



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The state of disc golf in Lincoln is thriving, with a promising upward trajectory for the future. The Lincoln Flying Disc Club (LFDC) maintains robust interest, boasting nearly 100 active dues-paying members and a substantial online presence of the broader disc golf community with 2100+ Facebook subscribers. In 2024, LFDC showcased its commitment to the sport by injecting a significant financial investment of \$38,400 into its five courses.

This financial commitment translated into noteworthy infrastructure improvements across all five courses. Notably, LFDC members dedicated a remarkable 2,170 hours of volunteer time, underscoring their passion for fostering a vibrant disc golf community in Lincoln.

LFDC's inclusive approach shines through as it continues to champion the sport at every skill level, catering to juniors, beginners, tournament players, individuals with special needs, as well as regional and touring professionals. It's a testament to LFDC's dedication to making disc golf accessible and enjoyable for all in the Lincoln community.

Acknowledging the collaborative spirit that fuels this success, LFDC extends sincere appreciation to Lincoln Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln Parks Foundation for their unwavering support. Looking ahead, LFDC eagerly anticipates continued collaboration, ensuring the growth and prosperity of disc golf in Lincoln for years to come.

Sincerely,
Prof. Trenton Franz
President of the Lincoln Flying Disc Club



Trenton Franz | President, LFDC



John Jones putts on Hole 3 at Beal Slough DGC during the 2024 Star City Classic.

WHO WE ARE

The Lincoln Flying Disc Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 1990 and based in Lincoln, NE. Our mission is to foster the growth, promotion, and sustainability of disc golf in our community. Disc golf is an affordable, family-friendly sport that is accessible to individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, offering opportunities for lifelong enjoyment.

Membership serves as a demonstration of financial support for the club, while providing members with several exclusive benefits. These include discounts on select LFDC-affiliated leagues, a numbered LFDC bag tag for participation in tag challenges throughout the season, access to member-only events, monthly updates on club activities, and more.



Sam Taylor throws Hole 16 at Beal Slough DGC.

2024

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

In 2024, LFDC dedicated approximately **2,170 volunteer hours** to a variety of initiatives, including course maintenance and construction, online infrastructure improvements, and community outreach.

For the second year, LFDC partnered with Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful to host six trash cleanup events across four Lincoln disc golf courses. This partnership provided grant funding, which was reinvested into course improvement projects.

LFDC continued its partnership with Lincoln Parks and Recreation this season by planting several new trees at Roper West and Tierra parks. LFDC identifies strategic tree placement to enhance the playability of specific holes and coordinates volunteers to assist with the planting efforts.

LFDC organized two disc golf clinics during a Lincoln Public Schools professional development day for Physical Education teachers. The clinics introduced the basics of the game, demonstrated various throwing techniques, and concluded with LFDC members leading teachers through a temporary five-hole course to showcase how disc golf could fit into their curriculum.



LFDC member, Cody Pfeiffer, picks up litter on Hole 18 at Roper West.



LFDC members, James Fleege, Liam Dempsey, Randy Gordon, Mike Fleege, Kyle Linhardt, Trenton Franz, and Joe Reeder pick up litter.

This year, a second lost-and-found box was installed at Tierra Park, complementing the existing box at Beal Slough DGC. LFDC members emptied the boxes weekly, delivering recovered discs to our lost-and-found partner, Zen Llama, where players could easily reclaim their items. In 2024, the system processed over 1,000 discs, reuniting countless players with their lost discs – whether it was “the one that got away” or, for some, several that got away.



Tierra Lost-and-Found box.

LFDC

DISC GOLF IN LINCOLN

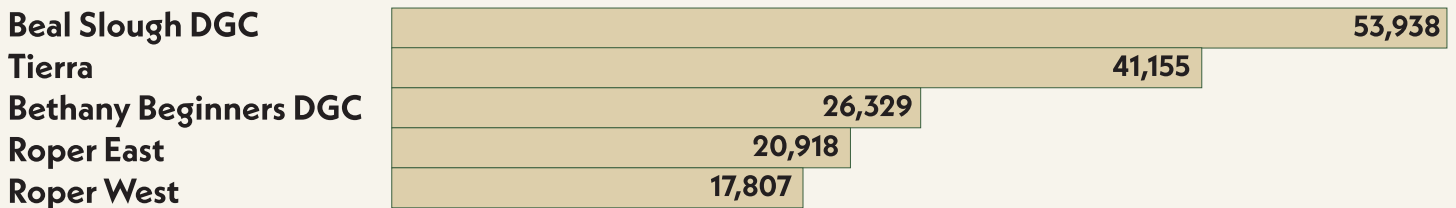
2024

The five public disc golf courses in Lincoln offer layouts that accommodate all skill levels, as defined by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA).

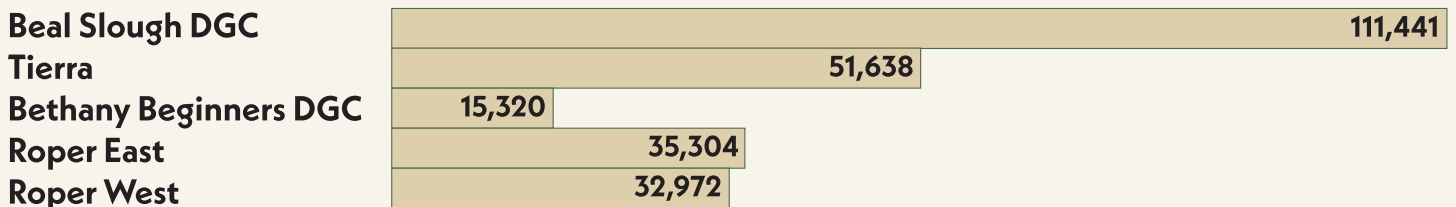
In 2024, these courses experienced a **22% increase in rounds played** and a **27% increase in park experience hours** compared to 2023. The data, sourced from UDisc—the leading disc golf scoring and course directory platform—reflects a 2021 Brigham Young University study, which found that approximately 20% of rounds are recorded on UDisc.

1 City
5 Courses
72 Holes
159,424 Rounds Played
246,676 Park Experience Hours
645,526,131 Steps Taken

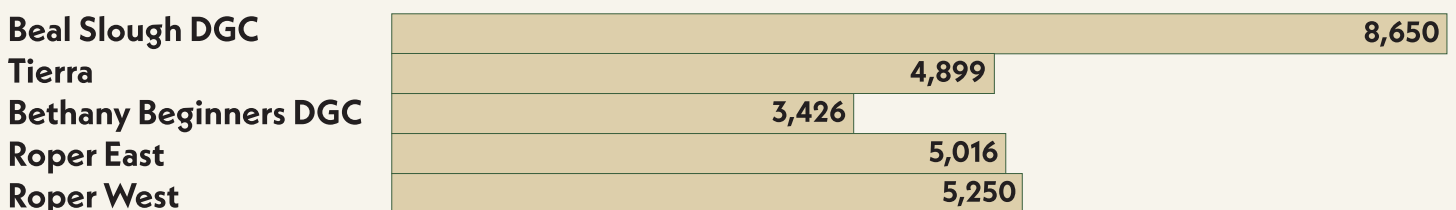
ROUNDS PLAYED



PARK EXPERIENCE HOURS



UNIQUE PLAYERS



COURSES

Beal Slough Disc Golf Course

18 Holes | Tee Levels: White, Blue, Gold | SE Parks District

Beal Slough DGC, Lincoln's flagship course, earned international recognition by being ranked **#88 on UDisc's list of the top 100 courses in the world**, out of more than 15,000 courses globally. This accolade further solidified Beal Slough's status as one of the Midwest's premier courses. The course attracted players from 43 states throughout the season, with total play increasing by 15% compared to 2023 and unique player visits rising by 20% during the same period.

The most notable project of the season was the design and installation of the gold layout. Eleven new concrete tee pads were added to create the gold layout, which plays as a par 62 and measures approximately 8,300 feet, depending on the pin positions in use. Three blue tee pads were also relocated to provide better scoring separation for the intended skill level of players. Updated tee signs and post caps reflecting the addition of these new tee pads were added throughout the course.



Jonathan Fletcher throws from the Hole 10 gold tee during the 2024 Star City Classic.

In 2024, videos showcasing Beal Slough DGC accumulated over 40,000 views on YouTube and generated an estimated 60,000 impressions on Instagram. The course also received coverage in several local news articles, with LFDC's promotional efforts recognized by UDisc as a model of "best practices" for other courses to emulate.

Looking ahead to 2025, LFDC plans to continue enhancements at Beal Slough DGC, including the installation of additional boot scrapers at tee pads, adding circle 1 markers at every pin position, planting more trees in strategic locations, and partnering with a local organization to install a new course message board in the practice area.

LFDC



A player throws from the Hole 15 white tee.

Other notable completed improvements included the construction of retaining walls on holes 12 and 18 to enhance both challenge and erosion control, as well as a retaining wall on hole 14 as part of a beautification effort featuring native shrubs and over 100 flower bulbs. Benches were added at all applicable tee pads, and three new trash can enclosures were installed throughout the course. A boulder and plaque featuring course donor names was added to the practice area, and a fan favorite – the Tony Odem Bird Bath and Flower Garden – was added to Hole 14 fairway.

LFDC utilized funds generated from Annual Pass and Daily Pass sales to cover \$6,100 in biweekly mowing expenses, with the remaining funds contributing to various course improvements. For a second consecutive year, LFDC partnered with Zipline Beer Hall to provide discounts for pass holders. LFDC would like to thank our Annual Pass holders and Daily Pass purchasers for their continued support of Beal Slough DGC.



Liam Dempsey and Trenton Franz work on building the Hole 10 gold tee area featuring a multi-tiered retaining wall. Native shrubs and arborvitae trees were added to the tee area in the spring.

Tierra

9 Holes | Tee Levels: Red, White, Blue | SE Parks District

Tierra, Lincoln's second-oldest disc golf course, underwent a wide range of improvements and updates during the 2024 season. These included the installation of basket flags on each hole, new and updated tee signs, new signage posts with tee markers, refurbished signage frames, new benches on several holes, and a refurbished course information board. Additionally, a lost-and-found box was introduced, and multiple trash cans were added throughout the course, both of which are regularly maintained by LFDC members. Multiple cautionary signs were also installed at bike path entry points to improve safety.

In a collaborative effort with Lincoln Parks and Recreation, LFDC planted 14 strategically placed trees late in the year to enhance the course's layout and aesthetic.

Looking ahead to 2025, LFDC plans to install boot scrapers on many of the wooded holes to further improve the playing experience.



Dan Warren on Hole 8.



Anna Larson, Carrie & Alex Dawdy, and Kiara & Blaine Wood at LFDC's January 1st Member Drive at Tierra.

Bethany Beginners Disc Golf Course

9 Holes | Tee Levels: Purple, Green | NE Parks District

2024 marked the first full year of operation for Bethany Beginners DGC. Following the installation of 10 baskets, temporary tees, and 25 strategically placed trees in 2023, the remaining permanent infrastructure was completed in 2024. This included 18 concrete tee pads, signage posts with tee markers, tee signs, and cautionary signs for pedestrians.

Bethany Beginners DGC was thoughtfully designed to introduce new players to the sport, offering entry-level challenges that incorporate a variety of shot shapes and obstacles similar to those found on Lincoln's more advanced courses. The course stands out as a unique addition to the region, featuring bilingual English and Spanish signage—the first of its kind, regionally. Additionally, the tee signs include helpful tips for navigating each hole.

In late 2024, a free-to-use disc library was introduced, stocked by members of the LFDC. This resource allows individuals without access to discs the opportunity to enjoy a round of disc golf, further promoting inclusivity and accessibility within the sport.



Bethany Disc Library.

2024



Eldon Nyhoff of Vital Services, a hole sponsor, plays Hole 9.



Josh Duhs relocates the Hole 3 blue tee at Roper East.

Roper East

18 Holes | Tee Levels: Red, Blue | NW Parks District

Roper East saw several significant upgrades during the 2024 season. Improvements included expanding several concrete tee pads, removing deteriorating tee frames, repairing numerous damaged pin positions, and installing a new elevated basket structure on hole 14. Additionally, LFDC contributed \$1,500 to cover mowing expenses for holes 14, 15, and 16 throughout the year.

A major highlight was the redesign of holes 3 and 4, prompted by the loss of several mature trees in recent years. The updated layout incorporates several of the 100+ trees strategically planted across the course two years ago, ensuring these holes remain challenging for years to come. This redesign was completed in anticipation of new tee signs, which are scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2025. As part of this preparation, new tee sign posts and tee markers were installed during the 2024 season.

LFDC

Roper West

18 Holes | Tee Levels: Red, Blue, Gold | NW Parks District

Nebraska's first disc golf course, Roper West, experienced a series of upgrades during the 2024 season. In response to the removal of numerous ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, LFDC partnered with Lincoln Parks and Recreation to plant over 60 trees in strategic locations across the course. This planting initiative began in late 2023 and continued into the spring of 2024. LFDC hopes to extend this partnership in 2025 to further enhance the course's landscape.

Other improvements included the addition of stone bricks to define the island green on hole 6, and the installation of PVC sleeves to aid players in identifying the island during tournaments. The course also saw the removal of decaying tee boards and outdated tee signs, the expansion of the blue tee pad on hole 4, and repairs to damaged pin positions. Multiple new pin positions were added for tournament play. Additionally, new tee sign posts and markers were installed at every tee, laying the foundation for updated tee signs scheduled for installation in 2025.



Hole 17 triple mando and new trees.

TOURNAMENTS



John Jones and Emma Arp at the 2024 Star City Classic.

From May 17-19, LFDC hosted its flagship event, the 2024 Star City Classic sponsored by Disc Gauntlet. In its second year as a PDGA A-tier event, the tournament set a new record as the largest in Nebraska history, with 265 participants from across the greater Midwest.

The tournament offered a range of supplementary activities for players, including a players' party featuring both endemic and non-endemic vendors, skills competitions, and spectating opportunities. Feedback from local and regional players was overwhelmingly positive, with many recognizing the event as a highlight on their tournament schedules.

This year's event was also designated as a PDGA Women's Global Event, featuring eight professional women players from five different states.

Throughout the year, LFDC also partnered with local and regional event organizers to host multiple PDGA-sanctioned and unsanctioned tournaments across all five Lincoln courses.

LEAGUES

LFDC-affiliated leagues were hosted at all five Lincoln courses throughout the season, each experiencing increased participation compared to the previous year. With weekly leagues staggered on different days, players had multiple options for competitive play each week.

Two leagues adopted LFDC's new "club cash" system on our website, which streamlined the entry fee and payout process for both players and league directors. This system allows players to request payouts at any time or retain their balance to pay for league rounds at participating events. By reducing reliance on peer-to-peer transaction services like Venmo, the club cash system eliminates the associated tax liabilities for league directors. LFDC anticipates that most leagues will use the club cash system during the 2025 season.



Tuesday Doubles League, under the lights at Bethany Beginners DGC.

Beal Slough League

Sunday | April-November | Beal Slough DGC | 865 Rounds Played | League Director: James Fleege

Beal Slough League featured four divisions with unique layouts each week. Players earned weekly payouts while accumulating points toward overall standings in three-month sessions. The league will return in 2025, running from March to November.

Tierra League

Saturday-Sunday, Sunday-Monday | Year-round | Tierra | 1,301 Rounds Played | League Director: Bryce Keller

This long-standing league ran year-round, offering rotating layouts, three divisions, and an ace pot. Tierra League will run from March to November in 2025.

Roper League

Thursday | April-September | Roper East & Roper West | League Director: Jeff Witter

Alternating weekly between Roper East and Roper West, this league often featured a substantial ace pot, with one player earning \$500 for an ace this season. Roper League will return in 2025, running from March to September.

Doubles League

Tuesday | April-October | Rotating Courses | League Directors: Kyle Erickson, Jeff O'Brien

This random-draw doubles league rotated across all five Lincoln courses throughout the season, providing many players with their first competitive disc golf experience. Doubles League will return in 2025.

Glow League

Pop-up Events | Year-round | Rotating Courses | 621 Rounds Played | League Director: Kenny Melpolder

Glow League offered a unique after-dark playing experience, with illuminated baskets and glow-in-the-dark discs. Events rotated across all five courses and included highlights like "Boo at the Slough," a Halloween-themed event at Beal Slough DGC. The event featured a festive atmosphere, with Hole 15 adorned in lights rivaling even the most elaborate holiday displays. Glow League will continue hosting pop-up events in 2025. Hole 15 was brilliantly adorned with lights, easily outshining even the most elaborate holiday displays on your block—sorry neighbors, but the "best in show" award goes to Hole 15.

Putting League

Tuesday | December-January | Lincoln Stars Ice Box | League Director: Vail Erickson

The indoor putting league features a variety of rotating formats and games each week, giving players a valuable opportunity to sharpen their putting skills during the offseason.

BOARD MEMBERS

The LFDC Board holds annual elections each September. To run for a board position or vote in the election, an active LFDC membership is required.

2024

Trenton Franz, *President*
James Fleege, *Vice President*
Chris Blake, *Treasurer*
Tony Odem, *Treasurer Emeritus*
Vail Erickson, *Secretary*

Casey Kettler, *Membership (At Large)*
Maria Silva, *Social Media (At Large)*
Kyle Erickson, *Events (At Large)*
Liam Dempsey, *Courses (At Large)*

2025

Trenton Franz, *President*
James Fleege, *Vice President*
Tanner Hughes, *Treasurer*
Vail Erickson, *Secretary*

Casey Kettler, *Membership (At Large)*
Maria Silva, *Social Media (At Large)*
Jeff O'Brien, *Events (At Large)*
Liam Dempsey, *Courses (At Large)*

2024 Annual Report Volunteers: James Fleege (writer, design, research), Trenton Franz (editor, research)

Lincoln Flying Disc Club would like to extend an additional thank you to:

All of our hole sponsors
Lincoln Parks and Recreation
Lincoln Parks Foundation
Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful
Open Door Foundation
BNSF Railway Foundation
Acklie Foundation
Lincoln Fire Station #9
Zen Llama Disc Golf
Disc Gauntlet
Play It Again Sports
Parse Software
Zipline Beer Hall

Shawn Miller
Randy Gordon
Denise Pierce
JJ Yost
Kaylyn Neverve
Shawn Quinn
Lance Wolken
Ryan Murrell
Cameron Mueller
Pat Raybould
Kim Theesen
Tony Odem
Families of the board members

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