

Flynn, Allison

From: Cliff Chambers
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission; Ramirez, Lucas; Hicks, Alison
Subject: Item 5.1 Pickleball Courts

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Dear Chairperson Bryant and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission:

I am an 18 year resident of Mountain View and have been an avid pickleball player for three years. I play occasionally at the two permanent courts and one temporary court at Rengstorff Park. Because there are normally long wait times to play at Rengstorff and a very limited number of courts, I play 95% of the time at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto, where there are eight permanent courts and seven dual pickleball/tennis courts on two tennis courts. On the dual courts at Mitchell Park, pickleball has priority from 9 am to 3 pm seven days a week and tennis has priority from 3 pm to 10 pm. At Mitchell Park this works quite well, primarily because the courts are a very long distance from residences and the loud pop-pop-pop sounds of pickleball are out of sound distance from residential uses.

Because pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America enjoyed by players of all ages, there is a dire need for more permanent courts in Mountain View. It is much appreciated that a \$200,000 feasibility study will be undertaken next fiscal year to determine the locations, number and design for the new pickleball courts. Based on experience elsewhere, the study, design, contracting, and construction process will likely take three years. It is important to expand the opportunity for increasing the supply of pickleball courts in the interim.

Following the Mitchell Park model, painting dual pickleball lines on three of the 35 Mountain View tennis courts where pickleball has priority between 9 am and 3 pm seven days a week is an excellent interim solution. We applaud the City of Mountain View for conducting a survey of tennis and pickleball players to receive input on where both sports currently play and the hours they most frequently play, among other questions. However, there were other important criteria that in our opinion were not adequately considered in the recommendation before you tonight. The most important of these is the noise factor.

Because the popularity of pickleball is a fairly recent phenomenon, many municipalities across the United States have built new pickleball courts or implemented shared tennis/pickleball courts at neighborhood parks adjacent to residential uses. The loud pop-pop-pop of pickleball is a sound nuisance and many lawsuits have been filed. Equally important, it has created a contentious relationship between pickleball players and local residents. Mountain View needs to learn from the experience of other municipalities and not implement shared tennis/pickleball courts in residential areas.

Unfortunately, the Tennis Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation staff recommendation for six pickleball courts on two tennis courts at Cooper Park has not adequately considered the noise factor in the recommendation. If approved, it will set up a very contentious relationship between Mountain View pickleball players and the Cooper Park residences that are immediately adjacent to the tennis courts. One of the great virtues of pickleball is the genuine community it creates among players. The last thing we would want is a battle between neighbors and our pickleball community. Please vote against the shared tennis/pickleball courts at Cooper Park.

Cuesta Park would be the perfect location for the shared tennis/pickleball courts as well as the new dedicated courts that will be evaluated in the feasibility study. Not only is it centrally located Mountain View, there would be no noise nuisance from the pickleball play. It is important to provide play seven days a week and pickleball would have priority from 9 am to 3 pm each day. This is a time when often the Cuesta Park tennis courts are underutilized. With the 12

courts at Cuesta Park, there is sufficient room to paint dual pickleball lines on three tennis courts. There is a growing number of youth and working pickleball players that would like access to evening play. We would like the Commission to also consider evening pickleball play from 6 to 9 pm at least one weekday and one weekend evening.

I am copying Mayor Lucas Ramirez and Vice-Mayor Alison Hicks as they recently played pickleball at Mitchell Park and viewed the situation at Rengstorff Park a few weeks ago. They both understand the issues described above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cliff Chambers
Resident of Mountain View and avid pickleball players

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Flynn, Allison

From: Tracy Chen
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 5:32 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Opposing restriping Cooper tennis courts for pickle ball use

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Dear Park & Recreation staff:

I learned from the local tennis community that The Tennis Advisory Board recommends restriping Cooper tennis courts into six pickle ball courts, with pickle ball priority use from 8am to 3pm, 7 days a week. I am writing to express my concerns and strong objections about this proposal.

I am an active tennis player and play frequently at Cooper and various other public courts. Cooper is a very popular court in my opinion. I am surprised that your survey shows it's less used by tennis players. I am guessing the low number is because of less Cooper players participating in the survey.

Also Cooper courts are very close to the neighbors, only 25-30 feet from the neighbors' backyard. I don't think the fence and the few trees in between can fence off the noise of pickle ball playing. This proposal is not fair to the Cooper neighbors.

I understand we have limited choices but it's better to explore other possible options, than putting a significant noise pollution in a residential area (pickleball) and further reduce tennis player's court time.

Is Whisman an option for PB? Pickle ball is so noisy it should definitely first consider locations further away from residential areas. How about the undeveloped area next to Cuesta tennis courts? Is it possible to build pickleball courts there for their exclusive use?

Both tennis and pickle ball have grown in popularity since pandemic. I respect pickle ball players and sincerely hope we can find solutions that work for both players and at the same time do not disturb our quiet neighborhoods.

Best,

Tracy

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Opposing restriping Cooper tennis courts for pickle use

From: Tracy Chen
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:02 PM
To: , Recreation <recreation@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Opposing restriping Cooper tennis courts for pickle use

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Dear recreation mangers,

I learned from the Rengstorff tennis community that Mountain view tennis club recommends restriping Cooper courts for pickleball use. I am very disappointed at this proposal and will fight against it.

I am an active tennis player and play frequently at Cooper and various other public courts. Cooper is a very popular court in my opinion. I am surprised that your survey shows it's less used by tennis players. I am guessing the low number is because of less Cooper players participating in the survey.

Also Cooper courts are very close to the neighbors. I don't think the fence and the few trees in between can fence off the noise of pickle ball playing. This proposal is not fair to the Cooper neighbors.

I understand we have limited choices but it's better to explore other possible options, than putting a significant noise pollution in a residential area (pickleball) and further reduce tennis player's court time.

Is Whisman an option for PB? Pickle ball is so noisy it should definitely first consider locations further away from residential areas. How about the undeveloped area next to Cuesta tennis courts? Is it possible to build pickleball courts there for their exclusive use?

We will notify Cooper neighborhood association so they can voice their concerns to the city as soon as possible.

Best,

Tracy

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Please do NOT share tennis court in Cooper Park with Pickleball

From: Shiyu Hu
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:36 PM
To: , Recreation <recreation@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Please do NOT share tennis court in Cooper Park with Pickleball

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Tennis Advisory Board members,

I am a tennis player living around Cooper park, and I was surprised to see a proposal to share tennis courts in Cooper park with Pickleball. I am strongly against it!

The tennis courts in Cooper park are well maintained and are enjoyed by all the residents around Cooper park. My tennis group (>30 ppl) play at Cooper park almost every day starting from 7/8 am, and it is surprising to see the survey showing Cooper is the least used court in the survey.

Also, Cooper park is the third preferred tennis court by Mountain View residents. Accordingly, there are other parks that are much less preferred, i.e Whisman or Stevenson. I am very disappointed to learn that Cooper is selected for Pickleball pilot instead of the others in your proposal.

More importantly, the Pickleball produces much louder noise, which will cause significant concerns by the residents association. This is not only about Tennis or Pickleball, it is also about housing, neighborhood, environment and beyond. The tennis court in Cooper park lives in the heart of the community and is surrounded by many houses, where the distance between tennis courts and houses is less than 3 meters. You should consult with the residents before making any proposal like that. On the other hand, Whisman park is much far away from the residential area.

I would strongly suggest you reconsider the proposal for sharing Cooper park tennis court with Pickelball based on the above reasons, especially how close the tennis courts are to the resident houses. As alternatives, Whisman could be a better choice for Pickleball.

Best,
Shiyu

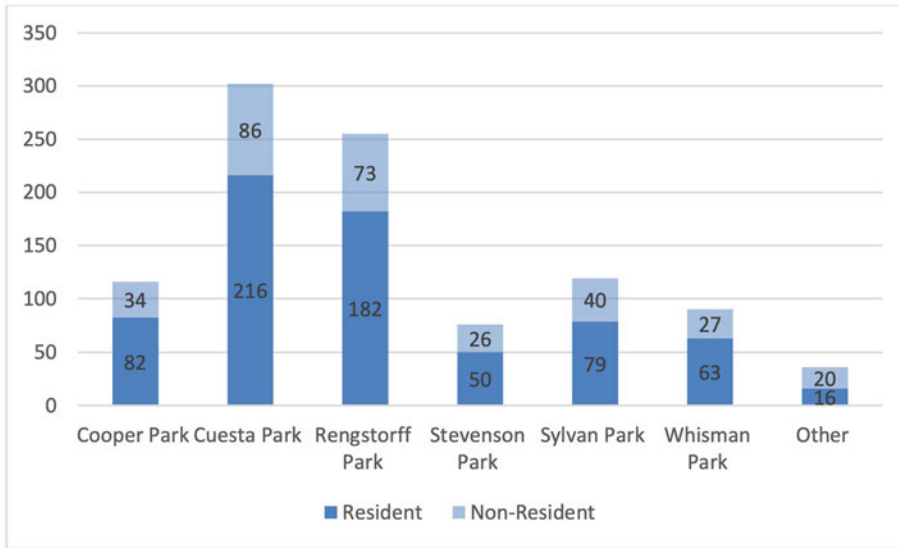


Figure 2: Locations Most Likely Played by Tennis Players

Flynn, Allison

From: Shiyu Hu
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Please do NOT put pickleball courts in Cooper Park

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Park and Recreation members,

I am a resident living around Cooper park, and I was surprised to see a proposal to share tennis courts in Cooper park with Pickleball. I am strongly against it!

Pickleball produces much louder noise than tennis, which will cause significant concerns by the residents association. This is not only about Tennis or Pickleball, it is also about housing, neighborhood, environment and beyond. The tennis court in Cooper park lives in the heart of the community and is surrounded by many houses, where the distance between tennis courts and houses is less than 2 meters.

This pilot project will set up a contentious relationship between pickleball players and adjacent Cooper Park residents due to the loud pop pop pop of the pickleball paddles when they strike the ball. We have seen this kind of [complaint at neighborhood courts](#) and even [lawsuits](#) across the country. On the other hand, there are other tennis courts are much far away from the residential area, e.g. Whisman park and Cuesta park.

I would strongly suggest you reconsider the proposal for sharing Cooper park tennis court with Pickelball given how close the tennis courts are to the resident houses. Please consider an alternative tennis court far away from residents.

Best,
Shiyu
Cooper park resident

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Please do NOT put pickleball courts in Cooper Park

From: Shiyu Hu
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:05:39 AM
To: James, Colin <Colin.James@mountainview.gov>
Cc: Hicks, Alison <Alison.Hicks@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Please do NOT put pickleball courts in Cooper Park

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Hi Colin,

I am a resident living around Cooper park, and my home is only 50 feet away from the tennis court. I was surprised to see a proposal to share tennis courts in Cooper park with Pickleball. I am strongly against it!

Pickleball produces much louder noise than tennis, which will cause significant concerns by the residents association. This is not only about Tennis or Pickleball, it is also about housing, neighborhood, environment and beyond. The tennis court in Cooper park lives in the heart of the community and is surrounded by many houses, where the distance between tennis courts and closest houses is less than 25 feet.

This pilot project will set up a contentious relationship between pickleball players and adjacent Cooper Park residents due to the loud pop pop pop noise. We have seen this kind of complaint at neighborhood courts and even [lawsuits](#) across the country. On the other hand, there are other tennis courts are much far away from the residential area, e.g. Whisman park and Cuesta park.

I would strongly suggest you reconsider the proposal for sharing Cooper park tennis court with Pickelball given how close the tennis courts are to the resident houses. Please consider an alternative tennis court far away from residents.

Best,
Shiyu
Cooper park resident

Flynn, Allison

From: George Koo
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 1:56 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Pickleball & tennis

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Dear Commission Members,

I respectfully wish to call your attention to the most recent issue of TENNIS magazine. (As a lifelong tennis player, I enjoy a lifetime subscription.) The cover of this issue displays the No. 1 professional Pickleball player (Ben Johns) and about half of the magazine is about the sport. This is a clear acknowledgement of the fastest growing nature of this sport. This issue also stresses the compatibility of pickleball with tennis.

Best wishes,
George

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George P. Koo

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Pickleball at Cooper Park

From: Ariana Menhenett
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 11:57 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@mountainview.gov>; , Recreation <recreation@mountainview.gov>; Parks and Recreation Commission <PRC@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Pickleball at Cooper Park

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Dear City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation:

We live right next to Cooper Park and our bedroom on the second floor faces directly to the tennis court #1 & 2.

In the past 16 years, we have enjoyed the close proximity to Cooper Park and have played tennis using the courts. While the sound of tennis playing is tolerable, even though it is still quite audible through double pane windows, the increased 20-25dBa of a pickleball sounds, at about 70 dBa at about 100 feet away from the strike of the ball, (which is similar to a freeway at 50 ft from pavement edge ([source](#))) would not only disrupt our sleep, it will make it really unbearable for us to sit in the backyard or even have the windows open during the summer months. Our backyard backs directly up to the tennis courts #1 and #2.

My husband also works from home and the potential increased noise during work hours would be disruptive to our work and life. Don't get me wrong, I am all for people to play and get some exercise with pickleball playing. Cuesta Park tennis courts are just a mere 3 mins drive from Cooper Park. There are a lot more courts available and the courts are situated away from any residential houses.

Would you please consider putting the pickleball courts at Cuesta Park instead.

Thank you!

Ariana Menhenett

Flynn, Allison

From:
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 3:53 PM
To: City Council
Subject: How can Tennis and Pickleball Thrive in Mountain View?
Attachments: Rengstorff calendar April 2022.pdf

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Dear City Council Members,

I want to start by saying a big THANK YOU to Mayor Ramirez and Vice Mayor Hicks for meeting with the Mountain View Tennis Club (MVTC) to hear our concerns about adding blended pickleball lines on tennis courts at Rengstorff Park in Mountain View.

There are more tennis players now than five years ago when the question of sharing tennis courts for pickleball use first came up. In the past two years, tennis has grown 27.2% and more than 22.6 million Americans play tennis. Pickleball has had spectacular growth as well and now has 4.8 million people who play nationwide. We are fortunate to live in the Bay Area where we can enjoy our sports throughout the year.

The tennis and pickleball communities are united in our request that the city fast track the feasibility study to find a location in Mountain View to build a separate pickleball facility and then build it as quickly as possible. Both sports will continue to grow, especially as new housing units in Mountain View get built. The cost to build pickleball courts is less than the cost to build tennis courts.

The Parks and Rec. Department sent out a survey to the tennis and pickleball community back in March 2022. They received a good response: 327 tennis players (71% Mt. View residents, 296 pickleball players (44% Mt. View residents), 79 people who play both sports and 4 that play neither sport.

The data showed that Cuesta Park was the most preferred place to play tennis in Mountain View with Rengstorff Park second. Stevenson and Whisman were the least preferred courts. The Parks and Rec. department then did a court monitoring program to verify the data. "Staff utilized a software system to randomly select three times per day to visit all court locations daily over a three-week time frame, March 21, 2022 through April 10, 2022. At each visit, staff recorded the number of people playing and the number of people waiting to play at each tennis and pickleball court location."

The data was borne out, Cuesta was the most used tennis facility with 1254 players on twelve courts followed by Rengstorff with 677 tennis players on eight courts. Cooper Park was the least used tennis facility with 166 tennis players on four courts.

At the last Tennis Advisory Board (TAB) meeting in May, Cooper Park was chosen to do the pilot project of blended lines since they were the least used in the city by tennis players and have a shorter window for resurfacing. Cooper Park also has nice bathrooms, ample street parking and trees providing shade for viewing.

I have attached the Rengstorff Tennis Court calendar from April 2022. There are many groups that use the Rengstorff courts for structured tennis play: Mountain View Tennis, MVTC, USTA leagues, Mountain View High School, Graham Middle School and NetGain use them routinely. This calendar does not reflect that most court usage is by Mountain View residents who come to the courts to play tennis. Residents often wait hours for a court at Rengstorff during peak times.

The tennis community does not want blended lines at Rengstorff courts. Blended lines make it difficult to call lines correctly and that is a VERY big deal in tennis play. We know that the tennis courts at Rengstorff are already oversubscribed with tennis players having long wait times. Taking away available court time from tennis players or making it difficult to play would create conflicts. Mountain View Tennis Club uses courts 1 – 4 the most for our tournaments, drop-in tennis and USTA competitive league play. We watch the play from the shaded bleachers when we're not in a match. All of the Rengstorff courts are well used.

Rengstorff courts were resurfaced three years ago and will not be due for resurfacing for probably another seven. We feel any blended lines would not be a short term one year "pilot project" but a seven-year loss of courts to the tennis community.

The noise factor of pickleball is a real concern to neighboring residences. Rengstorff tennis courts are bounded on three sides by apartment complexes. There are over 40 apartments that face the courts.

During a time of rising demand for tennis courts, we are seeing a push to reduce them by the pickleball community. The City Council recently approved an infill apartment housing project that will destroy three tennis courts and close a tennis academy at the Avalon property at 555 W. Middlefield Road in Mountain View. Those courts are well used and those tennis players and students of the academy will be displaced to look for other tennis courts in Mountain View. The destruction of the courts is slated for the fall of this year. Many will probably play at Rengstorff.

We realize that this is a tough problem, however the best solution is to take a long-term approach and fix the problem, not just appease one side to the detriment of the other. We have found that once blended lines are put on tennis courts that the tennis players no longer play on them, because it is too difficult to call the lines correctly and it is stressful. Pickleball lines on tennis courts become de facto pickleball courts.

Mountain View needs to build a separate pickleball facility away from residential areas. The tennis community is committed to working with the Rec. Dept. and the City to help in any way needed to make this a reality.

We understand that the pickleball community is impatient for more courts. The best solution is to take the time and ensure that it is the right solution for all involved.

Let's make this a win-win and build the pickleball facility!

Sincerely,

Terrie Rayl

President, Mountain View Tennis Club

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Pickle ball lines on tennis courts

-----Original Message-----

From: Rafael X. Wang <
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:38 PM
To: , Recreation <recreation@mountainview.gov>
Subject: Pickle ball lines on tennis courts

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Sir or Madam:

When adding pickleball lines on tennis court, please consider following:

1. Doing this will create discord in community.
2. Increase tax payer's cost when resurfacing the court
3. Impossible to add pickle ball net which makes it incomplete pickle ball courts.
4. Eventually it may end up like Memorial Park of Cupertino where no pickle ball players ever used it.

Better solution: spend 50K to build a new pickleball court on the vast empty ground between the MV community center and the swimming pool! If you have a corrupt agency, just double the budget.

Best regards
Rafael

Flynn, Allison

From: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: FW: Proposed pickleball at Cooper Park

From: Melinda [Mindy] Wilken <
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 3:48 PM
To: city.council@mountainview.gov; , Recreation <recreation@mountainview.gov>
Cc: Melinda Wilken Dean Wilken
Subject: Proposed pickleball at Cooper Park

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To the Mountain View City Council and Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission (Tennis Advisory Board):

We recently learned of the proposal to restripe the tennis courts at Cooper Park for pickleball use.

WE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL.

Our home backs up to the tennis courts, and the very loud, aggressive noise of pickleball rackets pop-pop-popping from 8am to 3pm daily would be highly annoying and disruptive to us and our neighbors. For those of us who work from home, it would introduce noise at a volume and frequency that could impact our work lives as well.

Please do not ruin our peaceful neighborhood with this noise pollution. We strongly urge you to consider alternative locations such as Cuesta Park, where there are no homes adjacent to the tennis courts. There is also adequate parking near the Cuesta Park tennis courts to accommodate multiple teams of pickleball players.

We will attend the meeting on June 29 to voice our concern as well.

Thank you for your attention,

Mindy and Dean Wilken