



CITY OF LOMITA REPORT

TO: Lomita Parks and Recreation Commission

PREPARED BY: Emma Kelley, Recreation Manager

MEETING DATE: September 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Possible Pickleball at Lomita Park

RECOMMENDATION

During the July 26, 2022, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission directed City staff to explore the possibility of bringing the sport of pickleball to the City of Lomita and report back to the Commission.

This report is intended to assist the commission in its discussions. Should the Commission recommend that the City Council proceed with the addition of pickleball to the City's sports options, City staff will develop a recommended installation method and program guidelines and present to the City Council for their consideration.

BACKGROUND

Pickleball is a sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. Played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. Played as doubles or singles. Can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels

A pickleball court is the same size as a doubles badminton court and measures 20×44 feet. In pickleball, the same court is used for both singles and doubles play. The net height is 36 inches at the sidelines and 34 inches in the middle. The court is striped similar to a tennis court with right and left service courts and a 7-foot non-volley zone in front of the net. Courts can be constructed specifically for pickleball or they can be converted using existing tennis or badminton courts.

In recent months the request to possibly bring Pickleball to the City of Lomita has increased. Request were made from the Parks and Recreation Commission, visiting park patrons, and via email. One email was from Lomita resident Michelle Grajeda, sent on August 3, 2022. She is the USA Pickleball Ambassador for Rancho Palos Verdes.

Currently there is no location within the City of Lomita to play pickleball, though there are pickleball courts in some of our surrounding communities with more communities exploring their addition.

To provide the commission with some general information and lessons from other communities, the recreation department reached out to local agencies (City of Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Costa Mesa, and El Segundo who have recently built or converted pickleball courts) to collect information on how they develop and organized their courts and any issues or concerns that arose in the process.

Below is general information from each of the cities contacted to assist in the Commission discussion.

City of Torrance:

- Wilson Park has standalone Pickleball/Paddle Tennis courts
- Willson Park have scheduled open play dates and times.
 - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 8am – 12pm.
 - Monday – Sunday 6pm – 10pm
- Sur La Brea and Walteria Park have overlay lines on Tennis Courts.
- City has received push back from Tennis instructors and basketball players.
- Offer contract classes for beginners to private classes.

City of Manhattan Beach:

- 8 courts on a multi- purpose Tennis court
- Painted lines only.
- Staff sets up portable netting.
- Purchased rollout netting.
- Have scheduled open play date and time
 - Saturday – Sunday (Reservations) 3 courts only.
 - Charge for drop-in play M-F 8am-12pm, 7 courts with the exception of Wednesday when there are only 3 courts available.
- Offer contract classes for beginners and advanced.
- Have received pushed back from Tennis players and instructors. Students learning Tennis get confused as to what lines portray to them.
- Considering adding lines to their outside basketball court until 12pm.

City of El Segundo:

- 4 courts on 1 multi-purpose Tennis court.
- Painted lines only
- Staff creates additional courts by laying down lines with tape when needed.
- Offer first come first server, but most people reserve all day usage.
- Offer classes, leagues, clinics, and tournaments.

City of Costa Mesa:

- 2 courts created and replaced a vacant basketball court located within a residential neighborhood.
- They add a 60' x 10' section of concrete to make the space wide enough to accommodate two courts width- wise.
- They did a complete resurfacing and striping of the vacant court & added permanent nets.
- This location is only open from dusk to dawn without lighting.
- Homeowners did express concerns of excessive noise should there be a large influx of players. However, those concerns we not directly from residents across the street for the park.
- Cost overall for the project \$110k which included a sidewalk for safe access.

CONSTRAINTS SPECIFIC TO LOMITA:

With limited space at Lomita Park locating a reasonable location for a court(s) is challenging. A pickleball court official dimension is 20' X 44'.

Possible conflicts with other sports. Anticipate push back from basketball users, tennis players, contract instructors, and residents.

To avoid residential complaints due to the additional noise created by this sport. It is recommended that a court be 300-600 feet away from residential properties. Lomita Park falls just short of these recommendation in one direction. The distance from residential homes on Eshelman Ave to our outdoor basketball court (West to East) is 332.15 ft. The residential homes behind the Beverly Belba Field (North to South) measure at 250.43 ft.

The temporary relocation of seasonal contract classes and programs during the duration of this project.

Depending on the demand of this sport. Considering the possibility of charging for court usage for pickleball and tennis courts. Currently our tennis courts are free of charge and used as a first come first serve usages.

General Recommendations:

1. Adding pickleball lines to our existing basketball court at Lomita Park
2. Start off small allowing only play Tuesday and Thursdays 8am – 12pm to reduce conflict with other sport offerings.
3. To avoid confusing our youth basketball participants and over lapping lines on our current basketball courts. We can add one pickleball court horizontal or two pickleball courts lengthwise. If we add two vertical courts, we will have 8 feet of space in between both courts.
4. Add signage to our basketball court indicating when the courts will be converted into pickleball with rules and regulations and communicate changes in advance to minimize conflicts.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City's currently approved budget does not include funding for this purpose. Any recommendation to the City Council will necessarily include budget adjustments to account for the costs of installing and programming, and could also include fees or charges for programs and the City council deems appropriate.

Depending the method, the costs of construction or installation can range from a few thousand dollars for temporary or one time installations to hundreds of thousands of dollars for construction and installation of a professional level court. Given the City's constraints noted above, we would expect that costs related to the addition of "layover" court lines on our existing court spaces and development and support for program guidelines to be \$10,000-\$20,000. More specific cost estimates will be developed should the Commission recommend we proceed to the City Council for their consideration.