

April 2, 2019

**New Lithia Park Horseshoe Pit Structure**

Good evening,

My name is Bruno Marcotulli. I am a resident of Ashland. I'm here because I believe the newly reconstructed horseshoe pit area in Lithia Park is dangerous, and should be rebuilt to its original dimensions, or eliminated altogether.

(PLEASE SEE **EXHIBIT A**)

I believe there is now a very real danger of someone, particularly someone older, being injured while swinging a heavy horseshoe some 24 feet. Such effort requires balance, and such balance requires the room to twist, move & heave. The problem is that the backstop is now too close to the stake, as are the two sides of this new boxed area. This confined space makes it very easy to imagine someone falling backward over the backboard, or tripping over the 4 inch high side-borders, and impaling themselves on the stake.

**Mr. Oxendine, Superintendent of Parks, addressed my concerns by writing:**

(PLEASE SEE **EXHIBIT B**)

"Horseshoe pits vary widely in dimensions and features as you can see in the attached photos. The Eagle Scout working on this project made measurements and built the pits to acceptable standards with the materials they had available. It is important to exercise caution when playing horseshoes in general due to the nature of the game and it seems reasonably safe the way it is set up."

**My final response to Mr. Oxendine:**

"The pictures you attached (with courts that have NO borders) would be far more preferable, and prudent, than the one rebuilt by the Eagle Scout, with available materials. To hope everyone exercises caution when playing on this court is lovely, but believe me, the old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" will be one you may regret disregarding in the event one of the many senior citizens in this retirement haven seriously injures themselves, or worse, due to the now diminished dimensions of this horseshoe pit structure. God forbid "reasonably safe" turns out not to be safe enough."

\* I have submitted a diagram of an appropriately sized horseshoe pit area.

(PLEASE SEE **EXHIBIT C**)

The new **Lithia Park horseshoe pit structure's** dimensions are **two feet shorter from side to side**, and **two feet shorter from backboard to stake**, than those shown in the submitted diagram.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THESE CONCERNS PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD. IT IS MY HOPE THAT A VERY SIMPLE MODIFICATION CAN BE MADE TO THE NEW HORSESHOE PIT STRUCTURE IN LITHIA PARK SO THAT NO ONE WILL EVER BE INJURED, OR WORSE.

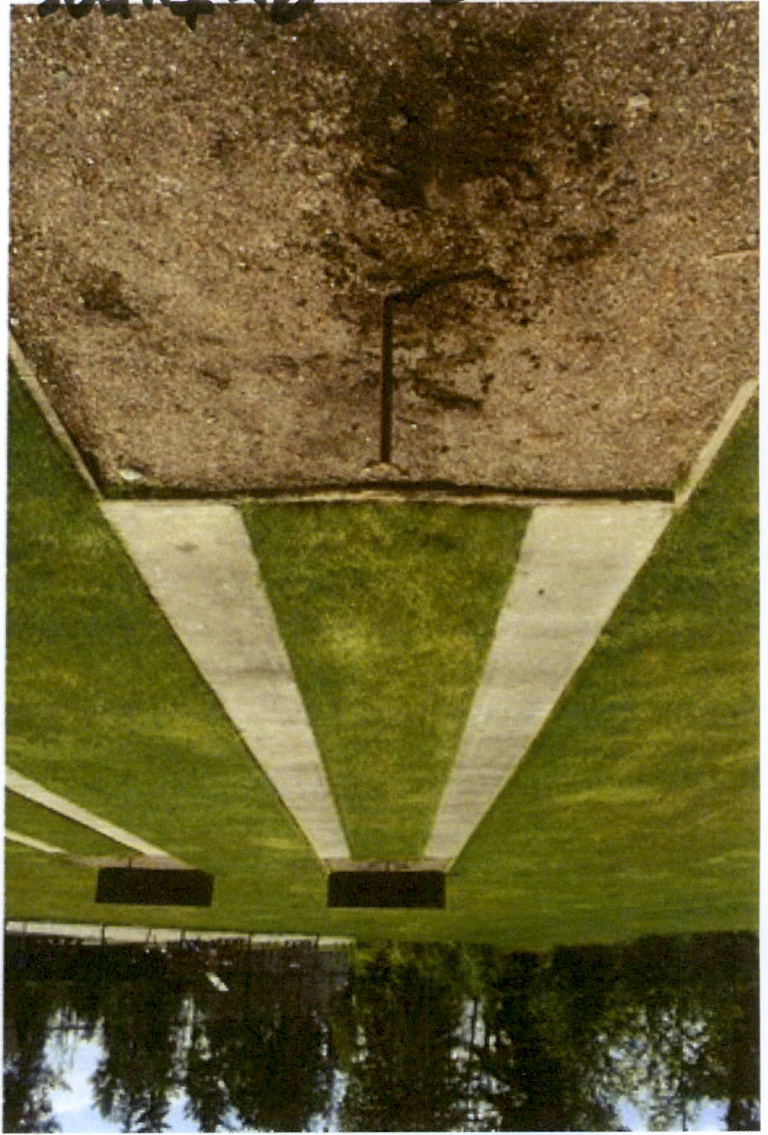


EXHIBIT A

pictures of Lithia Park's  
new horseshoe area

Exhibit B

Pictures sent to me by Mr. Oxendine illustrating other pit areas he feels are acceptable



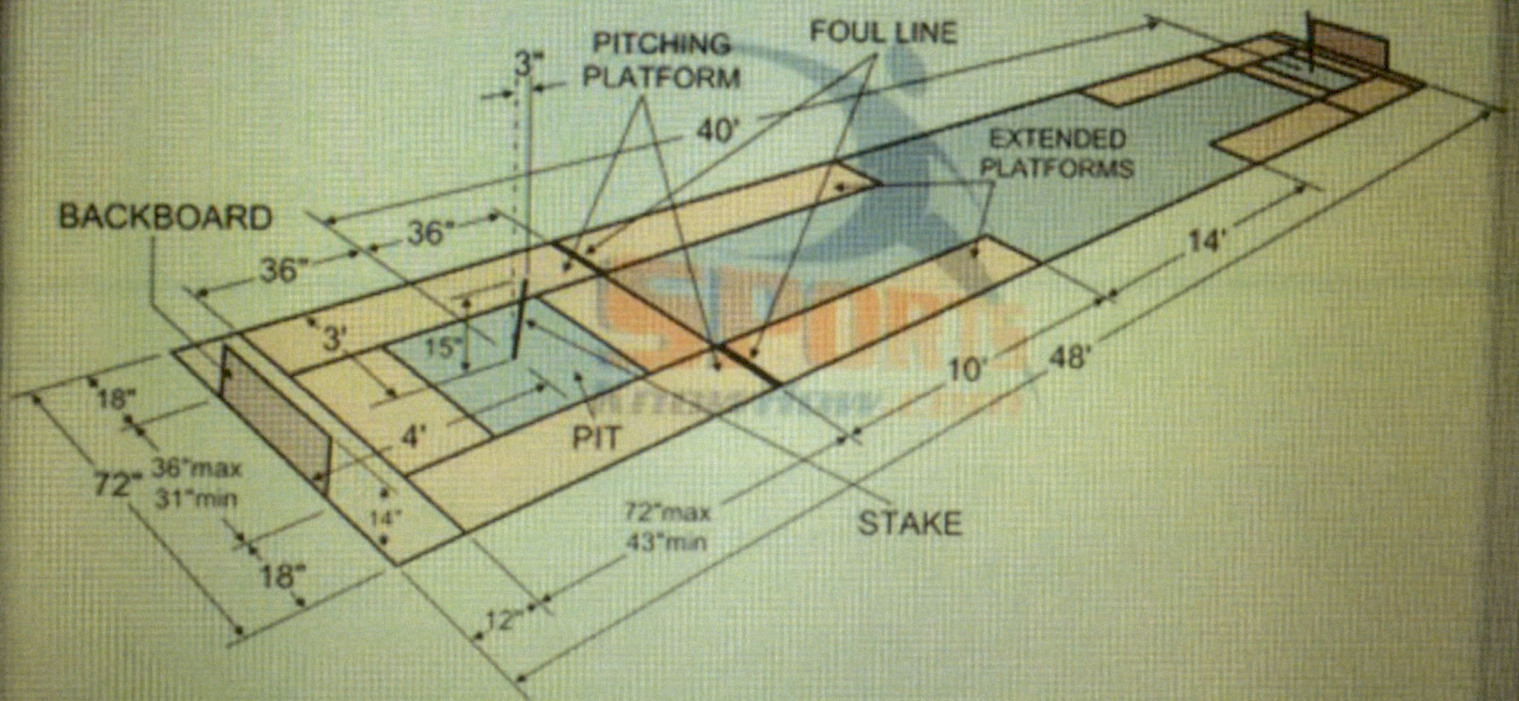


EXHIBIT C

Appropriately sized horseshoe pit  
area