

Nine Springs Health Impact Assessment

A health analysis of the Fitchburg Nine Springs Master Park plan and current Nine Springs golf course options.



Childhood
Obesity Prevention
Collaborative

 **Public Health**
MADISON & DANE COUNTY
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Links to the complete health impact assessment: www.publichealthmdc.com/publications
www.copcdane.org

Several Key Findings

- Area ranked #1 for childhood obesity when compared to the rest of Fitchburg.
- Limited physical activity opportunities due to perceived insufficient green space, as well as language and transportation barriers to other green space.
- Crime is low and has been on the decline in this area and within the City of Fitchburg over the past four years. In particular, violent crime and drug crime has been very low.
- Golf course users see the course as welcoming, compared to some area residents/ stakeholders who find it unwelcoming.
- Return on potential health benefits due to increased opportunities for physical activity estimated at *three million dollars* per year.

Several Key Recommendations

Overarching

- Create an inclusive process of broad community engagement for decision making in Fitchburg and offer Spanish translation of city meetings and all city communications.

If golf course is maintained

- Provide free or low-cost physical activity and community programming on the course and at other locations.
- Build small playgrounds nearby.
- Form a local resident board to improve communication with the golf course and increase usage by area residents.

If park is built

- Provide free or low-cost physical activity and community programming in the park.
- Follow Crime Prevention through Environmental Design recommendations.
- Build a community garden to promote social cohesion, safety, and physical activity.



“We play soccer here sometimes. I like playing soccer on the grass better. This is hard... we sometimes ride bikes but we have to be careful of the cars... (Jesus’) sister almost got hit by a car in this parking lot. She was riding her bike and didn’t know how to stop it. It didn’t hurt her but touched her. It was scary.”

-Christian, Youth Participatory Photo Mapping, 2013

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