

## Village of Orland Park Media Relations

# NEWSRelease

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### PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES

## **World's Golf Center Adds Disc Golf To Its Parks Offerings** *Disc Golf Course To Be Dedicated On September 27<sup>th</sup>*

ORLAND PARK, IL – It was in the 1960s that the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce claimed the title, “Golf Center of the World,” for the Orland Park community, touting the number of holes of golf within a fifteen mile radius of the village. And, it was in 1965 that the late Melvin Doogan began what would be a twenty year term as mayor of the Village of Orland Park.

The game of golf and the Doogan name will come together again on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> when the Village of Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department unveils the newest addition to the village’s park system --- a disc golf park at Doogan Park, named for Orland Park’s ninth mayor.

“Disc golf has been around for years and it really took off in the late 1960s,” explained Trustee Brad O’Halloran, chair of the village’s Recreation and Parks Committee. “Nearly one-third of the seventeen acres at Doogan Park now house the disc golf park, being a great addition to the village’s parks system,” he added.”

Disc golf is similar to ball golf except players use specially made flying discs instead of balls and clubs. The discs are thrown for “par” at an above ground target, usually a steel basket over which chains hang.

Orland Park Director of Parks Frank Stec is an avid ball golfer. “We’re very happy to add this to the village’s parks system because it offers the game of golf --- with discs --- in one of our oldest parks. It’s really a great course in the perfect setting,” Stec said, referring to the nine hole challenge at Doogan.

Golf discs are smaller than the standard Frisbees that measure eight to ten inches in diameter.

“Mayor McLaughlin brought the idea of disc golf in Orland Park to us more than a year ago and we’ve been working on it ever since,” said Director of Recreation Nancy Flores. “He really thought this would be a great activity for the kids in Orland Park,” she added.

“Like ball golf, players use discs with different weights for their shots,” explained Flores. “People can buy the discs at sporting goods stores and then bring them over to Doogan Park to try out the course,” she added.

Steve Olson, an accomplished disc golfer from Lockport, designed Orland Park’s course, having created the course at Castaldo Park in Woodridge. “I spent about 40 hours walking, throwing, refining the design, meeting neighbors and consulting with the Parks Department,” said Olson, who has “been hurlin’ plastic for about 45 years.”

“Orland Park’s Doogan Park course provides a challenge to beginning and intermediate players. It’s a great course to introduce the sport to potential disc golfers,” Olson said. “And, this course has to be the best landscaped course ever installed by a parks department in the Chicago area,” Olson said.

Of his involvement with helping to bring disc golf to the “Golf Center of the World,” Olson said, “I would certainly enjoy helping to put Orland Park into the forefront of the disc golf world as it is in the ‘ball golf’ world. To paraphrase the movie ‘Field of Dreams’, ‘If you build it, they will throw’.”

Orland Park Recreation Program Supervisor Stephanie Simpson is overseeing the dedication of Orland Park’s Disc Golf Park. “Our grand opening festivities will include disc golf demonstrations, picnic games and a moon jump,” Simpson said. “We invite everyone to pack a lunch and come out to try disc golf at Doogan Park,” she added.

O’Halloran added, “September 27<sup>th</sup> has been designated the ‘National Day of Play’, making it the perfect day to unveil this addition to the village’s recreation and parks offerings. Disc golf is a great sport that the entire family can enjoy.”

Orland Park’s disc golf festivities will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27. Doogan Park is located at 14700 Park Lane, adjacent to the village’s Cultural Center, the former Orland Park Public Library.

Further information about Orland Park’s Disc Golf Park is available by calling the Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

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#### **DISC GOLF BASKET PHOTO CAPTION**

The “holes” in disc golf are metal baskets with hanging chains. The Village of Orland Park will dedicate its new nine hole disc golf course at Doogan Park, 147<sup>th</sup> and Park Lane, on September 27. For details, call 403-7275.

#### **DOOGAN DISC PARK PHOTO CAPTION**

Disc golfers begin each hole standing on a tee pad, shooting to that hole’s basket in the distance. Each hole at Orland Park’s Doogan Park Disc Park is labeled with its par and distance. For details, call 403-7275.

