

Hoffman Park Disc Golf Course

An “Ace Place” in Frostburg, Maryland

Compiled and presented by:
Allegany County Disc Golf Club - Frostburg, Maryland
www.AlleganyPlayground.com
AlleganyPlayground@gmail.com
301-338-4533

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to help provide information to members of the Frostburg Recreation Commission in order for the Commission to make a recommendation in favor of supporting a public disc golf course in Frostburg, Maryland. The goal is to open a public course in Allegany County to play on in 2023.

What is disc golf?

“Disc golf is one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities,” according to Educational Disc Golf Experience (EDGE). “Similar to golf, the goal of disc golf is to complete each hole in as few throws, or strokes, as possible. The basic rules and lingo in disc golf is similar to those of traditional golf. In fact, if you eavesdropped on a conversation between a ball golfer and a disc golfer, you wouldn’t know they were talking about different sports because they would both use terms like *course*, *hole*, *par*, *bogey* and *birdie*.”

Instead of using golf clubs and a golf ball, disc golfers use a flying disc to cross the hole. Each hole starts with a tee area and is completed once the disc lands in the “hole,” basket or other disc-catching target. While disc golf can be played with just one disc, the discs are designed to fly with different characteristics. Different discs can be used to hook and curve around obstacles, roll on the ground, or fly over trees.”



Summary of project

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club has been discussing with Brian Vought, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Frostburg, the idea of a public disc golf course within the city limits of Frostburg since May 2022. When the club approached him, Mr. Vought explained the City could be open to the idea of supporting a public disc golf course.

The club and Mr. Vought narrowed the number of available sites within the City of Frostburg to Hoffman Park. Hoffman Park might not be the ideal place — a 30-acre plot owned by the City that features a mix of woods and fields, with maybe a pond or two would be “perfect.” But let’s not let that standard get in the way of progress. There are numerous advantages to Hoffman Park. The club conducted two site visits — one in June with a local course designer and a longtime player, and a second visit in July with a second disc golf course designer. Both felt Hoffman Park would be a great place for a public disc golf course.

In consultation with local disc golf players and disc golf course designer Brad Lescalleet, the Allegany County Disc Golf Club decided to pursue an Ace Place disc golf course, or a “pocket park,” that would offer a great place for beginners to learn the game as well offer more experienced players the chance to work on different shot shapes, with a variety of discs, to improve their performance.



Scope of Project — Hoffman Park Disc Golf Course

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club has tentatively agreed to work with Brad Lescalleet, an Innova disc golf manufacturing company representative and regional course designer responsible for the public disc golf courses in Hagerstown, Md., and Greencastle, Pa., among others.

Specifically, the agreement calls for Mr. Lescalleet to design a nine-hole public disc golf course. Each hole would likely be no more than 200 feet. The Ace Place package from Innova comes at a price of approximately \$8,500. That figure includes:

- Nine Innova DISCatcher baskets
- Nine tee signs
- Eight “next hole” signs
- Course designers time and consultation
- 50 custom-stamped discs

Mr. Lescalleet has visited Hoffman Park and believes it would be an ideal location for an “Ace Place,” or pocket park. While Mr. Lescalleet would design the course and choose optimal placement for the baskets, the task of clearing any vegetation and installing baskets would fall to volunteers from the Allegany County Disc Golf Club, with assistance from City of Frostburg personnel.

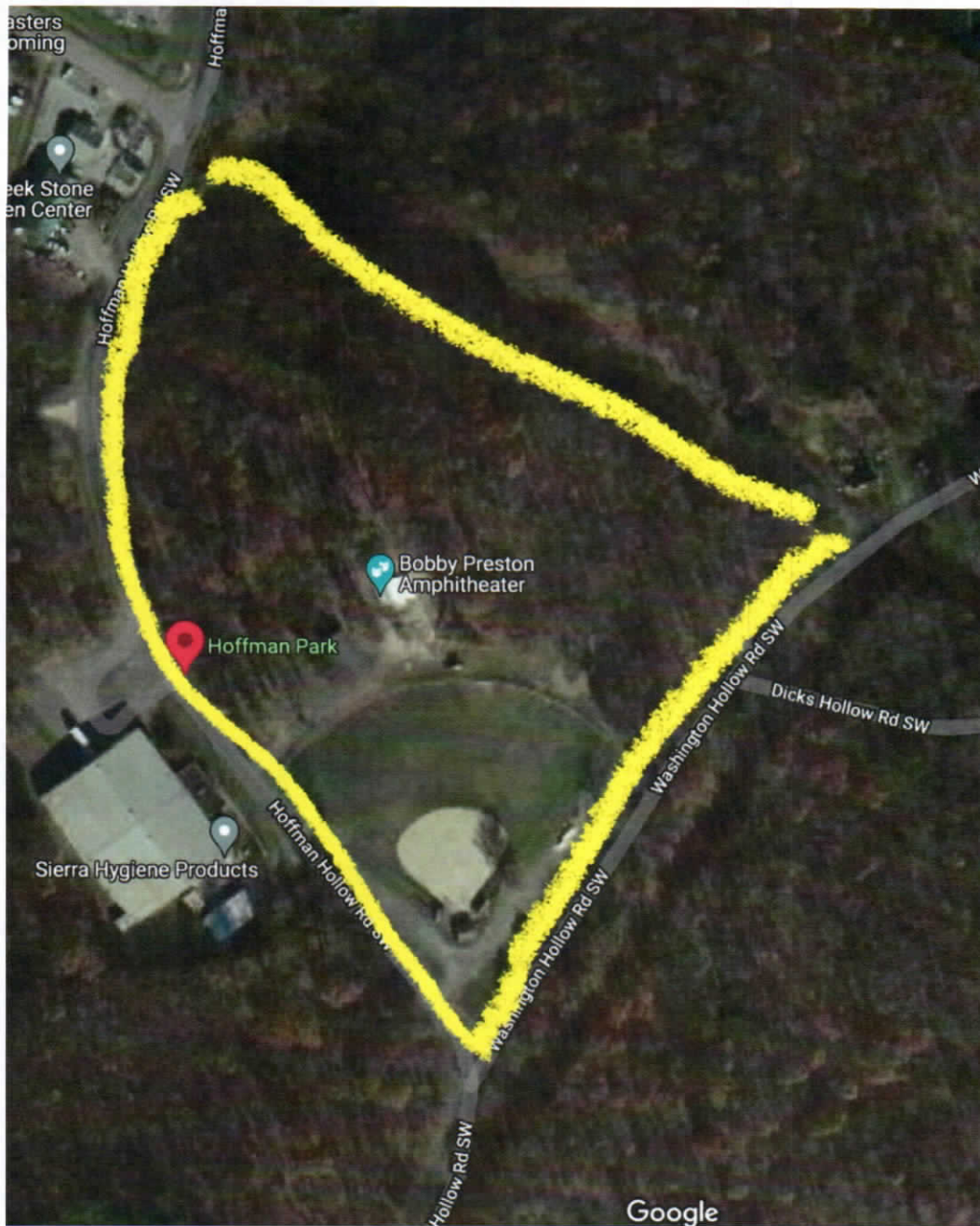
An Ace Place, said Mr. Lescalleet, “is a great option. This is beneficial for a multitude of reasons. It’s accessible for all levels of play (and) requires far less land than a larger course ... The general idea is a course that is (roughly) 100 (to) 200 foot holes as a place to introduce new players, keep learning players engaged, and provide experienced players a place to hone their short game.”

Why an Ace Place?

“In my experience, everyone wants a ‘championship level’ course,” Mr. Lescalleet said, “but in reality, the shorter and ‘easier’ courses are the ones that the vast majority of players gravitate towards. Why? It’s more fun! Sure, it’s fun to get ‘beat up’ once in a while (on a more challenging course), but most people want to feel some level of accomplishment or success, and an Ace Place product provides just that.”

More than half of the more than 13,000 disc golf courses in the world have nine holes.

The disc golf course would respect existing elements of Hoffman Park, including the ball field, amphitheater and playground. The disc golf course would primarily use the wooded area of the park. While that would overlap with the walking path, there is expected to be minimum to zero conflict between users. The course would also make use of the existing right-of-way along the powerlines; although a basket would not be placed on that right-of-way, one or two could be placed on either edge of it in order to maximize the best use of available space.



Background — Disc golf history

According to the Professional Disc Golf Association, the first official disc golf course was built in Pasadena, California, in 1975. Often called “Frisbee golf” in its early days, the sport is known as disc golf in the United States due to certain legal requirements related to the inability to use the term “Frisbee” without paying the Wham-O company. Wham-O even sponsored a \$50,000 disc golf tournament in 1979; the tournament was preceded by 72 qualifying events staged around the country.

Disc golf during the pandemic

Generally speaking, the game of disc golf remained on the fringe of the sports world until early 2020. Then, in the U.S. and around the world, people were hungry for any sort of outdoor entertainment and recreation that was safe and socially responsible.

Enter disc golf.

There are more than 13,300 disc golf courses in 79 countries around the world, and more than 8,500 courses in the United States. More than 7,600 courses in the U.S. are free to play to the general public. Interest in the sport skyrocketed starting in 2020. To date, the pace of growth has not slowed. According to uDisc.com, a leading retailer and global leader in disc golf scorekeeping and statistics, an average 5.28 disc golf courses are built per day. That's a 50 percent increase from the 3.5 courses per day built in 2020.

- 71 percent of worldwide courses were built in the last decade
- More than 17.2 million rounds of disc golf scored on the uDisc app in 2021
- That's an increase of nearly 50 percent from 2020
- Every U.S. state experienced double-digit growth in the number of rounds played from 2020 to 2021

According to 2021 data available from uDisc, Maryland ranked 44th in the nation in terms of disc golf popularity, while Pennsylvania was 25th and West Virginia was 32nd.

Disc golf was a big reason why visitation to local and state parks increased significantly during the pandemic. With new courses being built on a daily basis, the draw isn't going to go away anytime soon.

About the Allegany County Disc Golf Club

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club is not the first disc golf group based in Allegany County. The Allegany County Disc Golf Club was founded in May 2022 when it was learned that efforts to grow the game to people of all ages and abilities were considered a lesser priority.

For the Allegany County Disc Golf Club, it's a matter of promises made equalling promises kept. The member-driven organization — which has 47 members (61.7 percent of whom live in the Mountain Ridge District), — aims for nonprofit status and was approached in late May about pursuing a public disc golf course. That wasn't at the top of the original list of objectives. However, seeing there was a need no other group was fulfilling, the Allegany County Disc Golf Club quickly jumped to the front of the effort.

In Summer 2022, the Allegany County Disc Golf Club also started and facilitated a Summer Flex League. Instead of a single start time, the "flex" format allows players to show up at a time convenient to them, within a specified time period. The result? The Summer Flex League became the only local disc golf-playing entity to have competitors in men's, women's, boys' and girls' divisions. The Allegany County Disc Golf Club became the only local disc golf-playing entity to award prizes in each of those four divisions.

Also in Summer 2022, the Allegany County Disc Golf Club facilitated two youth clinics at Glendening Park; had a booth and demonstration area set up at the Western Maryland Craft Beverage Festival at Hoffman Park; and facilitated a five-week Youth League that ended in early October. Between Oct. 23, 2022, and March 5, 2023, the local disc golf landscape will largely be driven by the Allegany County Disc Golf Club with Fall Doubles League (Oct. 23 - Dec. 18) and Winter Doubles League (Jan. 1 - March 4). The club is planning a second Youth League season in March/April 2023.

In addition, the Allegany County Disc Golf Club will continue to pursue the core components of its objectives as published on AlleganyPlayground.com in May 2022:

- Support existing efforts in the local disc golf community;
- Specialize in outreach, with particular attention to include youth, females and people of color;
- Support efforts to create a disc golf team at Frostburg State University;
- Work with local public and private entities to help grow the game and offer unique disc golf opportunities;
- Consider hosting an indoor putting league in Winter 2022-23;
- Consider hosting a multi-day tournament;
- Consider hosting at least one clinic;
- Consider other outreach efforts, such as organizing disc golf-themed birthday parties, civic group events, corporate retreats, and more;
- Consider participating in community events such as local parades and festivals;
- Consider a special Player of the Month profile piece;
- Fill in the gap wherever there might be one;
- To support, or lead when necessary, pursuit of public funding for design and construction of a public course in Allegany County;
- To help ensure accountability for private and public funds earmarked for disc golf;
- Create and maximize media awareness with existing disc golf event/tournament directors;
- Support local players in regional tournaments as funds permit;
- Create a “brand ambassador” program;
- To find a need, and then fill a need.



Other places to play in Allegany County

The only public disc golf course in Maryland located west of Hagerstown is currently at the Deep Creek Lions Community Park on Bumble Bee Road, a couple miles south of Accident in Garrett County. In Allegany County, there are two courses. Both are situated on private land.

Central Assembly of God in Cumberland

Central is the “home” course for the other disc golf group based in Allegany County. The course was originally a nine-hole course and in Summer 2022 expanded to be a 12-hole course. Each hole offers a short and long natural tee pad. Central does not charge to play.

The reason residents of Frostburg, of Allegany County, and visitors alike, would benefit from a public course over Central is that there are strict limitations on when players can play the game at Central. For example, during the school year players can access the course Monday through Friday after 5:30 p.m. In addition, the course is closed on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and again on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For roughly two and one-half months — from about late May through early August — the course at Central is the closest area disc golf players have to a public course. But during the school year, and especially during Fall and Winter, the course is closed during an overwhelming majority of daylight hours.

Mile Lane Disc Golf Course

Mile Lane Disc Golf Course is a six-basket course situated on private property owned by the Mallery family. The course has multiple layouts and offers both 18-hole and 24-hole options.

The Mallery family is extremely generous with their time and have hosted league play on Saturday mornings over the summer. In addition, players can request a time to play — at no cost — and it’s a rarity for any member of the Mallery family to deny permission. For players, however, the burden of asking is not insignificant.

Both courses are wonderfully fun to play, but there are some obvious downsides to having only private courses in Allegany County. It’s a great time for a public disc golf course in Allegany County.



Funding

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club has tentatively agreed to work with Brad Lescalleet, an Innova disc golf manufacturing company representative and regional course designer responsible for the public disc golf courses in Hagerstown, Md., and Greencastle, Pa., among others.

Mr. Lescalleet said he and his company prefer to work directly with the property owners — in this case, the City of Frostburg — for the purposes of funding. Specifically, the tentative agreement calls for Mr. Lescalleet to design a nine-hole public disc golf course. Each hole would likely be no more than 200 feet apiece. The Ace Place package from Innova comes at a price of approximately \$8,500. That figure includes:

- Nine Innova DISCatcher baskets
- Nine tee signs
- Eight “next hole” signs
- Course designers time and consultation
- 50 custom-stamped discs

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club proposes a 50-50 partnership with the City of Frostburg. The Allegany County Disc Golf Club will contribute one half of the cost of the project. The funds will be raised through public events, as well as personal and corporate donations. The club is seeking the City of Frostburg to pursue the remaining half of the cost. The club believes federal and state grant programs, including Program Open Space, could be utilized to obtain these funds without having an adverse impact on local taxpayers.

About Brad Lescalleet

Brad Lescalleet (PDGA #27920) began playing disc golf in 2005. He has been an Innova ambassador since 2015 due primarily to his involvement with the 717 Flying Disc Club (founder/president). He is direct of about five events each year since 2007, and he is league director and coordinator for singles and doubles leagues since 2007.

Mr. Lescalleet has designed or collaborated on multiple permanent and temporary courses, including Whispering Falls (now Martin’s Mill) Disc Golf Course, Ditto Farms in Hagerstown, Camp Sinoquie in Fort Littleton, Pa., and Little Heiskell at Hamilton Run, also in Hagerstown.



In conclusion

Locally, the number of players, the variety of players, and the number of rounds played all are on the rise. In Summer 2022, three new leagues started play in Allegany County — the Youth League and the Summer Flex League, both by the Allegany County Disc Golf Club, and, independently, the Saturday Morning Tag League at Mile Lane Disc Golf in Mount Savage — in addition to the regular summer league. The club believes affordable access equals opportunity, and strives to keep costs low.

During the Summer 2021 season, 32 different players completed 268 rounds over a 31-week season, with an average weekly turnout of 8.6 players per week. During the combined Fall/Winter Doubles League matches from late October 2021 through February 2022 — when the weather is colder and less ideal — 23 different players completed 134 rounds, and competition averaged 7.5 players per week. The Allegany County Disc Golf Club's Summer Flex League, which played at three different courses over a six-week period and offered a flexible format by which players could play a round more in tune with their personal schedules, resulted in the highest weekly average number of players in local disc golf history (not bad for the new "kid" on the block).

	# Players	Avg. # Players	Rounds
Summer 2021	32	8.6	268
Fall/Winter 2021-22	23	7.5	134
Summer Flex 22*	31	12.8	124
SMTL	15	7.2	65
Summer 2022	29	12	361

* Only season to include players in Men's, Women's, Boys' and Girls' divisions. More than one-third of players were new to the sport and/or completed the first league round.

The Allegany County Disc Golf Club believes the information contained in this packet provides sufficient evidence to allow the Frostburg Recreation Commission to favorably recommend moving forward with a public disc golf course to the Mayor and City Council.



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Fall Doubles League



Tee time is 2 p.m. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. each Sunday afternoon.

- Week 1 — Sunday, Oct. 23 at Mile Lane DGC
- Week 2 — Sunday, Oct. 30 at Central
- Week 3 — Sunday, Nov. 6 at The Glades
- Week 4 — Sunday, Nov. 13 at Mile Lane DGC
- Week 5 — Sunday, Nov. 20 at Central
- Week 6 — Sunday, Nov. 27 at Mile Lane DGC
- Week 7 — Sunday, Dec. 4 at The Glades
- Week 8 — Sunday, Dec. 11 at Mile Lane DGC
- Week 9 — Sunday, Dec. 18 at Central



Winter Doubles League will begin Jan. 1, 2023 at The Glades. Season-ending tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 4. See www.AlleganyPlayground.com for details.

The course at Central Assembly of God is located at 2020 Bedford Street in Cumberland. Mile Lane Disc Golf Course is located at 14708 Mile Lane NW in Mount Savage. The Glades at Meshach Run course is located at 1249 Bumble Bee Road in Accident.

What you need to know:

- * \$5 weekly fee (\$4 club, \$1 ace pot) is optional
- * Players will be separated into Advanced, Rec and Youth divisions whenever possible.
- * Format will vary each week.
- * Official, complete details on AlleganyPlayground.com

Questions? Call or text 301-338-4533 or visit AlleganyPlayground.com for complete details.

Winter Doubles League 2023



Tee time is 2 p.m. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. each Sunday afternoon.

Week 1 — Sunday, Jan. 1 at The Glades

Week 2 — Sunday, Jan. 8 at Mile Lane DGC

Week 3 — Sunday, Jan. 15 at Central

Week 4 — Sunday, Jan. 22 at Mile Lane DGC

Week 5 — Sunday, Jan. 29 at Central

Week 6 — Sunday, Feb. 5 at The Glades

Week 7 — Sunday, Feb. 12 at Mile Lane DGC

Week 8 — Sunday, Feb. 19 at Central

Week 9 — Sunday, Feb. 26 at Mile Lane DGC



The course at Central Assembly of God is located at 2020 Bedford Street in Cumberland. Mile Lane Disc Golf Course is located at 14708 Mile Lane NW in Mount Savage. The Glades at Meshach Run course is located at 1249 Bumble Bee Road in Accident.

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- * Players will be separated into Advanced, Rec and Youth divisions whenever possible.
- * Format will vary each week.
- * Official, complete details on AlleganyPlayground.com
- * End-of-season tournament planned for Saturday, March 4 - Details TBA

Questions? Call or text 301-338-4533 or visit AlleganyPlayground.com for complete details.

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Total cost for 2020

\$8,500



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Enlist **aceplace** design services to develop an attractive, safe layout that highlights the landscape's natural features and keeps people coming back. Course design services are provided by **aceplace** designers with years of experience designing disc golf municipally.

DISCatcher Pro 28 Baskets

Built by Innova and recognized as the industry's number one disc golf basket. The basket top is made with powder coated stainless steel with galvanized steel chains. The basket, pole and installation sleeve are also galvanized. Comes with a 20-year manufacturer warranty.

aceplace Support

Once the course is designed, we will ensure the installation is a success and that your disc golf community is supported. This includes advising on equipment and material options, tournament and event guidance, community disc golf programming, social media promotion and sports tourism publicity by listing your course on UDisc, the go-to online resource for disc golfers.

Ready to get more details about setting up **aceplace** in your community? Get in touch!

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- 9 Metal Tee Signs customized with your graphics/logo
- 9 sets of Innova **aceplace** flush-mount tee markers (9 sets)
- 8 **aceplace** Next Tee Signs
- Custom Metal Course Overview Sign (36" x 60")
- Freight costs included
- On-site Course Design by **aceplace LLC**
- Course and equipment installation guidance and consultation
- 50 Innova Discs customized with your logo and 'First tournament' package
- Course Promotion by **aceplace** and Innova Disc Golf
- Support with a 'Try Disc Golf Day' for your community

Total package cost: \$8,500 plus taxes