on multiple occasions to walk through both courses and provide important insight and feedback throughout the process on what was most important to the disc golf community.

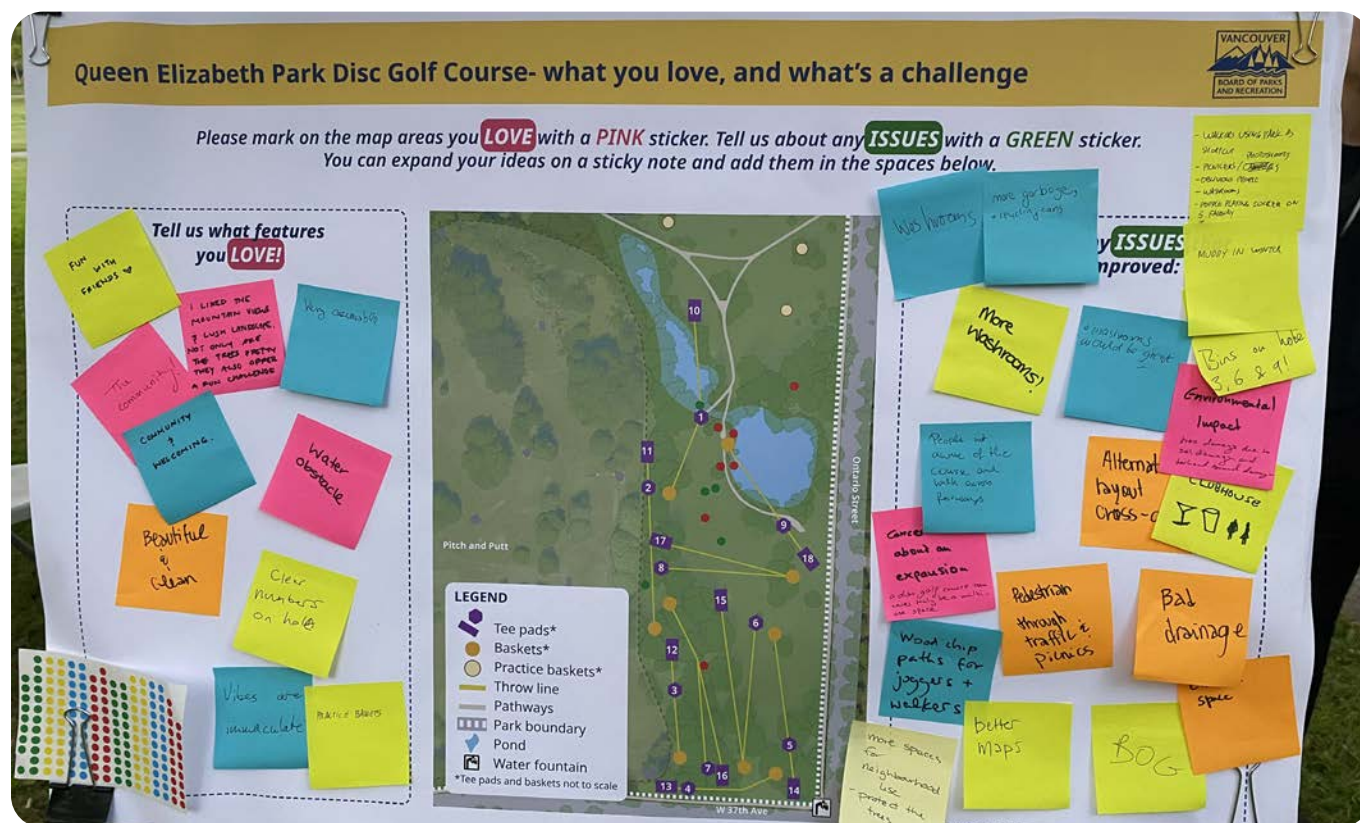


Figure 32. Public Engagement Comment Board (ACanning)

Engagement Summary



note: signage was repeatedly removed from areas surrounding Queen Elizabeth Park, potentially contributing to lower numbers of non-players and players not connected to VCU taking the survey. Staff replaced signs three times during the survey window.

Who Responded?



Key Takeaways from Engagement

Feedback received through the online SYC survey reflects community perspectives on current services, desired improvements, and future priorities. A full report summarizing

what was heard can be found in Appendix G. Engagement findings influenced the recommendations found in Chapter 4.

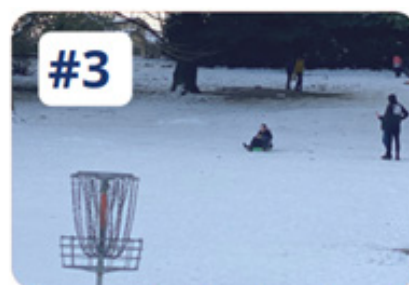
Top Priorities for Existing Course Improvements



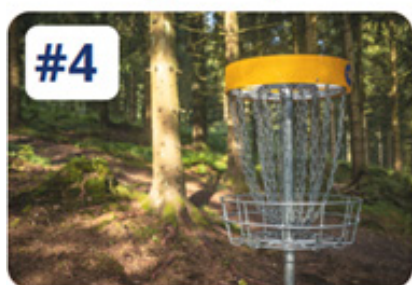
Improvements to course design and layout



Maintaining free or low-cost access



Increased safety in a shared park space



Ongoing maintenance of course and baskets



Increase in course difficulty



Protect natural setting and environment

Most desired features



34% Larger courses & more baskets



32% Safety signage for non-players



29% Wayfinding signage for players



21% *Universal washroom facility



20% Increased difficulty & complexity



16% Course delineation & dedicated space

*The lack of nearby accessible washrooms are a significant gender-based and universal accessibility issue at the Little Mountain course in Queen Elizabeth Park. The nearest accessible washrooms are located at the Queen Elizabeth pitch and putt 900m away.

BEST PRACTICES IN DISC GOLF

Understanding the best practices found today in disc golf will help shape the improvements and recommendations suggested later in this report. Information was collected from a variety of online sources, local expertise, and speaking with staff in other municipalities. Best practices related to course design, signage, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and overall course infrastructure are presented in detail in Appendix C1-C3, with a summary of key themes provided below.

ACCESSIBILITY & PLAYABILITY

Today's disc golf community includes a wide range of ages, abilities, and skill levels, making inclusive course design an important consideration. Features such as clear signage, rest areas, varied hole difficulty, and accessible design elements can help ensure courses are welcoming to all users and age levels. While varied terrain and elevation are valued elements of course design, they can create accessibility challenges.

Courses in BC are just beginning to create universally accessible courses with only 3.23% of existing courses being wheelchair accessible, and 20.97% rated as being limited mobility accessible.

Park Board courses at Quilchena and Little Mountain are both currently ranked as "limited mobility accessible" (UDisc, 2025).

Adaptive Disc Golf

Recent years have shown an increase in inclusively designed courses that ensure people with varying abilities are able to play the sport. The PDGA has guidelines and rules that can assist with the design of adaptive courses. Using these guidelines can assist players who use assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches or prosthetics, or players with disabilities such as vision or sensory impairments, to have a better experience on a course. Adaptive courses feature clear paths, minimized elevation changes, high visibility contrasts and basket and tee placements that accommodate a range of mobility levels. There is a large opportunity here for the design of universally accessible holes within the City to lead the region to inclusivity.



Figure 33. People playing disc golf at Pajuniity Disc Golf Course (Photo credit: DiscGolfPark, 2026)



Figure 34. Participant using an accessible disc golf basket (Photo credit: Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2023)

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Disc golf has a relatively small park footprint and can be integrated into existing landscapes with minimal grading or vegetation removal. Natural features such as forests, elevation changes, and vegetation are central to course design and can be enhanced through additional planting, while using existing clearings and trails helps limit impacts on sensitive habitats, root zones, and new plantings. In Vancouver parks, opportunities also exist to support habitat enhancement through native planting, invasive species removal, and ecological restoration. Education and stewardship are important components, as players often develop strong connections to the spaces they use, and many successful courses demonstrate how disc golf can align with conservation goals.

GROWTH & CO-LOCATION

Disc golf is a unique sport as it can be co-located within other park activities. Disc golf doesn't require a specialized playing area i.e. a flat open field or rubber court, it can be designed alongside other park programming. As seen in Vancouver parks, disc golf courses can be placed within a shared, multi-use park space, allowing various sports and activities to occur around each other. This design, however, can provide complications in busy parks like Queen Elizabeth and Quilchena. With park space already being highly used, conflicts can occur when there are flying discs intersecting other programming. Due to lack of space, it is rare to have a full 18-hole disc golf course in a public park. This is why many places are opting to design disc golf courses co-located in other green spaces such as golf courses and pitch and putts.

Co-location in a golf course removes the safety concern for other park users, while not impacting golf greens. Layouts can be designed to integrate with the existing golf property, while protecting turfs, greens and other infrastructure. These areas are already single-use, and using co-location allows user groups previously excluded to gain access to the privatized park spaces. Co-location offers a smart alternative that allows for pay-to-play revenue opportunities (as discussed in chapter 5) whether seasonally or throughout the year.

Co-location example:

Central Park in Burnaby provides a successful local example of co-locating disc golf within an existing pitch-and-putt course. Developed by Golf Burnaby and the Burnaby Disc Golf Club, the 18-hole course opened in January 2025 and quickly became one of the most-played courses in the world. Installation costs were estimated at \$25,000, including equipment, materials, and staff time (Vanderdeen, 2025). With 1,775 people reported playing the course in January 2025 at a \$9 greens fee, this would have already generated \$15,975 in the first month of opening (UDisc, 2025). Originally intended as a seasonal winter use, the course's popularity has led to continued operation throughout the year, demonstrating the potential for disc golf to generate significant participation and revenue within existing golf facilities.

PARTNERSHIPS, EVENTS AND REVENUE GENERATING

The sport of disc golf has a strong community. Local and regional associations create an avid player base through leagues and tournaments held throughout the year. In many places, these are a mix of free-to-play and pay-to-play opportunities. UDisc reports over 75000 league events marketed in 2025. It highlights that disc golf generates revenue. A reported 87% of players will travel (over 30 km) for a round of disc golf and 53% plan to take a disc golf trip the following year. Furthermore, although it is a low barrier for entry sport, many people enjoy the 'swag' of disc golf, with over 70% of players saying they plan to spend as much or more on equipment as the previous year.

Municipalities can benefit economically from disc golf through events and regular play. The 2019 Disc Golf World Championship in Peoria, Illinois generated an estimated \$3 million USD in tourism-related spending (Lowe, 2023). Community leagues at free local courses stimulate the local economy as well. Players support surrounding neighbourhoods through local shops and online realtors. A course in New Brunswick generating over \$11,000 in economic impact in its first months with fewer than 700 rounds played (Ben Smith, UDisc).



Figure 35.A group of people playing disc golf (AdobeStock)



A young girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a bright pink puffer jacket, blue jeans, and a white headband with black floral patterns, is captured in a dynamic pose. She is holding a teal disc golf disc with both hands, ready to throw it. Her right arm is extended forward, and her left arm is also outstretched. She is standing on a lush green lawn with some small yellow flowers. In the background, there are blurred green trees and a white fence. A large, semi-transparent green rounded rectangle is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the chapter title in white text.

CHAPTER 4: Disc Golf Course Improvements

Figure 36.A kid playing disc golf (AdobeStock)



The following recommendations for disc golf in Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks have been created considering the following inputs:

- Technical analysis
- Research of best practices and course design
- Course visits with disc golf liaisons
- Public engagement
- Extended use of special permit area in QE arboretum
- Conversations with staff in other municipalities
- Site visits with Park Board staff subject matter experts

QUILCHENA PARK DISC GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Course-wide

Recommendation 1.1

Refine the Quilchena Park disc golf course from a 12-hole to 10-hole course in order to improve park user and player experience in this multi-use park.

Recommended time frame

Ongoing, beginning short term

Recommendation 1.2

In light of the highly shared use nature of the park, periodically work with disc golf associations to assess and monitor areas with reported friction between players and other park users and where needed, refine extents of disc golf course and other park features in order to refine for park user safety.

Recommended time frame

Medium – long term



Figure 37. Quilchena map showing areas with higher conflict determined through the survey

Quilchena course changes

Tee pad changes



Figure 38. Quilchena tee pad changes

Basket changes



Figure 39. Quilchena basket changes

New disc golf course alignment



Figure 40. New Quilchena alignment

Course improvements to improve safety and player and park user experience

We heard we needed to increase safety in shared park space. These recommendations will address legacy course design features and reduce conflict between overlapping park programming.

Recommendation 1.3

Reconfigure disc golf course from 12 baskets to 10 as shown in figure 38-40.

Recommended time frame

Short

Recommendation 1.4

Relocate small number of baskets and tees as shown on figure 38 & 39..

Recommended time frame

Short

Recommendation 1.5

Add second "short" tee pad for alternate use on long and/or difficult holes to reduce friction in key conflict areas.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium

Recommendation 1.6

Reconfigure high conflict pathway to new course alignment to improve safety as seen in figure 41.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium



Figure 41. Quilchena pathway movement



Figure 42. Picture of tee pad 6 (to be removed), and pathway realignment location (ACanning)

Figure 43.Right: Concept sketch of forest hole.

Figure 44.Below: Movement of current hole 9 (new hole 8) to forested corridor and top of dog off-leash area. Work with operations and environment team for exact placement.



Figure 45.Picture showing the view from recommended tee pad location towards basket (ACanning)



Figure 46.Picture showing where throw line continues alongside dog off leash area to new basket (ACanning)

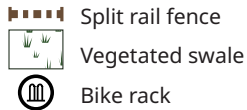


Figure 48. Quilchena map with added amenities



Recommendation 1.7

Install bike racks at park entries, as shown in figure 48.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium

Recommendation 1.8

Explore course delineation through a natural barrier, such as bioswale, to dissuade people from entering a blind spot on course (figure 49&50). The natural barrier will also help mitigate field flooding, and enhance biodiversity and ecological value. Explore small split rail fence to alert public of basket in OLA (figure 47).

Recommended time frame

Short- medium

Recommendation 1.9

Explore partnerships in invasive species removal to enhance habitat quality and make space for course alignment improvements.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium



Figure 47. Split rail fence (Photo credit: Ann Couser Kittredge)





Figure 49. Conceptual sketch render of planted swale.
Figure 50. Below: Picture of current swale at hole 1.
(ACanning)

Protecting natural setting and the environment was ranked as a top priority for both disc golf players and other park users. A planted swale can help enhance biodiversity while improving course playability.





Figure 51. Invasive species info stand during the Chainlink Conversation Tournament series at the Albion Albratross Disc Golf Course Conservation Park run by Toronto Region Conservation Authority (Photo credit: Sean McGlynn)



Purple / Short Tee Box
Beginner target suitable for all new players, families with young children, or advanced players looking for testing practice.

Green / Long Tee Box
Competitive target suitable for players wanting accuracy with longer throws, or advanced players looking for new tests.

Target / Basket Location

P Parking **SS** Pro Shop **BA** Restrooms

#	par	ft/m	ft/m
1	3	67/20	151/46
2	3	75/23	125/38
3	3	80/24	176/52
4	3	60/18	122/37
5	3	75/23	150/46
6	3	78/24	200/61
7	3	62/19	120/37
8	3	75/23	185/56
9	3	70/21	140/43
27		642/195	1363/416

fluentdiscsport.com

IMPORTANT!
This is a multi use facility and an active equestrian centre. Please be mindful of other activities (rocking, hiking, etc) taking place. In winter please do not walk on the track set portion of the ski trails. Always yield to equestrians and never throw discs in the vicinity of horses.
No smoking on the course.
Thank you!

Disc Golf Rules, Safety and Etiquette

Objective of the Game
Disc Golf is played like traditional golf, but with disc golf discs instead of balls and clubs. One throw (stroke) is counted each time the disc is thrown and when a penalty is incurred. The goal is to play each hole in the fewest strokes possible. The player with the lowest total strokes for the entire course wins.

Safety First
Never throw when other players or other pedestrians are within range. Always give pedestrians the right of way. Be aware of your surroundings and environment at all times.

Tee Throws
Each hole begins with a tee throw. Tee throws must be completed within or behind the designated tee area.

Lie
The spot where the player's previous throw has landed. Mark each lie with a mini marker disc or leave the thrown disc on the ground where it landed. The player's subsequent throw is made from directly behind the marked lie.

Throwing Order
The player with the least amount of strokes on the previous hole is the first to tee off on the next hole. After all players have teed off, the player whose disc is farthest from the target throws first, and so on.

Fairway Throws
Fairway throws must be made from directly behind the lie. A run-up and normal follow-through, after release, is allowed, unless the lie is within 10 meters of the target. Any shot within 10 meters of the target requires that the player maintain balance and not move past the lie until the disc comes to rest.

Completion Of Hole
A disc that comes to rest in the disc golf basket or suspended in the chains constitutes the successful completion of that hole.

Out Of Bounds
If any area of O.B. is visible between the disc and O.B. line, then the disc is considered O.B. A throw that lands out of bounds, must be played from a point up to 1 meter in bounds from where the disc crossed over the out of bounds line. O.B. zones are indicated on the course map, however, permanent water hazards, roads/parking areas, and property boundaries are also considered out of bounds.



DISC GOLFERS CODE

1 PLAY SMART
Never throw into a blind area or when players, spectators, pedestrians, or other facility users are within range. Use a spotter.

2 RESPECT THE COURSE
Observe all posted rules. No littering, graffiti, or abuse of equipment or flora.

3 REPRESENT THE SPORT
Be positive and responsible. Teach others.

The Cub Course at Bondi
Maple 48
<http://fluentdiscsport.com/bondicubcourse>



Figure 52. Example of course map and etiquette signage (Photo credit: Bondi Cottage Cub Course, Fluentdiscsport)

Signage improvements to improve safety, wayfinding and park user experience

These recommendations will help improve park safety and minimize conflicts in multi-use park spaces for players and all park users by increasing sport visibility and course recognition. Signage for safety and awareness was identified in public engagement as a key improvement needed for all park users.

Recommendation 2.0

Install additional safety signage at locations as shown in figure 53.

Recommended time frame

Short

Recommendation 2.1

Install additional wayfinding signage at locations as shown in figure 53.

Recommended time frame

Short

Recommendation 2.2

Install course map and player etiquette sign at locations as shown in figure 53.

Recommended time frame

Short



Figure 53. Quilchena signage

- (A) Map & etiquette signage
- (B) Tee pad wayfinding signage
- (C) Basket wayfinding signage
- (D) Safety signage



Figure 54. Wayfinding signage at WHD Gard (Photo credit: DiscGolfPark)



Figure 55.A kid playing disc golf (AdobeStock)

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK DISC GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Little Mountain course improvements

Course-wide

Recommendation 2.3

Undertake small scale improvements to the existing disc golf course, in conjunction with recommendation #4.1 to improve player experience and clarity of course boundaries for other park users.

Implementation of approved Queen Elizabeth Park disc golf recommendations will be coordinated through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities (QEPNA) Site Plan process.

The QEPNA process will refine the siting, design, accessibility, pathways, and integration of disc golf improvements alongside other neighbourhood-serving amenities through further technical review and public engagement.



Figure 56. Person throwing disc at Little Mountain course
(Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

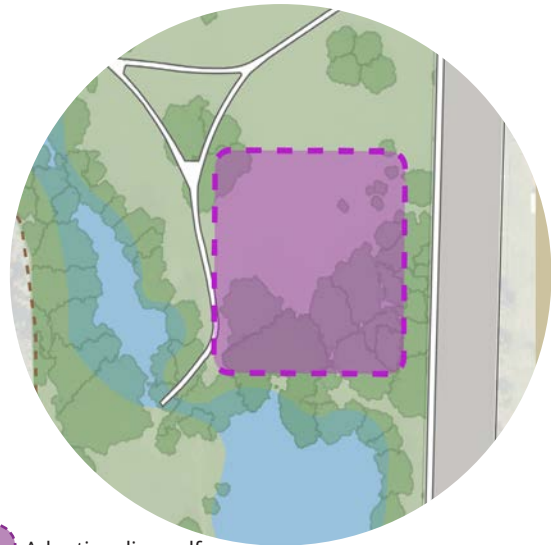
Course improvements to improve safety and player and park user experience

Recommendation 2.4

Through further engagement with PDAC, introduce an adaptive disc golf area, roughly in the area illustrated in figure 59.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.



Adaptive disc golf area

Figure 59. Map of recommended adaptive disc golf area.

Recommendation 2.5

Install split rail fencing and pathway improvements to better delineate the Little Mountain disc golf course. Remove or relocate two practice baskets to create a safe walking corridor at 33rd Ave and Ontario Street.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.

Figure 58. Map showing pedestrian corridor connecting to 33rd Ave and Ontario Street and split rail fence to delineate disc golf course.

- Conceptual pathway connection
- Conceptual split rail fence location
- Practice baskets removed



Figure 57. Pedestrian corridor connecting to 33rd Ave and Ontario Street (ACanning)



Figure 60. Person in a wheelchair playing disc golf (Photo credit: PDGA)

Accessible play zone

Accessibility considerations raised through engagement with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee highlighted the importance of providing adaptive recreation spaces that can be reserved for specialized programming and safe participation. In this case, the play area would need to be blocked off to prevent the public from entering. In both Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth this would be limited to specialized park signage alerting of special group play. Future co-located courses would be better suited for fully reservable spaces.

Discovery disc golf, developed by Fluent Disc Sport, specializes in designing courses for urban settings that feature a small footprint and adaptive play. They can range from one hole or more, provide areas to practice disc golf techniques (grip, throws etc.) and provide various games to be played that range from solo to group play. This type of course and style of design would be beneficial in the practice area of Little Mountain and be a potential change for long-term play in Quilchena.

Recommendation 2.6

Explore environmental enhancements such as planting trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity and course difficulty. Add mulch to exposed critical root zones. Explore wetland enhancement at Queen Elizabeth Park collaboratively with Environment staff. Integrate ecological interpretive signage with course wayfinding where possible.

Recommended time frame

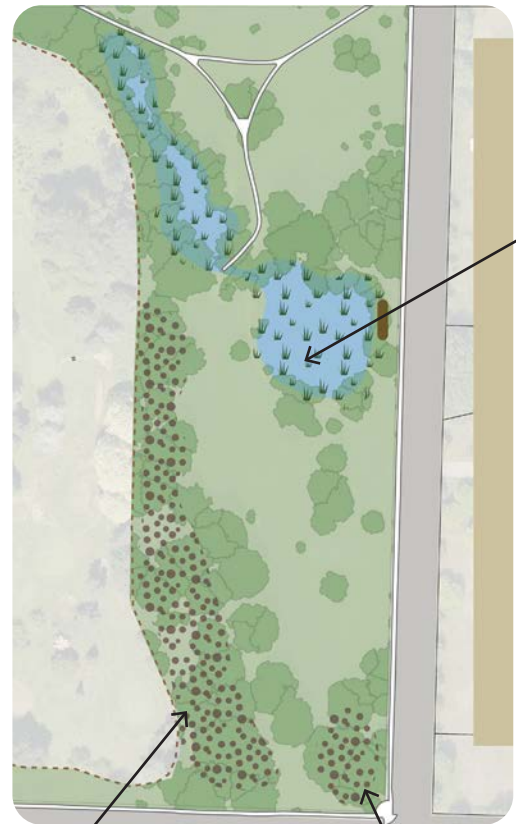
Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.

Recommendation 2.7

Consider relocation of short tee and basket for hole-9 to allow for wetland buffer. Final setbacks to be determined by wetland enhancement project.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.



 Potential wetland enhancement area
 Mulching zone



Figure 61. Southwest area recommended for mulching to protect critical root zones (ACanning)



Figure 62. Southeast area recommended for mulching to protect critical root zones (ACanning)



Figure 63. Winter flooding along pond and unofficial pathway. Potential area for planting of wetland buffer (ACanning)



Figure 65. Example of ecological signage used at Nature's Edge disc golf course at Ken Reid Conservation Area in Ontario (Photo credit: Fluent Disc Sport)



Figure 64. Potential movement of basket 9/18 to accomodate wetland buffer (ACanning)

Recommendation 2.8

Consider the addition of equipment sharing installation “Equip Sport” to reduce barriers to play.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium

Recommendation 2.9

Consider the suitability, feasibility and cost implications of the installation of a new universal washroom that is better accessed from east/north areas of QE park as part of long-term, city-wide washroom prioritization processes.

Recommended time frame

Long term

Signage improvements to improve safety, wayfinding and park user experience

Improve park safety and minimize conflicts in multi-use park spaces for players and all park users by increasing sport visibility and course recognition. Signage for safety and awareness was identified in public engagement as a key improvement needed for all park users.

Recommendation 3.0

Install additional safety, wayfinding and site signage.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.



Figure 66. Self-serve sport equipment lockers by Equip sport (Photo credit: City of Vancouver)



Figure 67. Professional Disc Golf Association Code of conduct (Photo credit: PDGA)

Recommendation 3.1

Install course map and player etiquette sign at key entries to the course area.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.



Figure 68. Little Mountain signage

- (A) Map & etiquette signage
- (B) Tee pad wayfinding signage
- (C) Basket wayfinding signage
- (D) Safety signage

Figure 69. conceptual sketch of split rail fence and signage at Little Mountain disc golf course.

Figure 70. Exact signage and fence location determined through Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.

Signage

To ensure Vancouver parks are welcoming for all, safety and inclusion is the priority. Many of the park conflicts reported through public engagement suggest park users were unaware of the disc golf courses. Following best practices guidelines,

site signage and course delineation markers should be used where possible to make all park users aware of course location, direction of play and sport code of conduct. Signage should be added at both Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth park courses.

DISC GOLF ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Data management

Recommendation 3.2

Continue to update the Park Board's internal GIS system with any updated tee and basket locations in order to have infrastructure recorded for planning, park development and operations and maintenance.

Recommended time frame

Ongoing

Communications

Recommendation 3.3

Through partnership with the VanCity United Disc Golf Club, develop and upload a disc golf code of conduct to the Park Board and VCU websites in order to improve all park users experience.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium

Recommendation 3.4

Update the Park Board and Vancouver.ca websites with safety guidelines and descriptions clarifying that Little Mountain is a year-round, all-levels course, while Quilchena is primarily a seasonal, community course.

Recommended time frame

Short- medium





Figure 71. Person playing disc golf in winter (AdobeStock)



Figure 72. Person playing at disc golf tournament (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

A photograph of a person in a grey long-sleeved shirt and black pants performing a handstand on a green lawn. The person's right leg is bent and raised, and their left leg is also bent. In the background, another person is sitting on a red folding chair, and there are trees with green and yellow leaves. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

CHAPTER 5: EVENTS AND ACTIVATIONS

COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS

The VanCity United Disc Golf Association (VCU) hosts weekly events for its members with various league play on Thursday, Saturday and Sundays. There are tournaments and charity events held throughout the year through VCU and BC Disc Golf Association (BCDGA) at Queen Elizabeth that are often pay-to-play, with 12 in 2025 alone. With no 18-hole course located within Vancouver Parks, currently the VCU applies for a special event tournament permit to expand play for a limited time. They charge a nominal amount to join the tournament to keep it accessible for people, while covering their costs to host. Creating a permanent 18-hole course would allow for more tournament events to be held and more local revenue to be generated. Partnerships with Vancouver shops already exist, with the current disc 'lost and found' for Little Mountain being held at the local ice cream shop and disc sales being advertised at a local sport shop in the neighbourhood. These partnerships are mutually beneficial for both the players and the local small businesses.

REVENUE GENERATING

The largest opportunity for revenue generation is by creating a unique disc golf course co-located in a distinct area such as an existing golf course or pitch and putt. These courses could be pay-to-play consistently throughout the year as well as having tournament grade design to host larger events with higher entry costs. This model has been successful in many locations, with courses able to raise additional funds through sales at the pro-shops and concessions attached.

It should be noted that a consistent pay-to-play model will only work with co-location in a designated course as continuing the free-to-play model in public parks remains a key principle for the Park Board.



Figure 73. Queen Elizabeth Park disc golf group on tournament expansion course (ACanning)



*Figure 74. A person playing disc golf on tournament expansion course
(Photo credit: Eric Thompson)*



Figure 75. Disc golfer in Vancouver (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)



CHAPTER 6: NEW AND/ OR EXPANDED COURSES

Queen Elizabeth Park Expansion

Through staff's research and feedback during public engagement it is recommended that a course expansion occur at Queen Elizabeth Park to meet growing need across the city. As outlined in the trends analysis, participation is increasing, placing pressure on existing courses signaling the need for either an expanded or secondary course to meet service levels. As there is no current alternative park space to accommodate a new or expanded course of this scale, Queen

Elizabeth provides an opportunity to expand on the existing Little Mountain course to create 18-hole play within the city.

Public engagement further supports this direction. Users consistently report high wait times, limited space to play, and strong interest larger courses with higher difficulty. Queen Elizabeth Park has less reported conflict with other park uses, while also being more centrally located and easier for residents to access. These factors make it a practical and

Expansion Zone Recommendation Map

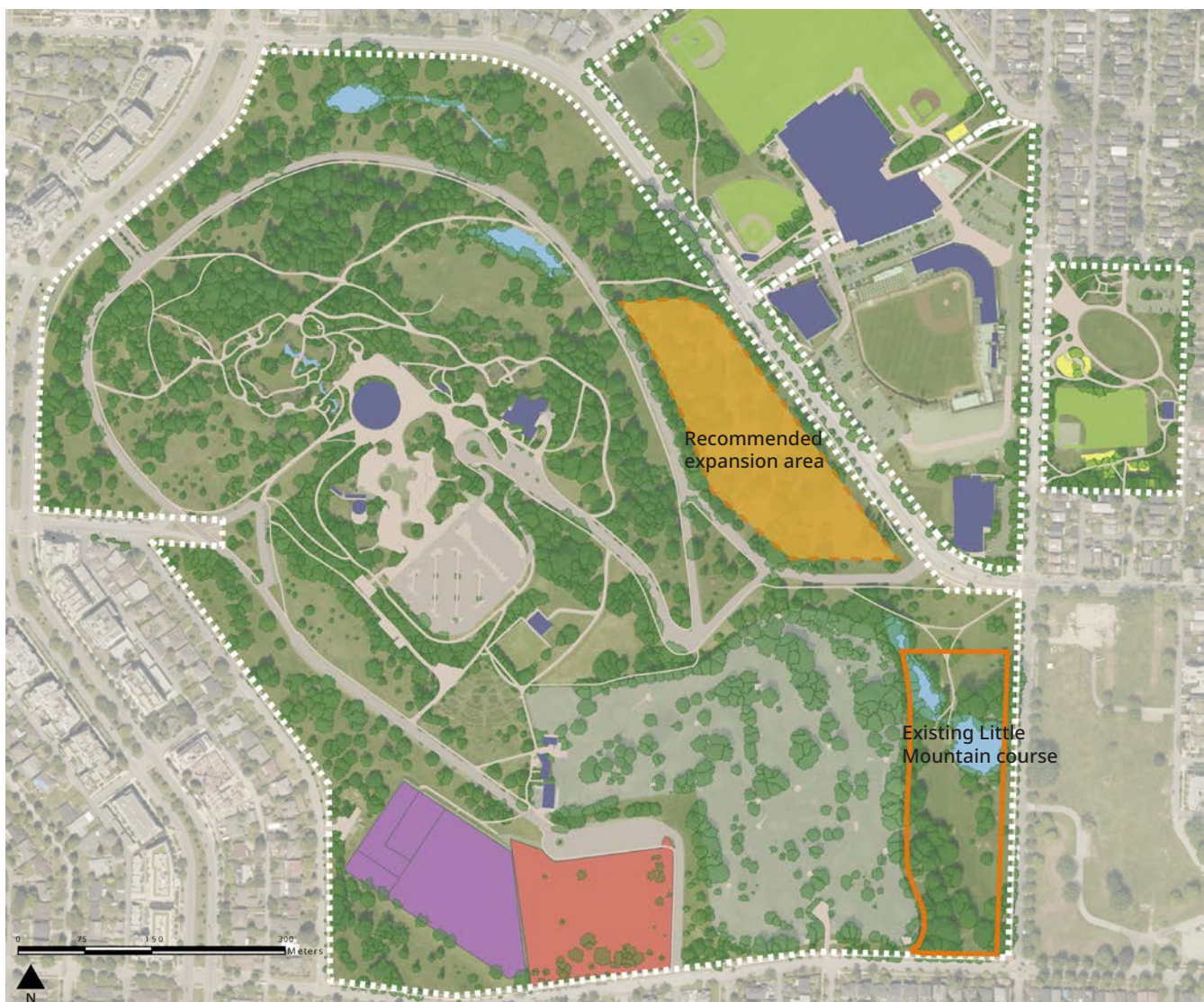


Figure 76. Queen Elizabeth Park disc golf expansion zone recommendation map



Figure 78. Queen Elizabeth Park expanded tournament area



Figure 77. Disc golf basket in temporary pilot expansion area (ACanning)

equitable choice for expansion. Staff bear in mind that the majority of public input received was from the disc golf community, which highlights a need for additional public engagement before the expansion area is finalized.

Internal review with operations staff has confirmed the feasibility of this site. The proposed area (as seen in Figure 76) within the park is currently underutilized and can be adapted with minimal disruption. The park has already demonstrated success while hosting disc golf events in an even larger area of the park (as seen in Figure 78). A pilot initiative allowed the tournament layout to remain for 6 months in 2025 and it was well-received by the local community, reinforcing both the suitability of the location and the likelihood of continued success with a permanent expansion. A small scale consulting contract would be required to design the expanded course.



Figure 79. Disc golfers playing in temporary pilot expansion area at Queen Elizabeth Park (ACanning)

Rupert Park Co-location Rationale

Rupert Park Pitch & Putt would provide a viable option for a quick implementation co-location course with revenue generating opportunities. Using VanPlay's park equity mapping and data identifying areas with high demand for low-barrier recreation, Rupert Park is located adjacent to the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood, which ranks high in demonstrated need for equitable access to recreational opportunities. Though a co-location wouldn't be adding a new park, it would open the space to a wider breath of the public to increase affordable, inclusive recreation.

Already a dedicated space, the pitch and putt holds key infrastructure such as washrooms and a pro-shop that could sell or rent discs along with food and beverages, creating immediate revenue opportunities. Previous pop-up events here have featured an 18-hole design and have matched golf revenue, demonstrating the strong demand and financial viability of this location. The Park Board has already purchased discs through the pop-up event, reducing initial start-up costs. The course is currently closed during the winter with no revenue generated. Issues exist with people using the course for pitch



Figure 80. Rupert Pitch & Putt pop-up disc golf tournament map (Photo credit: VCU)

and putt games during the winter and further degrading the golf greens leading to higher maintenance costs. Installing a course could provide a mutually beneficial opportunity that would allow disc golf to be played full time during the off-season, as disc golf is not nearly as impactful, while golf greens renew. With success, disc golf could potentially become weekly in summer months and be easily adaptable for tournaments to increase the overall annual revenue. Potential course design could align with the small-scale contract model proposed for Queen Elizabeth Park, making implementation cost effective.

With conflicts at Quilchena course not expected to decrease, having a dedicated course would remove some of the pressure on the existing courses and allow Vancouver Parks the ability to keep up with service needs.



Figure 82. Rupert Pitch & Putt location



Figure 81. Rupert Pitch & Putt pop-up tournament (Photo credit: CBC News)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISC GOLF IN VANCOUVER PARKS

Expansion

To address increasingly high use levels of disc golf courses in parks, to meet growing service level requirements and improve safety in shared park spaces. To enhance the sport of disc golf by creating an 18-hole course with diversified holes and reduce experienced wait times.



Figure 83. Queen Elizabeth Park Disc Golf tournament expansion area (ACanning)

Recommendation 4.1

Expand the Little Mountain disc golf course at Queen Elizabeth Park to include the area shown in Figure 76, in order to facilitate an 18 hole disc golf course for year round usage.

Recommended time frame

Further this work through the upcoming Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan in 2026 to 2027

Recommendation 4.2

If recommendation (4.1, above) is approved by the Park Board, install temporary signage and work with the disc golf community to enable a temporary course prior to completion of the Queen Elizabeth Park Neighbourhood Amenities project and related installation.



Figure 84. Group playing disc golf at Queen Elizabeth Park (ACanning)

Co-location

To address future service level requirements, equitable park access and enhance potential revenue streams for pay-to-play and tournament hosting.

Recommendation 4.3

Work with golf services to establish a co-located course at Rupert Pitch and Putt to operate seasonally as a pay to play course.

Recommended time frame

Short – medium

Note: Disc Golf Plan - Queen Elizabeth Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan.

To align with the revised project schedule, select components of the Disc Golf Plan's approved scope will be advanced through the Queen Elizabeth Neighbourhood Amenities Site Plan. Approved disc golf recommendations for Queen Elizabeth Park will be carried forward as part of this work, including a second phase of engagement on the siting of the Little Mountain course expansion and pathways. A small-scale consulting contract will be included in the project budget to support the design of the expansion. By coordinating these initiatives, the approved recommendations can be seamlessly integrated into the broader Queen Elizabeth Park site plan.

Siting Criteria

Recommendation 4.4

If the Board were to consider any additional disc golf courses in the future, utilize the siting criteria on page 84 to guide decision making.

Recommended time frame

Ongoing, not recommended prior to long term



Figure 85. Rupert Park aerial view



Figure 86. Person playing disc golf in the fall (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

Appendices

- Appendix A.1 - Queen Elizabeth Park, Little Mountain
- Appendix A.2 - Quilchena Park
- Appendix B - Regional Courses
- Appendix C.1 - Best Practices: Course design
- Appendix C.2 - Best Practices: Safety and Shared Space
- Appendix C.3 - Best Practices: Accessibility & Playability
- Appendix D - Costing
- Appendix E - Future Locations
- Appendix F - What We Heard Report

APPENDIX A.1 - QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK, LITTLE MOUNTAIN

History

The area now known as Queen Elizabeth Park was once part of a coastal western hemlock forest that spanned from the Fraser River to False Creek. With a height of 125m above sea level, Little Mountain is the last remnants of an extinct volcano. This landscape would have been dominated by Douglas-fir plant communities, with western hemlock and red cedar trees creating a rich mosaic. An understory of salal, dull Oregon-grape, red huckleberry and moss would have covered the forest floor and provided for a rich variety of wildlife. The diverse flora and fauna in this area would have been significant to local indigenous peoples who sourced food and medicine in these forests.

By the mid 19th century, the arrival of colonial settlers marked the beginning of this region's transformations. In 1893, pioneers logged

Little Mountain and cut trails around its base. By the early 1900s, communities began to form on what is now upper Main Street. Little Mountain was used as a quarry in the beginning of the twentieth century to provide materials for the city's roads. Residents of this area would have been primarily quarry workers.

By the 1920s, one of the rock quarries was converted to the city's water reservoir and by the 1930s, this area was given to the Park Board and the sunken gardens and the City's first civic arboretum was created.



Figure 87. Little Mountain disc golf sign (ACanning)



Figure 89. Queen Elizabeth park pond archive 1985 CVA 792-415



Figure 88. Queen Elizabeth practice area archive 1985 COV-S639-3-F24- CVA 792-451

Existing Site Conditions

The Little Mountain Disc Golf course sits within the southeast portion of Queen Elizabeth Park. This park has been heavily managed since its horticultural beginnings in the 40s. The Little Mountain course is located on a sloped hill that levels into a flat grass field and pond ecosystem. During rain events, the lower field and area near the pond are prone to flooding.

The disc golf course has little infrastructure associated with it consisting only of tee pads, baskets, and a sign. There are two types of tee pads in the course, rectangular and hexagonal, both made of concrete. The tee pads and baskets are placed directly into the ground with little surrounding impact. There are no pathways connecting the holes on this course. Light soil compaction can be seen surrounding tee pads, baskets and on key walkways through the course.

Quick facts:

- 18 hole (9 holes but double played), par 54 course with 9 official and 4 practice baskets.
- Beginner friendly recreational layout with more challenging alternate layouts often played
- 13 total baskets (11 x DGA Mach X, 2 x DGA Mach III)
- 18 concrete tee pads (9 x octagonal for short tees, 9 x rectangular for long tees), no tee pads in practice baskets
- Site map at hole 1, hole numbers on each tee pad but very worn
- No wayfinding signage, minimal safety signage
- Holes 9 and 18 feature a water hazard in play for the majority of the hole
- Moderate -high elevation change, limited mobility accessibility rating on UDisc



Figure 90. Queen Elizabeth Disc Golf field in fall (ACanning)

Queen Elizabeth Little Mountain Existing Course Conditions



Practice basket with dog walker behind



Existing safety signage



Main sign with course map and back rack



View from tee pad 1 across the course



Sunny day with group playing



Light compaction and wear around baskets



Basket 3/4 near corner of Ontario and W 37th Ave



People using hill to toboggan, while others play disc golf



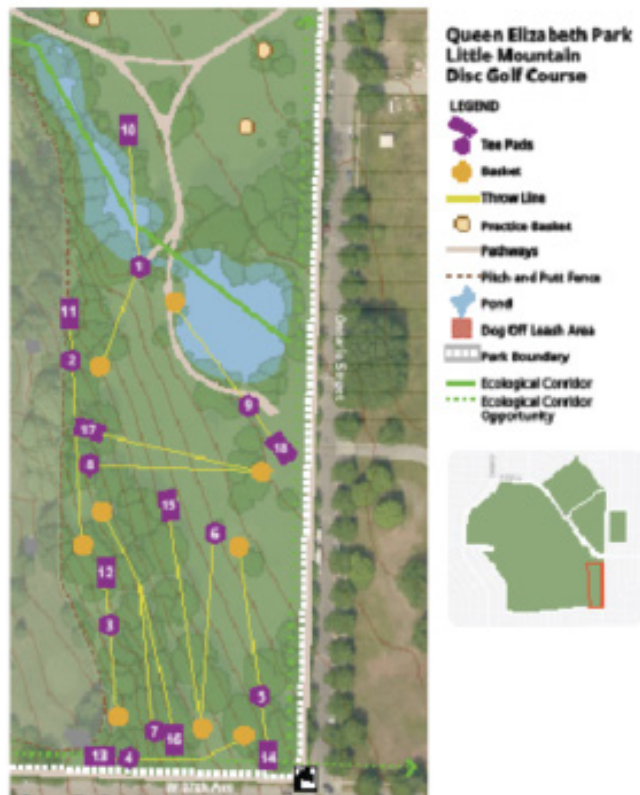
Basket placement through the trees



Two different shaped tee pads

Figure 91. Queen Elizabeth little mountain existing course conditions

Queen Elizabeth Little Mountain Existing Course Conditions



Water obstacle at basket 9/18 near curving path with blindspot



Course flooding during rain



Gravel added around baskets to help with drainage



Flooding in wintertime near tee pad 18



Light compaction and wear around baskets



Ecological corridor through pond ecosystem

Figure 92. Queen Elizabeth little mountain existing course conditions

APPENDIX A.2 - QUILCHENA PARK

History

Quilchena Park is situated inland, approximately 3.3km north of the Fraser River and 2.9km south of English Bay and False Creek. This region in what is now Vancouver's west side, sits within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic ecosystem and was one characterized by coastal forested ecosystems, seasonal wetlands, and grassland clearings prior to colonial development. The name Quilchena, comes from the Salish word meaning flat place near water, or sweet waters. With two historical hydrological features bisecting the park, it is likely this area contained wet or swampy areas where the streams originated.

In the early 20th century, the land was heavily altered when it was converted into the Quilchena Golf Course. Widespread clearing of forest vegetation, land regrading, and the burying of waterways would have been replaced by golf greens and imported sands. When the golf lease expired in 1956, the Vancouver Park Board purchased the property dividing the western section into

Prince of Wales Secondary School and designating the eastern portion as a public park. Park development began in the 60s, transforming the golf course into one of the larger neighbourhood parks with open lawns and views of the mountains.

Existing Site Conditions

Quilchena Park is a beloved multi-purpose neighbourhood park. The disc golf course is currently woven throughout the exterior of the park around walking paths and activity areas. Quilchena is known to be very busy during the summer and on nice days. Currently the disc golf course is overlayed with the remaining programming of the park. Pathways and benches are placed in areas that show the course alignment was not fully understood. Park parking coming from Valley Drive encourages people to walk directly across fairways of the disc golf holes causes delays or safety concerns. The challenge with this park is finding a solution for a historical disc



Figure 93. Clearing timber Quilchena 1926



Figure 94. Quilchena 1956 CVA 804-57-

golf course to be maintained, while reducing conflicts and hazards that have come from a layering of park programming.

The park has a vegetated corridor running along its eastern side on the arbutus greenway. This area has mixed vegetation with a high level of invasives such as English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and holly. The alignment adjacent to the greenway is mowed for maintenance. There are multiple unsanctioned pathways that cut through this area that connect to the surrounding neighborhood. There is a sloping hill on the eastern side of the park levelling out on the playing fields. This area contains a view corridor to the north shore mountains from the south, the off-leash dog area, playground, skate park and washrooms. The middle of the park is filled with playing fields including two soccer fields and two baseball diamonds, while the western and northern sides contain meandering walking paths and the Hellenic Gardens. There is a perimeter path leading around the park that is very popular for walking and jogging but no pathways directly connecting baskets.

Quick facts:

- 12 hole recreational course, par 39
- Recreational layout with more many alternate layouts offering beginner to expert levels
- 12 Innova DISCcatcher baskets with 12 concrete tee pads
- No site map, hole numbers on each tee pad but very worn
- No wayfinding signage, minimal safety signage
- Walking paths and heavy pedestrian use cause many obstacles and increase waiting times
- Moderate elevation change, limited mobility accessibility rating on UDisc



Figure 95. View of Quilchena park (ACanning)

Circulation and Ecological maps



Figure 96. Circulation and ecological maps

Quilchena Park Existing Course Conditions



View of overlapping holes and blind corner on pathways



Existing site signage for OLA



Tee pad overlapping with pathway



Hole 4 with jogger in direct line to basket



The "nest" shot on basket 5



View from tee pad 1, along pathway



Park entry at basket 12 with existing site signage



Park entry into OLA. View corridor.

Figure 97. Quilchena park existing course conditions

APPENDIX B - REGIONAL COURSES

Name	Location	Ownership	Type	Created	Fees	Rating ★	Difficulty	Availability	Hours	Use
Quilchena Park	Vancouver	Public	12-hole	2002		3.7	Moderate/ Hard	All year	Public park	Public multi- course
Queen Elizabeth Park Little Mountain	Vancouver	Public	13-holes	1983		3.9	Easy/ Mod/ Hard	All year	Public park	Public multi- course
Jericho Lands	Vancouver	Private	17-holes	1998		3.6	Easy/ Mod/ Hard	Restricted annually	School restrictions	School
Eastview Park	North Vancouver	Public	6-hole	2009		3.3	Easy	All year	Restricted park hours	Public
Grouse Mountain	North Vancouver	Private	18-hole	2013	82	4.1	Moderate	Seasonal, currently closed	Restricted	Private multi- course
Rockridge	West Vancouver	School	9-hole	2010		3.7	Beginner	Restricted annually	School restrictions	School
Central Park DGC	Burnaby	Private/ City Owned	18-hole	2024	9	4.4	Moderate	Seasonal	Restricted	Golf course
Robert Burnaby Park	Burnaby	Public	10-hole	1993		4	Easy/ Mod	All year	Public park	Public multi- course
Blue Mountain Glow	Coquitlam	Public, privately run	7-holes	2020		4.9		Scheduled, seasonal, restricted pop up	Public park usually evening/ night course	Public multi- course
Mundy Park	Coquitlam	Public	9-holes	1982		3.9	Easy/ Mod	All year	Public park	Public
Thompson Community Centre	Richmond	Public	6-holes	2008		2.8	Easy	All year	Public park	Public
Gunderson Park	Delta	Public park	5-holes	2024		3.3	Easy/ Mod	Temp pop up pilot	Public park	Public
Diefenbaker Park Pilot Project	Delta	Public Park	12-holes	2025		3.7	Mod	Pilot program, all year	Public park	Public
Dennison Temporary	Delta	Public park	6-holes	2024		3.4		Temp pilot	Public park	Public
Langley Passive Park	Langley	Public park	22-holes	2004		4	Mod	All year	Public park	Public
Raptors Knoll Dis Golf Park	Langley	Public park	18-holes	2019		4.8	All- Hard- very hard	All year	Public park	Public dedicated
Bonson Bowl	Pitt Meadows	Public park	8-holes	2024		3.8	Easy	All year	Public park	Public
Thornhill Park	Maple Ridge	Public park	12-holes	2005		4.2	Easy/ Mod	All year	Public park	Public
Veterans Park	Bowen Island	Public park	9-holes	2019		4.5	Mod	All year	Public park	Public dedicated
Legacy Park	Squamish	Private	18-hole	2016		4.5	Easy/ Mod/ Hard		Private, Club, School	Private with 9 Nordic
Fraser Glen Golf Course Pop-Up	Abbotsford	Private	20-holes	2022	Yes	4.5			Private, golf course	Private

	Accessible	Terrain	Facilities	Construction	Notes
Disc park, busy use	Limited mobility/cane accessible	mostly flat grass	WC, fountain	Concrete, grass, gravel	12 baskets with variety of short and long throws. Heavy walking traffic
Disc park, multiuse, dedicated course	Limited mobility/cane accessible	Hilly, open and forested, can be muddy	Fountain	Concrete, grass	9 hole with 18 alternative use, 4 practice baskets, oldest and most popular course in Vancouver.
Disc park, multiuse		Very hilly	Fountain	Grass, asphalt, dirt, gravel	No single fixed layout
Disc park		Flat, forested	WC	Concrete	
Disc park, multiuse, shared area	No	Very hilly	WC, fountain	Gravel, grass	Mountain course with tons of elevation changes, incredible views and creative shots. The front 9 is fun for all abilities. Longer holes have family tees. Back 9 is challenging for even the best players. Good signage
Disc park, multiuse	No	Hilly, forested		dirt tee pads, permanent baskets	Short putter course for beginners
Disc park, multiuse	Limited mobility/cane accessible	Flat	WC, fountain	Asphalt	Begun as a winter seasonal course but due to popularity now open on Tuesday evenings through the summer
Disc park, multiuse, dedicated course	No	Hilly, steep in spots, can be muddy	WC	Concrete, grass, dirt, gravel	Hilly course, walking paths along the edges of course, active clubs, alternate layouts
Disc park, busy use		Flat, mix of open and forested parkland		Concrete tees, Pop up, portable targets, GLOW course	Public park, with lots of multi-use facilities, so generally is played as a glow course, sometimes in the day. Currently there are 30 holes on 5 Baskets, and 2 statues. Front 9, back 10, back-back 11. The back 11 is longer than the "front 9's. There is also a perimeter glow course which uses the entire park. This layout is usually for events.
Disc park, multiuse	Limited mobility/cane accessible	Flat, mix of open and forested, often muddy	Fountain	Concrete, asphalt, dirt, gravel tees	
Disc park	Wheelchair accessible	Flat	WC, fountain	Concrete, grass	Short community putting approach course, very simple and basic. 3 baskets provide a wheelchair accessible course that has short holes and flat terrain. Each basket has 2 tee box locations making this a 6 hole course.
Disc park, multiuse	Limited mobility/cane accessible	Flat, mix of open and forested	WC	Pop up installation, no tee pads	This beginner friendly disc golf area features five baskets through the woods of a small community park. Practice accuracy and run aces through tall pine trees. Gunderson Park is the City of Delta's disc golf pilot program. Part of the City's Pop-Up Parks Program, the park is a test area for the future of integrating disc golf in other city parks.
Disc park, multiuse	No	Hilly	WC, fountain	Dirt, grass tees	Park in former quarry. This is a par 3, twelve basket course that is great for beginners and experienced players alike. Professionally designed by Chris Hartman and executed through the efforts of the Delta Disc Golf group and the City of Delta.
Disc park, multiuse		Flat, mixed parkland	WC	Gravel tees	Designed by a professional disc golf course designer in consultation with our local disc golf club members, the 6-hole course is located in the wooded area and is perfect for all ages and skill levels.
Disc park, multiuse	Limited mobility/cane accessible	Hilly, seasonal changes due to flooding	WC, fountain	Concrete, gravel tees	Has two seasonal layouts, and three skill-based layouts. Some open areas in an old gravel pit in the summer. Other areas are tightly wooded. Subject to winter flooding
Disc park, dedicated course		Hilly	WC	Concrete	Award winning course, #50 in world (2025) #33 (2024), #2 in Canada
Disc park, multiuse	Limited mobility/cane accessible	mostly flat grass	WC	Turf, ground tees	This course was designed by INdesign and installed by the City of Pitt Meadows in 2024. *This course is maintained by the city and by volunteers
Disc park, multiuse	No	Hilly, mixed forest	WC	brick paver tees	Tonal course. Nestled in a forest of mature cedars. Each hole is named after a native BC plant species. 3 tees per hole for every skill level. Recently renovated by course stewards: Ridge Meadows Disc Golf Club [RMDGC]. This course was build and is maintained by volunteers
Disc park, dedicated course		Hilly, mixed forest		brick paver tees	
Disc park, shared area Sea to Sky Disc Club	No	Very hilly	WC, fountain	outdoor carpet, turf, wooden	The Legacy Disc Golf Course is shared with the Sea to Sky Nordic Club and is their summer training ground for Nordic athletes in the corridor. The course has been redesigned several times as the area evolves and structures are added.
Disc park, multiuse		Flat			This is a private golf course that is hosting a 2 day pop up event on October 29 and 30. Info and details on discgolfsce

APPENDIX C.1 - BEST PRACTICES: COURSE DESIGN

Land requirements

Land size guidelines depend on the course level you are creating and the landscape it is within. The terrain and overall design can greatly impact the amount of space needed for each hole. For example, on winding or heavily wooded courses there are natural buffers that separate fairways allowing for less space requirements. For a beginner recreational course, it is roughly 0.2 hectares per hole, whereas as you increase the difficulty of the course it can increase to 0.5- 1 hectares or more per hole for a Championship level course (PDGA Guidelines).

Amateur recreational course estimated size requirements:

Course layout	Land size
6- hole course	1.2-3.2 hectares
9-hole course	2-4 hectares
18-hole course	5-8+ hectares

Queen Elizabeth Park’s Little Mountain course is estimated at 3 hectares of shared parkland (2 hectares without the practice area). The addition of the expansion area within Queen Elizabeth Park would add roughly 2.6 hectares to the Little Mountain course. If the recommended expansion zone and pedestrian corridor in Queen Elizabeth are approved, the new Little Mountain course would be roughly 4.5-5 hectares of shared parkland. Quilchena Park’s disc golf course is roughly 3 hectares of shared parkland heavily interwoven with various park programming.

Land requirements

Recreational courses can have a range of sizes, however most courses are 9 or 18 holes. Courses should be designed to flow together and make the movement between baskets feel intuitive. Looping systems instead of zig zags reduce walking and help people move through the course. Include wayfinding signage, such as “Next tee” signs, will help players navigate and identify course direction to other park users.

Challenge and Variety

Well-designed courses include a range of shot lengths and shapes to cater to beginner and more advanced players. Similar to ball golf, holes are designed to the expected number of throws a skilled player should take to complete the shot called “par.” Recreational courses often include a mix of Par 3 (30m-75m) and 4 holes, and perhaps a long, difficult shot (Par 5) (PDGA, 2025). Incorporating natural obstacles such as elevation changes, vegetation or water obstacles, or created obstacles such as mandatories, adds difficulty ratings in holes. To ensure courses can cater to a variety of player levels, alternative tee pads (e.g. short and long) can be added to create multiple hole levels for one basket.

Course Infrastructure

A disc golf course requires little infrastructure. The course requires three main elements: tee pads, baskets and signage.

A tee pad is where the player begins each hole. These need to be level and have proper grip to prevent injury. Tee pads can range in size from 1.5x 3m or 2 x 4m. The placement and materiality will depend on course terrain, local climate and installation intention.

Disc golf baskets consist of a basket and a base that is anchored to the ground with a centre pole. The basket is a double chained structure with inner and outer rings that allow the basket to catch the flying discs. These chains make the quintessential sound when hit that all disc golf players strive to hear. Once installed, these baskets take up less than a meter squared of space.

Material	Use
Concrete/ Asphalt	Permanent installations, most durable and long lasting. Provides the best grip in varying weather conditions. Less aesthetically pleasing in natural environments.
Synthetic Turf	Can be installed on various bases and are easier to move than concrete. Often used in quick installations or in natural environments. Provides softer feel and better aesthetic. Higher maintenance needs and plastics could break down into the environment over time. Opportunities to upcycle turf lower costs.
Rubber	Cheaper option, often used for temporary use as they are easy to install and relocate. Varying grip in wet weather. More cost effective than concrete or turf.
Bricks/ Pavers	Long lifespan and higher aesthetic appeal. Requires well designed base to ensure drainage and prevent shifting. Can become slippery when wet. Allows for relocation flexibility.
Grass/ Dirt	Natural tee pads are mainly used in temporary locations due to low or no cost and little effort to create. Without proper tee pad installation will lead to erosion and soil compaction with high use.

APPENDIX C.2 - BEST PRACTICES: SAFETY AND SHARED SPACE

One of the benefits of disc golf is the reduced space needed and its ability to be co-located in public parks with other programming. However, the game itself still involves throwing flying discs which can present risk to people and property. To ensure park space is welcoming for all, safety and inclusion are the priority. Best practices in course design suggest:

- Ensuring adequate site signage and/ or course delineation markers to ensure awareness of course location;
- Including a code of conduct for play in a shared space;
- Limiting tees and baskets in areas of high pedestrian or car traffic;
- Use course elements such as obstacle placement to ensure throws aim away from areas commonly used for other events or activities;
- Minimize blind shots or corners in pedestrian areas;
- Avoid overlaying fairways and use natural separation (elevation, trees and shrubs) for player safety; and,
- Designing the use of a “mandatory” on certain holes. A mandatory (“mando”) is a rule which defines a specific path a player’s disc must legally pass through by dictating the disc’s trajectory around an obstacle. These could be used for safety reasons and/or to increase the challenge level of holes.

Signage

One of the keyways to ensure safety in a shared park space is to have site signage throughout the disc golf course. Good signage will help keep people safe in the park, help first-time users navigate the course and set clear expectations for player code of conduct. Site signage should ensure accessibility standards are followed. Below describes the different types of signage needed.

Course Overview and Information Sign

Located at the course entrance or Hole 1.

- Course name and logo
- Park Board logo
- Territorial acknowledgment
- Number of holes, par and total distance
- Course etiquette and code of conduct:
 - Shared park space rules:
 - “This is a shared park space. Safety is the top priority. Disc Golfers must yield to pedestrians.”
 - “No throwing when people or animals are on the fairway”
 - “Pack it in/ pack it out”
 - “Respect wildlife and vegetation”
 - “Twilight play only permitted with glow discs”

- “How to Play” rules of game
 - The object of the game is to get a disc from the tee to the basket with the fewest throws
 - Each player throws their first shot from the tee pad. After the initial throw, the player whose disc is furthest from the target throws next. Subsequent shots will be thrown from where the disc came to rest. Players will throw as many times as needed to get the disc inside the basket.
 - Each hole is finished when the disc lands in the basket. The player who has completed all holes with the lowest total score is the winner.
 - For complete disc golf rules of play, please visit <https://vancitydiscgolf.ca/the-basics>



Figure 98. Disc Golfers Code (Photo credit: PDGA)

- Park rules and hours
- Small course map (with full size map on other side, OR can combine into one large sign)
- QR code to park page or VCU
- Include PDGA Code on large sign
- Optional: small code of conduct signs through the course

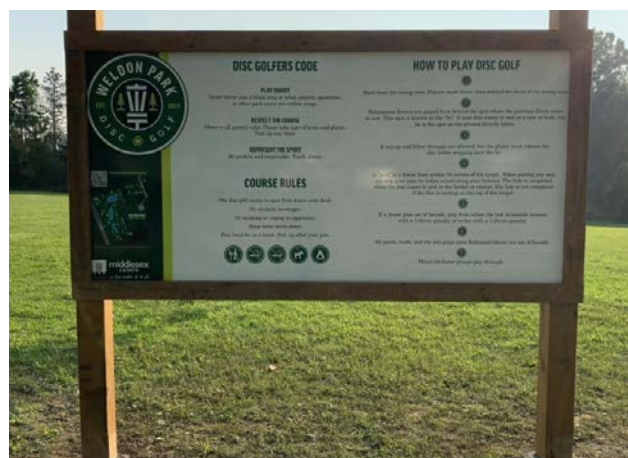


Figure 100. Weldon Park course overview sign (Photo credit: Middlesex centre)



Figure 99. Highland Park Disc Golf Course (Photo credit: Highland Park)

Course Map

Located on back of main course welcome map at hole 1, smaller versions at park key entrances

Large map of entire course with:

- All holes numbered
- Tee and basket locations
- Walking paths
- Nearby park amenities (benches, parking, washrooms, roads, picnic areas etc.)
- Out-of-bounds and/or mandatories
- Water hazards, terrain, or vegetation
- Emergency access routes

- “You are Here”
- North arrow and scale
- Inset large scale map (QE Park)
- Inset course rules (for smaller entrance signs)



Figure 101. Woodhouse Disc Golf Signage (Photo credit: DiscGolfPark)

Wayfinding- Tee Pad Signage

Each tee pad will have:

- Hole number
- Par number and distance
- Directional arrow

Optional: Diagram of fairway with any obstacles, out-of-bounds, or mandatories, "beware of...", cultural or educational information.



Figure 102. Weldon Park wayfinding signs (Photo credit: Middlesex Centre)

Wayfinding- Directional

- Each basket will have a "Next tee" directional arrow



Figure 103. A next tee sign (Photo credit: Millennium golf discs)

Safety Signage

- "Beware of flying discs"
- "Caution: Entering a disc golf course"
- Pedestrian Crossings



Figure 104. Caution sign (Photo credit: Toothsome studios)



Figure 105. Caution sign at Whistler Bear Golf Club (Photo credit: Tinlid)

APPENDIX C.3 - BEST PRACTICES: ACCESSIBILITY & PLAYABILITY

Today's disc golf community is diverse. In public parks, course design should ensure that greatest number of ages, abilities and skill levels will have an opportunity to enjoy playing. This includes providing clear signage and direction for new players, places to rest on the course and alternative throws for different levels. Ensuring holes that balance beginner friendliness with opportunities for advance play will best be suited for Vancouver courses.

Disc Golf can be an inclusive sport for a wide range of abilities. Courses are often celebrated for having varied terrain and changes in elevation and vegetation complexity to add to their appeal, however, this can conflict with universal accessibility. Recent years have shown an increase in inclusively designed courses that ensure people with varying abilities are able to play the sport. Courses in BC are just beginning to create universally accessible courses with only 3.23% of existing courses being wheelchair accessible, and 20.97% rated as being limited mobility accessible. Park Board courses at Quilchena and Little Mountain are both currently ranked as "limited mobility accessible" (UDisc, 2025). There is a large opportunity here for the design of universally accessible holes within the City to lead the region to inclusivity.

Adaptive Disc Golf

The PDGA has guidelines and rules that can assist with the design of adaptive courses. Using these guidelines can assist players who use assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches or prosthetics, or players with disabilities such as vision or sensory impairments, to have a better experience on a course. Adaptive courses feature clear paths,

minimized elevation changes, high visibility contrasts and basket and tee placements that accommodate a range of mobility levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Disc golf has a small footprint on a park compared to other park programming. Unlike tennis courts or soccer fields, disc golf courses can be designed to work within the current landscape refraining for the need for large scale grading or removal of trees and plants. More so, the unique characteristics of the course landscapes such as a meandering forest, are often what make the more desirable special identity of a course. Increasing plantings of trees and additional vegetation is preferred by local disc golf community members to add value to the course experience and difficulty rating. "More trees, we will always want more trees" (VCU leader, 2025).

Disc golf does, however, have some environmental impacts. It will bring people and foot traffic to an area and so mitigation efforts should remain to avoid high value



Figure 106. Educational Signage designed by ChainLink in conservation park (Photo credit: Sean McGlynn)



Figure 107. Example of ecological signage used at Nature's Edge disc golf course at Ken Reid Conservation Area in Ontario (Photo credit: Fluent Disc Sport)

habitats like wetlands and wildlife corridors. People will move through courses, requiring trails systems to minimize soil compaction and mulching to protect critical root zones. New tree plantings need to be protected while establishing to prevent damage from flying discs.

In Vancouver parks, where people already coexist with urban wildlife, these courses are not expected to disturb animal species commonly found in parks. Using existing clearings and trails will minimize any plant disturbance, and there are opportunities for further habitat enhancement through vegetative plantings and invasive species removal.

One of the most effective strategies for minimizing disturbance is education. Results from Shape Your City survey show that players highly value the park settings in which they play, with many feeling a strong sense of ownership and attachment to the location. There are many successful disc golf courses that have been designed with conservation and environmental stewardship in mind. In Toronto, the ChainLink Conservation Tournament Series highlighted some of the courses designed with conservation at the forefront, such as Kelso Conservation Area Disc Golf, and Albion Albatross Course. In Metro Vancouver, Langley's Raptor Knoll is one of the highest ranked courses in the world. It is



Figure 108. Raptor Knoll disc golf at Jackman Wetlands Park (Photo credit: Raptor Knoll Disc Golf)

built upon a former landfill site and now run by the Jackman Wetlands Disc Golf Society. These courses actively work to enhance environmental conservation and promote ecological education through signage, tree nursery projects, invasive species management, and habitat enhancement initiatives.

"A key word for us is sustainability, and these courses are sustainable – golf courses just simply aren't. Sustainability, accessibility, and affordability are all things that are interesting to us, and disc golf helps check all those boxes."
(Maximilian Smith, TRCA)

"With conscious course designers there is no ambition to cut down lots of trees or dramatically change the environment. Disc golf can use little openings, existing trees, and the natural landscape. We use no pesticides or herbicides. The course is so complementary to the way we manage the landscape already that it's a very negligible amount of upkeep and work compared to what it would be without the course." AJ Leeming, Senior Manager at Conservation Halton re Kelso Conservation Area ChainLink Disc Golf



Figure 109. Sunset basket (CBC News)

APPENDIX D - COSTING

Disc Golf Improvements Costing Estimate					
Course Improvements: Quilchena	Item	Unit Cost	Cost	Number	Total
Signage	Aluminum Large (Welcome & course map ~120cmx 90cm)	\$400 estimate	400	1	\$400.00
	Aluminum Med (Caution signs 30cm x 45cm standard size)	\$100	100	7	\$700.00
	Aluminum Small (Wayfinding ~40cm x 15cm)	\$60	60	10	\$600.00
	Coroplast Med (Small course maps 12"x16"- ~30cmx40cm standard size)	\$12	12	3	\$36.00
	Coroplast Small (Next tee wayfinding 8"x12"- 20cmx30cm standard size)	\$8	8	10	\$80.00
	Signage pole installation	\$350	350	15	\$5,250.00
Park Amenities	Bike Racks	\$800	800	2	\$1,600.00
	Gravel path	\$80-100/ sq. m	90	60	\$5,400.00
	Split rail fence	\$200-500/ linear m	300	5	\$1,500.00
DG features	Concrete tee pad installation	\$250/ sq. m (\$750)	750	6	\$4,500.00
	Concrete tee pad removal	\$50/ sq. m (\$150)	150	6	\$900.00
Maintenance					\$9,000.00
Environmental	Bioswale plantings	Budget from environmental team			
	Invasive removal	Budget from environmental team			
Installation	*Estimated at equal to items cost				\$29,966.00
SUBTOTAL					\$59,932.00
PM		5%			\$2,996.60
Contingency		20%			\$11,986.40
TOTAL					\$74,915.00

Course Improvements: Little Mtn	Item	Cost	Number	Total
Signage	Aluminum Large (Welcome & course map ~120cmx 90cm)	\$400 estimate	400	\$400.00
	Aluminum Med (Caution signs 30cm x 45cm standard size)	\$100	100	\$500.00
	Aluminum Small (Wayfinding ~40cm x 15cm)	\$60	60	\$540.00
	Coroplast Med (Small course maps 12"x16"- ~30cmx40cm standard size)	\$12	12	\$12.00
	Coroplast Small (Next tee wayfinding 8"x12"- 20cmx30cm standard size)	\$8	8	\$72.00
	Signage pole installation	\$350	350	\$3,150.00
Park Amenities	Bike Racks	\$800	800	\$800.00
	Benches (incl. installation costs)	\$4,000	4000	\$8,000.00
	Split rail fence	\$200-500/ linear m	300	\$45,000.00
DG features	Concrete tee pad installation	\$250/ sq. m (\$750)	750	\$750.00
	Concrete tee pad removal	\$50/ sq. m (\$150)	150	\$150.00
Environmental	Wetland restoration	Budget from environmental team		
Maintenance				\$18,000.00
Installation	*Estimated at equal to items cost			\$77,374.00
SUBTOTAL				\$154,748.00
PM		5%		\$7,737.40
Contingency		20%		\$30,949.60
TOTAL				\$193,435.00

QE Course Expansion	Item	Cost	Number	Total
Course design	Small scale contract	\$200-400/ hole (<\$5000)	4500	\$4,500.00
Signage	Aluminum Large (Welcome & course map ~120cmx 90cm)	\$400 estimate	400	\$400.00
	Aluminum Med (Caution signs 30cm x 45cm standard size)	\$100	100	\$600.00
	Aluminum Small (Wayfinding ~40cm x 15cm)	\$60	60	\$540.00
	Coroplast Med (Small course maps 12"x16"- ~30cmx40cm standard size)	\$12	12	\$24.00
	Coroplast Small (Next tee wayfinding 8"x12"- 20cmx30cm standard size)	\$8	8	\$72.00
	Signage pole installation	\$350	350	\$5,600.00
Park Amenities	Bike Racks	\$800	800	\$800.00
	Benches (incl. installation costs)	\$4,000	4000	\$4,000.00
	Gravel path (TBD and funded through QEPNA design)	\$80-100/ sq. m	90	
DG features	Split rail fence (TBD and funded through QEPNA design)	\$200-500/ linear m	300	
	Concrete tee pad installation	\$250/ sq. m (\$750)	750	\$6,750.00
	Baskets (currently provided by VCU)	\$300-500		
Maintenance	Dependent on final design			
Installation	*Estimated at equal to items cost			\$23,286.00
SUBTOTAL				\$46,572.00
PM		5%		\$2,328.60
Contingency		20%		\$9,314.40
TOTAL				\$58,215.00

Rupert Pitch and Putt Installation	Item	Cost	Number	Total
Course design	Small scale contract	\$200-400/ hole (<\$5000)	4500	\$4,500.00
DG features	Concrete tee pad installation	\$250/ sq. m (\$750)	750	\$13,500.00
	Basket purchase	\$300-500	400	\$7,200.00
Signage	Aluminum Large (Welcome & course map ~120cmx 90cm)	400* estimate	400	\$400.00
	Aluminum Small (Wayfinding ~40cm x 15cm)	\$60	60	\$1,080.00
	Coroplast Small (Next tee wayfinding 8"x12"- 20cmx30cm standard size)	\$8	8	\$144.00
	Signage pole installation	\$350	350	\$6,650.00
Maintenance	Estimate			\$10,000.00
Installation	*Estimated at equal to items cost			\$33,474.00
SUBTOTAL				\$76,948.00
PM		5%		\$3,847.40
Contingency		20%		\$15,389.60
TOTAL				\$96,185.00

APPENDIX E - FUTURE LOCATIONS

Criteria Considerations for future alternative sites:

- Park size, terrain, current use with regard to best practices
- Vancouver equity mapping and park needs
- Locations relative to existing Park Board courses
- Delineated space vs shared space. Not recommended to add an additional shared use park but a delineated space. Through research and analysis co-locating with golf is the best option.
- Work with environment team, however low impact expected
- Involvement of Local Nations
- Archeology assessment

Archeological

There are no known archeological records for Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks, but any changes to these areas would have to ensure all archeological protocols are followed. A key component of future site criteria would be an archeological assessment of potential sites.

Co-Location

Evaluating Co-location Potential		
Name C	Co-location potential*	Size
Fraserview Golf Course	No co-location	
McCleery Golf Course	No co-location	
Langara Golf Course	No co-location	
Stanley Park Pitch & Putt	Likely no co-location	48,679.3
Queen Elizabeth Park Pitch & Putt	Likely no co-location	73,071.2
Rupert Park Pitch and Putt	Potential co-location	45,039.4

*As determined by Golf Services

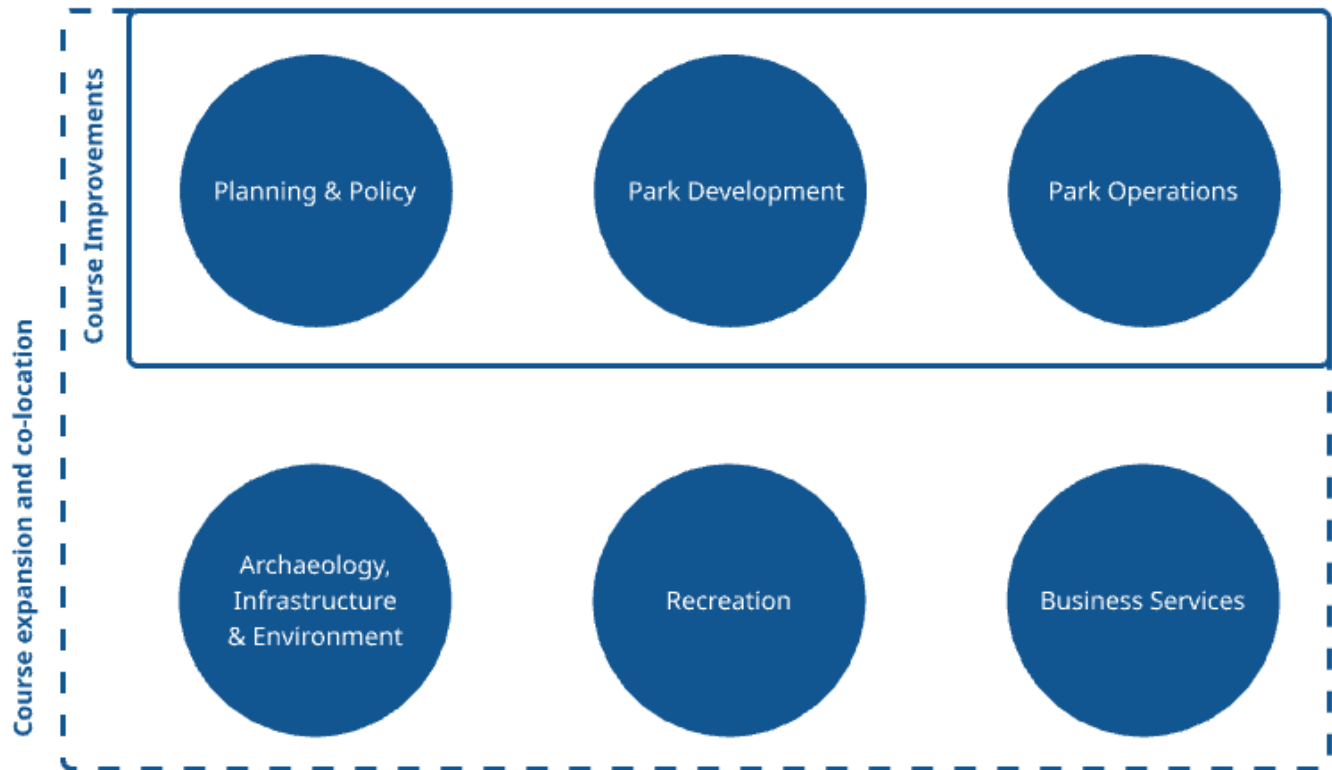
**Current Little Mountain course is estimated at 3 hectares estimate due to being interwoven with various park programs. 10 hectares of shared parkland to the Little Mountain course.

Size m2 S	Size hectares**	Amenities	Neighbourhood	Winter hours
			South Vancouver	Open
			South Vancouver	Open
				Open
35	4.90	Pro-shop, washrooms	Downtown	Golf closed during winter months
26	7.30	Concession, washrooms	Central	Golf closed during winter months
44	4.50	Pro-shop, washrooms	East Vancouver	Golf closed during winter months

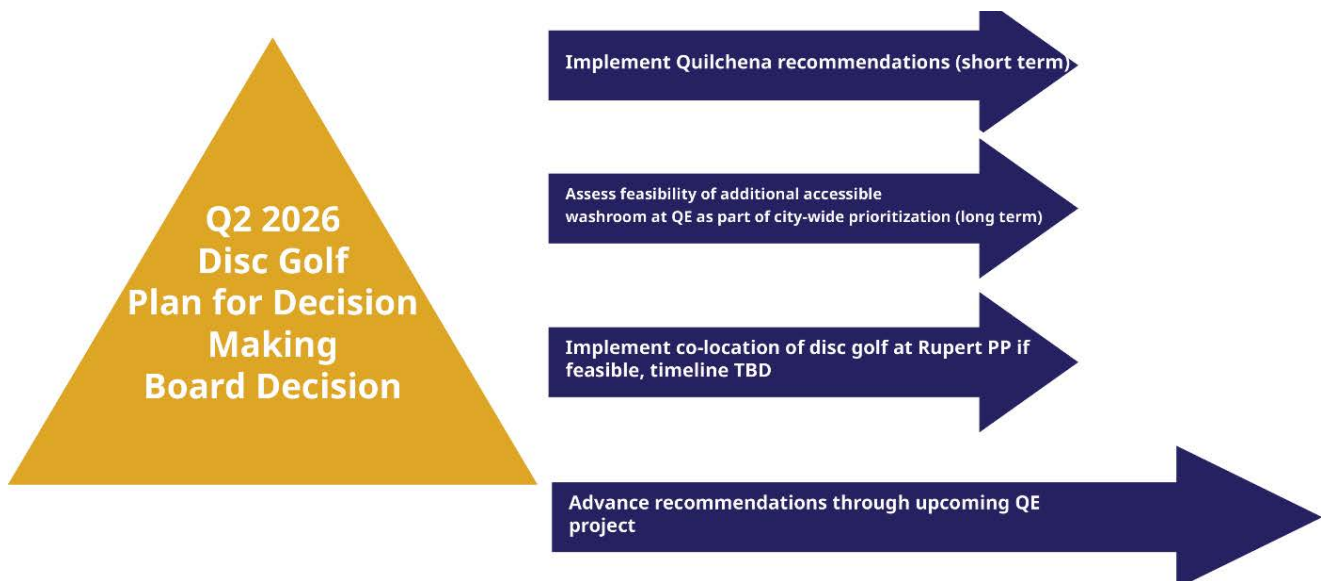
as (2 hectares without the practice area), circular spacing of Quilchena roughly 3 hectares as an
 amming. The addition of the expansion area within Queen Elizabeth Park would add roughly 2.6
 If all recommendations are approved.

DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION

Park Board teams involved in the planning, building and maintaining of disc golf courses



Disc Golf Plan relation to Queen Elizabeth Neighbourhood Amenities Plan



APPENDIX F- WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Public Engagement Report Fall 2025

Disc Golf Plan

Public Engagement Report

Fall 2025



This engagement process was completed on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaɫ (Tsleil-Waututh).



Introduction



Project context

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) is exploring potential improvements to its disc golf courses in Quilchena Park and the Little Mountain course in Queen Elizabeth Park.

These courses are well-used community spaces that provide accessible, year-round recreation for players of all ages and abilities. Participation in disc golf has grown steadily in Vancouver and across BC over the past several years, and with more people spending time in parks, it is important that course improvements continue to support both disc golfers and other park users.

This report summarizes the public engagement carried out between September 8 to 29, 2025. During this period, community members shared what they value about the current disc golf courses, ideas for potential improvements, and their experiences using shared park spaces in Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks. The feedback gathered will help guide future planning and improvements to support disc golfers and other park users.



Map of Vancouver showing locations of Little Mountain (Queen Elizabeth) and Quilchena disc golf courses.



How we engaged



Public engagement included relationship building with the disc golf community, a park pop-up event, and an online Shape Your City survey.

The survey explored current disc golf experiences at Little Mountain and Quilchena Park, including favorite features, barriers to play, accessibility, and shared-use experiences.

Who responded?

13%
do not play
disc golf

87%
play disc golf

94%
play at Little Mountain

73%
play at Quilchena

16%
are beginner players

46%
are intermediate players

31%
are advanced players



Disc golf in Vancouver parks



How do you get to disc golf courses?



75%

drive



44%

bike



21%

transit or walk

When do you usually play?



34%

on weekdays
during the day



61%

on weekdays
after 5pm



72%

on weekends
during the day

Who do you play with?



93%

usually play with friends

44-50%

play with family, club members,
alone, or with people they've
met on the course



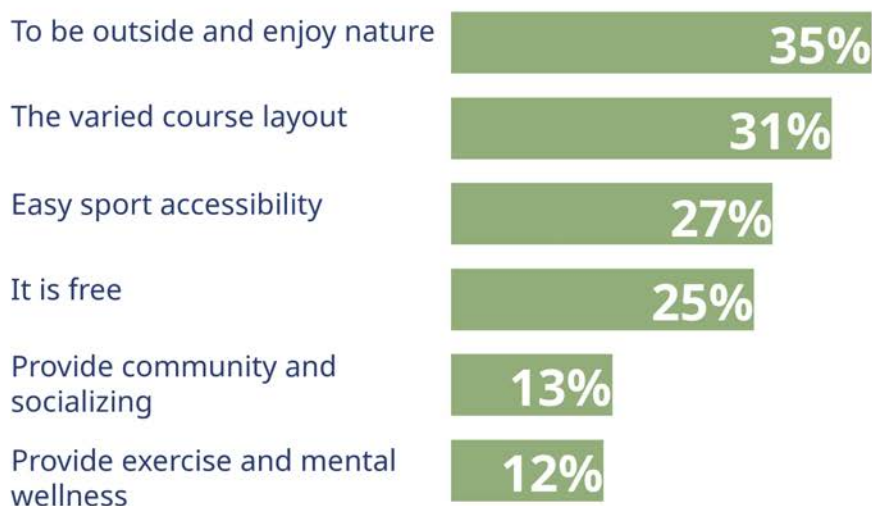
50%

of survey respondents are
members of a disc golf
club, group or association

Favourite course feature



In an open-ended question, respondents were asked “What is your favourite feature of disc golf courses in Vancouver parks?” Below are the top themes and percentage of the 244 respondents who commented on them.



Summary of favourite features

Disc golf courses in parks provide an easy way to get outside and enjoy the benefits of spending time in nature.

Courses welcome all skill levels and are well-maintained, making it easy to play with friends and family.

Disc golf is community-oriented, allowing people to play, socialize and participate in low cost recreation.

“There is a natural beauty of being in such beautiful parks. It doesn’t matter if I have had the worst day, if I go play a round of disc golf with my friends it all seems forgotten. It also helps keep me in shape, and has a great sense of community.”

“They are free and a great way to get outside with friends and get some activity in. I get to experience the parks in a different way.”

What players think about our courses?

Survey respondents rated their level of satisfaction with key disc golf course features. The percentages show how many reported being satisfied or very satisfied.



Quilchena Little Mountain (Queen Elizabeth)

Course design & layout	60%	78%
Pathways and connectivity	74%	84%
Places to sit and rest	88%	52%
Natural setting & environment	86%	91%
Course difficulty	81%	68%
Course signage & wayfinding	27%	50%
Ongoing maintenance	70%	81%
Space for group play	34%	46%
Access to washrooms	89%	10%

Survey respondents rated their satisfaction with disc golf course features at Quilchena and Little Mountain (281 responses). Percentages show the combined share of "very satisfied" and "satisfied" responses.

Key findings:

- People are happy with the natural setting, maintenance, and pathways at both courses.
- Signage is rated low and needs attention.
- Washroom access at Little Mountain is a challenge for players.
- Low satisfaction with group play space shows that players want more room for larger groups.

Most desired course features by disc golf players for both courses in parks



34% Larger courses & more baskets



32% Safety signage for non-players



29% Wayfinding signage for players



21% *Universal washroom facility



20% Increased difficulty & complexity



16% Course delineation & dedicated space

*The lack of nearby accessible washrooms are a significant gender-based and universal accessibility issue at the Little Mountain course in Queen Elizabeth Park. The nearest accessible washrooms are located at the Queen Elizabeth pitch and putt 900m away.

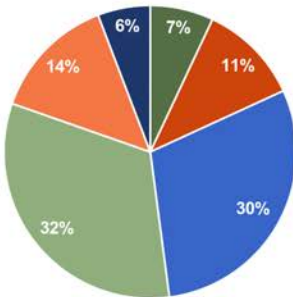
It can get busy out there!

Disc golf use patterns and play experience



- 40%** of respondents (136 people) play disc golf at **least weekly for 8 months of the year**
- 39%** of respondents (169 people) play at **Little Mountain** disc golf course **at least weekly year-round**
- 15%** of respondents (58 people) play at **Quilchena** disc golf course **at least weekly year-round**

How often do you experience slow play or waiting to throw?



- | | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Unsure | Always |
| Often | Every once in a while |
| Rarely | Never |

Key takeaways

Data represents an average of the 336 responses for play at Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth disc golf courses.

It shows over 73% of survey respondents experience waiting to throw or slow play to pause for people to pass through the course while playing disc golf at both courses. Players and other park users often encounter each other in parks, sometimes in ways that create friction.



Sharing space - with other park users



68% of respondents experienced conflict at Queen Elizabeth and/or Quilchena Park disc golf courses

In Queen Elizabeth Park,

... the course is open and has unclear delineations. 80% of players report conflict experiences with other park users who may be unaware of the course or are trying to enjoy it in a different way.

In Quilchena Park,

... there's a high diversity of park use and a mix of active and more passive areas that weave through the disc golf course. 55% of players spoke to negative interactions in the dog off-leash area.

In both parks, there is an overall desire for:

- Clearer course delineation and separation of park activities.
- Improved safety signage and course maps to increase awareness of disc golf activities and support a shared understanding among park users.

Most non-players who reported experiences of conflict spoke to feeling unsafe, due to lack of clear signage outlining disc golf activities and the possibility of being struck by flying discs.



Sharing space - with disc golf players



1:7 ratio of non-players survey respondents to disc golf players

A total of 49 non-disc-golfing playing park visitors responded to the survey.

Their perspectives help us understand how shared park spaces are working for all users. These respondents provided feedback about conflicts or challenges they have experienced in areas shared with disc golf.

In Queen Elizabeth Park (13 responses)

- 18% (9 respondents) feel unsafe around disc golf activity both in the park and on sidewalks because of the possibility or past experiences of being struck by flying discs
- 10% (5 respondents) experienced being asked to leave by disc golfers
- 6% (3 respondents) noted temporary tees or course changes can cause confusion

In Quilchena Park (20 responses)

- 39% (19 respondents) feel unsafe around disc golf.
- 24% (12 respondents) expressed a strong desire for a separation of activities due to the density of multiple activities
- 20% (10 people) have experienced conflicts at the off-leash area, which overlaps with the disc golf course
- A greater number of respondents reported being struck by discs in Quilchena Park than at Queen Elizabeth Park

Inadequate amount of signage including disc golf course maps was identified as a safety concern by both those who play disc golf and those who do not.



Top priorities for improvements



We asked what your top priorities were for small-scale improvements in disc golf courses in Vancouver parks

#1



Improvements to course design and layout

#2



Maintaining free or low-cost access

#3



Increased safety in a shared park space

#4



Ongoing maintenance of course and baskets

#5



Increase in course difficulty

#6



Protect natural setting and environment

Emerging ideas



We are exploring potential improvements based on what we heard:

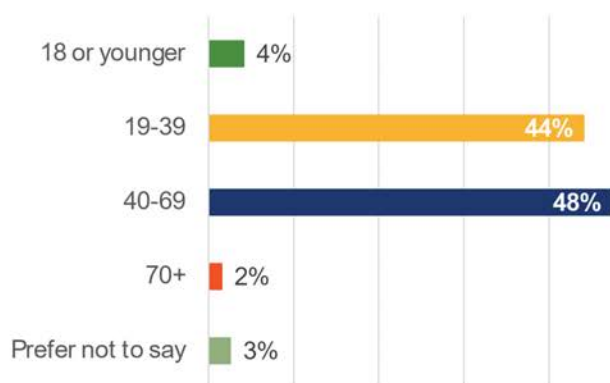
- Improve public safety and minimize friction in shared, multi-use spaces with new disc golf course **maps and signage for awareness and wayfinding**, including a code of conduct for playing disc golf in shared spaces.
- Enhance the disc golf experience for varying skill levels by adding small-scale course features such as **disc golf course maps and directions, tee pad numbering, and rules of play**.
- Improve public safety and quality of play by exploring methods of **small-scale course delineation and expansion in select areas, and explore co-location opportunities**.
- **Address legacy course design features** reported to increase instances of friction between players and park users, e.g. blind corners in Quilchena park, benches beside holes, cross-overs with park activities such as off-leash dog areas, picnic areas, and paths.
- **Reduce barriers to play** by exploring feasibility of adding complimentary park amenities, as identified through engagement.
- **Increase availability of adaptive and universally accessible activities** in Queen Elizabeth Park, for example by exploring inclusion of accessible pathways connecting tees, baskets, and amenities, designing features and signage that support variety of ability.
- Explore **environmental enhancements with course design improvements**, such as planting shrubs and installing small-scale natural material fencing, to increase level of course difficulty while increasing and protecting biodiversity in Quilchena and Queen Elizabeth parks.

Who we heard from

The following charts summarize who participated in the disc golf survey



Respondents age range



Where do respondents live

79%

are residents of Vancouver

23%

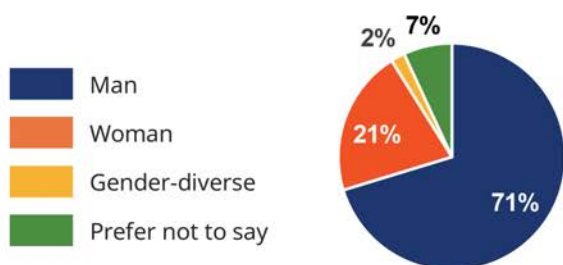
live in a neighbourhood within 500m of a disc golf course

77%

don't live in a neighbourhood near a VPB disc golf course



Gender



Housing status



Ancestral origin

68% identify as European

7% identify as Asian

4% identify as Indigenous

What can you do next?



STAY INFORMED

Sign up for the project mailing list to receive project updates:
shapeyourcity.ca/disc-golf

INTERESTED IN PLAYING DISC GOLF AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

The Van City United Disc Golf Club (VCU) is a not-for-profit organization building a welcoming and respectful community for all players:
vancitydiscgolf.ca/

The BC Disc Golf Association (BCDGA) is driving the growth and accessibility of disc golf in BC:
bcdiscgolf.ca/



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