



## Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission (PROS)

REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 - 10:00 AM  
1000 Main Street Cambria, CA 93428

### AGENDA

In person at:  
**Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall**  
**1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428**  
AND via Zoom at:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89840296865?pwd=a0tmRUM3NVFpTXZlcWFZeUU4THU0QT09>

**Passcode: 260313**

**Or One tap mobile:**

US: +16699006833,,89840296865# or +16694449171,,89840296865#

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**Webinar ID: 898 4029 6865**

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89840296865>

Copies of the staff reports or other documentation relating to each item of business referred to on the agenda are on file in the CCSD Administration Office, available for public inspection during District business hours. The agenda and agenda packets are also available on the CCSD website at <https://www.cambriacsd.org/>. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or if you need the agenda or other documents in the agenda packet provided in an alternative format, contact the Administrative Analyst at 805-927-6223 at least 48 hours before the meeting to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made. The Administrative Analyst will answer any questions regarding the agenda.

### 1. OPENING

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ESTABLISH QUORUM
- C. CHAIR REPORT
- D. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Any Committee Member may make an announcement, report briefly on his or her activities, or ask a question for clarification.

## **2. EX - OFFICIO REPORTS**

- A. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Report
- B. Skate Cambria

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Members of the public may now address the Commission on any item of interest within the jurisdiction of the Commission but not on its agenda today. Future agenda items can be suggested at this time. In compliance with the Brown Act, the Commission cannot discuss or act on items not on the agenda. Each speaker has up to three minutes.

## **4. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES MANAGER**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA (Estimated time: 15 Minutes)**

- A. Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on June 6, 2023

## **6. REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss Funds Allotted to Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS)
- B. Discussion Regarding Cambrians for Aquatics Group Request for Land Allotment
- C. Receive Ad Hoc Committee Report for Active Recreation Recommendation for East Ranch and Request Approval for Presentation to Board of Directors

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **8. ADJOURN**

## **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission**

(PROS)

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - 10:00 AM

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. OPENING**

##### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Steve Kniffen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

##### **B. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Commissioners Steve Kniffen, Adolf Atencio, Kermit Johansson, Jim Bahringer, Shannon Southerland, and Alternate John Nixon. Juli Amodei, Ad Hoc Committee Member, was also present.

CCSD Staff: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Administrative Analyst Haley Dodson, and CCSD Board Director Michael Thomas also present.

##### **C. CHAIR REPORT**

The Chair asked consensus from the Commissioners to change the order of presentations to enable the large public presence of individuals in support of the Swimming Pool to make their statements to the Board to avoid having to sit through the general meeting sequence which would waste their time; all Commissioners agreed. Presentation was made; see Section 4.B.

##### **D. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Johansson reported that possible interest by the SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments) have reported interest in assisting in 2 pedestrian safety issues as prelude to their Safe Streets initiative competing for Federal Grant money in 2024. The two projects that he will be promoting will be the Eaton Street to Tin City Walkway allowing off road passage along Burton Drive and the Crossing of CA 1 at Santa Rosa Creek by crossing under the South Span of the Creek. More info next meeting.

#### **2. EX - OFFICIO REPORTS**

A. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Report: Kitty Conley reported on numerous volunteer activities as well as status of the new trail connection which is competing for grant money.

B. Skate Cambria: Juli Amodei stated the grant has been approved for submission.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No public comments were made.

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

##### A. Disk Golf Course Presentation

Juli Amodei reported the ongoing activities continue, and when the public meeting June 10 occurs, decisions will be made by public consensus if more work needs to be completed.

##### B. Cambrians for Aquatics Presentation

Barbara Gray, spokesperson for the group identified the Group and purpose. Cambrians for Aquatics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting lifelong safety, health and fun through aquatic activities for all ages. There is a 10-year history of the group but only the last 5 years with an active board. For more info see their website: <https://www.cambriansforaquatics.org/aboutus>.

Their purpose now was to request consideration and subsequent recommendation by PROS to the CCSD Board of a portion of land on the Cambria Community Park of a public pool which would be constructed, managed, and maintained by the Cambrians for Aquatics Non-Profit. Approximately 28 members/supporters were at the meeting.

Supporters brought up the following points:

- Visitor frequently ask for location of exercise pool – but there is none.
- Swimming instructions for students/non-swimmers is non-existent even though we live next to the ocean and water sports are ubiquitous.
- Chronic health issues for Cambria’s residents are common – pools for balance training, exercise and strength recovery are available only by distance driving which removes the water rehab option for most people.
- Currently handicapped persons have no options for water resistance training because the rehab bus in Cambria cannot transfer to a pool.
- The existing county pool has no dressing room and weather precludes many days of use opportunities.

Estimates for cost, use, maintenance, are not available yet. This is because a site has not been selected. Donations are difficult to solicit, although there are donations received, because there is no place to place a pool and donations for purchase cannot be easily collected because suitable location property in is not cheap.

Response from the PROS Commissioners:

- There has been a history of the Fiscalini master plan of the Tennis Court and Pool left out of the activities because of the noise – what has changed to allow this now. Response from B. Gray: Would like the pool to be reconsidered – it will be a covered pool.
- Would it not be more cost effective to find private land rather than attempt to assault the perceived public response to change the Fiscalini East Ranch plan? Also, based on the existing context of the EIR of Fiscalini ranch, a pool was evaluated but not found suitable to the constraints of the plan, a pool would have to have reconsideration of the EIR which may



be expensive/difficult. Response from B. Gray: We do not have any other easy options and we would like to have a site on the East Ranch considered in today's setting.

End of presentation.

## **5. FACILITIES AND RESOURCES MANAGER**

District General Manager Matthew McElhenie made comments in place of Carlos Mendoza who will resign effective June 16, 2023. He praised the dedication and good work of Carlos who has been a dedicated and innovative manager of the CCSD Maintenance Department.

An advertisement for a replacement is being prepared.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 2, 2023**

The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

## **7. REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion Regarding the Coastal Conservancy Letter Regarding Future of the Cambria/Lodge Hill Restoration Program**

This program has been very responsible for retiring potential developable building lots throughout Cambria. The future of maintenance/purpose of this lots has been in question for quite some time. The PROS Commission has never been able to get a handle on the scope and location of the lots to start exploring any purposes for these lots.

Recently a new map has been created showing all the locations in Cambria. The PROS committee is going to explore the purchase of one on the new maps. Shannon Sutherland is going to explore how where we get one. The Commission can purchase a map with their annual allotment from CCSD.

### **B. Discussion Regarding East Fiscalini Ranch Site Assessment**

Juli Amodei explained for the Ad Hoc Committees 3 proposed activities on East Ranch, neither were intended to trigger/change/violate the EIR Passive/Active, but the question always bounced up to what the county was willing to allow us to do by issuing a Compliance permit. Juli and Jim Bahringer did meet with the County to discuss what they are willing to let us do . The County stated it was not difficult to change what is on the plan if it falls in appropriate areas – they did like what we had proposed. What needed to occur is that the CCSD would have to apply for a Land Use Permit, which cost \$700, to have the County review the EIR for compliance. Juli stated that she understood that nothing could be done without completion of the bathroom.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Arrange a special meeting to vote to request holding the approximately \$19,000 funds allotted to PROS by the CCSD could be held in account into the next fiscal year. The meeting would have to be advertised. The meeting time was selected to be June 8 via Zoom.
- B. The presentation by the Cambrians for Aquatics group requested consideration of a land allotment be considered. The PROS Commission could ignore the request or make a definitive statement to be sent to CCSD Board. The question of how much space do we have to be responsive to picnic and playground needs as we are currently configured.
- C. Who is going to do the minutes needs to be addressed before the meeting. We have about 12 meetings a year. Suggest a rotating plan for each of the Commissioners doing a minimum of 2 meetings a year and 2 doing 3.

## **9. ADJOURN**

Chairman Kniffen adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

DRAFT

GENERAL FUND  
PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE  
DEPARTMENT – 16



Cambria Community Services District , CA

# Budget Report

## Account Summary

For Fiscal: 2023-2024 Period Ending: 07/31/2023

	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<b>Fund: 01 - GENERAL FUND</b>						
<b>Revenue</b>						
<b>Category: 44 - PROPERTY TAXES</b>						
<a href="#">01-43100-16</a> PROPERTY TAX - PROS DEPT	55,449.00	55,449.00	0.00	0.00	-55,449.00	100.00 %
<a href="#">01-43110-16</a> SB2557 TAX - PROS DEPT	-400.00	-400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00 %
<b>Category: 44 - PROPERTY TAXES Total:</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-55,049.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-55,049.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>Category: 52 - SERVICES &amp; SUPPLIES</b>						
<a href="#">01-60800-16</a> PRO SVS-PROS DEPT	18,793.00	18,793.00	0.00	0.00	18,793.00	100.00 %
<b>Budget Detail</b>						
<b>Description</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Amount</b>			
PROF SVC - GRANT WRITER	0.00	0.00	3,000.00			
PROF SVC - UPDATE 2009 COMMUNITY PARK PLAN	0.00	0.00	15,793.00			
<b>Category: 52 - SERVICES &amp; SUPPLIES Total:</b>	<b>18,793.00</b>	<b>18,793.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,793.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Category: 60 - CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>						
<a href="#">01-61700-16</a> CAP ASSET EXP - PROS DEPT	59,333.00	59,333.00	0.00	0.00	59,333.00	100.00 %
<b>Budget Detail</b>						
<b>Description</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Amount</b>			
CAP ASSESTS - SKATE PARK YR 3 OF 3 RESERVE FUNDING	0.00	0.00	59,333.00			
<b>Category: 60 - CAPITAL OUTLAY Total:</b>	<b>59,333.00</b>	<b>59,333.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>59,333.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Category: 80 - ALLOCATED OH</b>						
<a href="#">01-62000-16</a> ALLOC OVERHEAD - PROS DEPT	28,610.00	28,610.00	0.00	0.00	28,610.00	100.00 %
<b>Category: 80 - ALLOCATED OH Total:</b>	<b>28,610.00</b>	<b>28,610.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28,610.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Fund: 01 - GENERAL FUND Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51,687.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Report Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51,687.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>

**Group Summary**

Categor...	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<b>Fund: 01 - GENERAL FUND</b>						
<b>Revenue</b>						
44 - PROPERTY TAXES	55,049.00	55,049.00	0.00	0.00	-55,049.00	100.00 %
<b>Revenue Total:</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>55,049.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-55,049.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
52 - SERVICES & SUPPLIES	18,793.00	18,793.00	0.00	0.00	18,793.00	100.00 %
60 - CAPITAL OUTLAY	59,333.00	59,333.00	0.00	0.00	59,333.00	100.00 %
80 - ALLOCATED OH	28,610.00	28,610.00	0.00	0.00	28,610.00	100.00 %
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>106,736.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Fund: 01 - GENERAL FUND Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51,687.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>
<b>Report Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>-51,687.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51,687.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>

**Fund Summary**

Fund	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
01 - GENERAL FUND	-51,687.00	-51,687.00	0.00	0.00	51,687.00
Report Surplus (Deficit):	-51,687.00	-51,687.00	0.00	0.00	51,687.00

# Active Recreation Recommendation East Ranch Open Space

Cambria Parks Recreation and Open Space AD HOC



**PROS AD HOC Committee Members:**

Kermit Johansson

Jim Bahringer

**Community Member:**

Juli Amodei

**Prepared by:**

Shannon Sutherland

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

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## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

### Scope

At the request of the CCSD to the PROS Commission, an AD HOC committee has been formed. The goal of the AD HOC committee is to make recommendations to CCSD concerning the community use of the East Ranch Open Space to begin recommending projects and defining the area, cost, funding sources, and timelines. The AD HOC committee has identified four (4) feasible, low-cost, and low-environmental impact recreational activity projects for the East Ranch Open Space:

- Disc Golf Course
- Additional Multi-use Trails
- Youth and Adult Fitness Trail
- Community playing field

Recreational, sports, and exercise activities, cultural activities, outdoor activities, and social activities bring pleasure, joy, amusement, and meaning to our lives. The effect of participation in recreational activities on health and well-being works by 1) providing opportunities for social interactions and thereby increasing social satisfaction and building supportive relations; 2) helping to unwind, relax and counterbalance stress; 3) increasing the quality of life 4) increasing physiological and cognitive functioning 5) increasing social connectedness and cohesion in the local community ([Elliott et al., 2014](#), [Delhey et al., 2016](#)). Recreational activities also attract tourists, filling hotel rooms and bringing customers to local stores and restaurants. As community signature pieces, recreation offers a marketing tool to attract tourists and boost the local economy.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stresses the importance of providing and promoting safe, equitable, and inclusive access to parks, trails, recreation areas, and green spaces. Recreation and open spaces are critical to our community's physical and psychological health. Numerous studies have shown the social, environmental, economic, and health benefits that recreation brings to a community and its people. Observational studies have shown that participation in recreational activities is associated with better health and well-being among working adults ([Sonntag, 2001](#), [Winwood et al., 2007](#)) middle-aged ([Takeda et al., 2015](#)) and elderly people ([Niedzwiedz, 2016](#), [Curvers et al., 2018](#), [Vozikaki, 2017](#), [Fitzpatrick, 2009](#), [Paggi et al., 2016](#), [Zimmer and Lin, 1996](#)). Among adolescents, recent studies have linked participation in recreational activities to less academic stress and better-perceived health ([Badura et al., 2015](#), [Zhang and Zheng, 2017](#)). Also, among selected groups with high emotional strain, recreational activities have been associated with improved self-rated health and well-being.

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

### Statement of Need

The need is to add low environmental impact recreation to the East Ranch to address the requirements of *Cambria's Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan* (Master Plan). The original plan, adopted in 1994, outlined various goals that included designing park and recreation facilities to enhance community identity and serve the recreation needs of Cambrians of all ages, economic situations, and physical abilities. The original plan called for decomposed granite-lined trails, a playground, a picnic grove, a .55-acre dog park, playing fields, a bathroom, and a parking lot.

To date, no recreation facilities have been implemented. The only trail that runs through the heart of the East Ranch is a bootleg path made over time by the wishes and feet of walkers. The trail is not maintained and can be too muddy to walk on in the winter and overgrown with weeds in the summer. There is no playground on the site, and the dog park expanded and encroached into the picnic grove. A natural vegetation community playing field area currently exists but requires minimal grading and regular mowing. The community has identified a need for active recreation in the form of Disc Golf, additional and maintained trails, and a maintained playing field.

### Background

#### Master Plan

In 1990, as a result of community concern, the Cambria Community Services District Board of Directors (CCSD) held public meetings to discuss Cambria's park, recreation, and open space needs. At the time, the Board established an Advisory Committee to discuss the creation of a community-based Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department. In 1992 the Advisory Committee contracted for a community survey to better assess community interest and demand for park, recreation, and open space services. Results from the community survey<sup>3</sup> indicated tremendous support. In late 1992, based on survey results, Advisory Committee recommendations, and public input, the CCSD Board established a Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission (PROS). The Commission held public meetings to discuss park, recreation, and open space issues and wrote *Cambria's Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan*, which is dedicated to the acquisition, development, and maintenance of a comprehensive park system, recreational facilities, open space and trails in Cambria.

#### Community Feedback

It has been over 30 years since the original Master Plan was crafted, in an effort to update the recreational needs and desires of the community the AD HOC committee, surveyed the community to determine the extent of their use and support for a disc golf course, additional multi-use trails, a youth and adult fitness trail, and a community playing field. Volunteers set up a

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

display and information table at the Cambria Farmer's Market for eight weeks and reached out to the Hispanic community. The petition presented to the public asked for a signature if the community member liked the idea of adding disc golf, multi-use trails, and natural vegetation playing fields, to the East Ranch and provided an option to voice additional suggestions. As a result one option has been identified as being financially feasible, viable, low-environmental impact, low maintenance, and supported by the community, a nine-hole disc golf course.

### **AD Hoc Meetings**

Community outreach created an opportunity to invite people to the Saturday AD Hoc meetings. Many people attended the meetings as a result of this outreach and were able to voice their ideas, issues, concerns, and enthusiasm for active recreation on the East Ranch.

### **Farmers Market**

A group of four volunteers met every Friday for nine weeks at the entrance to the Cambria Farmer's Market to offer information and collect signatures from the community in support of the multi-use trails, a youth and adult fitness course, and a disc golf course. The group collected 309 signatures in support of additional multi-use trails, a youth and adult fitness course, and a disc golf course on the East Ranch. Three people provided written statements asking to leave the East Ranch as it currently stands.

### **Hispanic Community**

Community outreach was conducted over four weeks targeting the Hispanic population in Cambria. The AD Hoc committee translated the In-depth information and the petition concerning feasible projects for the East Ranch open space. Parishioners who attend the Santa Rosa Catholic church volunteered to reach out to their friends and family and ask them what active recreation they would like to see on the East Ranch. People were asked if they would like to have additional multi-use trails, a youth and adult fitness course, a disc golf course, and a natural vegetation playing field and to rank them. They were also asked to provide any additional thoughts and suggestions. The majority of the 140 people who completed the surveys identified as raising children in Cambria, and overwhelmingly (111 people) wanted to see active recreation in general and a playing field in particular.

## **Project Description**

### **Objective**

The objective of this proposal is to install a nine-hole disc golf course active recreation on the West side of the East Ranch portion of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve. The area under consideration is approximately 13 acres, where disc golf may share space with other pass-

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

through activities. The available space is predominately flat meadows with some seasonal marshiness. To the north, the area is bordered by dense growth overlooking Santa Rosa Creek. To the south and east, the area is bordered by varied vegetation, including moderately spaced large trees, located upslope toward private property.

### Background

Disc golf is a sport where players throw a disc at a basket, with rules similar to golf. The sport is usually played on a course with 9 or 18 holes (baskets). Players complete a hole by throwing a disc from a tee pad toward a basket, throwing again from where the previous throw landed until the basket is reached. The baskets are formed by wire with hanging chains above the basket, designed to catch the incoming discs, resulting in a score. Usually, the number of throws a player uses to reach each basket is tallied (often in relation to par), and players seek to complete each hole in the lowest number of total throws. The course does not require a grass field for installation.

- Disc golf is a rapidly growing, environmentally friendly, low-cost, and low-impact sport.
- Disc golf is a healthy outdoor activity accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- Disc golf courses are inexpensive to install, easy to maintain, and make use of an area's existing topography. A quality 18-hole course is inexpensive to install and maintain and lasts for decades.
- Disc golf courses attract new people to park areas and support local businesses through increased tourism. Disc golfers, like dedicated hikers or cyclists, often base their travel plans around their favorite hobbies.
- Schools have been adding disc golf to their curriculum worldwide. It provides safe exercise and can be used for other life lessons like ecology, planning, and socialization. Schools are finding that kids not only love the sport but that it helps develop critical thinking through scrutinizing and negotiating obstacles.

There are no disc golf courses in or near Cambria, the closest courses are approximately 30 minutes away in Templeton Castoro Cellars Winery and Morro Bay. The county's most popular courses – the base from which most regular players would come to Cambria – are about 45 minutes away in San Luis Obispo and Atascadero.

Disc golf tourism is a factor to consider. A small percentage of the sport's ~5 million regular players build their travel plans primarily around disc golf, targeting destination courses that typically have large, dedicated spaces with multiple layouts, extensive landscaping, and abundant on-site amenities. Regular players pack a few discs for spontaneous play at whatever courses are convenient to their other plans.

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

### Who Would Play Disc Golf at this Course?

Where are they from:

- 60%: from local community
- 30%: other parts of San Luis Obispo County
- 10%: outside the region

What skills do they have:

- 60%: beginners & novices
- 30%: intermediate
- 10%: advanced

How many rounds would be played daily:

- ~10 rounds minimum unless severe weather
- 10-20 rounds most weekdays
- 20-40 rounds most weekends
- 25-50% more in summer

### Safety

Safety of non-players is an important consideration, the West hillside area has relatively low traffic and a lack of visual blockers, so it is extremely unlikely that ill-advised throws will be made when trail users are present. Sport or recreation is absolutely risk-free. Each year, roughly 4 trillion (yes, trillion) disc golf throws are made on courses in multi-use areas (10,000 courses x 365 days x 25 rounds x 50 throws). The average number of severe injuries to players or passers-by is less than one per year. Nonetheless, there are ways to reduce this historically tiny risk even further, including installing informational signage and hiring a professional designer to ensure shots fly away from trouble spots.

**Environment** - disc golf's impact on the environment is far lighter than most sports and recreations, many of which require eliminating natural space. The impact on well-designed courses is limited to foot traffic and maybe marks on trees from deflecting discs. Habitat impacts are extremely rare.

**Misbehavior** - often, disc golf courses are the solution to misbehavior such as crime, dumping, and encampments – as demonstrated at the two most popular courses in the greater Bay Area, Golden Gate Park and DeLaveaga (Santa Cruz), and two new courses in Concord and Santa Rosa. However, some people may behave badly despite the overall disc golf culture of stewardship and courtesy. Experienced players find such misbehavior wholly unacceptable and will be the first to speak up.

**Congestion / Monopolization** - disc golf is a pass-through activity where people migrate through the space rather than remaining stationary, which integrates well with other pass-through

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

activities. Because most courses are typically installed in multi-use spaces, disc golfers know they should wait to throw when someone passes through or near a basket. At a typical course, disc golf's usage density averages less than one person per acre and only 3-4 people per acre during peak times.

### Site

The West hillside of the East Ranch offers the best space for a nine-basket disc golf course. Whirlwind Disc Golf performed a site survey identifying the potential areas for the course. The West hillside area site is rated So-So; the rating would improve if trees were planted and other natural terrain obstacles such as seasonal marshes and elevation changes were identified along the disc flight path from one basket to the next. The three small contiguous sections (sections 7,8, and 9), if designed well, could produce an enjoyable beginner and intermediate nine-hole disc golf experience. Because the dog park has pushed the picnic area deeper into section 8, it would need to move to another location on the East Ranch.



### Requirements

Disc golf is easy to install, requiring only a tee pad, baskets, signage, and space. The distance from the tee pads to the baskets can range anywhere from 150 feet to 700 feet or more, depending on the natural flow of the terrain. Planting new trees would add to the complexity of the course.

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

### Tee Pads

The tee is where the hole begins. There are a variety of different tee pad options. The main goal of a tee pad is to create a flat area where the player can make consistent throws without worrying about footing. For a permanent course, a concrete or box with a decomposed granite pad is the preferred choice. Tee pads should always allow a player to take four steps to launch the disc.

Tee pads are typically 5' wide by 10' long; depending on the terrain and weather, installation may require drainage, retaining, or other customizations to ensure long-term viability.



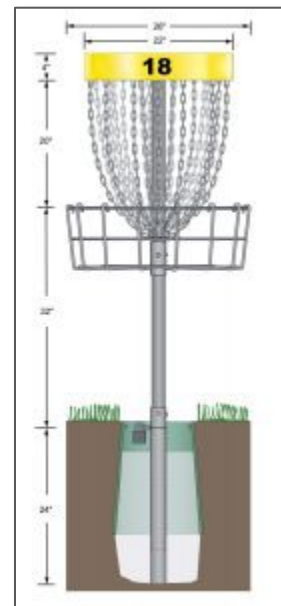
### Tee Signs

A tee sign may be placed at each tee to identify the hole number, the par, the distance, and sometimes to illustrate the recommended flight path from one basket to the next. Tee signs are typically coated metal with color graphics, roughly 12"x18" vertical, mounted about 4' high on an anchored wood post, located safely behind or to the side of the tee pad. Options include UV coatings and polycarbonate to help protect signs from sun and vandalism. Some courses use various alternatives, including mounting signs on tree stumps, painting numbers on rocks, and etching the number into the concrete pad. The signage would be considered part of the East Ranch signage and consistent with the Master Plan.

## ACTIVE RECREATION RECOMMENDATION EAST RANCH OPEN SPACE

### Tee baskets

To complete the hole, the disc must land in the basket. The hanging chains act as a backstop to help the disc fall into the basket. Baskets are sturdy, built with galvanized or stainless steel -- about 5 feet high, 28" wide, 50-60 lbs. The pipe slides into a sleeve anchored in a concrete base 18-24" deep. The basket is easily moved from one sleeve to another, secured by a padlocked collar. Custom branding and powder-coated colors are available. Baskets are usually installed in multiples of 9, one per hole.



### Maintenance

Maintenance time and cost would likely match the relative installation costs. The annual maintenance cost at most courses is around 10% of installation cost, not counting any replacement costs for crime or vandalism. In many communities, players go beyond volunteering make substantial donations to maintain the course. A simple donation box would raise enough money to handle routine maintenance.

After conducting research into the maintenance practices of the other disc golf courses in San Luis Obispo County, it was determined that the majority are maintained by volunteer and disc golf clubs. Some clubs have official MOUs which establish the respective rights and responsibilities of the club and the park district, as well as a process for ongoing communication and scheduled reviews.

### Budget

The disc golf project has secured \$35,000 in private funds and a grant from Cambria Community Council.

### Timeline

The project installation could start immediately, pending CCSD and San Luis Obispo County approvals, and identifying the exact placement of the tee boxes and baskets.



# Site Assessment: East Fiscalini Ranch, Cambria



## SITE OVERVIEW

### Site Characteristics

The potential disc golf course site is located at the eastern end of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, a 430-acre park that separates Cambria's East and West Villages. The area under consideration is about 48 acres. The majority of the site is limited to passive recreation and constrained by private property restrictions. After deducting for constraints, we have roughly 13 acres where disc golf may share space with other “pass-through” activities.

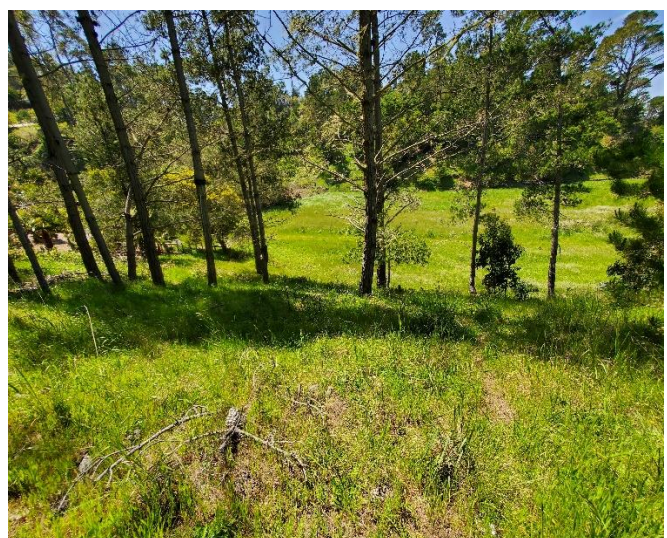


*Constraints reduce the potential disc golf area from ~48 acres to about 13 acres.*

The available space is predominately flat meadows with some seasonal marshiness. To the north, the area is bordered by dense growth overlooking Santa Rosa Creek. To the south and east, the area is bordered by varied vegetation, including moderately spaced large trees, located upslope toward or within private property.



*Most of the potential site is flat, grassy meadows.*



*Some big trees with good spacing. Steep and likely private.*

## Disc Golf in the Community

Cambria is a small, delightful town on the Central Coast which is visited year-round by regional, national, and international tourists.

There are no disc golf courses in or near Cambria. In the past, the model in most of California was “build it and they will come” – i.e., interest would develop in the community after the course was established. However, disc golf participation and non-participant familiarity have both grown rapidly in recent years. Now, there’s a good chance that there are already a significant number of disc golf enthusiasts in or near Cambria.

The closest courses are about 30 minutes away in Templeton (Castoro Cellars Winery, aka “Whale Rock”) and Morro Bay (several semi-private courses). The region’s most popular courses – the base from which most regular players would come to Cambria – are about 45 minutes away in San Luis Obispo and Atascadero.

Disc golf tourism is a factor to consider. A small percentage of the sport’s ~5 million regular players\* build their travel plans primarily around disc golf, targeting “destination” courses which typically have large, dedicated spaces with multiple layouts, extensive landscaping, and abundant on-site amenities. A large percentage of regular players pack a few discs for spontaneous play at whatever courses are convenient to their other plans.

[\\*see UDisc Growth Report 2023](#)

## SUITABILITY & CAPACITY

The main part of a Whirlwind Site Assessment is a map which rates each section for Suitability and Capacity.

### About Suitability

*“Suitability” is rated on a 9-step color spectrum from “Fantastic” (dark green) to “So-So” (yellow) to “No Way!” (dark red).*

*Suitability incorporates many factors. From a community perspective, these factors include safety, environment, and integration (how well does disc golf fit in with existing experiences). From a player perspective, these factors include skill match (level of challenge for likely participants), flight variety, visual appeal, access, weather, safety, and security. From a client perspective, these factors include installation cost and effort, maintenance cost and effort, and liability.*

*The Suitability rating is an initial indicator, not a static predictor. A professional course designer can ensure, for example, that sections rated “Poor” can meet high standards of safety and integration, given proper mitigations and compromises to less critical factors such as flight variety. Likewise, enhancements such as tree planting and creative landscaping can raise the quality a couple notches. Nonetheless, the overall appeal and success of the course will largely correlate to these ratings.*

### About Capacity

*The map also indicates the potential Capacity – i.e., the number of holes – if a course were to have holes in that section. The Capacity rating is based on a rough sense of potential, not an actual design. During the design process, many things will be taken into consideration to determine how many holes would actually work well in any given area, to produce a complete layout that will serve all stakeholders well.*

*The footprint of a disc golf course can vary quite a bit, depending on the terrain, intended skill level, and other factors. A common rule of thumb is that each hole utilizes one acre. However, elite competitive courses such as Gleneagles in San Francisco may use up to 3 acres per hole. On the other hand, beginner-friendly courses such as Gehringer Park in Concord use as little as 1/8 of an acre per hole.*

*The vast majority of courses are found in public spaces where disc golf shares the space harmoniously with other “pass-through” activities such as walking and biking. Such shared spaces are never monopolized by any activity.*



## Suitability Assessment

This assessment evaluates 9 distinct sections within the East Fiscalini Ranch Preserve area.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1GxYgJoYvyAdatc38hThmG7eESMEcKn0&usp=sharing>. (Note: A viewer of the Google map may toggle the various layers on/off to better understand the assessment.)

Overall, the site is workable for disc golf, but not ideal. The majority of the sections are rated “Subpar” or lower for Suitability. Three small non-contiguous sections are rated best – only “So-So.” The “So-So” and “Subpar” areas, if designed well, will nonetheless produce an enjoyable disc golf experience, without compromising safety, site integration (aka playing well with others), or budget.



Screen shots of the [Google map](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1GxYgJoYvyAdatc38hThmG7eESMEcKn0&usp=sharing) with suitability and capacity ratings. Suitability is rated on a spectrum from dark green (“Fantastico!”) to yellow (“So-so”) to dark red (“No Way!”)

The map illustration does not account for several things that could impact the findings significantly:

- If trees were planted in the open area, the quality would improve 1-2 levels, after a few years. (There are other ways to make a flat open space more appealing – mounding, man-made obstacles – but these may not fit the feeling of the site well, and may exceed the timeline and budget.)
- If the primary pathways are close to the tree-lined areas – likely if sports fields occupy the middle – then the available shared space will be narrow, resulting in fewer design options, slower play, and more interaction with non-golfers. This would push the ratings down a level or two.
- Clear and lasting definition of private property boundaries and buffers – and, apart from any legalities, being considerate of the neighbors – is fundamental to making the best use of the highest rated areas. This determination may eliminate some of the relatively appealing sections.

## Capacity Assessment

Each of the sections also indicates the potential number of holes in that area. From the top-right, counter-clockwise:

- Section 1: 1-3 holes / .5 acre (“So-So”)
- Section 2: 1-3 holes / 1 acre (“Subpar”)
- Section 3: 1-3 holes / 1 acre (“Subpar”)
- Section 4: 3-5 holes / 3 acres (“Subpar”)
- Section 5: 4-6 holes / 4 acres (“Poor”)
- Section 6: 4-6 holes / 4 acres (“Poor”)
- Section 7: 3-6 holes / 3 acres (“So-So”)
- Section 8: 4-6 holes / 3 acres (“Subpar”)
- Section 9: 3-6 holes / 2 acres (“So-So”)

As noted in the “About Capacity” info above, this does not mean we should use the max number of holes in every potential space (44!), but rather to provide a way, by combining adjacent sections, to achieve a suitable number of holes for the intended scale, skills, and budget.

These Capacity estimates assume that the holes will typically measure 150-250 feet, suitable for a relatively “open” (unobstructed) course catering to beginner-to-lower intermediate end of the skill spectrum. Shorter holes also make sense given the amount of good available space, because shorter holes require less space.

*Note: See **Recommendations** below regarding this assumption of relatively short holes and space limitations.*



Screen shot of the same [Google map](#), now indicating the estimated number of holes possible in each section.



## PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are preliminary, likely to change during further analysis and design. They're intended to help identify next steps in the planning process.

### Key Variables

How much suitable space?

- Plenty of space for up to 18 short holes (150-250 ft), medium (250-350), and/or long (350+).

How much *highly* suitable space?

- None. Only 3 sections achieve the middle rating ("So-So") and none surpass it. One of these 3 So-So sections may not be available due to private property buffer.

How much money for course design and installation?

- Enough for the professional design and purchase of a moderately equipped 9-hole course, installed with volunteer labor.
- *To see common course costs, check out the [Whirlwind Cost Worksheet](#).*

What skill level(s) are served?

- A beginner to intermediate course makes sense in a community with no nearby courses.
- Given the prominence of tourism here, a "destination course" might make sense if the site and budget were both tremendous – which isn't the case.

Other major variables? (Anything that would impact the location, scale, complexity, or style of the course – e.g., parking capacity, severe seasonality, other site activities, habitat, etc.)

- In the western half of the potential site, habitat protection requires all activity be restricted to the trails. Accordingly, no Suitability ratings were given for that area.
- As noted frequently, the actual or de facto property boundaries may impact the available area.
- Assumption: The planned sports fields will occupy the middle of the site in coming years.
- Assumption: Seasonal marshiness in meadow areas is acceptable for course features.

### What Kind of Course Would Work Best Here?

In communities that are less familiar with disc golf, it's usually good to start out with a relatively easy, low-key course. Such communities will likely have more beginners than intermediate or advanced players. A low-key course may help assuage common, if unfounded, concerns about shared space and disc golf culture. This site presents a reasonable opportunity for an elemental course that aligns with these considerations.

**Recommended Number of Holes: 6 to 12**

**Recommended Distance: Average 150-250 feet**

## Recommended Layout Features: 1 tee pad with 2-3 sleeves per hole

### Recommended Sections (in no particular order)

#### Option A: Sections 8 & 9

- These contiguous sections provide easy access from parking, interesting terrain, and reasonably good separation from other park activities – including walking paths, not just the sports fields.
- Given the extreme contrast of terrain, recommendation would be two separate loops of 4-6 holes in each area. Beginners may not want to play the hillside loop in Section 9.
- Section 8 has seasonal marshiness.
- **Section 9 may be unavailable due to private property buffer.**



#### Option B: Section 7 with small parts of 4, 5, 8

- The bottom of the upslope areas in Section 7 are the best terrain on the site. There's enough space for a few holes that are fun, interesting, and separate from the planned trail.
- **TBD whether the lower upslope in Section 7 (south of the Yucca cove area) is available for disc golf.** If not, then this Option would still be viable by keeping the holes on the flats, but much less appealing.
- The other Sections are tied to Section 7 to enable up to 9 holes in a single loop.
- A longer walk from parking than Option A, but not too bad.





**For either Option above: Recommend 1-2 practice baskets (putting only) in Section 1.**



## Design and Installation Considerations

In addition to the base costs outlined in the [Whirlwind Cost Worksheet](#), each Option above may have some additional cost for features that are not determined at this point. Examples:

- Small retaining walls to stabilize tee boxes
- Resetting property boundaries (e.g., removing broken barbed wire)
- Trail clearing
- The hillside loop of Option A would likely require more the above.
- The quality of Option B would depend on new trees more than Option A.

New trees would be most effective in Section 8 (Option A) and in the Sections 4 and 5 (Option B). In each case, at least 10 trees would be needed to make a positive impact; 20-30 would be ideal. As noted above, it takes several years before the trees are fully functional (read: big enough to require curving shots around them).

Maintenance time and cost would likely match the relative installation costs. The annual maintenance cost at most courses is around 10% of installation cost, not counting any replacement costs for crime or disaster.

In many communities, players go beyond volunteering and also make substantial donations to enhance the course.

These areas don't appear to have significant habitat concerns that would require any direct mitigation.

Safety of non-players would be acceptable for both options.

- The primary consideration is the planned trail that will go between the sports fields and the hillsides. Given the relatively low traffic and lack of visual blockers, it is extremely unlikely that ill-advised throws will be made when trail users are present.
- Option A is more isolated from the trail.
- Option B is farther from the concentration of users at the eastern end (parking, sports, dog area).

## Who Would Play Disc Golf at this Course?

Where are they from?

- 60%: from local community
- 30%: other parts of San Luis Obispo County
- 10%: outside the region

What skills do they have?

- 60%: beginners & novices
- 30%: intermediate
- 10%: advanced

How many rounds would be played daily?

- ~10 rounds minimum unless severe weather
- 10-20 rounds most weekdays
- 20-40 rounds most weekends
- 25-50% more in summer





*Western portion of potential site. Open meadows dominate the site, with dense vegetation and/or slopes around the edge.*



*80% of potential site, looking west. In the foreground, dog area and area for planned playground and restrooms.*





*Dense vegetation above Santa Rosa Creek (section 3).*



*One big tree at western edge of potential space (section 4).*



*Park access from village (sections 2 & 3).*



*Big trees at base of steep slope (section 7).*

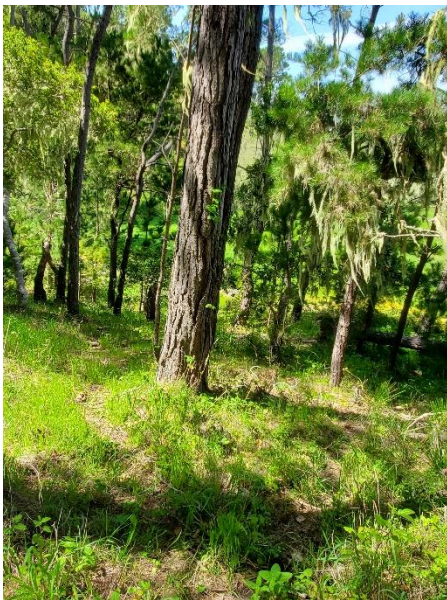




*Looking west along hillside (section 7).*



*Not-too-steep hillside, would need clearing (section 7).*



*Very appealing hillside in both pics, but where is property line? (section 7).*



*Cool feature on hillside (section 7).*



*Something to avoid, perhaps remove (section 8).*





*Barbed wire; property line (section 8)?*



*Most of space is open meadow (sections 5 & 6).*



*Rock wall; property line (section 8)?*



*Apparent property line, many signs along here (section 8).*





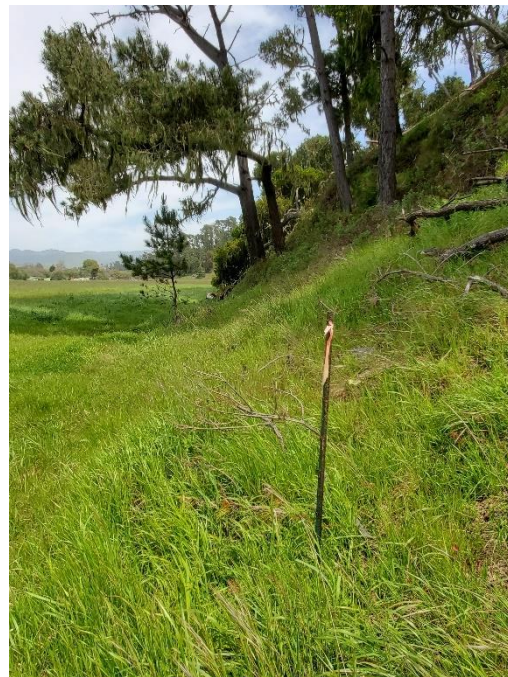
*Where meadow meets appealing hillside (sections 8 & 9).*



*Fairly steep hillside with nominal upkeep (section 9).*



*Southwest toward yucca cove, good space (section 7).*



*Random post; property line (section 7)?*





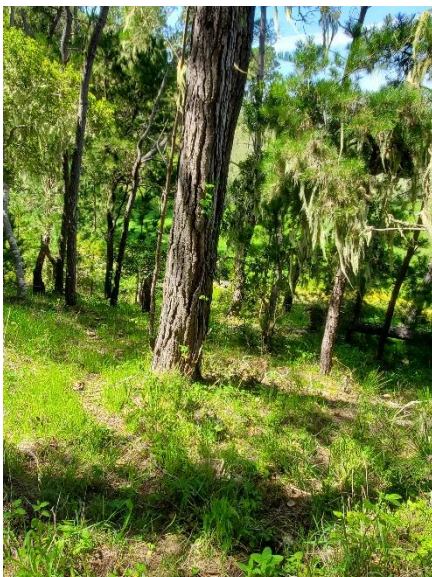
*Moderately sloped areas that would require significant cleanup (section 7).*



*Another view of the "yucca cove" (section 7).*



*View from southwest corner of potential area (section 7).*



*More views of the steep hillside with good tree spacing (section 9).*



## APPENDIX A: MORE ABOUT DISC GOLF

### How Do You Play Disc Golf?

Disc golf is played like traditional golf. Start on the tee and play each shot from the previous spot until completing the hole. The goal is to complete the course in as few shots as possible.

*More info:*

- *Disc golf juxtaposed with traditional golf, featuring top players:* [vimeo.com/50806380](https://vimeo.com/50806380)
- *Introduction from the governing organization of disc golf (comparable to the USGA):* <https://www.pdqa.com/introduction>
- *Basic rules and courtesies:* <https://discgolf.com/disc-golf-education-development/disc-golf-rules-for-recreational-play/>
- *Local club's introduction to disc golf:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYcuJwAKwVw>
- *How Do Golf Discs Fly (long video):* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GwdghSH4rk>

### Disc Golf Players and Culture

Almost anyone can play disc golf. Age doesn't matter. Physical and economic barriers are low.

There are roughly 4 million regular disc golfers in the U.S.

- Frequency: 10% of all players are "Avid" (at least once a week), 60% of all players are "Dedicated" (at least once a month), 30% of all players are "Occasional" (at least once a year).
- Skill: 2% Expert, 15% Advanced, 45% Intermediate, 30% Novice, 10% Beginner.
- Yes, there's a fairly strong correlation between frequency and skill – e.g., most "Avid" players are either Expert or Advanced.

Generally, if you see someone playing disc golf, they're most likely an intermediate player or novice who plays at least once a month. Once players get started, they tend to get hooked; they play a lot.

Disc golfers are widely represented across age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography. The highest level of participation is college-educated, middle-class white males in their 30s.

As a grassroots sport, disc golf culture largely reflects the culture of the local community. However, there are some themes and values which do characterize the sport, especially among experienced players.

- ***Etiquette.*** Like traditional golf, disc golfers are expected to demonstrate self-officiated integrity, even in the most serious competitions.
- ***Courtesy.*** Most disc golf courses are located in multi-use areas of public parks. Disc golfers are habitually considerate of other park users.
- ***Inclusiveness.*** Yes, disc golf's oldest roots are borne of hippy counter-culture, a contrast to the exclusive and expensive reputation of traditional golf. Moreover, as a relatively small sport, disc golf's participants are eager to share their passion with new people.
- ***Environmental stewardship.*** Disc golf is hiking while throwing Frisbees. Disc golfers celebrate the natural space and often volunteer to nurture it. Also, disc golf courses are often located in previously neglected or troubled spaces, so players take pride in the spaces that the community has reclaimed.

More info:

- [UDisc Growth Report 2023](#)
- *State of Disc Golf Survey: articles on player demographics:* <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/?s=demographics>
- *A sport that everyone can play:* <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/courses/disc-golf-a-sport-that-everyone-can-play/>
- *Older people playing disc golf:* [http://lompocrecord.com/and-thriving-donald-shinn-still-enjoys-disc-golf/article\\_fc2399e1-bb22-5424-8948-413b4975699c.html](http://lompocrecord.com/and-thriving-donald-shinn-still-enjoys-disc-golf/article_fc2399e1-bb22-5424-8948-413b4975699c.html)
- *Young people playing disc golf*
  - o <https://www.ourvalleyvoice.com/2017/10/12/junior-disc-golfers-compete-california-championships-mooney-grove/>
  - o <https://www.facebook.com/communityfirsthealthplans/videos/1354827844540517/>
  - o <http://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/bakersfield-teen-sets-new-disc-throw-world-record>
  - o <https://www.kidsdiscgolf.com/>
- *Kids and disc golf culture:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSTsXJGuVlc&feature=youtu.be>
- *Preserving the spirit of the game as disc golf grows:* <http://www.discgolfprotour.com/news/grow-the-sport-but-why>
- *San Francisco Disc Golf Club culture, within context of major competition at San Francisco Open* <https://melmagazine.com/en-us/story/disc-golf-is-going-pro-and-life-for-chill-bros-has-never-been-better>
- *Sport-wide charity tournament makes a huge donation to St Jude:* <https://college.discgolf.io/p/disc-golf-raises-214000-for-st-jude>

## Issues & Perceptions

When a disc golf course is installed, some people are excited about the chance to test their disc-throwing skills in a natural space, while others – especially those unfamiliar with disc golf -- may have reservations. Concerns are usually in four areas:

- **Safety.** No sport or recreation is absolutely risk-free. Each year, roughly 4 trillion – yes, trillion – disc golf throws are made on courses in multi-use areas (10,000 courses x 365 days x 25 rounds x 50 throws). The average number of severe injuries to players or passers-by is less than one per year. Nonetheless, there are ways to reduce this historically tiny risk even further, including the installation of informational signage and hiring a professional designer ensure shots fly away from trouble spots.
- **Environment.** Disc golf's impact on the environment is far lighter than most sports and recreations, many of which require elimination of natural space. On well-designed courses, the impact is limited to foot traffic and maybe marks on trees from deflecting discs. Habitat impacts are extremely rare. When needed, a professional designer can provide straightforward mitigations to potential erosion and tree issues.
- **Misbehavior.** Often, disc golf courses are the solution to misbehavior such as crime, dumping, and encampments – as demonstrated at the two most popular courses in the greater Bay Area, Golden Gate Park and DeLaveaga (Santa Cruz), and two new courses in Concord and Santa Rosa. Sometimes however, despite the overall disc golf culture of stewardship and courtesy, a small number of newbies may behave badly, just like a small number of people in any group. Rest assured that experienced players find such misbehavior completely unacceptable, and will be the first to speak up.



- **Congestion / Monopolization.** Disc golf is a pass-through activity -- where people continue through the space rather than remaining stationary for more than a minute or two – which integrates well with other pass-through activities. Because most courses are installed in multi-use space, disc golfers know that they should wait to throw when someone is passing through or near a hole. At a typical course, disc golf's usage density averages less than one person per acre, and only 3-4 people per acre during peak times.

*More info:*

- *Public perception is increasingly positive:* [https://parkeddiscgolf.org/2019/10/14/disc-golf-is-winning-hearts-and-minds-new-study-shows/?fbclid=IwAR3vJPCFqFSmSOvPaeXiqh3SdWqLM9n0f292\\_huUpDvxqvTnb1TyfucGey8](https://parkeddiscgolf.org/2019/10/14/disc-golf-is-winning-hearts-and-minds-new-study-shows/?fbclid=IwAR3vJPCFqFSmSOvPaeXiqh3SdWqLM9n0f292_huUpDvxqvTnb1TyfucGey8)
- *Academic analysis of the costs, mitigations, and benefits of disc golf at a popular course:* <http://www.ncurproceedings.org/ojs/index.php/NCUR2014/article/viewFile/741/466>
- *Outdoor exercise is good for mental health:* <https://thrive.kaiserpermanente.org/thrive-together/live-well/can-a-hike-make-you-happier>
- *Mental health benefits, ala Chef Andrew Zimmern:* <https://www.connectsports.com/feature/andrew-zimmern/>
- *Unsafe park transformed by disc golf:* <https://www.heraldtribune.com/article/LK/20120405/News/605200051/SH/>
- *New course in Santa Rosa helps with homeless concern:* <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/lifestyle/9956867-181/why-sonoma-county-disc-golfers>
- *Disc golf actually benefits the environment:* [https://www.capenews.net/sandwich/news/sandwich-disc-golf-course-proposal-rises-again/article\\_0af12805-16ca-5e01-bf9f-788138476eab.html](https://www.capenews.net/sandwich/news/sandwich-disc-golf-course-proposal-rises-again/article_0af12805-16ca-5e01-bf9f-788138476eab.html)
- *Costa Rica country club which boasts disc golf as eco-friendly alternative to traditional golf:* [https://www.facebook.com/RobGreenfield/videos/1169764313150645/?hc\\_ref=NEWSFEED](https://www.facebook.com/RobGreenfield/videos/1169764313150645/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED)
- *Experienced course designers take safety seriously:* <https://www.discgolfpark.com/2018/03/14/disc-golf-course-safety-defines-legacy/>

## Disc Golf Organizations

Professional Disc Golf Association: <https://www.pdga.com/>

- The PDGA is the non-profit governing body of the sport, similar to the USGA's role for traditional golf. It sets the rules and technical standards, sanctions major competitions, and provides worldwide promotion.

### Local Clubs & Events

- [SLO Throwers](#)
- Example of [small SLO event](#).

### Products, Manufacturers

- Because disc golf is a fast growing sport with annual retail sales approaching \$400M, there are many major golf disc manufacturers (and a lot of smaller ones), plus companies that make custom bags, carts, accessories, course equipment, etc.
- Biggest manufacturer: <https://www.innovadiscs.com/>
- Major basket manufacturer / sport founder: <https://discgolf.com/>
- Successful online retail store: <https://otbdiscs.com/>

*More general information about disc golf:*

- *Disc golf from a parks department perspective:*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=XwcG2L3\\_aoo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XwcG2L3_aoo)
- *Academic analysis of disc golf growth -- geographic, economic, cultural (paper)...* [http://qa.lsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/oldakowski-mcewen\\_disc-golf\\_2013.pdf](http://qa.lsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/oldakowski-mcewen_disc-golf_2013.pdf)
- *Versatility of Disc Golf:* <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/courses/versatility-of-disc-golf/>
- *Community benefits:* <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/courses/disc-golf-benefits-for-the-community/>
- *Educational programs:* <https://edgediscgolf.org/>
- *US Championship – spectators, viewers, and charitable tradition:* [https://usdgc.com/posts/usdgc-viewers-charitable-donations-recap/?fbclid=IwAR3h27bOYobalvFssj8JGy8qZE18Mqn73mhZqRS4ZkGg-WrJ-Hwh8Q\\_LxDA](https://usdgc.com/posts/usdgc-viewers-charitable-donations-recap/?fbclid=IwAR3h27bOYobalvFssj8JGy8qZE18Mqn73mhZqRS4ZkGg-WrJ-Hwh8Q_LxDA)
- *Playing disc golf at Stafford Lake, Marin County Park:*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t16CmbLwGrw>
- *Disc golf looking for a home in the Bay Area, back in 1978:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=418d879mufQ>
- *Wikipedia:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disc\\_golf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disc_golf)

## APPENDIX B: COURSE EQUIPMENT AND COSTS

### Tee Pads

The tee is where the hole begins.

Tee pads are typically 5' wide by 10' long, sometimes smaller on small courses and bigger on big courses. Surfaces include concrete, pavers, artificial turf, and rubber mats. Concrete is durable, low-maintenance, and consistent in varied weather. Turf is popular on commercial courses for aesthetics and performance, but requires more maintenance. Mats perform fairly well, easiest to install, recyclable; not great when wet. Some courses use unimproved ground rather than a pad, but it will likely perform and look bad if played frequently.

Depending on the terrain and weather, installation may require drainage or retaining or other customizations to ensure long-term viability.

Multiple tee pads per hole increase variety and help mitigate potential erosion.



*Concrete tee pad, unfinished. One of several tee pad material options.*

### Tee Signs

A tee sign may be placed at each tee to identify the hole number, the par, the distance, and sometimes to illustrate the recommended flight path(s).

Tee signs are typically coated metal with color graphics, roughly 12"x18" vertical, mounted about 4' high on an anchored wood post, located safely behind or to the side of the tee pad. Options include UV coatings and polycarbonate to help protect signs from sun and vandalism. Some courses use various alternatives, including mounting signs on tree stumps, painting numbers on rocks, and etching the number into the concrete pad.



*Example of a tee sign illustrating the hole.*

## Baskets

To complete the hole, the disc must land in the basket. The hanging chains act as a backstop to help the disc fall into the basket.

Baskets are sturdy, built with galvanized and/or stainless steel -- about 5 feet high, 28" wide, 50-60 lbs. The pipe slides into a sleeve anchored in a concrete base 18-24" deep. The basket is easily moved from one sleeve to another, secured by a padlocked collar. Custom branding and powder-coated colors are available.

Baskets are usually installed multiples of 9, one per hole. Multiple sleeves on each hole increase variety and mitigate potential erosion.



*Example of a disc golf target.*

## Other Costs

Professional disc golf course designers ensure that your course is as enjoyable, safe, and sustainable as possible. Designer fees vary widely, depending on the reputation of the designer, the project, and the region. Whirlwind Disc Golf's standard fee is \$3000 + \$250-750 per hole, depending on the complexity of the terrain and the number of tees and sleeves per hole.

For standard installations, common construction materials will be needed – lumber, concrete, gravel, etc.

Other common costs include a welcome sign at the first hole, directional signs between holes, padlocks for the basket sleeves, and extra basket(s) for practicing putting before starting the round.

Less common costs include benches, bag holders, tree planting and/or tree screening, gravel or pavers around tee pads, and various terrain-driven features like retaining walls, steps, and bridges.

Labor costs are a huge variable. In many communities, the local disc golfers provide skilled, volunteer labor.

### **Total Cost – Various Levels** *(ballpark estimates do not include labor)*

#### **Bare Bones – \$4,000 for every 9 holes**

- Good quality baskets, no practice basket
- No tee pads, signs, or extra sleeves
- Amateur designer

#### **Most Typical – \$8,000 for every 9 holes**

- Good quality baskets, plus one practice basket
- One tee pad and one simple tee sign per hole, plus one extra sleeve per hole
- One unique installation feature
- Amateur designer

#### **Best Long-Term Choice – \$13,000 for every 9 holes**

- Best quality baskets, plus two practice baskets
- Two tee pads (to optimize for more skill levels), durable tee signs, and two extra sleeves per hole
- Welcome sign, directional signs
- Several unique installation features
- Professional designer to ensure the course is fun, safe, and sustainable

#### **World-Class – Total Cost \$100K++**

- The course equipment itself would be a small part of the total cost
- Amazing tee and green areas
- May include tree-clearing, earth-moving, complex landscaping, new planting, bridges, stairs, etc
- Top professional designer

**Whirlwind's ala carte pricing tool:** <https://tinyurl.com/y6cqevko>

Whirlwind's online tool has current estimates for all common costs. You can easily change features – e.g., different baskets, different tee pads – and immediately see the budget impact.





*Exceptional custom tee box at Gleneagles Golf Course, San Francisco.*



*Exceptional custom "green" on a course in the Midwest.*

## APPENDIX C: DESIGN PRINCIPLES, PROCESS, TIMELINE

# Guiding Principles of Disc Golf Course Design



### PREPARATION (5 PRINCIPLES)

- \* **Know the Land** -- the terrain, the flora, the fauna, the shapes, the colors, the wind, the water, and the seasons; *highlight the strengths, protect the vulnerabilities.*
- \* **Know the Equipment** -- the discs, the tees, the baskets, and the signs; *make it tangible.*
- \* **Know the Players** -- the skills, the tendencies, the values, the events, the demographics, and the local courses; *identify the target player(s).*
- \* **Know the Community** -- the activities, the values, the demographics, and the local sites; *win their support.*
- \* **Know the Decision Makers** -- the motivation, the decision process, and the budget; *commit to their success.*

### DESIGN (10 PRINCIPLES)

- \* (Safety) **Consider Chaos** -- wayward shots, oblivious users, big crowds, and rough weather; *account for outliers.*
- \* (Variety) **Use Every Disc** -- left/right, high/low, up/down, tight/open, upwind/crosswind/downwind, long/short, multiple tees, and multiple baskets; *mix it up!*
- \* (Scoring distribution) **Penalize Failure & Reward Excellence** -- distance, accuracy, versatility, creativity, excellence; *make it count!*
- \* (Strategy) **Make Players Think About Shots** -- risk/reward, flight paths, wind angles, slope, landing areas, variety of greens; *provide interesting choices.*
- \* (Flow) **Don't Make Players Think About the Course** -- navigation, lost discs, tough footing, natural hazards, wayward shots; *keep their heads in the game.*
- \* (Wind & Elevation) **Amplify Nature** -- wind angles, elevation changes, ground covers, sun angles, and seasonal foliage; *harness the elements.*
- \* (Signature Hole) **Highlight the Wow** -- unique terrain, aesthetic beauty, extreme risk/reward, dramatic alleys, and unusual flight shapes; *give them something to remember.*
- \* (Flight) **Maximize Air Time** -- gliding, curving, and even rolling and skipping; *let it fly!*
- \* (Holistic) **Reflect the Big Picture** -- take everything into account, including site limitations, site logistics, organizations/people/politics, club support, events, etc; *the whole truth, nothing but the truth.*
- \* (Sustainability) **Design and Install for 10 Years from Now** -- usage rates, skill levels, tree changes, terrain changes, maintenance, stewardship, and future land plans; *sustain the success.*



## Design Process

When designing or redesigning a disc golf course, Whirlwind generally follows these steps:

1. Stakeholder Meeting: Goals and Constraints
2. Community Context
3. Site Exploration & Analysis
4. Artifact: Site Assessment Report
5. Stakeholder Meeting: Feasibility Review
6. Site – Superlatives and Constraints
7. Layout – Routing
8. Layout – Hole concepts
9. Layout – User Testing  
*(steps 8 & 9 may be repeated)*
10. Layout – Unification
11. Artifact: Course Design (Draft)
12. Stakeholder Meeting: Design Feedback
13. Layout – Modifications
14. Layout – User Testing
15. Layout – Refinements
16. Artifact: Course Design (Final)
17. Stakeholder Meeting: Design Approval

## Typical Course Design Timeline

- Site Assessment: 2-3 weeks
- Draft Layout: 4-6 weeks
- Final Layout: 2-3 weeks

## Typical Course Installation Timeline *(some tasks may be concurrent)*

- Equipment Procurement: 1-2 weeks (supply chain lead times TBD)
- Hole Illustrations / Graphic Design: 3-4 weeks
- Sign fabrication: 2-3 weeks
- Basket installation: 1-3 weeks
- Tee installation: 1-6 weeks
- Sign installation: 1-2 weeks

*More Info:*

- <https://www.pdqa.com/course-development>
- <https://www.innovadiscs.com/course-development/>
- <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/courses/design-tips/>
- [http://www.discgolfcoursedesigners.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.discgolfcoursedesigners.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)



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<https://www.facebook.com/WhirlDG/>

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Article in PDGA's Disc Golfer magazine "[How to Design Great Short Courses for Beginners](#)"  
<https://tinyurl.com/a7evdacd>

Article in PDGA's Disc Golfer magazine "[Whose Park Is it? Strategies for Proposing Disc Golf in Multi-Use Parks](#)"

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