

# **What We Heard Report**

## **Disc Golf Feasibility Survey Results**

September 2021

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## OVERVIEW

The City of St. Albert is researching and assessing potential permanent locations for a 9- or 18-hole disc golf course within existing park spaces.

## ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

A Disc Golf Feasibility survey was posted to the City's Cultivate the Conversation website on August 6, 2021 and closed on August 20, 2021. The survey gathered input on three proposed park locations which had been identified as the best potential options for the creation of a permanent facility.

We wish to thank all survey participants for their valuable feedback in response to the park site options presented.

## PREFERRED SITE SELECTED



As the sport of disc golf within St. Albert is a new endeavour, we began a broad search for background on the sport which included the professional disc golf association as well as developing design criteria elements that contribute to an excellent experience. There was a focus also on existing courses as case studies around the Edmonton area and western Canada that are successful; and well-liked for this use.

Our project team (through analysis and adherence to design criteria) provided three of the highest-quality opportunities in existing park spaces for residents to review. Some of the higher rated site elements included a park site with a minimum of 3.0ha, variation in topography, site visibility for safety, and a course which could be used by beginners and the average player.

The feedback provided in the disc golf survey helped select the final, highest value park area for a future permanent disc golf site. **Kingswood Park**, was ranked highest among respondents with positive comments towards the size of the site, existing vegetation and variations in topography.

The survey, and specific comments from players and experts in layout design will help us to refine and improve the shown layout if administration is directed to proceed with implementing the course. The hole locations as shown will be altered to improve safety and sightlines, allow for more variety, and ensure existing uses of the site are not negatively impacted.

## DISC GOLF SURVEY

### *How your input helped influence the decisions*



#### Cultivate the Conversation

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS



The public input gathered on the survey helped guide the project team in making the final preferred park site selection for a potential permanent disc golf facility.

#### ***Survey Disclaimer***

This summary provides high-level findings related to observed themes in the information collected from participants. Readers should not assume that numbers are statistically representative of, nor opinions reflect the majority viewpoint belonging to, the community as a whole.

#### ***Survey Demographics***

- 235 responses
- 30.2% or 71 respondents were residents in Grandin
- 7.7% or 18 respondents were from Kingswood; and 6.8% or 16 respondents were from Erin Ridge.

#### ***Summary of Survey Findings***

##### ***General Survey Questions***

Residents were asked if they had played the sport of disc golf 63.8% of 235 respondents answered yes; and whether they would be interested in trying out disc golf, 83% of 235 respondents answered yes.

## ***Site Location Options***



**Kingswood Park**

- Within required size parameters
- Access from a major roadway
- Variety of terrain features
- Site activities compatible with disc golf course



**Rotary Park**

- Within required size parameters
- Access from a major roadway
- Parking on-site
- Site activities compatible with disc golf course



**Grenadier Park**

- Meets minimum size requirement
- Variety of terrain features
- Street frontage adjacent to potential course
- Variety of environmental features (trees, etc.)

## ***Overall Ranking of Disc Golf Sites***

Kingswood Park was ranked the most preferred location with Rotary Park coming in the second most preferred and Grenadier Park as the least preferred option.

### **PARK LOCATIONS FOR DISC GOLF FROM 1-3, WITH ONE BEING MOST PREFERRED**

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
KINGSWOOD PARK	1.72
ROTARY PARK	1.88
GRENADIER PARK	2.40

## ***Disc Golf Sites Feedback***

### ***Kingswood Park***

86.4% of 235 respondents supported Kingswood Park as a permanent disc golf facility. When asked why they would not support Kingswood Park 42 respondents answered with the following comment themes:

- Concerns about winter use in the park
- Placement of targets:
  - was potentially dangerous,
  - too close together,
  - too close to the road,
  - not supportive of shared starting and end points.
- Disc golf taking up too much park space in the layout provided.
- Limited parking,
- Potential noise issues,
- Potential to cause damage to the natural areas
- Current proposed layout has several safety concerns and lacks variety,
- Park space south of parking lot towards water treatment facility should be considered in the course design as it will allow better spacing and make use of otherwise unused space.

### ***Grenadier Park***

54.5% of 235 respondents supported Grenadier Park as a permanent disc golf facility. When asked why they would not support Grenadier Park 110 respondents answered with the following comment themes:

- Concerns over the existing off-leash dog area, off leash dogs and disc golf do not mix well.
- Increased noise

- Existing park site is too tight and small for this use
- Potential conflict with dog walkers, pedestrians
- Limited parking
- Visibility into the site.
- Would prefer a site that is in a less residential area.

### *Rotary Park*

81.7% of 235 respondents supported Rotary Park as a permanent disc golf facility. When asked why they would not support Rotary Park 55 respondents answered with the following comment themes:

- Terrain lacks key features such as hills and trees and has limited Variation  
Does not provide eye pleasing aesthetics, or interesting landmarks and features to create an enjoyable course.
- Concerns with layout adjacent to playground
- The space is not large enough to fit an 18-hole course, nor a challenging 9-hole course that would appeal to any player beyond the beginner skill sets.
- It would be difficult to host larger groups or leagues / tournaments at this site.
- Not supportive of disc golf holes with shared starting and end points.

### *Other Comments Received*

Residents were asked for any additional feedback and 95 responses were received; there were several comment themes:

- Enthusiasm about the addition of disc golf to the City
- Support for Kingswood and Rotary as viable sites for a number of reasons
- Provides a low-cost option for sport activities in St. Albert which can be expensive,
- Preferences for 9 or 18 holes,
- Desire not to see any change to Kingswood Park,
- Concern about spending any funding on this activity,

## **NEXT STEPS:**

The information in this survey report was used to refine and finalize where a potential disc golf course could be located within St. Albert.

For more information, please visit:

<https://conversation.stalbert.ca/disc-golf-feasibility-study>

If you have any questions regarding the development of this summary, please contact [kpinkoski@stalbert.ca](mailto:kpinkoski@stalbert.ca).