

AGENDA INFORMATION	
☒ Regular Meeting	Date: July 6, 2026
☐ Other:	Date: _____


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 24, 2026

File: CAPPARKS-313193949-35493

AUTHOR: Graham MacInnes, Parks Designer

SUBJECT: Disc Golf Service Level and Options

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT disc golf facilities be temporarily provided at Cleveland Park for events and tournaments.

REASON FOR REPORT:

At the October 7, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, Council passed the following motion:
"THAT Council direct staff to report back on the current disc golf playing facilities available on the North Shore and options for constructing a new disc golf course in the District of North Vancouver, informed by the Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Assessment Report anticipated from the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission in the coming months."

SUMMARY:

Disc golf is a low-cost recreational activity with growing popularity. Staff's review shows that regional facilities currently provide a reasonable level of service, and new facilities are being planned on the North Shore at Mount Seymour Provincial Park and in West Vancouver that would further increase service levels.

Staff also conducted site analysis of District parks. The findings indicate that accommodating a disc golf course at any location would require notable trade-offs, including impacts on park users, the environment, and surrounding neighbourhoods. As District parks already support a wide range of recreational activities, introducing an additional use would add pressure and require careful planning and management.

Given these constraints, staff recommend continuing to support disc golf through temporary course installations and events, monitoring regional service levels, and learning from emerging initiatives elsewhere.

EXISTING POLICY:

Providing additional recreation opportunities is broadly supported by existing Council-approved plans and policies, while also requiring careful consideration of potential impacts.

- **Official Community Plan (2011):** Supports maintaining a diverse, high-quality parks and open space system that serves a range of community needs while protecting the natural environment.
- **Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (2012):** Promotes the exploration of emerging recreational trends while ensuring a balance between increased park use, evolving recreational demands, and ecosystem-based park planning.
- **Corporate Plan (2023–2026):** Identifies opportunities to enhance outdoor recreation while protecting and enhancing the environment.
- **North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission’s Recreation Facility & Amenity Assessment (2026):** The assessment identifies several broad recreation trends, including growing demand for outdoor amenities that support informal, unstructured use (such as trails and open spaces) as well as increased participation in sports (including pickleball, tennis, soccer, cricket, rugby, baseball, field hockey, basketball, mountain biking, and disc golf). It also indicates that the current supply of disc golf facilities on the North Shore is consistent with that of comparable Canadian communities.
- **2026–2030 Financial Plan:** Emphasizes prudent financial management and prioritizing renewal and expansion of existing assets to maintain service levels before introducing new capital assets.

BACKGROUND:

What is Disc Golf?

Disc golf is an outdoor sport in which players throw a disc toward a fixed metal basket, aiming to complete each hole in the fewest throws. Courses are typically designed using natural features (such as trees, terrain, and open clearings).

The Professional Disc Golf Association recommends a minimum site area of approximately 6 acres (2 hectares) for a 9-hole course. Local examples in the Lower Mainland indicate average fairway lengths of about 75 metres between the tee and basket. Playing 9-holes of disc golf can typically be completed in about 1-2 hours (depending on group size).

Unlike traditional golf, disc golf is often located in multi-use parks and may overlap with other recreational activities (including hikers, cyclists, dog-walkers etc.). Careful site selection, layout, and management are important to reduce potential conflicts.

ANALYSIS

Service Level Review:

On the North Shore, disc golf is currently available through a mix of permanent and informal courses, along with emerging initiatives.

Existing Courses:

- Eastview Park (City of North Vancouver) offers a beginner-level 6-hole course, reduced from its original 9-holes, with plans to expand back to 9-holes following community engagement and course design work to address concerns and impacts on park users and neighbours.
- Rockridge Secondary School (District of West Vancouver) offers a beginner-level 6-hole course.
- District parks have, over time, been used for a range of unofficial courses organized by members of the community using portable equipment.

Proposed Courses: West Vancouver and Mount Seymour

- The District of West Vancouver is advancing a seasonal 9-hole pilot course at Ambleside Par 3.
- Mt. Seymour Resort has identified a seasonal, 18-hole disc golf course as a short-term priority in its Ski Resort Development Plan.

Previous Courses:

- Murdo Frazer Pitch and Putt (District of North Vancouver) previously hosted a temporary disc golf course, offering several events during the winter months (October–March).
- Grouse Mountain formerly operated an 18-hole course.



Figure 1: ■ Existing, ■ Proposed, and ■ Discontinued Disc Golf Courses on the North Shore

Lessons Learned:

Conflicts between disc golf and other park users at Eastview Park in the City of North Vancouver led to CNV Council direction to improve safety, reduce conflicts, and undertake a comprehensive planning process.

Community engagement in 2023 identified key concerns:

- Safety and user conflict, including fear of being struck by discs and a lack of clear separation between park uses.

- Protection of natural park character, including impacts to vegetation and ecology.
- Community division, with polarized views between dedicating the park to disc golf and removing the course.
- Neighbourhood impacts, including noise and perceived disruptive behaviour.

The City also assessed relocation options but did not identify a suitable alternative site.

Public engagement in the City of Vancouver in 2025 identified similar considerations:

- 68% of respondents reported conflict between disc golfers and other park users.
 - Specific problem areas included off-leash dog areas and high-use paths/trails.
- 75% of users travel by car, often from outside the area, increasing parking demand.
- Gaps in amenities, particularly limited washroom access.

A jurisdictional scan also found that:

- Metro Vancouver parks are generally not intended for active recreation uses such as disc golf.
- Of 8 disc golf courses in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Coquitlam, 7 are in parks with both washrooms and off-street parking.

Review of District Parks for Potentially Suitable Locations:

Staff undertook a multi-stage site review process to identify potential suitable locations for a disc golf course within District parks. This included an initial screening of park sites, test-fit analysis, and evaluation against site selection criteria.

Site Selection Criteria and Ranking Methodology:

Evaluation criteria were developed to support comparison of potential sites, informed by precedent research, professional guidelines (Professional Disc Golf Association), and staff and interest group input.

1. District parks were initially screened to confirm they met baseline requirements, including park zoning, minimum size (approximately 6 acres / 2 ha according to Professional Disc Golf Association), and access to supporting amenities like off-street parking and nearby washrooms.
2. Sites were then assessed through a test-fit analysis to determine their ability to accommodate a 9-hole course with average fairway lengths of approximately 75m each.
3. The following four key criteria were used for detailed evaluation of potential sites for suitability:
 - Site Conditions: Suitable sites have few physical constraints (e.g., steep slopes, rocky outcroppings, wet areas) that would affect playability or safety and require minimal site preparation and vegetation removal.
 - Park User Impacts: Suitable sites can accommodate disc golf with minimal conflict with existing park uses, including hiking trails, mountain bike trails, playgrounds,

sports fields, and off-leash dog areas. Locations with lower overall use and sufficient space and separation are preferred to ensure safety and compatibility.

- **Environmental Impacts:** Suitable sites have low ecological sensitivity, where the risk of disturbing understory vegetation, damaging trees or causing soil compaction is limited.
- **Neighbourhood Impacts:** Suitable sites minimize effects on nearby residential areas. This includes reducing the likelihood of discs entering adjacent properties, limiting noise and after-hours activity impacts, avoiding spillover parking, and adequate buffering.

Key Findings:

Given constraints related to park user, environmental, and neighbourhood impacts, the analysis indicates there is no “ideal” or low-risk opportunity to proceed with a permanent disc golf course without accepting trade-offs, with potential for community division, redesign or removal if key challenges cannot be resolved.

Options:

Table 1 presents several options for supporting disc golf in the District, detailing the related costs and trade-offs involved with each approach. All figures below are Class “Z” (order-of-magnitude) estimates and are based on high range cost assumptions.

Option	Cost	Advantages	Limitations
Option 1: Temporary Use of Cleveland Park (Recommended)	Capital: <u>None</u> Operating: <\$1,000/event	- Favourable site conditions - Minimal park user impact - Minimal environmental impact - Minimal neighbourhood impact - Parking and washrooms - Pilot testing and insights - Minimal cost	- Event-based use - Requires booking/permits
Option 2: Pilot Course at Murdo Frazer Pitch & Putt (Not Recommended)	Capital: <u>\$60k</u> Operating: \$10k/year	- Favourable site conditions - Minimal environmental impact - Minimal neighbourhood impact - Parking and washrooms - Pilot testing and insights	- Limited disc golf availability - Displacement of golfers - Pay-to-play model - Golf operations impact
Option 3: Permanent Course at Braemar Park (Not Recommended)	Capital: <u>\$1.3M</u> Operating: \$45k/year	Favourable site conditions	- Neighbourhood impact - Environmental impact - Potential park user impact - No parking or washrooms - Higher cost

Option 1: Temporary Use of Cleveland Park (Recommended)

Temporary use of Cleveland Park for disc golf events using portable equipment is a flexible, low-cost option. The approximately 5 ha site can accommodate up to 18 baskets on a permitted, event-based basis (e.g., weekends).

- Operating costs are estimated at less than \$1,000 per event, with no capital investment required. A local supplier has offered portable baskets at no cost for public

events, and community groups have indicated willingness to assist. Field booking and permit fees are approximately \$23 per hour each.

- The site offers favourable conditions, including maintained open lawn and gentle topography, and can support play without significant site preparation. Event-based use limits conflicts with other park users and minimizes potential ongoing neighbourhood impacts. Environmental impacts are expected to be low due to the existing active-use nature of the park. Existing parking and washrooms are available to support events.

This option enables pilot testing and learning to inform future decisions. Limitations include its event-based nature and permit requirements.

Option 2: Pilot Course at Murdo Frazer Pitch & Putt (Not Recommended)

A one-year pilot disc golf course at Murdo Frazer Pitch and Putt would include up to 9 temporary baskets within an approximately 2 ha area, operating on a limited schedule (e.g., one evening per week).

- Capital costs are estimated at \$60,000, including equipment and community engagement, with annual operating costs of approximately \$10,000.
- The site offers maintained conditions within an existing golf course, with minimal anticipated environmental impact. Controlled access helps reduce potential neighbourhood impacts and after-hours use. Existing parking and washroom facilities are available. The pilot provides an opportunity for testing and learning.

Limited, seasonal availability and pay-to-play model reduce public access. Disc golf would displace golfers during scheduled times and may impact revenue and operations.

Option 3: Permanent Course at Braemar Park (Not Recommended)

A permanent 9-hole disc golf course at Braemar Park would occupy approximately 2 ha and be available for daily use. This location does not have washrooms or a parking lot and thus would require supportive infrastructure.

- Capital costs are estimated at \$1.3M, including costs for additional infrastructure (washrooms and a parking lot), with annual operating costs of approximately \$45k.
- While the site is suitable, the forested setting presents potential environmental impacts (e.g., vegetation disturbance and soil compaction), requiring mitigation (fencing, monitoring, and added site work), and there is potential for conflicts with other park users in a shared-use park.

Neighbourhood impacts, including noise, after-hours use, and parking spillover, are a concern due to the lack of existing infrastructure and proximity to residential areas. This option represents the highest cost and greatest potential impact.

Public Input:

Parks staff have engaged the North Shore Disc Golf Association (NSDG), to explore opportunities for disc golf in the District.

- Since 2023, staff have met with NSDG to review potential sites and discuss options for supporting the sport.

- NSDG has expressed some interest in supporting community awareness and education, as well as facilitating pilot initiatives and temporary events.

Should Council endorse Option 1, further formal public engagement would not be undertaken, but staff would monitor feedback at the Cleveland Park location. Should Council endorse Option 2 (Pilot Course at Murdo Frazer) or Option 3 (Braemar Park), staff would proceed with further public consultation to inform course design and operation.

Committee Input:

The Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee (PNEAC) reviewed considerations related to disc golf including opportunities, challenges, and site selection criteria at a meeting on June 17, 2026.

Key comments and feedback from the Committee included:

- Support for exploring temporary disc golf courses to help inform future planning.
- Consideration of site compatibility, including existing park users (such as off-leash dog activity), and potential environmental impacts.

Timing/Approval Process:

Subject to Council direction, staff will support disc golf by facilitating temporary use of Cleveland Park for events and tournaments using portable equipment. This will be delivered through the existing park permitting processes. Staff will monitor outcomes from this and other initiatives in other jurisdictions and provide updates to Council in this regard.

Concurrence:

This report has been reviewed by Communications, and Environment, and North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC).

Financial Impacts:

Facilitating temporary disc golf events, as recommended in Option 1, would have modest short-term operating costs of approximately <\$1,000 per event day, and no capital investment. Previous events organized by North Shore Disc Golf charged participants a small fee.

Option 2 (Pilot Course at Murdo Frazer) would require an estimated capital investment of \$60K and annual operating costs of \$10K. Option 3 (Permanent Course at Braemar), would require estimated capital cost of \$1.3M, and annual operating costs of 45k.

Liability/Risk:

Under an event-based approach, disc golf would occur through temporary bookings. Scheduled park use would help to reduce potential conflicts with other park users, including risks associated with flying discs.

Social Policy Implications:

Disc golf provides an accessible, low-cost recreation opportunity that supports physical activity and social connection. However, introducing new uses in shared parks can create potential conflicts related to park user and neighbourhood impacts (such as safety concerns related to flying discs, spill-over parking, or after-hours activity).

Environmental Impact:

Soil compaction and vegetation disturbance will occur, particularly in high-traffic areas such as around baskets and along fairways, potentially leading to localized erosion and reduced ground cover vegetation. These impacts can be minimized through careful site selection (prioritizing areas with lower ecological sensitivity and avoiding understory vegetation), course design and management.

Next Steps:

If directed by Council to proceed with the recommendation, staff will work with interest groups to facilitate temporary use of Cleveland Park for events and tournaments using portable equipment and continue to monitor and learn from other municipalities and land managers.

Conclusion:

Disc golf is an accessible recreational activity. However, staff analysis indicates that establishing a permanent course in the District would involve notable trade-offs related to impacts on park users, the environment, and surrounding neighbourhoods, and there is no single, clearly ideal location without notable constraints or impacts.

An incremental approach is recommended, supporting disc golf through temporary installations and events. This allows the District to respond to evolving community interest while learning from similar initiatives in other jurisdictions (e.g., the Ambleside Par 3 pilot in West Vancouver and the proposed course at Mount Seymour Resort), and gather additional insights on operations, site suitability, and user compatibility.

The options outlined provide various pathways forward.

Options:

Option 1 – THAT disc golf facilities be temporarily provided at Cleveland Park for events and tournaments. **(Recommended).**

Option 2 – THAT staff proceed with a one-year pilot program at Murdo Frazer Pitch and Putt using temporary equipment. (Not Recommended).

Option 3 – THAT staff proceed with a permanent disc golf course at Braemar Park. (Not Recommended).

Respectfully submitted,



Graham MacInnes
Parks Designer

REVIEWED WITH:					
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☐ Finance	_____	External Agencies:	
☐ Bylaw Services	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____	☐ Library Board	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____	☐ Museum and Archives	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ NSEM	_____
☐ Communications	<u>SS</u>	☐ Integrated Planning	_____	☐ NS Health	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ ITS	_____	☐ NVRC	<u>MH</u>
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Parks	_____	☐ RCMP	_____
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____	☐ Other:	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____		
☐ Environment	<u>EN</u>	☐ Solicitor	_____		
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Utilities	_____		

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