

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf

What is Disc Golf?

- A sport similar to ball golf but played by throwing flying discs at targets.
- A sport that is easy to learn, inexpensive to play, and difficult to master.
- One of the fastest growing sports in the world!
- A great opportunity for our community.



Children participate in the Disc Golf Preview Day at Pleasant Valley Park held April 12, 2008

Proposal for a provisional Disc Golf course at Pleasant Valley Park

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf along with Stumptown Disc Golf is proposing the installation of a 9-hole disc golf course in Pleasant Valley Park. The course will be installed on an 18-month provisional basis, after which time there will be a review to determine whether it will become a permanent facility, expanded, relocated or removed.

Disc golf is a fun, inexpensive, healthy and environmentally friendly game that can be enjoyed by people of almost all ages and abilities. It is played much like traditional golf, only instead of hitting a ball into a hole you throw a disc into an elevated metal basket. As players progress from the "tee" to the "hole," the trees, shrubs and terrain changes in and around the "fairways" provide challenging obstacles. Ultimately, the "putt" is tossed into the basket and the hole is

completed. The goal of disc golf is the same as traditional golf: to complete the course in the fewest number of shots.

The current master plan for Pleasant Valley Park calls for developing passive recreational activities in the park. Disc golf is just such an activity. It has grown in popularity across the United States, and especially in the Portland metro area. There are now more than 2,200 disc golf courses in the United States, nearly all installed in public parks. Parks planners have found that there are few recreational activities that offer the high benefit-to-cost ratio of disc golf. Disc golf has low capital and maintenance costs, is environmentally sound, is played year-round in all climates and is enjoyed immediately even by beginners. A disc golf course in Pleasant Valley Park will provide an inexpensive form of recreation for

people of all age and skill levels and be a welcome addition to the recreational facilities in the Park.

At a time when the cost of participation has made many recreational activities inaccessible, disc golf is very affordable. The course will be free to the public and open year-round. The only equipment needed is a disc which costs around \$8 and can be used over and over again.

The disc golf course will also serve a broad section of the community. The game is extremely easy to learn and the course is short enough that it can be played in under an hour. The course can be utilized by men and women, young and old, families with small children, and some disabled persons. The natural terrain utilized for the course may make it unrealistic to accommodate some persons with disabilities. However, efforts will be made to try and provide a legitimate opportunity for all to play, even if not all holes can be made accessible to everyone.

Pleasant Valley Park

Pleasant Valley Park is a 40 acre community park adjacent to Pleasant Valley Primary and Middle Schools, located at 14320 NE 50th Avenue. In partnership with Battle Ground School District, this 40-acre site blends with the school property to create a unique community park. Facilities include play equipment, benches, picnic tables, walkway, open lawn area, and access to Salmon Creek.

The park location, topography and current typical utilization make it an ideal location for a disc golf course.

What has been done so far...

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf and Stumptown Disc Golf have been working together to promote disc golf in the Portland Metro area. VCDG started by developing a league for players which is currently held at a disc golf course owned by Glenwood Community Church. The league averages 15-20 players each week with a total attendance of over 50 people that have participated. VCDG also

sponsored a disc golf preview day at Pleasant Valley Park for the neighborhood, Pleasant Valley Schools and the community. Over 60 people played disc golf during the event on a temporary course. Several neighbors came by the information booth during the day and expressed their excitement at the opportunity to improve the park with disc golf.

Stumptown Disc Golf, established in 2007, has over 85 current members and has a record of providing resources for local courses, tournaments and players. They hold teaching clinics to introduce people to the sport, conduct monthly work parties to clean up trash and make repairs at local parks, and they recently held five charity tournaments raising over \$5,000 for OHSU cancer research.

A proposal for the first public disc golf course in Clark County

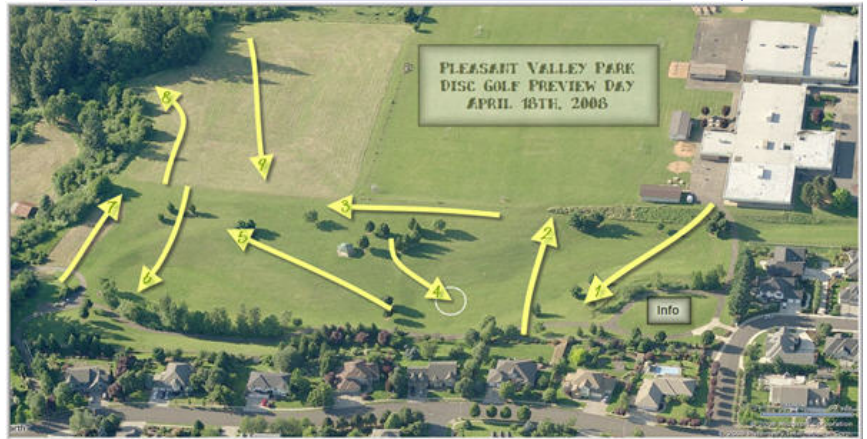
Check us out on the Web:

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf
<http://vcdg.org>
Stumptown Disc Golf
<http://stumptowndg.org>
Professional Disc Golf Association
<http://pdga.com>

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The proposed course design would
be similar to this view of the park.



Discs are caught in baskets similar to this one.

Final Thoughts

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf and Stumptown Disc Golf are offering to assist Vancouver/Clark Parks and Recreation with course design, the purchase of materials for tee signs, baskets, and tee pads, and labor to install the course. The impact of improving the park with a disc golf will be minimal and proportional to the increased usage of the park. Battle Ground Schools has offered to allow parking in the school parking lot when school is not in session and there is plenty of on-street parking available for the one or two vehicles that might bring visitors to the park during school hours.

Vancouver/Clark Disc Golf would like to partner with the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association, Battle Ground School District and VCP&R to make Clark County's first public disc golf course a reality.

The addition of a temporary disc golf course at Pleasant Valley park blends well with the current park usage with minimal consideration to hikers, dog walkers and sports field users. Environmental considerations should be negligible and the addition of work parties would serve to reduce litter and other issues that effect the landscape at the park.

Finally, the addition of disc golf fulfills the desire of the proposed master plan for the park to provide passive recreational opportunities for users of the park.

