

New disc golf course slated for Sebastian

BY: Janet Begley, Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

POSTED: 7:44 PM, Apr 27, 2015

UPDATED: 9:05 AM, Apr 28, 2015

TAG: sebastian (/topic/sebastian) | shaping our future (/topic/shaping+our+future) | outdoors (/topic/outdoors)

SEBASTIAN — Fans of disc golf may not have to wait much longer to have a new course.

Parks Superintendent Chris McCarthy told the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Monday that he believes an 18-hole course could be installed on an island in the middle of Schumann Lake Park within the next three months, provided some underbrush and pepper trees can be cleared from the site.

McCarthy said the site was chosen because of its acreage and its proximity to a parking area on Kildare Drive. To reach the island players must walk across a small bridge before reaching the park.

“We’re somewhat limited on space but this is really the only property we have available,” McCarthy said. “I plan on leaving a good buffer between the water and any holes we build.”

The sport has similar rules to standard golf but uses flying discs and above ground baskets.

Funding for the course has already been approved by the Sebastian City Council and is scheduled to come from recreation impact fees. The \$18,000 cost approved by the council would cover land clearing and the purchase of course equipment, including disc baskets, tee signs and possibly rubber tee pads. That’s because, since it would be impossible to get a concrete truck across to the island to build tee boxes as originally proposed, McCarthy said rubber tee pads may have to be installed.

Kim Pruden from the South Brevard Disc Golf Club said the island might be tight for 18 long holes but if each hole were kept to between 150 to 200 feet it could work.

“It’s different than regular golf because you’re not talking yards, you’re talking feet,” Pruden said.

Justin Greene, an avid disc golf player from Sebastian, offered a suggestion other than shortening the course.

“I think it would be safer for nine holes,” he said.

McCarthy said he plans to meet at the site with some volunteers within the next few weeks to discuss the layout for the course. Once the course is designed, equipment can be ordered after City Manager Joe Griffin gives his approval, McCarthy said.

The nearest local course is located in Palm Bay in Brevard County. A second course is located at Wickham Park in Melbourne. Overall, the Professional Disc Golf Association estimates there are more than 4,000 courses in the U.S.

Copyright 2015 Journal Media Group. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.