



DATE: December 6, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 4

**TO:** Senior Commission  
**FROM:** Jaime Chew, Recreation Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Outdoor Pickleball Courts

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive informational report and provide feedback for consideration by City staff

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**BACKGROUND**

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. It is a hybrid of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. A pickleball court measures 44' x 20' which is roughly half the size of a regulation tennis court at 78' x 36'. Generally, two pickleball courts can fit in the area of one tennis court. Like tennis, a game of pickleball can be played by singles (2 players) or doubles (4 players).

In 2016, Interim Recreation Coordinator Cheri Anderson introduced the sport of pickleball to the Adult 50+ Program. The introduction began with a few drop-in clinics in the Hillview Multipurpose Room which was able to support one temporary indoor court. Over the next few months, interest grew to warrant the expansion to a second temporary indoor court which was offered in the Los Altos Youth Center (LAYC). Scheduled drop-in program hours for both courts were scheduled on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm.

Interest continued to grow, with community members requesting evening drop-in opportunities. To meet the demand, evening drop-in hours were offered at the Egan Middle School City Gym on Wednesdays from 6 to 8pm. The Egan Gym supports four temporary indoor courts.

Over the next several years, indoor drop-in pickleball program opportunities fluctuated with daytime and evening drop-in hours. During that time, Recreation staff worked closely with the United States Pickleball Association and offered pickleball classes.

During the pandemic, indoor pickleball was not offered. In-person, indoor programming began in September 2021. Starting in January Recreation will reconstitute the indoor drop-in pickleball program hosted at Egan Gym. Program hours are planned for Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8pm.

In September 2021, a small group, representing 75+ Los Altos residents reached out to the City of Los Altos offered to work with the City to create outdoor pickleball facilities. The group are members of the Palo Alto Pickleball Club that play at the Mitchell Community Center in Palo Alto. After a site visit to Palo Alto and several meetings with the Los Altos Pickleball Group, Recreation and Maintenance staff are proposing to utilize existing Los Altos tennis courts for flexible and shared use for pickleball.

**DISCUSSION**

Based on community comments and feedback, there is a strong interest for both indoor and outdoor pickleball opportunities in Los Altos. This includes facilities to accommodate the experienced players as well as new players. To fulfill this community interest and need, City staff is recommending a phased approach which is outlined below.

The City of Los Altos does not have any outdoor temporary or permanent pickleball facilities. In Phase 1, City staff is recommending to create flexible use by overlaying new pickleball stripes over several existing tennis court stripes.

Park	Current Tennis Courts	Tennis Courts shared/striped for Pickleball	Pickleball Courts	Untouched Tennis Courts
Marymeade	3	1	2	2
McKenzie	2	2	4	0
Montclair	2	0	0	2
Rosita	3	2	4	1

Overlaying pickleball stripes will result in four times the number of pickleball players per court than the number of tennis court players. Therefore, consideration was given to parks that have adequate parking. As a result, City staff is not recommending to overlay Montclair Park.

Phase 1 will allow for immediate access to outdoor pickleball facilities for relatively minimal costs. City staff is currently researching vendors and pricing, in addition to best practices for shared court use, rules and regulations. The anticipated timeline for Phase 1 implementation is Spring 2022. Once Phase 1 has been implemented, City staff will observe interest, attendance and other impacts. Should both increase to justify dedicated facilities, City staff will propose a second phase that includes a full tennis-to-pickleball court conversion project to be considered during the next Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget cycle. The anticipated timeline for Phase 2 would be based on interest, attendance, impacts, funding, and priority.

Staff will seek input from both the Senior and Parks and Recreation Commissions regarding the proposed Outdoor Pickleball Court Project. Comments and feedback

received from the Commissions and community will be taken under consideration by City staff as they proceed in the planning process.

It is recommended that the Senior Commission receive the report and provide feedback for consideration by staff.