



MEMORANDUM

Community Services Department

DATE: January 9, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Tim Youngberg, Parks and Open Space Manager
John R. Marchant, Assistant Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Sand Volleyball Court at Sylvan Park

RECOMMENDATION

Provide input regarding the installation of a sand volleyball court at Sylvan Park and recommend the project be included in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, the Community Services Department has fielded phone calls and electronic correspondence from residents inquiring about the possibility of the City installing a sand volleyball court in a City park. Most of the requests are for a sand volleyball court that would be open and available to the general public. To date, no organized teams or organizations have made this request. In addition, during the 2018-19 budget process, the City Council inquired about converting the Cuesta Park asphalt volleyball court to a sand volleyball court and asked staff to look into the possibility of installing a sand volleyball court in the City. The discussion did not lead to funding being approved at that time.

Many volleyball players currently take advantage of existing public and private sand volleyball courts in the area. The closest public sand volleyball court is located in Sunnyvale's Encinal Park. Based on information received from the public, this court is usually well used and long wait times exist to access the court. Public courts are also available at Palo Alto's Johnson Park and San Mateo County's Flood Park.

ANALYSIS

Based on the input from the community and Council, staff began reviewing potential park sites for a future sand volleyball court. Staff created initial criteria to determine

the best parks to add this feature. The criteria included appropriate open space to accommodate the size of a volleyball court and associated play area; the location must provide a site that does not interfere with existing youth sports activities such as soccer or baseball; and the location must provide an appropriate site that would not interfere with existing off-leash dog areas.

Through this review, three parks were identified to meet the criteria above: Cuesta Park, Cooper Park, and Sylvan Park.

Cuesta Park

In addition to meeting the initial criteria set by staff, several members of the public believe Cuesta Park is a viable location for a sand volleyball court since an asphalt court already exists near the barbecue area. Replacing the asphalt court with a sand volleyball court would also require the removal of the adjacent horseshoe pit. One of staff's primary concerns about replacing the asphalt court and horseshoe pit with a sand volleyball court is the close proximity to several redwood trees. These trees tend to drop debris that would require ongoing maintenance by staff to ensure a clean court for the public. The existing asphalt court is also a popular amenity to those that rent the barbecue area. If this area became a sand volleyball court, this may increase the overall demand for the court and create longer wait times for both the barbecue area users and the general public looking for this specific amenity. Lastly, due to the existing asphalt, the cost of demolition at this site would increase the cost of installing a sand volleyball court compared to the other locations being considered. Attachment 1 provides a map of the potential court location at Cuesta Park.

Cooper Park

Staff also explored Cooper Park as a potential location for a sand volleyball court because it met the initial criteria for a site. The available location within the park may feel cramped for volleyball players since it would be situated between trees, tennis courts, and adjacent restroom facility. In addition, the location of the adjacent trees create the same maintenance concerns as the Cuesta Park site due to the debris that would fall from the trees. This is the only viable location in Cooper Park as much of the park is currently used for youth sports programs throughout the year, including soccer and baseball. Attachment 2 provides a map of the potential court location at Cooper Park.

Sylvan Park

As staff reviewed Sylvan Park, it was determined that there is currently an underutilized large horseshoe pit area near the restrooms. There are a few trees nearby, but staff believes the types of trees in this area produce less debris and, therefore, would require less maintenance than the other potential sites that were reviewed. The existing horseshoe pit is currently flat and overall level. It is currently made out of decomposed granite, so the demolition/grading costs would be minimal and the location would not require the removal of any existing turf. In addition, this site would not interfere with existing sport uses at this park such as soccer or grass volleyball. The installation of a sand volleyball court would replace an existing, underutilized area with an amenity that more members of the public would use. Attachment 3 provides a map of the potential court location at Sylvan Park.

Staff recommends Sylvan Park as the preferred location for a future sand volleyball court because there is appropriate space within the park that would not impact other uses or activities. The sand court would also replace an underutilized area with an amenity that better meets current needs of residents. Lastly, the site at Sylvan Park will have the lowest demolition costs and require the least amount of ongoing maintenance due to the location and type of trees that are adjacent to the site.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for construction and installation of a sand volleyball court is \$380,000. Attachment 4 provides a breakdown of the estimated costs. The estimate includes the cost of demolition of asphalt at Cuesta Park. Sylvan Park would not have less demolition costs, which would decrease the overall cost. The court would be added to the park maintenance crew schedule similar to maintaining the sand tot lots in our playgrounds.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend a location for a sand volleyball court, staff would add this project to the Community Services Department's five-year capital improvement project list that will be reviewed and considered through the City's budget process.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not recommend a sand volleyball court at any City park.
2. Direct staff to look into alternate locations at other parks.
3. Provide other options or direction to staff.

TY-JRM/AF/3/CSD

224-01-09-19M

- Attachments:
1. Map of Proposed Sand Volleyball Court at Cuesta Park
 2. Map of Proposed Sand Volleyball Court at Cooper Park
 3. Map of Proposed Sand Volleyball Court at Sylvan Park
 4. Cost Estimate