

Margaret Greene Park – Temporary Disc Golf Engagement summary

What we did

After Parks staff proposed Margaret Greene Park as a possible location for a disc golf course, we ran a community engagement campaign to understand if a permanent course was the right fit for this park. To introduce the sport to area residents and permit a fulsome conversation, a temporary three-hole disc golf loop was installed for the summer of 2024.

The course was designed to be beginner friendly and therefore an asset for neighbourhood use.

We hosted a survey on haveyoursay.guelph.ca between June 4 and October 26, 2024, to collect public feedback. The consultation was promoted through the City's web page, social media accounts, monthly engagement newsletter and a mailout to over 1,100 residents within 200 metres of the park. In total, 136 people visited the engagement page and 108 shared their perspective by completing the survey.

What we heard

All feedback was received via Have Your Say; no phone calls, emails or other forms of feedback were submitted. Most respondents (72) indicated they had played disc golf before. Of the 108 responses, 16 people indicated they would use the park less often if a disk golf loop was present, while 56 people said they would use the park more often if a disc golf loop were to remain in the park. When reviewing the 55 survey responses from those with a postal code within a 15-minute walk from the park, nine suggested they would likely use the park less often and 27 indicated they'd use the park more often. The remaining nineteen were neutral.

Additional feedback regarding the suitability of disc golf at Margaret Greene Park included:

- Respondents identifying as "having played before" generally supported the project, with comments thematically requesting more holes or more challenging aspects.
- Most respondents enjoyed disc golf.
- Concerns were raised regarding conflicts with other uses in the park and a reduction in unprogrammed space. Suggestions were given for other park amenities, improved access and maintenance.
- We heard that Margaret Greene Park presented value as location for a permanent course, because
 - the park is in an area of Guelph that does not have convenient access to disc golf.
- Feedback was also received relating to the general approach of a temporary feature as part of engagement: 74 of 108 respondents were happy or very happy with the

approach, while 18 were unhappy or very unhappy. The remaining 16 respondents were neutral on the approach.

What we are doing

Over 80 per cent of respondents were in favour of or neutral towards a disc golf course at Margaret Greene Park. The three-hole disc golf loop will become a permanent feature in the park, with consideration given to reviewing concerns expressed in the engagement survey responses.

Next Steps

The three-hole disc golf loop will remain at Margaret Greene Park, with engagement signage being replaced with disc golf specific signage.

In response to the concerns raised regarding conflict with other programming in the park, the location has been confirmed to not interfere with existing uses such as the playground and sports fields.

In response to the concerns raised regarding impacts to informal uses in the park, consideration will be given to adjusting the amount of space the loop occupies to make sure space stays available for informal park use such as picnics, dog walking, etc. Of the 17 hectares that compose Margaret Greene Park, approximately 1.3 hectares of open space currently exists in the eastern portion of the park.

Other parks in the city will continue to be evaluated as possible locations for another short beginner disc golf loop. Community engagement activities appropriate to any parks of interest will be conducted as part of the selection process. If you are interested in having a disc golf loop added to a park near you, we would love to hear about it — let us know by sending an email to parks@guelph.ca or calling 519-837-5626.

For more information

parks@guelph.ca
519-837-5626