

Disc Golf in Idaho



Recognizing a Growing Activity

We rarely get comments on SCORP plans at all, so we were pleased to get several thoughtful emails during the comment period from disc golf participants. They were disappointed that we had not reported on disc golf in our section on recreation demand.

As stated earlier in this document, due to budget constraints we were unable to conduct our own survey on outdoor recreation participation in Idaho. Instead, we relied on the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), a well-respected effort that has a decades-long track record. One of the survey's strengths is that it has been tracking outdoor recreation trends for so long. It measures what it measures, well. One of its weaknesses is that it is not as nimble as it might be. That is, the survey is not quick to pick up and begin tracking new activities. NSRE has not been following disc golf at all. We have recommended to the researchers that they begin doing so.

Meanwhile, how do we address the concerns of disc golfers? Since we have no direct evidence from surveys for participation in the activity, we must rely on indirect evidence. In the case of disc golf, there are three measurable categories that would seem to provide us with good analogs for the activity's popularity: Number of disc golf courses in the state, number of annual events and the number of Idaho members in the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). As the chart below indicates, since recordkeeping by the PDGA began in 1999, the number of courses in Idaho has increased by 345 percent. During the same period, the number of events has increased 300 percent and the number of PDGA members in the state has increased 860 percent.

Idaho Disc Golf growth			
	Courses	Events	PDGA Members
1999	9	2	10
2011	40	8	96

While such a dramatic increase in participation by the general public does not necessarily follow the participation in PDGA, there almost certainly is a marked increase in participation. Disc golf does seem to have some staying power given the willingness of park and recreation departments to invest in course construction.

Disc golf courses are relatively inexpensive and easy to install. If they do not get sufficient use in a particular area to justify their upkeep, they are easily removed.

For these reasons—growing popularity and low cost—the risk of installing a disc golf course would seem to be low.

Disc Golf Comments

On behalf of recreationalist state wide, I ask that you consider disc (Frisbee) golfing as a valid, fun, inexpensive outdoor recreation that needs more attention in our state. The sport is so much fun, anyone of any age can participate, equipment is very inexpensive, and the impact on lands where courses have been allowed is next to nothing. I live in Hailey, Idaho and we have yet to plan for a disc golf course – but I know how popular it would be if only there were a place to play! The courses that do exist in Idaho are interesting, fun and sometimes a real surprise as to where they are located. Check it out and spread the word for Idaho recreationalists. We would get out of state visitors if we established a better base of recreation information for this fun and upcoming sport! Thank you for your time.

Rhiana Macaya Mitchell
Hailey, Idaho 83333

I found your email and needed to ask for your inclusion of disc golf as a sport. If caving and handball are a sport, so should disc golf. In Twin Falls alone, there are 4 established disc golf clubs. These clubs are part of the community establishing new course as getting business sponsorship for tournament. I wish for your consideration to make this change.

Thanks you.

Taylor Christensen

Please do not forget to include Disc Golf. It being the fastest growing outdoor sport in the state. thank you we in eastern OR love visiting the Idaho courses.

Ed Durrant

To whom it my concern. As a disc golfer i wanted to give my comments on how important disc golf is for this community. It is great for the whole family, keeps us active, a good stress reliever, builds confidence, it is a healthy sport , and has been for my family for the last few years. It gets us out of the house, it's something that we do as a family our kids really enjoy this sport recreation. It helps our family stay fit and healthy and it does for many families and future families that is able to get involved with this sport. I believe that will also be an alternative for people to relieve their feelings of stress or whatever they are dealing with instead of turning to alcohol or drugs. Disc golf is an addiction but a healthy one that the whole family can be involved in.

Patricia Dovenmuehler

I was reading through a lot of the 2012 SCORTP Draft and could not find any studies on disc golf. This is one of the fast growing recreations in the nation and Idaho. It would hate to see Idaho miss out on a huge opportunity for outdoor recreation and tourism that is so cost effective and popular. Please let me know what we can do to give disc golf a fair chance at becoming a recognized recreation in Idaho.

Thanks

Mike Stradley

Of all the things we enjoy about the Idaho outdoors, we enjoy Disc Golf the most.

Having been all over the nation traveling and playing disc golf we can tell you without a doubt, Idaho has some of the best courses. We are certain you will wish to mention this in your writings.

Thank you.

Matthew Wardell and family.

The Army Core of Engineers has recognized the need for more disc golf courses in the treasure valley area. Here is a photo of the first tee pad being built (at Lydle Gulch near Lucky Peak)

The state parks and ski resorts are on board with disc golf also , I bet 10,000 people disc golf in this state every year if not more. Just trying to get a little recognition for our sport.

Thank You Steve Loyd

My name is Ray Jensen and I play disc golf at least 3 times a week out at Lake Walcott State Park. I get out of the house more every year because disc golf is available. I would like to see disc golf become more of a rec. sport in every county. It is fun for all ages and is a great way for the family to spend time outside playing. I know that Idaho State Parks are putting disc golf courses in their parks to give visitors and campers more to do. Because of this my family and I are planning on travel to more State Parks this next year.

Thanks, Ray Jensen

Proud disc golfer and Idahoan