



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 28, 2022**

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## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY UNVEILS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BURBINE FOREST DISC GOLF COURSE AHEAD OF TOURNAMENT**

*Disc Golf is One of the Nation's Fastest Growing Sports  
County's Investment Part of Larger Effort to Increase Tourism*

(CHARLESTON, NY) – Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort hadn't heard of disc golf when a local enthusiast of the sport first approached him in late 2019, pitching his vision of building an 18-hole disc golf course through the mature pine and hardwood trees that make up the Thomas H. Burbine Memorial Forest. Now, only a few short years later, the course has become a significant draw for the community, attracting disc golfers from across New York State and beyond.

"Disc golf's popularity has gone through the roof, and Montgomery County is a perfect place to capitalize on the newfound success of the game," said County Executive Ossenfort.

In an effort to support the volunteer-operated course, County Executive Ossenfort joined disc golfers today to cut the ribbon and celebrate nearly \$100,000 in upgrades to the Burbine Forest DGC.

"The Burbine Forest has long been an underutilized resource for our county, and the disc golf course has really turned it into a leading attraction. I hear all the time from people who say the parking is always overflowing, and more and more it's cars from out of state. That's great news for us! We want to create a welcoming atmosphere for disc golfers, so they're encouraged to explore other parts of our county," Ossenfort added. "I'm confident these investments will make the course even more popular."

Following approval by the Montgomery County Legislature, the County signed a contract to construct a larger parking lot and build specially designed restrooms, as well as make additional improvements to the course.

Construction of a parking lot had become a priority because golfers currently park along the side of Corbin Hill Road, which can become congested during popular tournaments. The parking lot was also needed because the course is being utilized year-round, and the current system creates challenges for golfers looking to play Burbine during the winter months when snow blocks the current parking area.

The course's semi-remote setting also made the addition of restroom facilities a priority. The new facilities will utilize specially-designed toilets which don't require additional investment to establish running water at the forest.

“Montgomery County has been extremely supportive of the course since I initially pitched the idea. Improving the parking and adding bathrooms will be big selling points for the course going forward, not only for tournaments but for anyone coming to play. For a course that is primarily maintained by volunteers, support like this is greatly appreciated,” said Mark Hay, the course’s designer and volunteer manager.

The course improvements come just a few weeks before Montgomery County welcomes competitors to “The Blues at Burbine” on October 22, 2022. The tournament is held annually to coincide with the anniversary of the opening of the course. Last year’s tournament attracted amateur and professional disc golfers from across the Capital District and beyond.

Disc golf has seen tremendous growth in just a few short years. According to the popular app UDisc, more than 1.1 million people used the scoring app in 2021, logging more than 17 million rounds - a nearly 50 percent increase over 2020.

The Burbine Forest Disc Golf Course is a two-mile long 18-hole course, which includes an open-water carry hole and other challenging holes. Since opening to competition in October 2020, the course has generated a strong following on both Facebook and UDisc, and received over 290 reviews.

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