



# Bridging the gap

CAITLIN HERRINGTON | THE JOURNAL

**Chau Ram County Park has opened its 18-hole disc golf course after work began in March 2018.**

## Chau Ram County Park offering ‘more to go out and do’ with disc golf course now open

**BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR**  
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WESTMINSTER — An Oconee County park has officially opened an 18-hole disc golf course after nearly a year of volunteer and community work to complete the project. The Chau Ram County Park

disc golf course is now open for play after initial work began in March 2018.

“It’s an 18-hole course, and the work was volunteer-driven,” Oconee parks, recreation and tourism director Phil Shirley said. “One of the reasons it took so long was because we didn’t have the

extra staff to go out there and build the course. We did utilize a number of volunteers from the area. We had some Boy Scouts come out, some volunteers through the city of Westminster, Mayor Brian Ramey assisted with some

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folks on a workday and we were able to contract with someone to help clear the fairways with machinery through the forested area."

Shirley said the overall distance of the course wasn't readily available, but the holes have varying distances to provide a "good combination."

"The distance of the holes varies," Shirley said. "There's holes that are as short as 180 or 190 feet, and there's holes that are as long as 500 to 600 feet. There's a good combination out there. It's a hilly course — you're truly out in the forested area."

Ramey added the completed course can help the city's push to bring in more tourists.

"It's a good thing to have and bring more people into town," he said. "It gives our citizens and community something more to go out and do."

The addition of the unique amenity continues to add to the county park's offered activi-

ties, Shirley said.

"It continues to bridge the gap to offer all the amenities the community is asking for," he said. "We're adding more than an amenity. There's a recreational gap around here of things that are offered and things that are not, and it can help bridge the gap in that community. They can now go out and enjoy and play some disc golf."

Though the course is completed, tee boxes have yet to be installed, so there are designated launch points.

The county's PRT commission approved a \$5,000 action item to fund the boxes with accommodations tax money last Thursday, and the item will now move to Oconee County Council's March 19 meeting for a final approval.

"We're at a point where everything is in the ground except for tee boxes, so we'll have to have another workday to get those in the ground," Shirley said. "You can play, you just don't have a designated place to throw from.

We've got it cleared, and the baskets are in place. We have worked with a course designer, Gary Savercool ... and Adam Wright. They're both avid disc golfers, so we worked with them, and they volunteered their time to do some design work for us."

An entrance off of

Horseshoe Bridge Road for direct access to the course hasn't opened yet, so visitors will be required to walk through the main entrance of the park and make the quarter-mile walk to the first hole to begin play.

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