Disk golf park “Pauku priedes”

Introduction

Latvia is a small country in Northern Europe, but with a growing community of disc golf players. There is a potential for it to continue, and a good example is our neighbour - Estonia and farther north - Finland. First disc golf course in Latvia was founded 10 years ago. Since then about 30 more courses have been created - half of them 18-holes courses, 7 of them - during the last 12 months. Project team is a group of disc golf enthusiasts in Valmiera - region center city with ~30'000 population, 100km from the capital Riga and 50km from the border with Estonia. Before completion of this project the closest 18-holes courses were within an hour driving range. Half of them - abroad in Estonia.

Planning

Everything started with agreement with the land owner. She granted ~15ha of territory - half of it forest, half - meadows. After that we listed all activities needed to prepare the course area, all assets we would need and prepared an optimal schedule for execution. We finalized our budget calculations - 9000 EUR, and probable opening date - middle of May 2021. We had few ideas on how to raise funds for our budget - go to local municipality, entrepreneurs, use crowdfunding, raise donation campaigns. Draft layout was created during this phase:
Execution

There was a point of no return - when the first couple donations came in. It was a push for other entrepreneurs and individuals too. Local municipality also granted some amount. As one of teammates Gatis Rudins was just started as a new PDGA country coordinator, another idea appeared - let's apply for the Marco Polo Program. After affirmative response we placed order for 18 Prodigy T2 targets.

While waiting for targets to arrive, we started preparations for the course area - undergrowth cleaning, garbage collection, tee-pads foundations. We created 4 tee-pad boxes, prepared 18 artificial turf tee-pad covers (2x4m), designed and printed course map and tee-signs, and prepared a pile of OB sticks.

As disc golf is a new activity in this area, an important part was to offer the possibility to play on an easier layout. It resulted in adding a secondary (red) layout, using the same 18 targets, but adding some additional tee-pads or adjusting PAR for some holes.

Great blue 18 Prodigy T2s arrived and it was Friday afternoon at the beginning of May when the whole team came together to install all of them. The same evening we posted on social media that the new course is ready. Next day course was full of players from whole country - everybody wanted to test it out.

During the first season, the course hosted 2 tournaments - Valmiera Open 2021, and National tours’ 2nd league’s final stop. Both tournaments were full - 90 players, 2 shotgun rounds. Once in 2 weeks we organize weekly competitions that tend to gather more and more players. Future of disk golf in Valmiera is looking great!

Social media, www

https://www.dgp.lv
https://www.facebook.com/diskugolfsvalmiera

Coverage from Valmiera Open 2021

- F9, https://youtu.be/yLACXxiVNMU
- B9, https://youtu.be/6DxaFU5F-Ns
Some photos