



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: March 24, 2022 REPORT NO. 202

ATTENTION: Area Committee
Agenda of March 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Pickleball in San Diego

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE AREA COMMITTEE.

BACKGROUND

For decades, nonprofit tennis clubs have secured private funds to construct and maintain tennis facilities on City parkland to “foster and develop the game of tennis in San Diego” in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. Public tennis clubs have successfully operated under a City of San Diego Special Use Permit (SUP) for decades on a self-funded basis without the use of any taxpayer monies.

In recent months, there has been an increase in requests for pickleball facilities, in some cases on locations where tennis is played. To address this need, the City has taken steps to expand pickleball opportunities in locations where there is demand for pickleball, court availability, and community concurrence with the additional use.

The Parks and Recreation Department has created a list of City locations that currently have pickleball courts (see Attachment 1), and the Department is working with various communities to add to that list to meet the demand for the sport. However, demand remains to create a centralized pickleball facility.

DISCUSSION

Peninsula Tennis Club at Robb Field

One group of pickleball players proposes to develop a large, for-profit, centralized pickleball facility. One location of interest for the group is to convert the Peninsula Tennis Club at Robb Field from a tennis facility into a pickleball facility. For decades, this facility has been operated by a non-profit group to the Department’s satisfaction under a SUP by the

Peninsula Tennis Association. It has approximately 490 members, and the Association hosts approximately 100 non-members that participate in leagues, tournaments, clinics, and programs. In addition, the facility serves the public on an appointment or walk-in basis every day. The Peninsula Tennis Club provided a communication (see Attachment 2) to the Department regarding the many benefits that this organization provides to the San Diego tennis community.

Currently, the pickleball group is socializing this concept with multiple park advisory bodies, with an upcoming meeting at Mission Bay Park Committee on April 5, 2022, to discuss the proposed centralized pickleball facility at the Peninsula Tennis Club or to consider other locations at Robb Field. This effort will likely continue over several meetings with the Mission Bay Park Committee. The Department advised the pickleball group to follow Council Policy 600-33 related to public input for park development as part of its process in locating a potential space for centralized pickleball.

While the Department agrees that more pickleball courts are highly desirable and a centralized pickleball facility is generally a good idea, Peninsula Tennis Club at Robb Field remains in use for tennis with a permittee in good standing and thus is not available for a proposed centralized pickleball facility. The Department continues to encourage the pickleball group to locate other spaces for a centralized pickleball facility, perhaps by creating a new hardcourt facility elsewhere at Robb Field or another City park.

City Nonprofit-Run Tennis Courts (under SUP)

Other pickleball proponents have proposed adding pickleball courts at independently operated City tennis facilities by co-striping a hard court for use for both tennis and pickleball. For example, two tennis facilities located at Cabrillo Recreation Center and Pacific Beach Recreation Center, currently offer limited pickleball play on existing tennis courts. While some tennis clubs operating under SUP have agreed to allow pickleball during certain times of day and on certain courts, not all tennis and racquet club SUP holders have agreed to allow dual use of a hard court for both tennis and pickleball.

University City Racquetball Club (UCRC) offered pickleball play on one tennis court on a trial basis beginning just before the COVID-19 pandemic; however, in February 2022, the UCRC Board and Club members determined that pickleball is not a compatible use of the facility's limited number of tennis courts (6). To accommodate the local University City pickleball players, the Department has lined two pickleball courts on the adjacent outdoor basketball courts at Standley Recreation Center, and the Department will introduce indoor pickleball play in the gymnasium, which the Department has done at several other recreation centers. The Department continues to welcome suggestions and will consider additional options for pickleball courts in the area.

The Department has conducted research regarding the use of tennis courts for pickleball activities and has consulted local tennis professionals, associations, and officials as well as pickleball proponents. This research has led to some conclusions.

1. Local tennis associations and clubs maintain that the demand for tennis courts is higher than ever and that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a resurgence of the sport, which has resulted in long wait lists for membership.
2. Pickleball lines on tennis courts creates major challenges for tennis competitive league and tournament play. Those players competing on a court with pickleball lines would be directly disadvantaged due to confusion created by multiple court lines that are inconsistent with tennis.
3. The San Diego District of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has stipulated that tournament and league play will not be permitted on courts co-lined for other sports (Attachment 2).
4. Reducing the number of courts available for tennis will negatively impact the ability of tennis clubs to host tournaments and league play throughout San Diego.
5. While both tennis and pickleball can be played on hardcourts, they generally do not play well together in venues where tennis and pickleball are played simultaneously at adjacent courts without barricades or other means to separate the two sports. Some of the differences between tennis and pickleball include the use different types of equipment, different levels of social interaction, and numbers of people playing the game at one time.
6. As both sports play in different directions on courts, there are safety and playability concerns (crossover lanes) that make it difficult to share courts.
7. Tennis facilities that do convert a court to pickleball would need to separate the courts using by distance or a barrier to mitigate the noise and the safety hazards of pickleballs crossing into the lanes on adjacent tennis courts.
8. Local tennis courts rely on donations and grant funds to continue to provide low-cost access for San Diego tennis players. Conversion of tennis courts to pickleball courts would likely result in a reduction of these grant funds and could negatively affect the ability of the tennis clubs to fund maintenance and improvements, as they operate without direct City funding.
9. Based on a survey of available courts in City park facilities, there are 143 tennis courts and 111 pickleball courts available for public use (Attachment 3).

Department Action Plan

As outlined in Attachment 1, the Department has developed pickleball courts across the City in multiple venues in a decentralized fashion where there is community concurrence with the additional usage for pickleball. The process to evaluate other existing facilities that could integrate pickleball courts continues. For future park development projects, pickleball courts will be proposed as a potential option for community input. Finally, staff are working with the San Diego Unified School District to evaluate joint use facilities for locations where pickleball courts can be added.

CONCLUSION

The Department will continue to develop pickleball courts where feasible and promote pickleball facilities for the development of new parks. Tennis clubs will continue to operate in good standing and will decide whether to introduce pickleball onto existing tennis courts.

Respectfully submitted,



Prepared by:
Shelly Stowell
Deputy Director



Approved by:
Andy Field
Parks and Recreation Director

Attachments:

1. Parks and Recreation Department Pickleball Locations
2. Peninsula Tennis Club Letter
3. San Diego Pickleball and Tennis Court Inventory

ATTACHMENT 1

Pickleball Court Locations

Courts Operated by the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation

NORTHERN REGION

Black Mountain Multipurpose Center

9353 Oviedo St, San Diego, CA 92129

(858) 538-8198

- 3 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play on Monday 5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. *(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)*
- Call Hilltop Recreation Center (858) 538-8198 to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabre Springs Recreation Center

10162 Rancho Carmel Dr, San Diego, CA 92128

(858) 538-8100

- 3 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play fluctuates based on Gym usage.
- Call to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

Carmel Valley Recreation Center

3777 Townsgate Dr, San Diego, CA 92130

(858) 552-1616

- 6 Indoor Pickleball courts
- Open Play Monday/Tuesday/Friday 9-11:45 a.m. *(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)*
- Call to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

Cypress Canyon Park

11490 Cypress Canyon Rd, San Diego, CA 92131

(858) 538-8085

- 3 Outdoor Pickleball lined courts on a basketball court
- Free - Bring your own equipment

Ellen Browning Scripps Joint-Use Park

11454 Blue Cypress Dr, San Diego, CA 92131

(858) 538-8085

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined courts on a basketball court
- Free - Bring your own equipment

Hourglass Fieldhouse/Recreation Center

10440 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92126

(858) 538-8153

- 3-6 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play dates and times fluctuate based on Gym usage.
- Call (858) 538-8085 to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

Jerabek Neighborhood Park

10060 Avenida Magnifica, San Diego, CA 92131

(858) 538-8085

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined courts on 2 tennis courts
- Free - Bring your own equipment

Ocean Air Recreation Center

4770 Fairport Way, San Diego, CA 92130 (858) 552-1687

- 6 Indoor Pickleball courts
- Open Play Monday 10 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)
- Call to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Pacific Highlands Ranch Recreation Center

5977 Village Loop Rd, San Diego, CA 92130 (858) 538-8184

- 6 Indoor Pickleball Courts
 - Open Play Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. (3 courts open)
(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)
- Call (619) 531-1527 to confirm times
- 2 Outdoor Pickleball courts with painted lines on basketball court
- Free – Nets provided for Indoor use only

Peñasquitos Creek Park

8021 Park Village Rd, San Diego, CA 92119 (858) 538-8131

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined courts on basketball court
- Free – Bring your own equipment

Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center

18448 West Bernardo Dr, San Diego, CA 92127 (858) 538-8129

- 3 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – noon, Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)
- Call (619) 531-1527 to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Scripps Ranch Recreation Center

11464 Blue Cypress Dr, San Diego, CA 92131 (858) 538-8085

- 4 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play dates and times fluctuate based on Gym usage.
- Call to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Views West Park

12958 La Tortola, San Diego, CA 92129 (858) 538-8131

- Tentatively scheduled to open April 2022
- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined courts on basketball court
- Free – Bring your own equipment

COASTAL/CENTRAL REGION

Allied Gardens Recreation Center

5155 Greenbrier Ave, San Diego, CA 92120 (619) 235-1129

- 3 Indoor pickleball courts
- Open Play on Wednesday/Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Dates and times are subject to change without notice)
- Call to confirm times

- Free – Nets provided

Gershwin Neighborhood Park

3549 Conrad Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 (858) 581-9926

- 4 Outdoor Pickleball lined court on an unlit tennis court
- Free – Bring your own equipment

La Jolla Recreation Center

615 Prospect Street, La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 552-1658

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined court on one basketball court
- Free – Bring your own equipment

Nobel Recreation Center

8810 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 (858) 552-1626

- 3 Indoor Pickleball courts
- Open play Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:15 a.m. – noon (*Dates & times are subject to change without notice*)
- Call Nobel Recreation Center (858) 552-1626 to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

North Clairemont Recreation Center

4421 Bannock Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 (858) 581-9926

- 2 Indoor Pickleball courts
- Open play Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (*Dates & times are subject to change without notice*)
- Call to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Ocean Beach Recreation Center

4726 Santa Monica Ave., San Diego, CA 92107 (619) 531-1527

- 3 Indoor Pickleball courts
- Open Play Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (*Dates & times are subject to change without notice*)
- Call to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Pacific Beach Recreation Center

1405 Diamond Street, San Diego, CA 92109 (858) 581-9927

- 3 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play dates and times fluctuate based on Gym usage.
- Call Pacific Beach Recreation Center (858) 538-8085 to confirm times
- Free – Nets provided

Standley Recreation Center – coming soon the week of 3/14/2022

3585 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 (858) 581-1652

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball Courts on an unlit basketball court
- Nets can be checked out at the Recreation Center Office during office hours

Western Hills Neighborhood Park – coming soon the week of 3/21/2022

4810 Kane Street, San Diego, CA 92110 (858) 581-9930

- 2 Outdoor Pickleball lined court on an unlit basketball court
- Free – Bring your own equipment

DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS

Municipal Gym

2111 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 525-8262

- 9 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play on Monday & Wednesday 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)
- Call to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

Balboa Park Activity Center

2145 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 235-5997

- 5 Indoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Play on Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Wednesday 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(Dates & times are subject to change without notice)
- Call to confirm times
- Free - Nets provided

SOUTHERN REGION

Park de la Cruz Community Center

3911 Landis St., San Diego, CA 92105

(619)525-8247

- 2 outdoor courts and 2 indoor courts
- Mainly focused on beginner/learn to play games
- Open Play - Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Dates & times are subject to change)
- Call to confirm times
- Free – Bring your own equipment
- 1 Quarter a year, will provide “Instruction” and “Skills and Drills” practice from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. for \$5.00 cost, which includes equipment
- Accommodations for Adaptive players and older adults

Privately Operated Courts in the City of San Diego

Barnes Tennis Center

4490 W Point Loma Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107

(619) 221-9000

- 3 dedicated Pickleball court
- \$12 per hour (can book up to 2 hours)
- Open play \$5 per person, Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9 a.m. - noon, Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Cabrillo Tennis Courts

3051 Cañon St., San Diego, CA 92106

(619) 223- 0887

- 2 Outdoor Courts – Pickleball times vary depending on season.
<https://pointlomacabrillotennis.org/calendar>
- \$75.00 per year for Membership

Del Cerro Tennis Club

4956 Waring Rd A, San Diego, CA 92120

(619) 501-7983

- 8 dedicated Pickleball courts
- Tuesday – Friday 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Saturday/Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- \$25 per court for two hours and \$35 per court for three hours

Pacific Beach Tennis Club

2639 Grand Ave, San Diego, CA 92109

(858) 279-9177

- 8 Pickleball courts with painted lines on 2 tennis courts
- Each play session is for a 2-hour time block of continuous play
- \$30/court: allows 2 hours of play for up to 4 players (\$7.50/player; PBTC member \$4 each)
- \$10/person. (Free to PBTC members; guests playing with members pay \$5/person.)

February 3, 2022

TO:
VIA EMAIL
City of San Diego Parks & Recreation Dept.
Mr. Andy Field, Director
afield@sandiego.gov

FROM:
John Saunders, Board President
Peninsula Tennis Club
2525 Bacon Street
San Diego, CA 92107

Subject: Preserve Tennis at Robb Field (PTC)

Dear Mr. Field:

The Board and members of the Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC) have become aware that *Pickleball SD* is proposing to replace this non-profit tennis facility with a for-profit pickleball facility. Peninsula Tennis Club has been a fixture in the San Diego tennis community since 1984. In addition to its club members and guests, many tennis players from San Diego County regularly visit PTC for recreational play, competitive play, and instruction.

In light of inaccurate information that has been provided by *Pickleball SD* about the health and viability of PTC, we feel it is necessary to set the record straight. We are providing the same information to the City Council District 2 Office and the Office of the Mayor.

Here are the Facts:

- As of January 2022 PTC has 493 members. In the past year the number of members has grown over 75%.
- There are 943 non-members who participate in leagues and clinics at PTC.
- In addition to private lessons, PTC's instructors hold 10 junior and adult clinics per week in which both members and nonmembers participate.
- Point Loma High School boys and girls tennis teams practice and play matches at PTC.
- Warren Walker Middle School holds PE classes and uses PTC for practices and matches for its tennis team.
- PTC hosts USTA-sanctioned league matches for 11 teams
- PTC hosts two *World Team Tennis* league teams
- PTC provides practice courts for the USTA Girls 16/18 National Tournament, held at Barnes Tennis Center. The location of PTC is of strategic importance to this national tournament which brings the top players in these age groups from all over the U.S. with corresponding benefits to the local economy.

- PTC holds USTA sanctioned adult and junior tournaments.
- Data from our *Tennisbooking* court reservation system show that court bookings increased nearly 16% over the last six months, with peak hours from 9 AM to 12 PM and 4 to 8 PM
- PTC has world class tennis instruction from pros based there including Bob and John Simmons, Darice Carnaje, Duncan Depew, and retired USD Hall of Fame coach Ed Collins.
- Tennis greats that have chosen in recent years to play at PTC include professionals Taylor Fritz and Coco Gauff, and NCAA Champion Kéegan Smith, and 5-time All-American Carly Cooke.
- PTC has produced a stream of junior players who have gone on to NCAA D1 and D2 tennis scholarships.

PTC is a non-profit club fulfilling its Special Use Permit with the City and Serving the Community

A not-for-profit public corporation, Peninsula Tennis Club keeps player costs low. Offering six-month and annual memberships, **PTC is one of the most affordable clubs in San Diego.** The comparison of adult membership fees for a few local clubs is provided below. Kids play free at PTC.

Club	Single Adult Membership annual	Family Membership annual	Senior/Military Discounted Membership annual
PTC	\$170	\$280	\$135
Balboa Tennis Club	\$370	\$745	\$250
Barnes Tennis Center	\$400	\$700	\$275

Peninsula Tennis Club is operated for the City of San Diego (with no financial assistance from the City). To cover its costs, PTC relies on dues, court fees and the generosity of its members and the community of San Diego tennis players. PTC's Board and staff is proud of its ability to provide a good tennis-playing experience at a well-maintained public tennis facility. PTC operates with the full support of the USTA, the San Diego District Tennis Association, and the Greater San Diego Tennis Council.

PTC is staffed during all open hours.

PTC is a well-maintained tennis facility. All 12 courts were resurfaced in 2018 (\$79,000) using funds raised mostly from club members. There was tremendous community support for this effort with the main fund-raising event emceed by the great Dick Enberg. The courts were surfaced by the same company that resurfaces the Indian Wells Tennis Garden for the professional tournaments there.

All windscreens were replaced in May 2021 (\$19,500)

February 3, 2022
Peninsula Tennis Club
3

Lighting fixtures/bulbs have been replaced as needed. (An ongoing lighting upgrade project replaces the halogen fixtures with energy efficient LEDs).

Periodic replacement/repair of nets, umpire chairs, decking, restrooms are performed by the club.

Tennis is a Growing Sport and We Should Not have to Lose Tennis Courts for Pickleball to thrive.

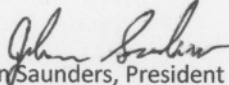
Tennis participation nationwide increased 22 percent in 2020, with over 21 million people saying they played tennis; the number of new players nationwide increased by 44 percent (<https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/tennis-industry-data-shows-further-growth-of-the-sport-in-the-u-.html>).

Because of recent increases in memberships and tennis activity, some San Diego clubs have started waitlists for membership and have restricted the number of league teams due to court usage demands; as a result, PTC has become a home to teams from other clubs. "Moving" tennis members to the George Barnes Tennis Center is not an option as the Barnes Center's primary purpose is youth tennis and as shown above, PTC is a more affordable option for many in the tennis community.

Both tennis and pickleball deserve facilities within the City of San Diego, but not at the expense of one for the other, and most certainly not if it means sacrificing tennis courts which are already in high demand. We respectfully submit the above information in support of keeping PTC as a tennis facility.

We are available as always to answer any questions the Department may have about our facility operation under our Special Use Permit.

Sincerely,


John Saunders, President
Peninsula Tennis Club Board
email: js4015@gmail.com

cc: Karen Dennison, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Dept., kdennison@sandiego.gov
Shelley Stowell, Community I, Parks and Recreation Dept., ssowell@sandiego.gov
Steve Palle, Robb Athletic Field, District Manager, SPalle@sandiego.gov
Angelina Black, Area Manager, Robb Field ABlack@sandiego.gov
Matthew Ryan, Center Director, Robb Field MSRyan@sandiego.gov
Jim Nickel, Secretary, Robb Field CRG, jmnickel@earthlink.net
Rasheed Hassan, Chair, Robb Field CRG, jmnickel@earthlink.net
Macella Bothwell, Chair SD Park and Recreation Board, bothwellm@mac.com

PICKLEBALL COURTS	
Facility Name	# of Courts
Allied Gardens Recreation Center	3
Balboa Park Activity Center	3
Barnes Tennis Center (City of SD Lessee)	8
Black Mountain Middle School	4
Black Mountain MultiPurpose Center	3
Cabrillo Tennis Courts	2
Carmel Mountain Ranch/Sabre Springs Recreation Center	3
Carmel Valley Community Park and Recreation Center	3
Colina del Sol Park	8
Cypress Canyon Park	3
Ellen Browning Scrips Joint Use Park	2
Gershwin Neighborhood Park	4
Hour Glass Park, Blk Mountain Pk	6
Jerabek Park	2
La Jolla Rec Center	2
Municipal Gym	9
Nobel Recreation Center	3
North Clairemont Rec Center	2
Ocean Beach Recreation Center	3
Ocean Air Rec Center	6
North Clairemont Rec Center	2
North Park Recreation Center	2
Pacific Beach Rec Center	3
Pacific Beach Tennis Club/San Diego Pickleball	8
Pacific Highlands Ranch Rec Center	6
Penasquitos Creek Park	2
Rancho Bernardo Glassman Rec Center	3
Scripps Ranch Rec Center	4
Tierrasanta Recreation Center	2
Total Pickleball Courts	111
*This list is only for City parks/facilities and does not include HOAs, private facilities, etc.	

TENNIS COURTS	
Facility Name	# of Courts
Cabrillo Tennis Center/Cabrillo Recreation Center	2
Cadman Recreation Center	1
Canyonside Community Park	12
Carmel Valley Community Park	4
City Heights Recreation Center	4
Colina del Sol Park	6
Emerald Hills	2
Encanto Park	2
Gershwin Park	1
Hourglass Park	8
Jerabek Park	2
La Jolla Tennis Courts	9
Linda Vista Recreation Center	4
Martin Luther King Jr Rec Center	7
Pacific Beach Tennis Club	7
Mission Hills/Pioneer Park	2
Mountain View Park	2
Morley Field Sports Complex	25
Murray Ridge Park	1
North Park Recreation Center	4
Pacific Beach Recreation Center	2
Point Loma Park	4
Rancho Bernardo Comm Park	6
Robb Athletic Field	12
Santa Clara Recreation Center	1
San Ysidro Recreation Center	2
South Clairemont Rec Center	1
Standley Park & Rec Center	6
Tierrasanta Recreation Center	4
Total Tennis Courts	143
*This list is only for City parks/facilities and does not include HOAs, private facilities, etc.	