

JOHN C. STEVENSON / Staff

Nathan DeVol, 15, and Steve Figueroa, Clemson Parks and Recreation director, walk a trail at Mountain View Park that will be a fairway for DeVol's disc golf course.

Clemson Scout plans to build disc golf course

Growing sport should attract visitors from across region

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CLEMSON — Family disc golf outings blossomed into an Eagle Scout project for a D.W. Daniel High sophomore designing and building a disc golf course at a Clemson Park.

"It's something different that a lot of people can enjoy," said Nathan DeVol, 15, who has friends living near Clemson's Mountain View Park and decided that would be a good location.

His scoutmaster contacted the city and got approval.

"This is an attractive amenity to one of our parks and should be well utilized," said Steve Figueroa, city parks and recreation director. The 34-acre park "will be a favorable setting" for the activity and will give the public, particularly "teens and tweens," a wholesome activity to enjoy.

DeVol used a GPS system to map the park area, gathered ideas from courses in Seneca and Anderson and started work.

He put in some curves and routed the nine-hole course through trees to add to the challenge.

He hopes to have the course completed by the end of the school year.

The game, described on the World Flying Disc Federation Web site as "the flying disc variant of the game of golf," is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world for people of all ages, said Kevin "Skippy" Givens, executive director of the federation.

Activities range from family recreation to full-fledged professional tours, Givens said.

Instead of using a ball and golf clubs, players throw discs. Instead of a hole in the ground, there is a basket at the end of each "hole."

Players try to complete the course making as few throws as possible.

The course should draw visitors and tourism dollars, Givens said.

"People will travel from one city to another to play every disc golf course in their area. They plan family vacations around it," Givens said.