



John Luby Park Disc Golf Exploration Project – Survey Feedback Summary – June 2023

In 2022 and previous years, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) staff initiated a park scan, especially in East Portland, to identify space for disc golf courses. This was in response to a public demand and internal PP&R staff requests for additional courses in Portland and to alleviate the strain on Pier Park, where disc golf use has surged in the past decade. John Luby Park emerged as a potential location for a short, family friendly disc golf course that would not affect the existing permanent pathways, playground, nature patch, or impede usage by other park users.

On May 20, 2023, the Day of Disc Golf event was held at John Luby Park, featuring a temporary 9-hole course. Outreach for the event and an online survey was conducted a month before through emails, social media, the project webpage, park signs, flyers to nearby residents, and connections with local schools. The survey was available in English and Spanish, posted on the project webpage on May 1, and closed on June 18.

We received 201 survey responses and welcomed over 100 community members to the event. Specifically, 68 individuals signed in at the May event, while around 40 others, including children, engaged in the temporary disc golf course and spoke with Parks staff.

It should be noted that this report reflects the opinions of those who chose to participate. It is not necessarily representative of the broader community. The collected feedback, alongside input from Parks staff, will guide the design process for John Luby Park and be shared with the design team.

SUMMARY OF 201 COMMENTS RECEIVED: COMBINED RESULTS FROM IN PERSON + ELECTRONIC, ENGLISH + SPANISH)

1. What level of disc golfer are you?

- Never played (excited to learn) **3%**
- Played a few times **8.5%**
- Play regularly **76.6%**
- Play every day **11.4%**
- I do not play, I like to watch **0%**
- Other **1.5%**
 - No interest
 - Used to play more, would like to play a few times a year
 - I do not play but enjoy other parks where it is played in [its] own designated area

2. Where do you currently play? (Please choose all that apply)

- At home **19.4%**
- Pier Park **63.7%**
- A location outside of Portland **67%**
- I don't play, would like to **5.5%**
- I don't play **0.04%**
- Other **37.7%**
 - Several courses listed outside of Portland
 - All of the above



3. Does John Luby Park seem like a good fit for a beginner disc golf course?

- Yes, definitely **81.6%**
- I'm not sure **13.4%**
- No, I don't care for this site **1%**
- Other **4%**
 - I have no opinion
 - Haven't been to the park
 - Good beginner courses are the key to growth

4. Would you ever pay to play disc golf? (optional)

- Yes, only if the cost was per group **3.5%**
- Yes, if cost was less than \$5/player **32%**
- Yes, if the cost was < \$10/player **16%**
- Yes, if the cost was < \$15/player **7%**
- No **12%**
- Other **29.5%**
 - Only if it was a high-quality course with amenities
 - Depends on if rentals were included
 - Annual pass
 - Parking fee

5. Can you say more about your answer to question 3? (Comments directly from survey response)

- It's a pleasant, shaded local park used by many of our neighbors, and disc golf would be a welcome addition to its appeal.
- Great use of the space, great project, and benefits to the community!
- Something closer for the folks that can't make it to NE Portland or N Portland.
- Short family friendly courses are great for beginner's and tend to keep slower golfers away from the more challenging courses.
- Not a player but several of my friends are. I'd like to join them!
- I'm excited about a beginner course close in the neighborhood!
- This course design facilitates a total midrange/putter appropriate course. Very low barrier to entry for beginners. Shots range from easy but not simple, to medium difficulty technical throws. It follows the flow of the park and could elevate a daily walk into something more active and engaging.
- [dog park need] If this were to go in, as a local resident four houses down from the park I would want to see a designated dog area included. This park is such a staple for the neighborhood dogs and local kids I'd like to see them be taken into consideration.
- [safety concern] I am concerned that a disc golf will keep kids away from the trails that they walk and bike on or take over the field in the southwest corner of the park. I walk through the park almost every day with my dog and I am not looking forward to dodging discs while taking in the most peaceful stop in my neighborhood, well what was the most peaceful place in the neighborhood.
- [safety support] Based on the size of the multi-use park and the area available for a disc golf course, putting in a beginner friendly disc golf course makes sense as shorter holes use less space. For both safety and enjoyment of all, it's best to not squeeze in more than what fits, whether that is 6 holes, 9 holes or a full 18, if it is well designed, fewer, and shorter holes are better than squeezing in more or longer holes into a space that doesn't fit it.
- [safety support] Short courses with good scenery and technical holes are far more likely to bring new players back than longer courses with higher level shot requirements that are not as easily understood or executed by those players. Additionally, the shorter length and presence of lots of obstacles decreases the potential for injury or conflict between golfers and others using the park by not requiring longer more powerful throws with thinner bladed discs that a long, open course would encourage.

- [concern for litter] Portland parks can't provide the level of services the park needs with the current level of traffic. Waste bins are constantly overflowing and tree. Maintenance has been taking years to complete the park, relies heavily on volunteer efforts to clean up the constant influx of garbage more foot traffic will only certainly disrupt the delicate balance of this park as it is.
- [concern for vegetation] I think John Luby Park is a great location for a disc golf site as long as strong consideration is taken into the area that is being used by neighborhood residents already. Our park is used primarily by residents walking their dogs. The east side of the park and south center are filled with native plants. I would ask that care is taken not to walk on our plants and not to get in the way of our residents and their pets. I think the west side of the park is a great location for the course.
- Short technical courses are great for learning. Also having a playground in the same park is nice for family outings and kids are more likely to enjoy shorter holes. the tree cover is nice on a hot day.
- Any additional courses in the city would help improve the growth of the sport speed up pace of play so not everyone is trying to play the same course and not have to drive an hour outside the city where all the courses in the area are.
- [safety support] Parkrose is an underserved part of town with a serious homeless crisis. Increasing use of John Luby would improve personal safety and littering.
- Yes, it is a smaller area, the trees make it a perfect spot, in the summer it would be ideal, it would be just like our very own Pier Park because of all the trees.

6. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your thoughts for the John Luby Disc Golf Course? (Comments pulled from 105 responses)

- Thank you for your efforts in getting another course in!
- The installation of a course would invest in the future prosperity of the park and draw new people to the park as well as provide a great new activity for the current park users.
- [dog park need] [need for more transparency] [need for upgrading playground] Please try to get a little more information from the neighborhood before implementing OR use the money to fix up the sad play structure. What our neighborhood needs is a dog park.
- [bathroom need] I hope there will be a maintained bathroom.
- There [are] schools all around that would have more of an opportunity to possibly offer disc golf in their P.E. classes & get more kids involved.
- [more difficulty requested] Rather than beginner, it would be good to have as an intermediate course with fewer holes. That way it gets more use from active disc golfers rather than avoided because it's a [beginner's] course.
- [concern for vegetation] I enjoy multi use parks and welcome any other activities even if they're ones I don't use. As a volunteer for John Luby ivy removal and native planting events, I just want to make sure those areas are protected.
- [concern for litter] Would like to have a trash receptacle every 3 holes
- We need more [disc golf courses] in the Portland metro!

Please tell us about yourself:

I am age:

- 17 years or under **0%**
- 18-24 years **1.5%**
- 25-44 years **70.2%**
- Prefer not to disclose **0%**
- 45-64 years **26.9%**
- 64 and over **1.5%**

I identify as:

- Female **11.8%**
- Male **75.8%**
- Transgender Female **0.51%**
- Transgender Male **0%**
- Gender Non-Conforming **0%**
- Gender Expansive **0.51%**
- Non-Binary **1.54%**
- Agender **0%**
- Gender Fluid **1.03%**
- Genderqueer **0%**
- Androgynous **0%**
- Intersex **0%**
- Two Spirit **0.51%**
- Questioning **0.51%**
- Unknown/I don't know **1.03%**
- Decline / I Prefer not to answer **7.69%**
- Not listed above (please specify): **1%**
 - Irrelevant
 - Meat puppet

I identify as: (check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native **2.5%**
- Asian **6.1%**
- Black or African American **2.5%**
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x **4%**
- Middle Eastern/North African **0.5%**
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander **1%**
- Slavic/Eastern European **1.5%**
- White **80.2%**
- Unknown/don't know **0.5%**
- Decline/don't want to answer **9.1%**
- Not listed or prefer to describe **1.5%**
 - Multiple
 - Human

Do you or a family member live with a disability or identify as a disabled person?

- Yes **14%**
- No **78.8%**
- Prefer not to disclose **7%**

If yes, please describe the nature of you and/or your family member's disability. Please check all that apply.

- N/A **71.5%**
- Mobility (e.g. walking, climbing stairs) **8.5%**
- Visual (e.g. blind, low vision) **1.5%**
- Deaf or hard-of-hearing **1.5%**
- Cognitive (e.g. traumatic brain injury, learning disabilities) **4.6%**
- Mental health (e.g. anxiety, PTSD) **10%**
- Intellectual or developmental (e.g. Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome) **0.80%**
- Invisible (e.g. diabetes, HIV, cancer) **1.5%**
- Prefer not to disclose **9.2%**
- Prefer to describe **2.3%**
 - Post Polio syndrome in arms
 - EDS (Ehlers-Danlos syndrome)
 - Seizure disorder

How many children under age 18 live with you?

- 0 **52%**
- 1-2 **38.9%**
- 3-4 **4%**
- 5 or more **0.50%**
- Prefer not to disclose **4.6%**

What are their ages? (check all that apply):

- N/A **42.3%**
- 0-2 years **14.9%**
- 3-6 years **12.5%**
- 7-10 years **20.2%**
- 11-14 years **12.5%**
- 15-18 years **10.1%**
- Prefer not to disclose **6.6%**

How did you hear about this?

- Parks sign **10%**
- Email **2%**
- Facebook **67.8%**
- Flyer **3.5%**
 - Disc Golf Depot
 - Parks Staff
- Friend / neighbor / family member **17%**
- Nextdoor.com **0%**
- Other **12%**
 - Other social media
 - Neighborhood newsletter

Key Themes:

Summary from the total 201 respondents:

- 90% of comments reflected varied levels of excitement for this course or for more courses in general
- Mention about vegetation, safety of flying disks, and litter in the park
- Three comments mentioned a desire for a dog off leash area at this park
- Mention of adding a permanent bathroom and more garbage receptacles
- Mention of upgrading the play area
- Desire to preserve the trails

Summary from direct neighbors living around John Luby Park (in zip codes 97230, 97218, 97086):

- 88% of comments reflected levels of excitement for this course in their neighborhood park
- Mention to protect the playground and trails
- Three comments mentioned a desire for a dog off leash area at this park
- One mention of adding more maintenance of facilities including trail refurbishments and garbage pickups (or addition of garbage bins)
- Mention about safety of kids in the park with flying discs