

# **City of Columbus Golf Course Information Session**

**July 8, 2020**

## Meeting Process

- Brief Presentation – Mayor Jim Lienhoop and Columbus Parks and Recreation Board Chair Mark Levett
- Q/A – everyone allowed to speak
- Provide your name and address
- Please don't repeat what others have said
- Time limits may be used

## Begin With End in Mind: Our Mission

- Public Golf
- Playable
- Affordable
- Welcoming to All Skill Levels
- Minimal Subsidy Expected

# City Controlled Golf Courses Before 2020

## Greenbelt

- 9 holes
- City managed starting in 2015

## Par 3

- 18 holes
- City managed starting in 2015

**Total = 27 holes**

# City Controlled Golf Courses Beginning January 2020

## Greenbelt

- 9 holes
- City Owned
- City managed starting in 2015

## Par 3

- 18 holes
- City Owned
- City managed starting in 2015

## Otter Creek

- 27 holes
- City Owned
- Cummins managed through 2019 and City managed starting 2020

**Total = 54 holes**

# City Course Golf Supply and Demand

## Rounds That Could Be Played on City Courses in 2019

54 holes = 236,000 rounds, max

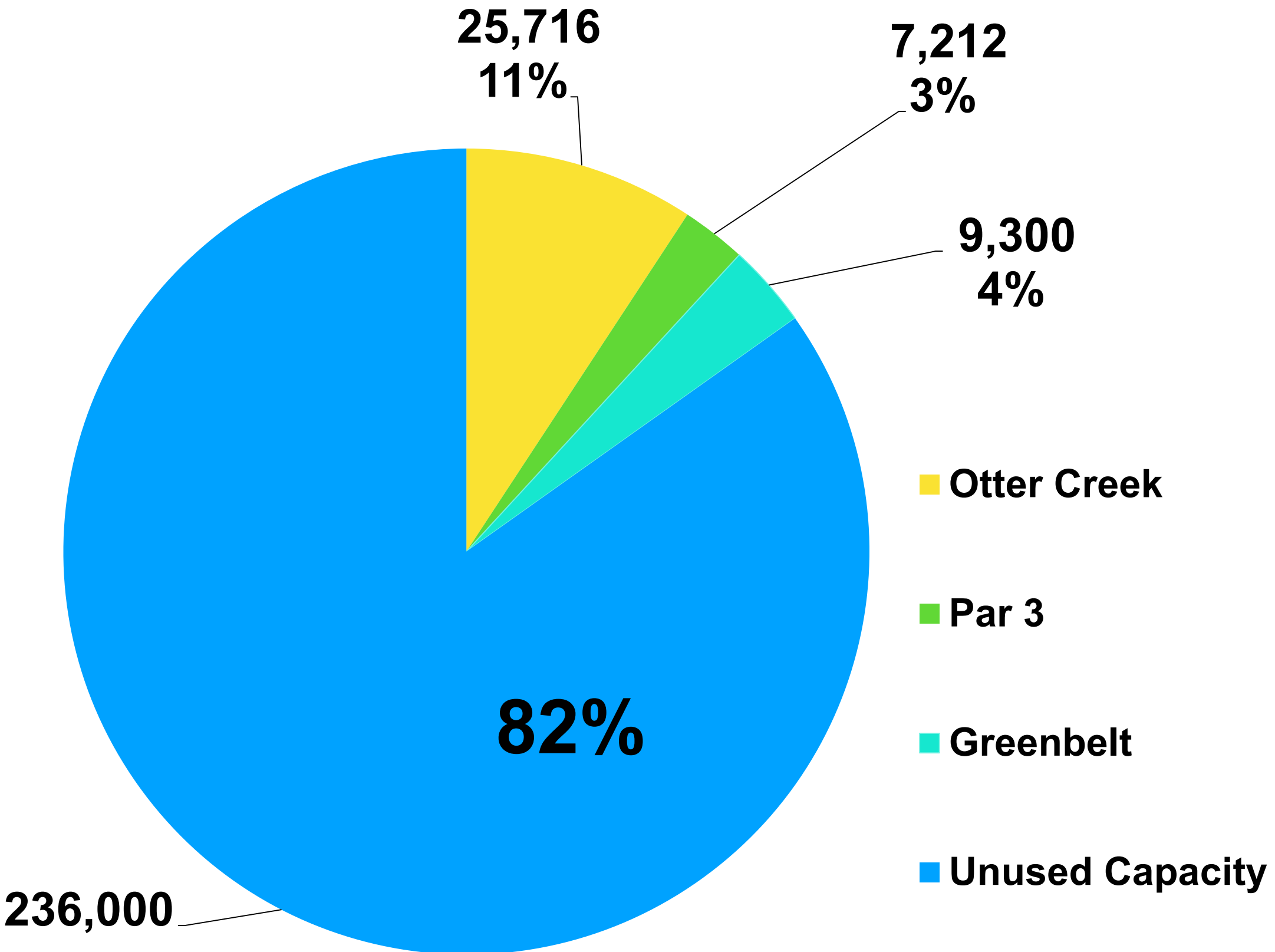
54 holes = 136,000 rounds, prime time

## Rounds That Were Actually Played in 2019

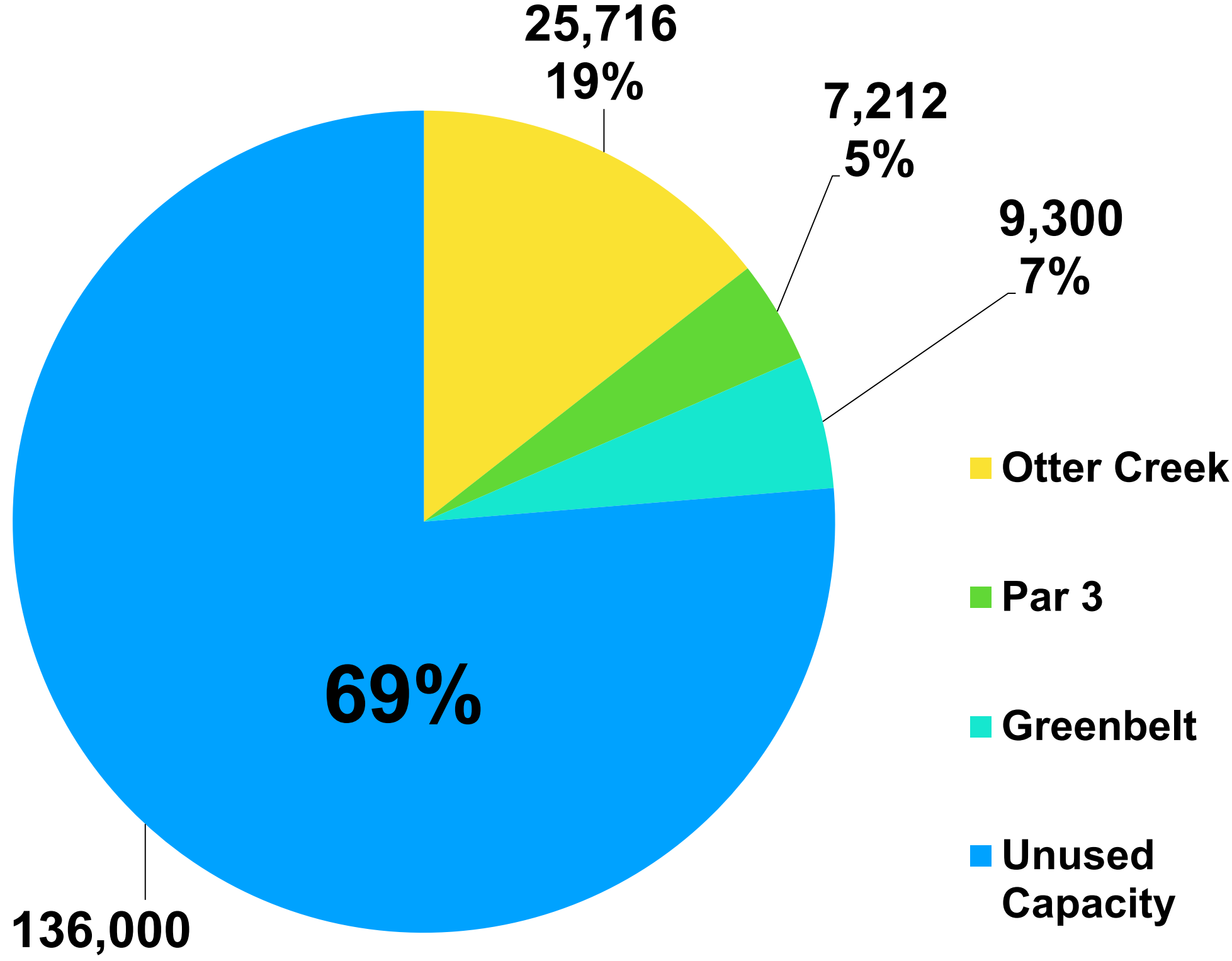
Greenbelt	9,300
Par 3	7,212
Otter Creek	<u>25,716</u>
Total	42,228

# City Course Golf Supply and Demand

### Maximum Rounds of Golf Available at Columbus Courses Verses 2019 Rounds Played



### Prime Time Rounds Available at Columbus Courses Verses 2019 Rounds Played



## 2020 – Newly Appointed Otter Creek Board

- John McCormick – President
- Rich Gold
- Tom Harmon
- Dave McKinney
- Karen Niverson
- Mark Jones



### 18 Hole Rounds Played

- 2017: 22,168
- 2018: 22,856
- 2019: 25,716
- 2020 thru June: 8,982
- 2020 Year End Forecast: 25,700

## 2020 – Otter Creek Financial Results

### Revenue:

- 2017: \$1,304,242
- 2018: \$1,240,815
- 2019: \$1,377,105
- 2020 thru June: \$456,504
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$1,215,147

## 2020 – Otter Creek Financial Results

### Expenses:

- 2017: \$1,256,561
- 2018: \$1,622,546
- 2019: \$1,700,041
- 2020 thru June: \$642,941
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$1,256,083

## 2020 – Otter Creek Financial Results

### Operating Income or (Loss):

- 2017: \$ 29,362
- 2018: \$(407,487)
- 2019: \$(370,348)
- 2020 thru June: \$(166,948) \*
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$(40,936)

\* June 2020 results \$235k ahead of 2019

## Otter Creek – Summary and YTD Results

- Significant Improvement over 2019
- Major Expense Reductions
- Did Not Sacrifice Quality – getting back to best in class course conditions
- Prior Years' Results included Course Repairs and Improvements

## Greenbelt Operations

- City Resumed Control in 2015
- Course/Equipment in Poor Condition
- Capital Investment of \$525k
- Improved Quality of Play
- Many Compliments for Course and Staff

## Greenbelt Operations

### 18 Hole Rounds Played:

- 2017: 10,487
- 2018: 9,812
- 2019: 9,300
- 2020 thru June: 3,725\*
- 2020 Year End Forecast: 9,000

\*Upon reviewing each transaction for every round entered January through June, Parks Department found an error. In our attempt to improve a process that would reduce user error in reporting of rounds, for a short stint, rounds were being entered as holes which increased the quantity reported. The above total reflects a complete analysis of every transaction through June and is accurate/adjusted. Previous "2020 thru June" was 5,629. Corrected July 9, 2020.

## Greenbelt Financial Results

### Revenue:

- 2017: \$323,181
- 2018: \$305,660
- 2019: \$293,035
- 2020 thru June: \$101,881
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$281,214



# Greenbelt Financial Results

## Expenses:

- 2017: \$383,378
- 2018: \$420,531
- 2019: \$429,209
- 2020 thru June: \$207,459
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$400,674

## Greenbelt Financial Results

### Operating Income or (Loss):

- 2017: \$(60,197)
- 2018: \$(114,871)
- 2019: \$(136,174)
- 2020 thru June: \$(105,578 )
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$(120,011)

### Capital Expenses/Investment:

- 2017: \$ 0
- 2018: \$ 70,841
- 2019: \$ 10,446

## Par 3 Summary

### 18 hole Rounds

- 2017: 7,408
- 2018: 6,781
- 2019: 7,212
- 2020 thru June: 2,107
- 2020 Year End Forecast: 6,250

### Operating Income or (Loss):

- 2017: \$(36,536)
- 2018: \$(24,804)
- 2019: \$(34,014)
- 2020 thru June: \$(10,351)
- 2020 Year End Forecast: \$(28,322)

## What to Do? Decisions to be Made

- ❑ Close all of Otter? Close East 9?
- ❑ Close Greenbelt?
- ❑ Close Par 3?
- ❑ Keep all Courses?

## Golf Course Analysis

- [Report on Golf in Columbus](#) (“Columbus Golf Course Report – 2020”)
- Located on the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department’s website: [Info & Documents → Projects & Planning](#)

## Golf Course Analysis Scenarios

Golf Report Offered Five Scenarios:

A: ~~Greenbelt~~, Par 3, North, West, East

B: ~~Greenbelt~~, ~~Par 3~~, North, West, East

C: Greenbelt, Par 3, ~~North~~, ~~West~~, ~~East~~

D: Greenbelt, Par 3, North, West, ~~East~~

E: ~~Greenbelt~~, Par 3, North, West, ~~East~~

## We Recommend Scenario A

- Close Greenbelt
- Keep Otter Creek – North, West, and rework some features of East to improve playability
- Keep Par 3

**Best Long-Term Answer for Mission:  
Public Golf, Playable, Affordable, All Skill Levels**



## Why Scenario A?

- Passholder transfers from Greenbelt to East 9 are estimated to be reasonably high
- Rates and playability are the close to the same or better
- Keeps the East 9 and large practice areas which are important for high school golf
- Keeps Par 3 which is important for Junior Golf such as First Tee of Columbus, Junior High Teams, etc.

## Why Scenario A?

- Allows Columbus to offer affordable golf at Par 3 and Otter Creek East, plus a high-caliber course at Otter Creek North and West
- Reduces expenses by not duplicating resources at Greenbelt and Otter Creek. Minimizes the City's golf subsidy
- Best option to maintain and grow golf in our community

# East 9 Rates Will Remain Affordable

## East Nine Will Remain Affordable for Bartholomew County Residents

	9 holes Walking Weekend Rate	9 holes With A Cart Weekend Rate
Greenbelt	\$13.00	\$20.00
Otter Creek – East	\$17.50	\$17.50

## East 9 to Continue to Offer Multiple Tees

East Nine Will Continue to Offer Multiple Tees  
for All Skill Levels

Yardage is Already Comparable

	Forward Tees	Back Tees / Blue Tees
Greenbelt	2,435 yards	3,112 yards
Otter Creek – East	2,539 yards	3,140 yards

## East 9 to Change – Improve Playability

### East Nine Will Change Some Features to be More Playable

- Shorter rough
- Fewer Sand Traps
- New Tee Boxes in some areas
- Players Advisory Committee

## Greenbelt Membership and Staff Will Transfer If Approved

- Current Greenbelt Memberships will transfer to East 9 Membership if decision is made to close Greenbelt
- Keith VanDeventer has agreed to transfer to Otter Creek as Director of Golf Operations if Greenbelt is closed

## Future Meetings

- July 9 Columbus Parks Board – Discussion Only, No Action
- July 21 Columbus City Council – Discussion and Resolution
- Aug. 3 Columbus Parks Board – Discussion and Resolution

## Myth Busters

1.) Why are we looking at golf specifically when other parks department offerings also require a subsidy?

*A: We are prepared to provide financial assistance to golf and do so for places like Hamilton Ice Center and Donner Pool. However, we want to balance our subsidies across all offerings, and not concentrate in one area.*

2.) Can you confirm the hospital will not buy the property if Greenbelt Closes?

*A: Yes, I can confirm the hospital is not interested in the property.*



## Myth Busters

### 3.) Can we take some of the the Riverfront funding and apply it to Greenbelt?

*A: No. First, we don't use one project to justify another – each project has to stand on its own. Second, there are legal restrictions on how we can spend Redevelopment money which is what is being used for the Riverfront Project. The money being invested in the Riverfront cannot be used to fund Greenbelt. And lastly, the Riverfront Project is important because it addresses issues we must fix soon such as making sure a landfill is not uncovered, ensuring a sewer pipe is not exposed, and fixing a low head dam that is both unattractive and dangerous.*

## Myth Busters

4.) What will happen to the property if Greenbelt closes?

*A: The City plans to retain the property mainly as greenspace since most of it cannot be developed. This will be part of the parks master plan.*

5.) Otter Creek is too far out in the country and too expensive.

*A: We have talked about the pricing already and from the Greenbelt to Otter Creek the drive is an 8 minute drive per Google Maps.*

6.) Is a buying group an option to takeover Green Belt?

*A: When our prior operator left in 2015 there was no interest in running the course which is how the city ended up managing it. That was an indicator that this was not a marketable property for a golf course.*

# Questions or Comments From The Audience

For inquiries, comments, and questions:

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**123 Washington St.**  
**Columbus, Indiana 47201**  
**812-376-2500**