



PDGA MARCO POLO PROGRAM PROJECT REPORT - BRAZIL

Brazil is officially in the Disc Golf Map. We started Disc Golf Brasil Project with the intent to grow the sport in the country, when we realized the lack of knowledge about the sport not only in Brazil but most South America.

We were fortunate to connect with a group of like minded people interested in the sport and willing to work with us to find an area to install the first course in Brazil. After a few months of research, we found Colinas do Piracicaba, which has a great, large park with ponds and natural vegetation.

In January we started the paperwork to apply for the Marco Polo Grant Program. After gathering all documents and licenses, we were approved for the US\$3,000.00 grant from PDGA. The money allowed us to build all eighteen galvanized baskets with chains, following standard PDGA regulations to be able to host sanctioned tournaments. Volunteers helped with installation and signage.

The course is located in Piracicaba, in the state of Sao Paulo. It has natural fairways and two beautiful ponds with ducks and geese. The course was meticulously designed by Adriano Medola and Rodrigo Issa, after studying the terrain for six months, and testing dozens of layouts.

We organized the inauguration for June 3-4, 2017, the city of piracicaba was kind enough to helped cleaning all the park, clearing bushes and embellishing it for our grand opening. For the event, we invited locals, frisbee enthusiasts, members of the Brazilian Ultimate Federation that were also heavily present, players from various countries like Canada, Australia, Argentina, Colombia and Germany were represented at the event.

On the Saturday morning, we had the official opening ceremony, which included clinics, game demonstration, and safety orientation. After lunch, we had Doubles Best-Shot round, follow by awards ceremony and barbeque for the players.

On June 4th, we hosted the first PDGA tournament in South America sponsored by Innova Discs, who donated discs to the project. It was played two rounds of eighteen holes. The Colinas Open 2017 (<https://www.pdga.com/tour/event/32369>) had almost 40 players and three divisions. The event was held close to winter, still the heat (almost 100 °F) was intense and 2 players DNF'd. A crowd full of curious eyes witnessed a great celebration of the newest sport in town, Disc Golf. Happy faces and fireworks closed the event.

Now, the new Piracicaba Club is having weekly rounds, maintaining the course and working with the Ultimate Federation in Brazil to host more events in 2018. Two amateur courses already built, one in Urubici/SC and the second in Ibiuna/SP, the sport is steadily gaining force in Brazil, and with open arms, we invite the world to meet the newest south-american wonder!

Adriano Reche Medola
President of Disc Golf Brasil
www.discgolfbrasil.org



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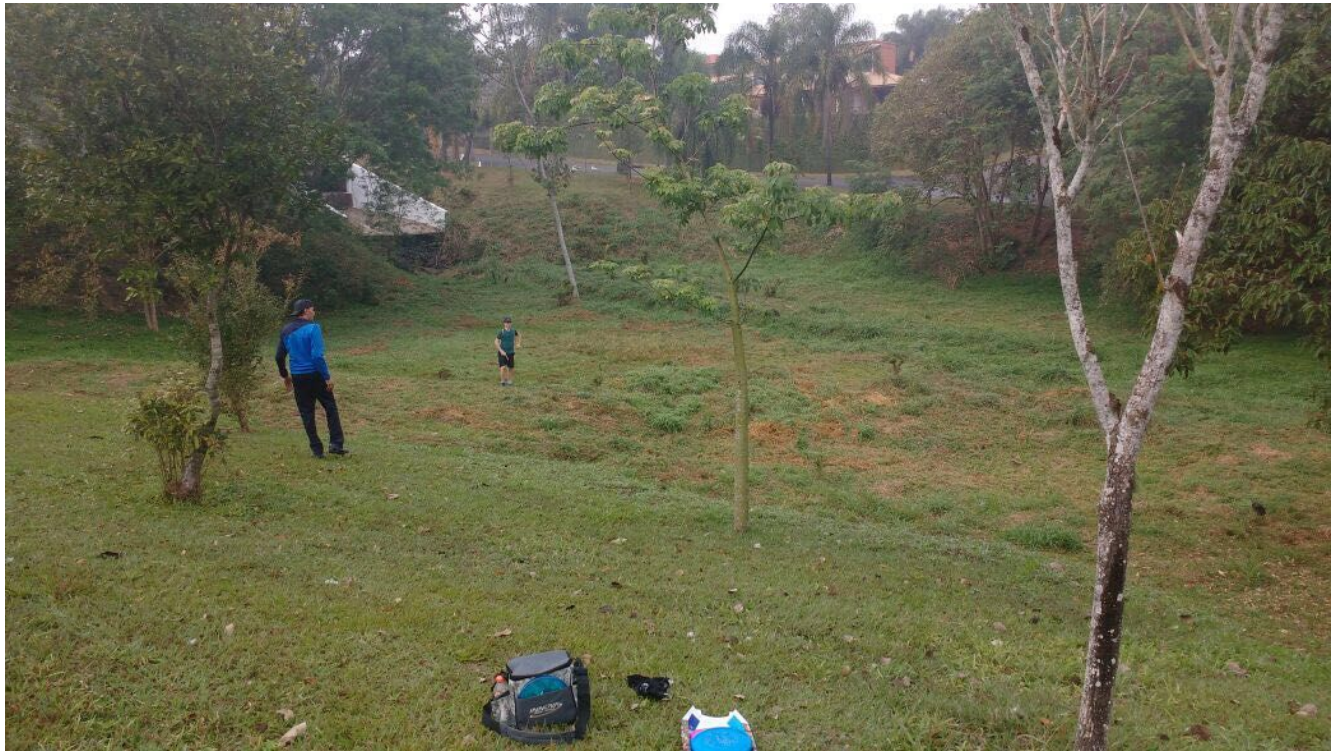


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