

City Talk for April 26, 2023
Parks and Recreation Department
Josh Frewin, acting parks and recreation manager

Come enjoy the Sedona disc golf course

The city of Sedona Parks and Recreation Department is looking forward to some new offerings in Summer 2023, with one of the most exciting upcoming projects being the creation of Sedona's first disc golf course. A local course was a very commonly requested park amenity by residents, with Cottonwood having a Riverfront course and Flagstaff having eight different public courses but lacking one in Sedona where many avid disc golfers reside.

Disc golf is one of the fastest growing and most affordable sports nationwide and can be played by people of all ages. All that is needed is a frisbee or "disc," which can be purchased for as little as \$5 at many retailers and you're ready to go. There are 190 public disc golf courses in Arizona, and this year, Flagstaff is host to the Disc Golf Senior World Championships on July 11-15, 2023. Bringing a course to Sedona was a goal of many in the community and something the Parks and Recreation Department was excited to take on.

Planning for the build out of a Sedona course started with gauging interest by purchasing five disc golf baskets and setting up a course out on the Posse Grounds fields for the month of December. We called it December Disc Golf Days. This was a basic course spread out over the athletics fields, but still had a great response with feedback from people asking for more. From there we purchased one additional basket and set up a six-hole temporary course in Posse Grounds Park just north of the Sedona Community Pool. For the next 15 months we have had the temporary course set up and asked players to download the UDisc app to help us track how many players were using the course and give us feedback on the course layout. Between January 17th, 2022 and December 26th, 2022 we had 1,291 rounds of disc golf played recorded on the UDisc app and 418 unique users. Assuming there were others who didn't take the time to download the app or leave reviews, this clearly showed interest and desire for a course in Sedona.

From this point we gathered the data, conducted a work group with local residents near the course location along with disc golf players, and formed a plan for a permanent course that took into consideration some of the concerns, to create a permanent course layout that worked well for everyone. The course layout was presented to the City Council on January 10th, 2023 and unanimously approved to be installed in Spring 2023. The permanent course layout consists of nine baskets, with two tee pads for each basket to play as an 18-hole course in the same location north of the community pool. It is currently ready for use, with the tee pads being converted to concrete over the next few weeks and the temporary course signage being swapped out for permanent signage over the summer. We are so excited to showcase what is a disc golf course with one of the best views anywhere around!

We also want to give a huge shout-out to our resident volunteers including Richard Copeland and Daniel Burkhardt, who have worked alongside us on the temporary layout, and will continue to support this course. Their passion for the sport and expertise in layout has shown what can happen when volunteers and city staff work together to get new programs off the ground. For more information as the disc golf course progresses, please visit www.SedonaAZ.gov/Sports and we can't wait to see you out on the course soon.