Central disc golf course gets positive reviews

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CENTRAL — Grand Central Station Disc Golf, which opened three years ago, has been getting rave reviews according to a recent publication.

Comments posted in Disc Golf CourseReview ranged from "excellent front 9" to a "very cool private feel" to "great holes, lots of challenges and plenty of fun" to "a great looking park" with "a clean viewing area for tournaments." Even comments regarding the cons consisted of "very little to complain about" — with layout, the need for additional restroom facilities and excessive thorns in some of the wooded areas listed.

Central assistant town administrator Tom Cloer said he was extremely pleased over the review and said the few "cons" mentioned are being addressed.

"When you build a facility like this and all people are seeking are minor improvements, that speaks well to what we have," Cloer said. "We're still in the infancy stages, as we've only been open for three years."



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Central assistant town administrator Tom Cloer said the Grand Central Station Disc Golf Course, in operation since 2012, has received positive reviews from the many who play the Sanders Road course each year.

Cloer said he appreciates the assistance Pickens County provided in establishing the course and feels it is already making a positive impact on tourism.

"We have surveillance cameras on site and saw 517 vehicles enter the park to play disc golf over a five-week period at the end of November and part of December when it's been so cold," he said. "We've had people come all the way across the country to play here. When we had a tournament, we had people as far away as the state of Washington.

"It was humbling to know we were part of their circuit."

The 18-hole course is owned and operated by the Town of Central Parks and Recreation Department. It sits on 28 acres with a variety of terrain that includes fields, hills, bottomlands, creeks and pine forests. The property was purchased by the town in 2010, and work on designing and building the course began a year later by the Parks and Rec Department and community volunteers.

By the spring of 2012, the course had been designed, holes graded and many of the components installed. The course layout was completed later that year.

The Grand Central Station Disc Golf Course was designed around the town's railroad theme and history. Approximately 6,636 feet long, the course is the third longest free-play course in South Carolina and is ranked by Disc Golf Review in the top five in the Southeast and top 10 nationwide.

Cloer said future projects include restrooms, paved parking, water fountains and additional course amenities. He admits it was a pleasant surprise to see all the positive reviews written about the course.

"When you start hearing 'this thing is awesome' and a few things like the need for a water fountain, you know this course is doing what it's supposed to do," he said.

The Collegiate Disc Golf Tournament will be held on the course March 6 and 7. Cloer said universities that confirmed this week they would be participating include Clemson, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia Tech, North Carolina at Charlotte, Winthrop and Gardner-Webb.

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