

# Disc Golf Plan

## Public Engagement Report

Fall 2025



This engagement process was completed on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓ wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətał (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%

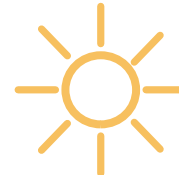
bike



21%

transit or walk

## When do you usually play?



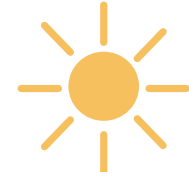
34%

on weekdays  
during the day



61%

on weekdays  
after 5pm



72%

on weekends  
during the day

## Who do you play with?

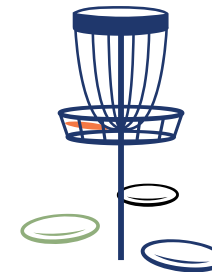


93%

usually play with friends

44-50%

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



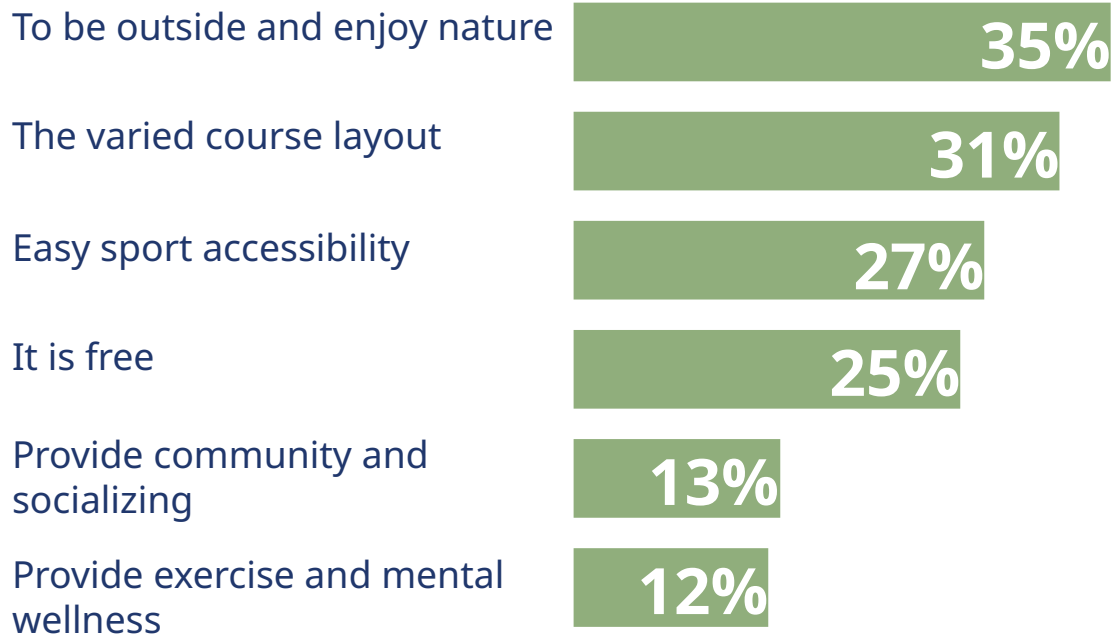
50%

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%

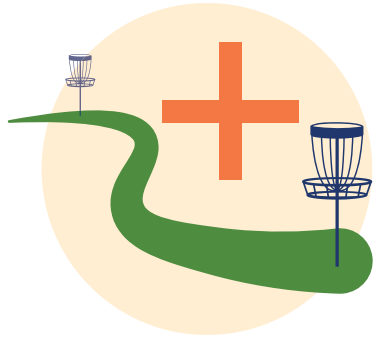
Survey respondents rated their satisfaction with disc golf course features at Quilchena and Little Mountain (281 responses). Percentages show the combined share of “very satisfied” and “satisfied” responses.

### 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



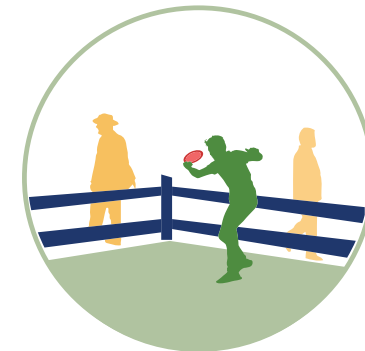
**29%** Wayfinding signage for players



**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

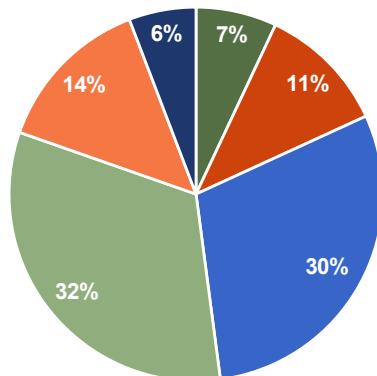


**40%** of respondents (136 people) play disc golf at least weekly for 8 months of the year

**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

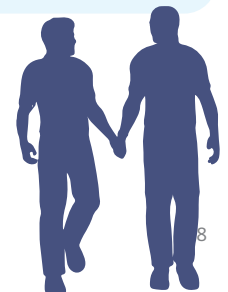
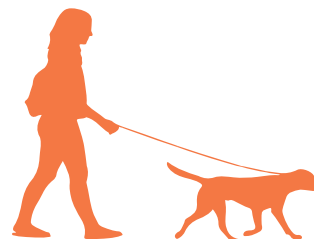
### How often do you experience slow play or waiting to throw?



#### 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:

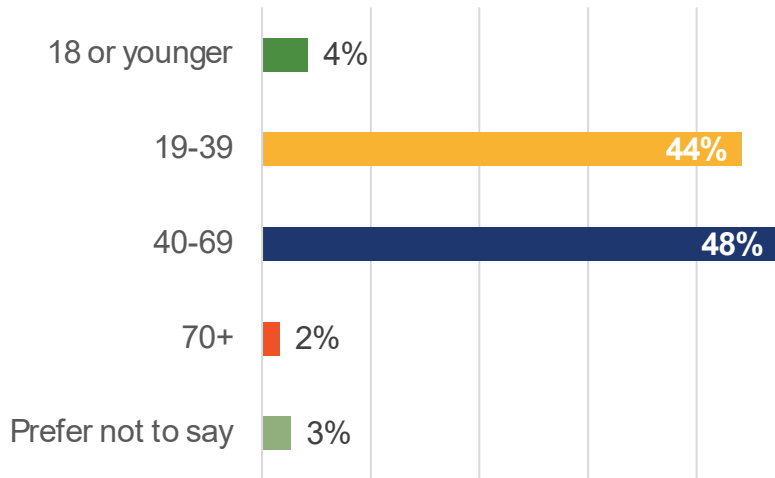
- Improve public safety and minimize friction in shared, multi-use spaces with new disc golf course **maps and signage for awareness and wayfinding**, including a code of conduct for playing disc golf in shared spaces.
- Enhance the disc golf experience for varying skill levels by adding small-scale 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%**

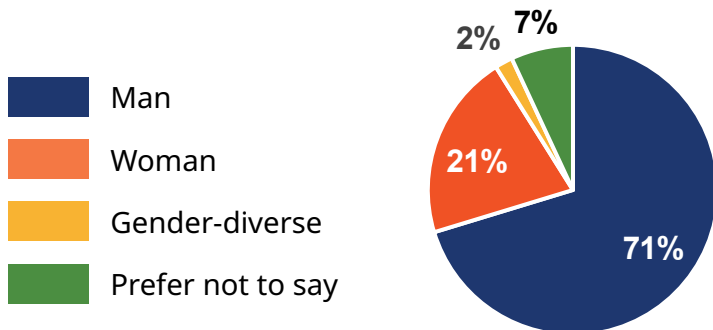
live in a neighbourhood within 500m of a disc golf course

**77%**

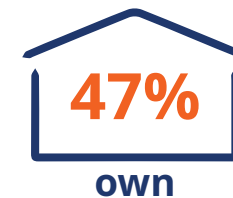
don't live in a neighbourhood near a VPB disc golf course



## 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](https://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/](https://vancitydiscgolf.ca/)

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

