

# Bethany Beginner Disc Golf Course

## Report of Public Meeting and Web Comments

Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department (LPRD), with the assistance of the Lincoln Flying Disc Club (LFDC), held a public meeting on August 22, 2023, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Bethany Park Enclosed Shelter. The public was notified of the event through several channels. First, residences within 300 feet of the park were invited to the event by regular mail on 8/10/23. The distance was chosen to reflect the notification area used for City zoning application notices by the Lincoln and Lancaster County Planning Department. Second, all neighborhood associations within the 2-mile park service area for Bethany Park were sent similar notifications via email on 8/10/23, with a request that notice be shared with members of the neighborhood association. Third, two clubs that regularly rent out the enclosed shelter were contacted and plans were shared with them. Fourth, a press release was distributed on 8/18/23 by the Citizens Information Center with an invitation to the general public to attend. Finally, an electronic billboard was placed in the Bethany Park parking lot one week before the event.

The public meeting included time for the public to view maps and talk about the project with LPRD staff and LFDC members. Approximately 17 people attended. Maps of the proposed project as well as information on disc golf and the Lincoln Flying Disc Club were made available to all attendees. At 5:45, LPRD staff introduced the proposed project and outlined the presentation for the evening. LFD president Trenton Franz shared information about the sport and his involvement. Vice President James Fleege walked through the course plan and how the various fairways interact with other park uses. LPRD then invited the public to share comments, pointing out a couple of questions on which LPRD was seeking specific input.

1. Hole 3 of the course is shown in the draft plan as playing through an existing sand volleyball court. As the plan is laid out, this would mean the removal of the court, with sand being reclaimed for use in another park. LPRD would like input on that court and the importance of it to the neighborhood. Two residents that live close to the park commented that it does not see a lot of use, but they do occasionally see people playing there. No one expressed strong feelings about the court needing to remain.
2. There are three parking areas with a total of about 52 parking spaces. There are two different groups that regularly rent out the enclosed shelter. The enclosed shelter is also available to others for rental. A future expansion of the south parking lot is planned, but not yet funded. Given the planned weekly Jr. Disc Golf leagues of approximately 12 players and parents, is there a concern about parking? No one expressed parking concerns, but did express some concerns about large gatherings at the enclosed shelter and possible conflicts between people in the park and large numbers of disk golf players.
3. There are no plans to remove any trees from the park, although some may need to be trimmed up. About 15 trees are planned for planting. No concerns expressed.

The meeting was then opened for comments.

Participants were generally very happy to see a positive use come into the park.

A couple of participants expressed concerns about park visitors potentially being hit by flying discs. The LFDC shared that they have courses at four other locations in busy parks and have not had any incidents

of injury to non-players. LPRD agreed that there have been no incidents reported. Participants pointed out two areas where people commonly enter the park, not on sidewalks. One is off the cul-de-sac at S. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, the other off S. 66<sup>th</sup> Street at the northeast corner of the park. Signage alerting players of potential presence of pedestrians could be useful at those points.

Participants asked if the park would be closed during LFDC events. LPRD assured them that the park will not be closed during events.

Participants asked if the course will be open for anyone to play and were assured that it would be. LFDC shared plans to supply some discs that can be kept in the enclosed shelter for use by anyone. They also shared a plan to create a “Little Free Disc Library” that would be a place where discs could be stored for use by anyone who wanted to play a round or try out a basket.

Some participants were concerned about safety during high use times. The enclosed shelter is sometimes used for large family reunions and birthday parties and children especially don’t always pay attention to what is going on around them when they are running and playing. In addition, the park is used for summer day camp programs (this was discontinued after the 2021 camp season). LFDC reiterated that this has not been an issue in other parks where larger and higher skill level courses exist. They also shared how they address such issues in their beginner training programs. LPRD stated that they can share information with LFDC regarding large, planned events so that coordination can be done. Signage and course layout were again discussed.

LPRD also invited comments on a website and via email. The following is a summary of comments received (attached).

15 expressed positive support for disc golf and expansion into the Northeast neighborhoods. One individual expressed a desire to also have a course at Mahoney Park. Benefits included low cost, fun for all ages, benefit of having a “beginner course”, low impact on the park.

2 employees of Vital Services, who help people with developmental disabilities to learn life skills and get involved in Lincoln and other surrounding communities, located at 6400 Cornhusker Hwy, expressed support as a benefit to their clients. They have recently introduced disc golf as a way for their clients to be active outdoors as well as spending more time out in their community. They have found that disk golf is a sport that is well suited to their clients, who are very excited about it. They are very happy to see a course being discussed for construction closer to their offices.

One resident who urged that this not be constructed because many people in the area walk their dogs in the park and this would interfere with that activity.

One resident who expressed no concerns about disc golf but was concerned about traffic at 66<sup>th</sup> and Vine Street and wondered whether that would be addressed.

#### Results:

Sand Volleyball Court: Although some use of the court was noted, there were no objections by the public to removal of this court. In addition, Woods, Idylwild, Peter Pan, Mahoney, and Kahoa parks all include sand volleyball and are within the 2 mile service area of Bethany Park. Because the removal of this court would not cause any reduction in service to the area, it is recommended the sand volleyball court be removed and sand reclaimed for use in other parks.

Parking: Parking should be monitored for any increase in use. The parking lot expansion project should move up in prioritization in the 10-year plan should any congestion issues be observed or reported.

User conflicts: LFDC should continue to stress safety in their training programs. Signage at specific points in the park, notably near the tees for holes 2 and 3, should be used to alert disc golf players to the potential presence of pedestrians. LPRD should consider informing LFDC of any large rentals at the enclosed shelter.

**From:**

**Sent on:**

Monday, August 14, 2023 1:33:11 PM

**To:**

Denise K. Pearce <[DPearce@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:DPearce@lincoln.ne.gov)>

**Subject:**

Disc Golf at Bethany Park, yes, please!

Good morning,

I was doing my weekly search for new courses and your upcoming meeting came up. More baskets is always great!

I don't actually live in Lincoln, but I have played all 71 open public disc golf courses within 80 miles of Ralston, Nebraska! This includes all the courses in Lincoln. My wife even donated to the Beal Slough course for my birthday one year (she is from Lincoln and we often find ourselves in Lincoln visiting her family).

People travel for disc golf and spend money in the local economy. In fact, the last time I played Beal Slough a couple of weeks ago, I also stopped at Catalyst Brewing just down the street!

More holes/baskets are always welcome. I would ask that the course designer rethink the holes where the proposed "mandos" are. They seem unnecessary on such a short course and are usually indicative of a bad hole design when a slight tweak to the pin (basket) location or tee area will have the same effect.

Thank you,

**Sent on:**

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:32:32 PM

**To:**

Denise K. Pearce <[DPearce@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:DPearce@lincoln.ne.gov)>

**Subject:**

Bethany LFDC Meeting Feedback

Hello,

My name is XXX, and I am a homeowner at XXXX.. I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight, but I did want to share a bit of feedback.

Bethany park has been a beloved park since I was a child. The park is part of the reason I decided to buy a home in Bethany.

While I do not have anything against disc golf or its hobbyists, I do have concerns about the changes that it would cause for the park. My first concern is traffic. 66th and Vine has become a dangerous intersection for pedestrians over the last few years. There is an accident almost once a month. So much so that our family avoids walking with my daughter and her friends who attend Meadowlane. It's become safer to cross at other parts of the street than it is at the intersection. You will even notice that recently the home on the north east side of the street is undergoing repairs (all the bricks are missing) after being hit by a car. I have reported the numerous traffic accidents to the city roads website in hopes some improved traffic signs or something would be done to help improve the safety of that corner. I have concerns about increased traffic from adding a disco golf course would also increase accidents. I hope it will not, and that perhaps the city will also do something by way of improved signs, reflectors or changes to help continue to make this park safely accessible for everyone who wants to enjoy it.

I am curious if the plans for the course would cover the entire park area or just part of it? My family and I love taking walks through the east to west side of the park under the many shaded trees and would be disappointed if we could no longer walk freely through the park.

Thank you for considering this feedback, we love Lincoln and all the city parks!

best,

Name	
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Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	I work at Vital Services here in Lincoln, we work with adults with developmental disabilities and we started playing Disc Golf last year. The low impact exercise and team building has been great for our participants, the disc golf community have been friendly and supportive of our participants which is ideal for our community integration program. The Jr course would not only be perfect for our participants but anyone even remotely interested getting outdoors for a little exercise with a purpose, easy to learn and so much fun to be a part of. In closing I think it will bring more people to the park and provide a safe space to have fun.
Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	I support this project. Disc golf is a positive and low-cost sport that most anyone can play. Great idea and location. Two thumbs up!

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	Please DO NOT put this in Bethany park. The park is surrounded by people who walk their dogs through this park daily. Many of us are older, who shouldn't have to dodge flying discs. You took out the restroom for no good reason. Residents of the area don't want this, please listen to those of us who actually live near and use the park daily.

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	I work with Special Needs adults at Vital Services, Inc. Many of our clients have grown to LOVE Disc Golf. They grew enthused when another Staff Person or I provide details about the proposed course. We eagerly await any new details.

Name	
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Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	<p>As a member of the local disc golf community, active father, and neighbor residing close to Bethany Park, I am hugely in favor of this project. This is a park that I frequently ride my bike to with my children and they love to play on the playground. Being able to show them disc golf in an area suited to their abilities, providing multiple activity options for them, and above all, being close to my home will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>As with any activity, it's important to co-exist with others using a shared space. I believe the design of the course suits well to avoid the trafficked areas of other park-goers, and the general terrain allows for those playing disc golf and other activities to recognize each other and be respectful in their activities. This is a great opportunity to show a commitment to youth, families, and Lincoln's outdoor opportunities.</p>

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	<p>This project would be a great addition to our neighborhood. I live in the Chateau town homes and would love to be able to walk to the park with my niece and nephews to play disc golf. If this were to go in, I would like to provide discs for the LFR department that is right across the street to encourage their use of the park!</p>

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	<p>This would be amazing! A disc golf course in this area would be convenient as well! I look forward to the course being built!</p>

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	<p>This would be a fantastic addition to the neighborhood! A beginner friendly course like this is something that Lincoln has really lacked. This will make it soo much easier to take new players (both young and old) to a course that they don't have to worry about losing their discs! I have been playing a long time(15+ years) and I would also love having something so close to home that I can go and get a quick round in.</p>

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Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	Having played disc golf and also living in the Bethany community I think this project is a wonderful idea. Other than the playground and the picnic shelter much of the land Bethany park sits on goes unused. Disc golf is an inexpensive and enjoyable activity for kids and families. This project would create a setting to introduce children and beginners to this sport much like the Jim Ager Jr golf course does for traditional golf. I think this is an excellent way to use one of the resources of our community.

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	I think a Disc Golf Course in Bethany Park would be a great addition to the park. There's not many options for courses on this side of the city, and could help spark interest in a sport that is growing in popularity.

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	I'm all for this, but when I suggested putting in a disc golf course at Mahoney Park, I was told there's not enough room. Mahoney has way more space available than Bethany park. Go ahead with this, but put one at Mahoney next.
Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	This would be an EXCELLENT addition to the park! 100% full support from me!

Submitted on 23 August 2023, 11:03AM

Related form version 2

Please enter your comments regarding the project. My name is XXX and my partner XXX and I own the local disc golf retail store. It is from this perspective that I make my comments. I personally have seen a huge number of people in Lincoln and surrounding areas coming into our small store showing interest in learning to play disc golf. A course, specifically focused on teaching the beginner (regardless of age) the ins and outs of disc golf, is a necessary addition to the Lincoln Parks landscape. I see this type of course necessary, regardless of location, simply from the perspective of the individual who sees and serves the majority of disc golfers in southeastern Nebraska and beyond, regardless of how involved in they are in the clubs or league play. From families with young children, highschool and college students and athletes, to young professionals, work buddies, couples, to people simply wanting to get out and be active. It is with all these people in mind that I make my comments. Thank you for your time and consideration for this great addition to the already incredible park system we all enjoy here in Lincoln.

Name	
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Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	This will be great for the growth of disc golf in Lincoln. Disc golf is a good way to promote being outside and is a good source of exercise alone or with family and friends. Relatively low start up cost allows just about anyone to join in on the fun. The growing disc golf community in Lincoln are some of the most respectable people I've encountered. And they really care about our parks. As most of the disc golf community picks up trash during rounds. And tidy up fairways of debris. With courses in the northwest, south/southwest and Southeast parts of town. Northeast Lincoln really could use a course.

Name	
Email	
Phone Number	
Please enter your comments regarding the project.	As a former resident of the area, I think Bethany Park is an already nice park that could benefit from some more use. Disc golf is one of the lowest-barrier, minimally-invasive outdoor activities there is and a beginner course like the one proposed is the perfect way to get more people out of their homes and enjoying their city.