

University of Richmond Disc Golf Course

This project was unlike most disc golf course design projects in that the client (University of Richmond) wanted the course to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifiable, using recycled and renewable products to minimize the environmental impact. Although as a course designer and former environmental engineer I strive to minimize the impact of the course design on the existing property, this project went one step further looking for materials (literally in campus “junk yards”) that could be utilized.

The four basic components of a disc golf course are holes, tees, signage, and fairway layout. Recycle and sustainable products were considered for each component with the following final decisions:

Holes: DGA MACH 3 baskets were chosen, basically steel (most steel is made from recycled steel) with no powder coating applied.

Tees: The tees are pine framed (southern pine is one of the fastest renewable wood products found in the US suitable for construction), filled with crushed limestone, and with a recycled rubber mat installed on top.

Signs: The signs are former bathroom stalls from a campus remodeling project, cut to size, with signs printed with latex inks which reduce the environmental impact of VOC's. They are mounted on pine posts.

Fairways: the fairways were laid out through the wooded areas of campus in a design that called for only clearing underbrush and a few dead trees. The existing trees made for a variety of shot choices off the tee to navigate the course, and for challenging greens with the pin placements located to enhance the use of trees for putting style selection.

The final product (disc golf course) is not only a fun recreational pastime for the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Richmond, but is being recognized by area players for its eco-friendly design as shown in this recent disc golf course review:

This is an absolutely beautiful course. The first few holes through the edge of campus and the alumni center are awesome. Other holes by the lake are also beautiful.

Lots of easygoing college kids nearby.

Nice walking trail through the course.

Course was made with the intent of being as eco-friendly as possible.

Great use of elevation changes to make a wide variety of approaches.

Great rubber tee mats! That is a real treat in the Richmond area.

HB CLARK Signature Disc Golf Course Design

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