



Washoe County

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

STAFF REPORT

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING DATE: October 6, 2015

DATE: September 30, 2015

TO: Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Budge, CPRP, Park Operations Superintendent
Community Services Department, 328.2181, jbudge@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
Community Services Department, 328.2182, ecrump@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Evaluation and possible recommendation of hard court configuration at Hidden Valley Regional Park to consider tennis and pickle ball user groups.

SUMMARY

Thanks to the generous support from the William N. Pennington Foundation, nine sport courts throughout the County's park system will be resurfaced and restriped, including the courts at Hidden Valley Regional Park. This item will consider the future configuration of the Hidden Valley courts in an effort to accommodate both tennis and pickle ball users.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

Historically, this location was striped for two tennis courts. Throughout the past 5 years, there has been a growing demand for pickle ball with numerous requests to the County to support this growing sport. Recognizing an opportunity to accommodate additional use at Hidden Valley, these courts were re-striped in the fall of 2013 for both sports, after seeking public input. Currently the facility contains dual striping (2 tennis courts, 4 pickle ball courts), accommodating both pickle ball and tennis users. Since the restriping, pickle ball use, especially from the Truckee Meadows Pickle Ball Club has grown significantly. There are currently no dedicated pickle ball courts in the Truckee Meadows, but there are over 80 tennis courts available free to the public throughout the region.

Thanks to the generous support from the William N. Pennington Foundation, nine sport courts throughout the County's park system will be resurfaced and restriped, including the courts at

Hidden Valley Regional Park. Once the grant funding was established, staff wanted to re-confirm the priorities for this facility and posted a notice about potential restriping in July of 2015. Staff received comments from 27 individuals, 7 of which were tennis players and the remaining all pickle ball players by August 15, 2015. Comments received are attached to the staff report. The general feedback from the public comments were that the dual striping was confusing for tennis users, there were conflicts amongst tennis and pickle ball users, rules signs need to be posted, and there was a desire/need for dedicated pickle ball courts. Based on this feedback, staff is recommending a combination of 4 dedicated pickle ball courts and one dedicated tennis court. This configuration will not only accommodate both user groups, but should reduce user conflicts. Staff also intends on posting rules signs and a sign up board consistent with the one at Washoe Tennis Center, to address wait limits and order of play.

RECOMMENDATION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Staff recommends that the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission recommend the 5-court configuration as provided with the staff report, accommodating four dedicated pickle ball courts and one 3 dedicated tennis court. Should the Commission agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

"Move to recommend the 5-court configuration with four dedicated pickle ball courts and one dedicated tennis court."

HIDDEN VALLEY COURT RESURFACING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Name	Area of interest	Comments
Chauncey Fairchild	Tennis	Keep status quo. Do not remove both tennis courts.
Ray Streit	Tennis	Current double striping is confusing. Do not remove either tennis court.
Jessica Rosemark	Tennis	Requested an update on project would like at least one tennis court to remain.
Vu Nguyen	Tennis	See email. Phone call on 9.10, supportive of dual striping on both courts, no perm. Pickleball.
Richard Creamer	Pickleball	See email
Bill Pinto	Tennis	Does not want any tennis courts to be removed.
Tim Maland	Tennis/Pickleball	See email
Alan Clark	Pickleball	See email
Sam Updike	Pickleball	See email
Ryan and Michelle Goodwin	Pickleball	See email
Lynn Straddin	Pickleball	See email
Carol Amos	Pickleball	See email
Wanda Brimmer	Pickleball	See email
Tammy Burke	Pickleball	See email
Maria Muzea	Pickleball	See email
John and Jean Sproehnle	Pickleball	See email
Bob Kryger	Pickleball	See email
Richard and Kathleen Lewis	Pickleball	See emails
Ruby Paley	Pickleball	See email
Denise Johnson	Pickleball	See email
Mark Nelson	Pickleball	See email
Robert DeLong	Pickleball	See email
Lyle Mason	Pickleball	See email
Wade Johnson	Pickleball	See email
Nick and Vicki Sharp	Pickleball	See email
Marge Frandsen		
Albert Lewis	Tennis/Pickleball	See email

Budge, Jennifer

From: Vu Nguyen <vu@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley Park: TENNIS COURTS

Importance: High

Hello Jennifer,

I saw the notice posted on the Hidden Valley Tennis Courts regarding the courts renovation along with proposal to paint picketball lines to a different color. I reside in Hidden Valley and am an avid tennis player on these courts. While I was dismayed at first to see picketball lines on the courts last year, I do understand that it's a growing sport and tennis courts may be the best option for multipurpose use. That said, I am OK with the picketball lines being painted a different color to differentiate from the tennis court lines. The picketball lines constantly confuse line calls during which leads to interrupted play. Is there any color you can choose to differentiate while not distracing from the overall look of the tennis courts?

I want to note that I see many tennis players using the HV courts including my friends that I play with. Until recently we haven't had any conflicts with picketballers but I expect there may be disputes in the future. There was an incident where we encountered picketballers occupying TWO picketball courts -- one on EACH OF THE TENNIS COURTS. They could've easily played on one side of the tennis courts but chose to occupy both tennis courts. What a waste! When asked nicely if they could move to the other side so that we could take one tennis court to practice, they put up a fuss. Luckily cooler heads prevailed but it's an incident that I see could repeat itself. I don't mind sharing tennis courts with picketballers as long as they respect rules of conduct (and not damage the nets while they all parked inside the courts with their lawnchairs). I do have to **insist that the county put up a permanent sign for RULES OF THE COURT**. I looked everywhere and have never seen and signage at these courts. I also play (and am a Reno Tennis Club member) at Washoe Tennis Center and there are Washoe County signage posted there! The signage should include a time limit for play; I also feel strongly that rules should govern that ***two picketball courts occupy one tennis court first*** before occupying the second tennis court. This not only fair for tennis players, it's also efficient. If there are no signage, I suspect there will be heated confrontations in the future.

I hope my opinion matters as a residence of Washoe County and an tennis player. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Vu Nguyen
vu@outlook.com

Budge, Jennifer

From: Richard C <richardc37@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball

To whom, I am a pickleball player who lives in the west side of Reno but I play at Hidden Valley tennis courts. We need improvements to these courts as we have many players.
Thanks

Richard Creamer

Budge, Jennifer

From: Tim Maland <timmaland@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Cc: wadejohnson73@gmail.com
Subject: Pickleball

Jennifer,

I am an avid tennis player and a member of the USTA. I am also a pickleball player and a member of the USAPA.

I support all efforts to provide the pickleball players of Washoe County with courts, including allowing for both tennis and pickleball to be played on common courts. I encourage you to create pickleball courts at Hidden Valley Regional Park where I enjoy playing pickleball.

Best regards,

Tim Maland

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Budge, Jennifer

From: ziffle88 <ziffle88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley pickleball courts

Ms Budge

I would like you to know how much I enjoy playing pickleball at Hidden Valley park. I play there 3 or 4 times a week. I hope you approve adding more pickleball courts. We always have a good turnout and could use more courts. Pickleball is very popular and we get new players all the time.

Thank you,
Alan Clark

Budge, Jennifer

From: S U <archs1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2015 8:53 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball

Jennifer,

I saw the sign on the Hidden Valley tennis/Pickleball courts and want to let you know that I play Pickleball at that location a couple days a week. It would be nice if we could get more courts at Hidden Valley and if at all possible they could become permanent .

Thank you,
Sam Updike

Sent from my iPhone

Budge, Jennifer

From: Ryan Goodwin <rmgpickleball@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball

Mrs/Ms. Jennifer Budge:

I wanted to email you and thank you and your organization for taking the time to consider the addition of Pickleball courts applied to your county's existing tennis courts.

Pickleball is an incredible sport where age and background are set aside and an amazing social experience can be had, while athletic competition can ensue for those who choose to extend their desires beyond recreational play.

With many dissenting views, two main themes seem to exist between tennis players and pickleballers:

1) The court lines will ruin our tennis court: our own county, Montgomery County of Ohio, has painted several tennis courts as pickleball and tennis courts with little to no complaint from local players. Tennis players find that the subtle color difference of the lines and courts ultimately allow them to play with minimal disruption.

2) Pickleball is not as popular and therefore doesn't warrant more playing space: Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, and the first U.S. Open in Florida will take place in April of 2016, with a place on the Tennis Channel (as of now). The sport is definitely growing and Reno/Fallon is a prime venue for such a growing sport.

Even your consideration of adding pickleball lines is amazing and appreciated. Best to you all!

Ryan and Michelle Goodwin
RMG Pickleball

Centerville, OH
937-469-7241

Budge, Jennifer

From: Dave Strasdin <davestrasdin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 7:37 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball

Hello,

I am from Fallon and come to Reno to play pickle ball. It is a great sport and is a great way to stay in shape. We enjoy the competition in Reno and being able to play with so many skilled players. I encourage the county to paint lines and support the pickle ball sport. It is providing great exercise for a variety of people and in return improving the health and happiness of the people of Washoe County as well as nearby communities.

Sincerely,
Lynn Strasdin

Budge, Jennifer

From: Carol Amos <carol@twincottageindustries.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:55 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Supporting Pickleball Courts at Hidden Valley!


Dear Jennifer at Washoe County Parks,

YES!!! I really support pickleball courts for Hidden Valley Park!

Pickleball is an amazing sport for all ages and pickleball courts would be a real boon for tourism to bring tournaments to the Reno area. At this point, pickleball in northern California is slowly getting going and actually the Reno area has a great head start. Putting dedicated courts at Hidden Valley would provide a great venue for USAPA tournaments to be held which would easily bring in hundreds of players for long weekends. Lots of California players would love to come over the hill to play in Reno area tournaments!

There are a number of us from Fallon who come up to Reno frequently to play pickleball and we often go to Carson City to play where there is a growing community of players too.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch. Thank you for all you do, Jennifer!

Carol Amos
USAPA Ambassador for Fallon NV
carol@twincottageindustries.com


Budge, Jennifer

From: kbrimmer <kbrimmer@cocomm.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 12:58 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball lines

I am in favor of pickle ball lines on the tennis courts.

Thank you,
Wanda Brimmer



Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 6.

Budge, Jennifer

From: Tammy Burke <ambiancefallon@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball

Yay this is wonderful we love pickleball. It seems such a shame to let tennis courts go to waste with them not being used a lot.

Thanks Tammy

Sent from my iPhone

Budge, Jennifer

From: Maria Muzea <mariamuzea@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Cc: Doug Dolittle
Subject: Hidden Valley Courts

Dear Ms. Budge,

I'm writing to encourage and support pickle ball at the Hidden Valley Park. As you know, lines for both tennis and pickle ball currently exist. I am among a group of avid pickle ball players and on a committee with Doug Doolittle to form the Truckee Meadows Pickleball Club. We are hoping the public process for the community there goes without any opposition and the upcoming Parks Commission meeting approves the Hidden Valley courts to be resurfaced and become dedicated for pickle ball.

Thank you,
Maria Muzea

Budge, Jennifer

From: JOHN SPROEHNLE <mrsprain@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 10:37 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Cc: Mark Nelson
Subject: Pickleball in Reno

Greetings,

My wife and I are pickleball Ambassadors in the Truckee/ Tahoe. We introduced the sport here in Squaw Valley eleven years ago and have been involved in the development of five pickleball venues in this area.

We and a number of our local players come to Reno to play pickleball in tournaments and mostly enjoy playing at Hidden Valley courts. Usually there are many pickleball folks waiting to play and we have yet to see any tennis players.

With a newly estimated 2.4 million pickleball players in the country, the best source of new venues is slightly or non-used tennis courts.

We strongly recommend the creation of as many pickleball courts (dedicated ones ideally) as possible. They will fill up rapidly.

A revue of the recent Reno tournament players shows that folks will travel great distances to play. A case in point is my wife and I who currently are in Minneapolis, Minn. at the Senior National Games. 10,000+ athletes, 50+, 600 of whom are pickleballers.

Pickle On!

Regards,

John & Jean Sproehnle

Budge, Jennifer

From: Bob And Eleonore <bobeleonorek@charter.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2015 10:01 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley Pickleball

I am one of the people who plays Pickleball at Hidden Valley. We really need more courts as the number of people playing is growing. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated. Thanks. Bob Kryger

Sent from my iPad

Budge, Jennifer

From: R&K Lewis <littleahi30@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2015 7:59 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: HV Pickleball courts

I play pickleball in Hidden Valley and sure would be nice if we had more pickleball courts.

Thank you

Richard Lewis

Budge, Jennifer

From: R&K Lewis <littleahi30@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2015 7:49 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley Pickleball courts

My name is Kathleen Lewis and I play Pickleball at Hidden Valley. I would like it if we had more Pickleball courts and if at all possible courts dedicated to just Pickleball. Pickleball is hear to stay and it is just going to get bigger!

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Kathleen Lewis

Budge, Jennifer

From: ruby3503 <ruby3503@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 10:02 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Tennis Courts at Hidden Valley

I am a pickleball player and currently play pickleball at Hidden Valley Tennis Courts. I play there 3 to 4 times a week. I think it would be great to have more painted pickleball courts we have a large number of pickleball players who go to play and spend alot of time waiting to play because we don't have enough courts. I feel it is very important for seniors to stay active to remain. Healthy and the seniors are the largest growing number of the populations. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to play at Hidden Valley Tennis courts.

Thank you,
Ruby Paley

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Budge, Jennifer

From: Denise <denisejoh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 6:47 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball courts at Hidden Valley

Jennifer,

I play pickleball every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning in addition to one weekend day. I am registered to play in the Senior games in August - so practice at Hidden Valley with my partners (2 events) is SO important. In addition to play, pickleball is such a social event (I have met some wonderful people) and great exercise for the body and mind.

Love the sport - fastest growing sport in the nation!

Come out and watch us - Or, come play!!

Denise Johnson 🌟

757-413-6466

Sent from my iPad

Budge, Jennifer

From: Mark Nelson <mrnelson555@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 4:50 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley Pickleball

Jennifer

My name is Mark Nelson. 8 years ago the USA Pickleball Association contacted me and asked if I would be their Ambassador to the Reno Area. They needed someone to start pickleball in Reno. I agreed to give it a try. That first year there were 4 of us. My wife, myself and one other couple. Reno Parks gave us permission to put painters tape on the tennis courts at their Mira Loma Park in lieu of painted lines. The day we laid the tape there was a group of four playing tennis on adjoining court. One of the players was an elderly (75+) man. He was very upset that we had the audacity to put tape on HIS court. We politely explained that we had permission from the city. We finished laying the tape and played a couple hours of pickleball. We came back the next day to find all our tape had been pulled up, rolled into a large ball and shoved in the corner of the court. There went \$25 worth of tape and an hour's labor. I next approached Jeff Mann and asked for permission to paint lines for pickleball on the same tennis courts. Obviously the tape wasn't going to work. Jeff gave me a letter allowing me to paint the lines. The day we painted the lines the same grouchy old guy was playing tennis. He was livid that we dared paint HIS courts. A few days later we came back to play and found someone had used black spray paint to obliterate our lines.

We ended up finding playing space indoors at Neil Rd Rec Center. Once we set up courts there the grouchy old tennis player left us alone. Pickleball has now grown beyond the indoor facilities that we have been able to find. We are desperately in need of good outdoor courts. We've become the largest activity at the indoor venues. We grow every day.

I related the story of our early struggles to find an outdoor venue to show our efforts could be foiled by one grouchy old tennis player in hopes that even if you get some negative reaction on the suggestion for more courts at Hidden Valley that you will keep in mind that tennis in Washoe County has many options. Between Washoe County, Reno and Sparks there are 86 publicly owned tennis courts. Pickleball has a few courts we share with tennis. We have very few options on where to play. Tennis has many options. We need outdoor pickleball courts to accommodate our growing group.

I've been playing pickleball three days a week at Hidden Valley since the weather warmed up in late April. In all that time I have never seen a game of tennis being played. Twice I've seen

kids come out and hit tennis balls for practice. Never have they stayed for more than 20 minutes.

For the minimal use Hidden Valley gets from tennis players it should be a very easy decision to let us paint lines for more courts. We'll supply the paint and labor. We will also continue cleaning the courts. This morning we had a dozen players show up with brooms, shovels and hose to clean the mud from the courts. We will continue to support you. Here's hoping you will continue to support us.

Thank You,

Mark Nelson
USAPA Ambassador Reno/Sparks

Budge, Jennifer

From: Robert DeLong <bobbydelong@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickleball Courts @Hidden Valley tennis complex
Attachments: 20150710_092812.jpg

Dear Jennifer

I support putting permanent pickleball lines on the tennis courts @ Hidden Valley so both tennis and pickleball players can enjoy the facility.

Sincerely
Robert DeLong
bobbydelong@gmail.com

Budge, Jennifer

From: Lyle Mason <Papaly716@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 6:56 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Pickle ball at Hidden Valley

I saw the signs posted at Hidden Valley tennis courts asking for input concerning the possible retrofitting of the tennis courts into dedicated pickleball court. As an avid pickle ball player, I am hopeful that there will be very few negative comments that would keep this process from moving along. I have visited several cities much smaller than Reno that have dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. Pickleball as a sport is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States due mainly to the fact that the age group with which it is so popular is also one of the fastest growing age groups. I appreciate your willingness to consider this project and hope that within the very near future that we pickleball players will have a place of our own.

Lyle Mason
Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

Budge, Jennifer

From: Wade Johnson <wadejohnson73@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Hidden Valley

Jennifer - I saw the sign on the Hidden Valley tennis courts asking for comments. I play both tennis and pickleball and these courts should be reconfigured for dedicated pickleball courts, not both tennis and pickleball.

There are a lot of tennis courts that are under utilized around Reno and Sparks the tennis players could use. I play pickleball at HV several days each week and probably see tennis players no more than twice a month. Pickleball players probably outnumber the tennis players using these courts about 100 to 1. These courts should be lined for pickleball ONLY. Thanks, Wade Johnson [REDACTED]

Budge, Jennifer

From: Vicki Sharp <vnsharp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: HIDDEN Valley Pickleball

HI!

As avid pickleball players, we saw the sign at Hidden Valley today and feel that the information is not correct as to what we were told.

We were under the impression that permanent pickleball lines were to be painted and no tennis lines would be on the court. The tennis nets would serve as a barrier between courts.

The hope was for this to be a permanent or dedicated pickleball facility.

Please clarify this information for me!

Thanks,
Nick & Vicki Sharp

Budge, Jennifer

From: ALBERT LEWIS <albertlewis@me.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Budge, Jennifer
Subject: Tennis / Pickleball courts

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Jennifer,
I am a tennis player who also plays Pickleball... and lives in Hidden Valley.

Seeing that you are proposing to paint new lines for the pickleball courts, I would like to ask that perhaps you only paint on one tennis court. This would make for 2 pickleball courts and 2 tennis courts. It would also allow one tennis court free from the VERY distracting lines that are on a tennis court currently.

The lines for the courts do not bode well for actual play and trying to keep score on a consistent basis. They are very disrupting for both sports.

I hope you make this area positive for both sports and will consider the tennis players when choosing to upgrade the area for Pickleball players.

Thanks for your time!

Albert Lewis