

DULUTH PUBLIC GOLF COURSES

The following are suggested scenarios for discussion purposes for action to be taken on the two public golf courses (Lester Park Golf Course and Enger Park Golf Course). Additional scenarios need to be presented and discussed to assure that the best decision can be made as to the future of golf in Duluth. The primary focus of these scenarios are: a) to maintain and enhance opportunities for public golf in Duluth, b) to improve the physical condition of both golf courses, c) to improve the financial position of both golf courses, d) to expand year round use of both facilities, e) to create a Board of Director/Advisory Board, with representation of the Friends of Duluth Public Golf, to oversee operations.

An overriding proposal is to either forgive the current debt that the public golf courses have accumulated or delay its payment for 5 years or more. This will enable the courses to become established and a positive operating budget to be established.

Scenario #1

1. Retain both golf facilities.
2. City of Duluth work with the Friends of Duluth Public Golf to establish a long term strategic plan that will include but not be limited to:
 - a. Improve the playability of both golf courses with emphasis on irrigation and other course needs.
 - b. Renovate existing club houses or remove and build new structures that will enable expanded multi-functional use.
 - c. Work with other outdoor recreation groups to use the golf courses to expand the use of both facilities to enhance recreation opportunities.
 - d. Develop and implement a marketing plan that will promote the use of the golf facilities
 - e. Develop and implement a plan to raise the money to pay for the improvements

Scenario #2

1. Reduce Lester Park Golf Course to 18 holes that is owned and managed by the city. This will reduce the cost to update the infrastructure and the ongoing cost for maintenance.
2. Land that would be vacated by the above would be sold to a developer. The developer would build the area to compliment the golf course (homes, apartments, retail, hotel, etc). The money from the sale would be put back into the golf course.
3. Improve infrastructure to enhance golf playability and create opportunity for other recreational use.
4. Renovate and expand the current golf facility to include a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, sport shop, banquet and meeting rooms. Operate the facility year round.
5. Work with various outdoor recreation organizations to develop plan to use the golf course and facility year round.
6. Vigorously market golf and other recreational use of both golf courses.

Scenario #3

1. Sell all of Lester Park Golf Course to a developer. Requiring the developer to include 18 holes of public golf. Developer would coordinate with the city to insure accessibility by the general public.

Scenario #4

1. Sell land which houses Enger's driving range and all available adjacent land owned by the city. Include other land on the periphery of the current golf course. Money from sale will go back into both golf courses.
2. Improve infrastructure to enhance golf playability and create opportunity for other recreational use.
3. Demolish current golf club and rebuild a building to include a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, sport shop, banquet and meeting rooms. Operate the facility year round.
4. Work with various outdoor recreation organizations to develop plan to use the golf course and facility year round.
5. Vigorously market golf and other recreational use of both golf courses.

Scenario #5

1. Reduce both Lester and Enger to 18 holes. Implement same scenario as presented in Scenarios 2 & 4. All moneys from the sale of land will go back into improving the golf courses.

Scenario #6

1. Sell Lester to developer.
2. Add 9 holes onto Enger (36 total holes) This would consolidate golf, provide adequate holes to support the golf needs. It would greatly reduce infrastructure costs and reduce operating costs.
3. Demolish current golf club and rebuild a building to include a restaurant, bar, coffee shop, sport shop, banquet and meeting rooms. Operate the facility year round.
4. Work with various outdoor recreation organizations to develop plan to use the golf course and facility year round.
5. Vigorously market golf and other recreational use of both golf courses.

The above are very broad scenarios. They are intended to facilitate discussion on the future of Duluth Public Golf. Additional study will be needed to work out the details to insure that the best possible resolution can be developed and agreed on by all parties concerned.