

Marco Polo Update- Israel

More information, pictures and videos of the course are available here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TictV1VrF8&list=PL2a6Bc2dOhpV1b3NHBXPPi_LVY4EY4LeP.

There are 22+ videos that show designing and the progress of the course.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/48754439548/>.

We experienced great progress and two PDGA sanctioned Passover competitions. Go here: <http://community.frisbee.co.il/viewtopic.php?f=32&t=3550#p47581>.

(9/2/13)

At the time that country coordinator Zvi requested support from PDGA, there was approval for building a course in 4 Seasons park in Hod Hasharon, a town in the centre of Israel. The park is fairly small but pretty. For various reasons the project slowly faltered.

We then shifted our attention to Hadera Forest, a large open area north of Tel Aviv where we experienced great progress and two PDGA sanctioned Passover competitions. Go

here: <http://community.frisbee.co.il/viewtopic.php?f=32&t=3550#p47581>.

The municipality in charge of the area was gracious in the beginning and we shifted all of our attention to the construction of a course there. This town also ended up having its own shortcomings and our frustrations grew.

It was then that fellow disc golfer Yuval Zmiri and Zvi decided to change approaches. We looked for a more suitable area as far as disc golf and got the IDGA (Israel Disc Golf Association) fully on board as partners to the project. We focused on peripheral areas in the country that would provide greater leisure opportunities to the population living there as well as provide transportation by bus or train. The Israeli Park Authority manages Park Eshkol which can be seen

here: <http://www.parks.org.il/parks/ParksAndReserves/eshkol/Pages/default.aspx>.

We approached the regional manager of the Authority about half a year ago and found them to be receptive. To our great surprise, we found ourselves meeting him and the park manager a week later, and discovered he was very enthusiastic about the project. We quickly prepared and submitted a plan which was presented to a managing committee of the regional councils, the Parks Authority and the National Fund. It was approved a month later.

The park is pretty remote but nevertheless many players have visited to plan the details of the course, chief amongst them James Beasley, who has planned and built several courses in US, and Bruce Weber, a veteran disc golf player and PDGA official. They also joined Yuval and Zvi in leading the project.

This course is located at one of the few parks in Israel that has a grounds staff to help maintain a constantly manicured and watered area. We sit in a desert climate and yet we see grass, trees, and flowers with winding pathways.

In the past few months we have redesigned and tweaked the course with countless man hours. Yuval lives nearby the park and is there every day to oversee developments and advise the park. His presence there has been essential.

One thing is certain, we would have not been able to start or even dream of this project in Israel without the generous donation of the PDGA and Marco Polo program. Thank You! This project will be the first permanent 18 hole disc golf course in Israel and in the Middle East. It even has the potential of being on the PDGA World Tour schedule in the future.

We would like to ask for PDGA's help in appealing to players around the world to make this dream a reality. We still need monies to make signs, shade shelters, and drinking fountains which are essential in the often hot weather at the park.

Donations can be made via Indiegogo: <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/first-official-discgolf-course-in-israel/x/3906220>.

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