

How to Build a Disc Golf Course?



There is a high demand for disc golf courses around the world right now. Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide – especially in the Nordic countries and the US. The sport appeals to people of all ages from all walks of life because it is easy to pick up, it is affordable and highly social. Disc golf even activates people who do not engage in more traditional sports and physical activities.

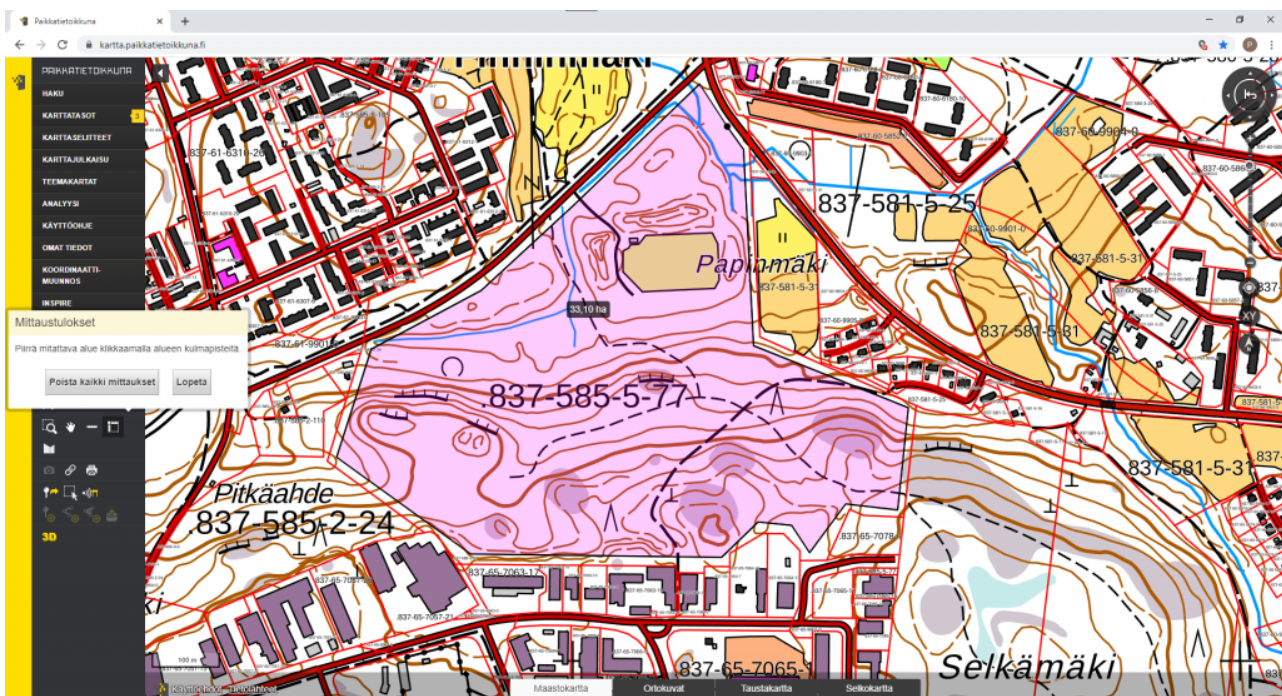
As an outdoor sport where everyone uses their own equipment, disc golf is a safe choice and thus has seen unprecedented growth during the covid-19 pandemic of 2020. Courses are flooded with new players trying disc golf for the first time. And why not? A round of disc golf is an enjoyable walk in the park – during which you get fresh air, exercise and get to marvel at the flight of the disc.

Where Can You Build a Course?



A championship level course requires appropriate land.

The land area needed is defined in the course specification: who are the intended target users and what kind of use is the course built for. When a suitable piece of property is located, you must naturally find out who owns the land and the real estate there, if any.



- School course (3-6 holes) 1-2 hectares
- Beginner/amateur course (9-12 holes) 2-5 hectares
- Beginner/amateur course (18 holes) 5-8 hectares
- Professional tournament course (18-27 holes) 10-20 hectares

Requirement/class	AAA	AA	A	BB	B	C	D
Hole amount	18+	18+	18+	9-17	9-17	7-17	6 or less
Avg. length (m)	140+	100-140	<100	100+	75-100	<75	Not defined
Par	64+	58+	Not defined	At least one par 4	Not defined	Not defined	Not defined

Recommendations for a Disc Golf Course Area:

- Easily reachable with public transportation and cars. Space for parking.
- Accessible. Wet or rocky land poses major challenges.
- Not too much other activity. You have to minimize the risk to other users of the area especially in busy parks.

Bonus Features

- Elevation and other topographic features
- Variety of trees: big, old, different species. Easily cleared undergrowth.
- Picturesque views
- Water features

Scheduling a Course Project

You should reserve plenty of time for obtaining permits and licenses. At first you usually need to secure a permission to use the area for disc golf and later for felling trees. You can't always affect the processing time of these permits. Thus it is good to reserve a year for completing the project. With good planning, secured funding, clear responsibilities for all parties you might already be playing within 6 months! With a realistic schedule your project will run smoothly.

Project Timeline

- Potential area found -> asking for a permission from the land owner -> securing permission
- Calling for a quotation from the course provider
- Funding -> City / Leader (in Finland) / sponsors & partners -> budget secured -> accepting the quotation
- Felling trees, clearing the area, earth moving -> removing the clearing waste and felled trees
- Receiving course equipment -> installing course equipment
- Course maps, hole signs, sponsor details, hole specific info designed -> signs printed and delivered
- Course ready! -> grand opening



Heinola

**Kippasuo Pro
DiscGolfPark**



Par 4
222 m



"Monttuväylä"
Järkipelaaja kuittaa parhaan tuloksen. Mieti tarkkaan mihin haluat sijoittaa heitteesi. Sankariväylät tulevat sitten myöhemmin.



K-CITYMARKET
HEINOLA



KIPPIS.ORG





DiscGolfPark
by discmania

Finding local sponsors helps with funding

Project Budget

Most disc golf courses are built by cities and private businesses. In countries with bigger disc golf scenes courses are also built by local clubs, who often want to build tournament courses where they can host local, national and international events. These courses attract players also outside of tournaments and see a lot of player traffic year-round. If you look at the per player cost, disc golf is hard to beat. A well-designed course has a very attractive cost-benefit ratio.

Courses come in all shapes and sizes. A simple introductory course can be designed and built for example next to a school with a modest budget of a couple thousand euros. The next level is a 9 hole beginner course, which can be set up with a 5 to 10 thousand euro budget. Especially in the Nordic Countries the demand is so high, that most courses feature 18 holes or more and are built ready for tournaments.</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="56 827 932 888" data-label="Text">
<p>The biggest single cost for a larger course is building a parking area, because it often involves moving earth and excavation. An experienced course designer can use the available area in a way that the holes rarely require earth moving, but some landscaping is often desirable when building championship level course complexes.</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="56 919 275 942" data-label="Section-Header">
<h2>Premium Courses</h2>
</div>
<div data-bbox="872 934 956 947" data-label="Page-Footer">
<p>Privacy - Terms</p>
</div>



Tampere Disc Golf Center is one of the most popular courses in Finland

Premium courses like the Tampere Disc Golf Center (2018) attract players from all around the world. Disc golf tourism is a growing trend and the most popular courses draw thousands of people annually, which means a boost to the local hotels, restaurants and other services. For example, the European Open is the largest annual event in the city of Nokia drawing a crowd of tens of thousands and promoting the city for millions of disc golf aficionados around the world.



The world famous Disc Golf European Open is played at Nokia DiscGolfPark

There is a growing demand for high level disc golf facilities in the Nordic countries. These courses combine prime location with professional course design that cater for players of all skill levels. The cost of a premium course is highly dependent on how much landscaping is needed. When we talk only about the basic course infrastructure (the course equipment and materials), for 18 holes the price is around 15.000 euros. If you want to build a course with 27 holes featuring various lay-outs, multiple tees and basket placements for both casual and professional players, you should budget about 25.000 euros . In an area where there is a lot of players, you might even build several 9/18/27 hole courses at a single complex. A prime example of this is the DiscGolfPark World in Heinola, Finland (2020).

The Red Tape

Course projects inevitably involve working with authorities and following various rules, regulations and directives, some of which are predictable, some of which aren't. For example, felling trees needs permissions and in some places can only be done outside bird nesting times. Things often take longer than expected with more forms to fill such as the estimate of number of trees to be cut. No one deliberately tries to slow the project down, but it is good to leave some leeway in the schedule.

Fortunately disc golf courses are almost always seen as positive development, so councils and departments are willing to help. It is imperative to start contacting the relevant parties early on to find out what sort of information and actions are needed. You need to communicate and coordinate for example with the land owner and the department of parks and recreation or the corresponding authorities at your local community.

Course Design



Professional design makes your course stand out

Many disc golfers feel that they could design a course, and local opinions are valuable in course design. However, a professional course designer knows how to best use a given area, makes sure the course will be safe to players and other users, takes erosion into consideration, and makes sure the course is suitable for the intended target audience.

Professional course design is cost effective. It is only a small part of the overall budget, and the safety alone is usually enough to more than compensate the investment (you don't have to redesign dangerous holes). Disc golfers also recognize the signature styles of the top designers and their name alone attracts players to courses.

A design project comprises surveying the land, designing the individual holes and the whole course flow, and producing the course and hole signage. The simplest school course can be designed in one day, where a championship level course can take two weeks for the on-location design alone.



A good course map is crucial on a disc golf course

Course Infrastructure

The most important part of the course equipment are the baskets. You should always go for the best quality baskets that your budget allows.

A good course needs good signage, meaning course and hole maps. Better courses also include next tee -signs and other signs to make the user experience as good as possible.

Each hole needs a teeing area, which is ideally a turf pad. The most common tees are either 2 m x 4 m. Smaller tee pads (1.5 m x 2.5 m) are only recommended at short courses with holes shorter than 80 meters. Bigger tees are almost always preferred by players.

You can make your course stand out with bigger signs and personalized tee pad colors. Keep this in mind especially if you have sponsors at your course.



When building a course, you usually need to clear some trees from the fairways

Building a Course

The costs of the construction phase of the course are similar to the course material budget. This includes cutting trees, clearing and removing the waste, concrete bases for installing the baskets, materials for teeing areas (sand, wood, etc.), fuel for tools and machinery, and for the working hours themselves. If the course is mainly built by voluntary workers for example by the local club, this may change.

The most time-consuming phase is clearing the fairways which is very dependent on the type of forest: a thicket of young willows with a lot of undergrowth is very different from mature pine tree woods.

Next, you need time for constructing the tee areas and installing the tee pads. You can build a wooden frame for the tee, which will mean some more work and initial costs but less work later. The installation of the tee pads baskets require approximately 1 day per person per hole.

[Contact us to start your project!](#)

[Back to All Articles](#)

Contents

Home

DiscGolfPark

- Concepts
 - DiscGolfPark®
 - DiscGolfPark World
 - MultiGolfPark
 - School DiscGolfPark
 - School DiscGolfSet
 - Retee program
- Products
 - DiscGolfPark Pro Target
 - MultiGolfPark Target
 - InfoBoard
 - TeeSign
 - Deluxe TeeSign
 - TeePad
 - Product Warranty
 - Installation
- Services
 - Mapping Services

- Course Design
- Map Drawing
- Events & Training
- About Us

Courses

- All Courses
- Latest Courses
- Featured Courses
- Course Classifications

Designers

- All DiscGolfPark Designers

Disc Golf

- Why Disc Golf?
- Case Finland

Articles

Contact

Meet Us

Search

Didn't find what you are looking for on our website? Try searching the topic below!

Newsletter Signup

Subscribe to our newsletter and get content in your inbox about DiscGolfPark, disc golf course design, course maintenance and exclusive content and statistics about the state of disc golf around the world.

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Social Media



Contact Information

Main Office, Europe

Spin18

Lastikankatu 6 H2, P.O.BOX 25

33731 Tampere, FINLAND

Tel. +358 10 231 2550

Email: europe@discgolfpark.com

US Office

DiscGolfPark

6556 Buttercup Dr, Unit 3

Wellington Colorado

80549 United States

sales@discgolfpark.com

[Back to Top](#)

[Designer Login](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



World Leader in Disc Golf Courses

© DiscGolfPark® 2022

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

