

Concept Document

Parole in One

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High-Concept Statement

In a world where golf is illegal, one superstar golfer has to live out their minigolf dream behind bars. Armed with only a trusty putter, outwit guards, sink contraband golf balls, and cause the greatest prison break of the century!

Gameplay sketch

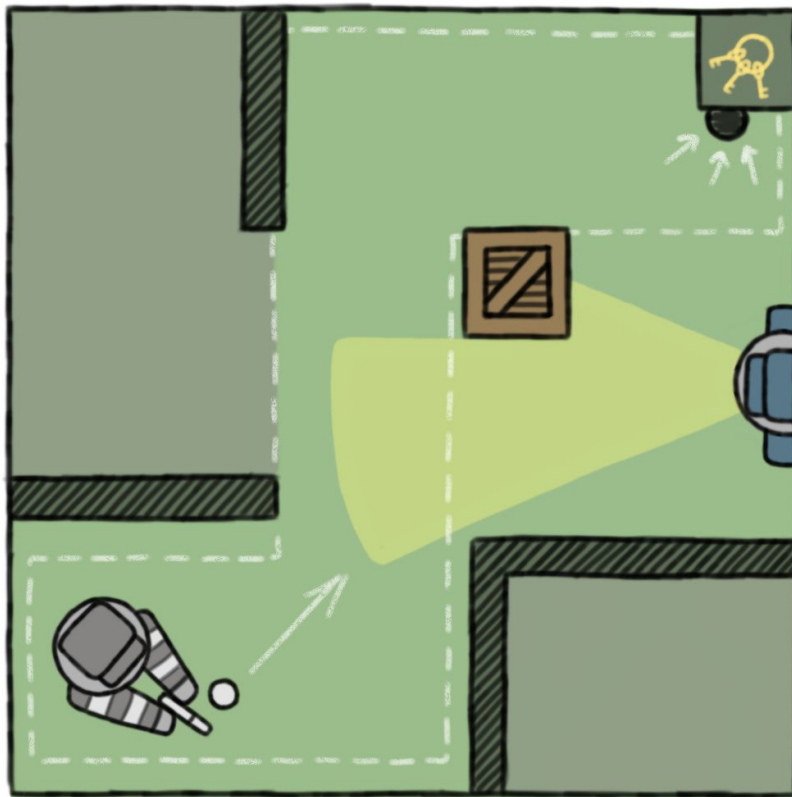


Figure 1. Gameplay Sketch. This sketch illustrates what an easy difficulty level of *Parole in One* might look like. The player is tasked with hitting the ball into a hole on the other side of the level while avoiding detection by the guard.

Features

- Hit golf balls towards the goal
- Whack obstacles with your club to clear a path to the goal
- Time actions to evade watching guards

Design Goals

Audience

Our target audience for this game is the teen/young adult gamer with an affinity for puzzle solving and an appreciation of golf-based puns. Our game is meant to be interpreted humorously -- we're not setting out to make a sim game, after all -- and we hope to attract the attention of the type of players that, upon seeing that a game simultaneously about mini golf and stealth exists, would be immediately intrigued by such a surprising combination.

Strategy

A staple feature of a good mini-golf course is a contraption where exciting events unfold due to the player's actions, whether it be the ball spinning a windmill, shooting through a series of tubes, or rolling down a slope to jump over a water feature. We hope to design our levels to evoke serendipity within the player: perhaps one of their shots causes a chain reaction of tipped over objects that eventually knocks out the guards? In games like this, the player's strategy should have the utmost importance -- however, we think that some fun set pieces (when used correctly) would only increase the enjoyability of the experience.

Emotions

Boiling it down to basic emotions, we want players to feel delighted when their plans succeed in getting them through a level, suspense when evading security in tight

situations, and amusement in discovering the humorous lore that explains the creation of a world where golf is illegal.

Market Segment

Genre

This game is a puzzle-sports game, with the focus on solving puzzles with minigolf skills. *Parole in One* is a 5-minute game, where players can sit down, play a few levels, and leave.

Platform

Our game should be played on a desktop or laptop supporting Windows or macOS. The controls will involve the use of both mouse and keyboard.

Competition

Wonderputt

In Wonderputt, players play a round of minigolf with an adventure twist. Holes have air vents, water, lily pads, and a variety of different features, making the game an adventure through worlds. Our game is similar in that there is a large emphasis on the environment, not just the golfing itself. Players need to interact well with the environment to solve puzzles. Our game takes this aspect further, and instead of just using the environment to help get the ball to the hole, our game requires manipulation and timing of the environment to even have any chance at solving the challenges.

StealthBound

In StealthBound, players control a prisoner who advances to the next level by sneaking past guards and rearranging obstacles. Though our game also involves a stealthy prison escape, ours is unique in that it features golfing as a mechanic. In our game, the player will need to not only time their movements to evade detection, but also use the skills of an expert golfer to manipulate the environment. As a blend of both stealth and golfing gameplay, our game stands out in comparison to a pure stealth game like StealthBound.

The Classroom 3

In The Classroom 3, players control a student who sneakily cheats on tests by standing beside a specific student's table while avoiding the teacher's field of vision to make progress on test completion. Our game differs by having objects in the environment that can be interacted to open up paths or change guard behavior. Using different objects, our game can have much more interesting level designs compared to a game like The Classroom 3.

Wonder Wickets

in Wonder Wickets, among its many game modes, players play mini-golf in a turn-based puzzle. On the map are many breakable obstacles and transportation systems as well as opponents. Our game differs from the game by having the stealth theme overall in contrast to the vibrant, arbitrary feeling. In addition, in Wonder Wickets the main goal is to score as high as possible instead of getting to destination with minimal risk. Hence, focusing on the stealth elements will give our game a strong advantage.

Unique Selling Points

Stealth Golfing

While minigolf and stealth are both established genres, our game combines elements from both. This allows more interesting level designs where the golf ball can reach areas not normally accessible. Different level sections will also challenge the player to master their golfing skills and timing or their planning and puzzle solving abilities.

Interactive Environment

With the golf ball or the golf club, players can interact with various objects or enemies in the levels to alter enemy behavior or open new paths. Some changes are permanent, such as knocking boxes out of the way, while others will revert to an original state after a period of time, such as disabling a camera for a short time by hitting its power supply.

Whimsical Fun

Escaping from prison is not typically associated with light-heartedness. However, in *Parole in One*, players will find amusement in the lore and interactions with the

environment. The tension and stress that comes with stealth games are defused by the game's atmosphere. Even when players make mistakes, they will feel amusement rather than the dread that comes from having to redo the level and waiting for patrol cycles.