

City developing disc golf course

Lawrenceburg City Administrator Chris Shaffer says city leaders are excited about the opportunity to bring a unique recreational activity to Scout Park and Hope Springs Park.

The city has partnered with avid disc golfer Josh Braswell and others to develop the two, nine-hole courses. Shaffer says the courses should attract visitors to the city and provide a great, outdoor activity for citizens. He added that the parks provide a beautiful, natural setting for players. Both are currently located in flood plains, which limits the ability to build in or otherwise develop the areas.

"I've been playing for 3 ½ years now," says Braswell. "It's a game that I really wish I had been introduced to when I was a kid. It's good fun to be had with family and friends. It can be played casually or at a competitive level all year round. After the first year of playing I entered a few non-sanctioned tournaments at Athens State University to test the waters and, at the beginning of 2014, I started traveling to Florence, Athens, Huntsville and Nashville to enter some PDGA sanctioned tournaments. Tournaments sanctioned and non-sanctioned are a great way for players to get into the sport and most tournaments offer a players pack that could include anywhere from 1-3 discs just for paying the entry fee and sometimes other items are sometimes included in the players pack. Winners of the amateur divisions receive trophies or discs and professional players receive trophies and or prize money."

"There is definitely a large interest for disc golf here in Lawrenceburg," added Braswell. "I meet someone new here in town just about every week that has played before or is interested in playing but they just don't have time or gas to travel to Alabama or Nashville to play. The closest course to us is at The Farm in Summertown, which is an awesome course that is very tough for experienced and even professional players. The next three closest courses are located in Florence, Alabama at Veterans Memorial, McFarland and Gattman Parks."

"The city of Lawrenceburg would like to thank Josh Braswell, Parkes Lumber Company, IMI Materials, Mid-South Concrete and Lawrenceburg Utility Systems," commented Shaffer. "I believe that the partnership between the city, local businesses and citizens, will certainly help assure that disc golf will be a local success."

. Shaffer says the city plans to add benches and trash receptacles in the near future. He emphasized that park-goers must adhere to all rules and regulations that control all municipal parks. For more information, contact Lawrenceburg Parks and Recreation Director Beth Campbell at 762-4231.

What is Disc Golf? - from PDGA.com

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf. Instead of a ball and clubs, however, players use a flying disc, or Frisbee. The sport was formalized in the 1970's, and shares with "ball golf" the object of completing each hole in the fewest strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws). A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target which is the "hole". The hole can be one of a number of disc golf targets; the most common is called a Pole Hole an elevated metal basket. As a player progresses down the fairway, he or she must make each consecutive throw from the spot where the previous throw has landed. The trees, shrubs, and terrain changes located in and around the fairways provide challenging obstacles for the golfer. Finally, the "putt" lands in the basket and the hole is completed. Disc golf shares the same joys and frustrations of traditional golf, whether it's sinking a long putt or hitting a tree halfway down the fairway. There

are few differences, though. Disc golf rarely requires a greens fee, you probably won't need to rent a cart, and you never get stuck with a bad "tee time." It is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, male and female, regardless of economic status.