

From: [Cliff Chambers](#)
To: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 3.1 CIP: More permanent pickleball courts needed
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:00:02 PM

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Mayor Ramirez and members of the City Council:

I have been a resident of Mountain View for 18 years, and started playing pickleball 3 years ago. I play the game with both friends and family an average of 4-5 times a week. Great exercise and very fun, regular human interaction for this recent retiree. First off, the pickleball community does appreciate the two permanent courts at Rengstorff Park along with one shared tennis practice and pickleball court if a temporary net is set up. We appreciated Former Mayor and current Council Member Lisa Matichak coming out to dedicate the new courts and play with us.

The demand for this wonderful game has skyrocketed since the two permanent courts opened and in fact has been dubbed "the fastest growing sport in America." I was recently playing pickleball with my 14 year old grandson with a very good almost 80 year pickleball player and he stated after the game: "what other sport can you have an 80 year old and 14 year old, and be competitive and have fun." That accurately sums up the attraction of this intergeneration games. My two daughters, son, wife and grandson all play together when we can find a court. If you visit Rengstorff Park on a Saturday morning you will see the wonderful diversity of ages and ethnicities that play pickleball there. I was playing last Saturday and there were over 40 people there with two permanent courts and one temporary court accommodating 12 players. The wait time to play was over 30 minutes and many folks came and left because the wait times were too long.

I also want to commend the Recreation Department for putting out a survey that will hopefully result in some shared courts with the tennis courts in the very near future. This practice works very well in Palo Alto where pickleball has priority before 3 pm and tennis has priority after 3 pm. It's a very small investment to paint pickleball lines on 2-3 tennis courts with additional signage on the usage rules. Many of us have been advocating this for years, and I'm hopeful this will actually happen in the very near future. I hope the City Council expresses their support for this hopefully pending action Tuesday night.

However, there is demand right now for eight permanent pickleball courts, which provides sufficient opportunity to continue to build and meet the explosion of new pickleball players. Many of the tennis courts are underutilized, and Palo Alto took the step of replacing a couple of tennis courts with permanent courts. This could happen with the tennis courts nearest to the senior center. If there is a location where you can build 8-12 new pickleball courts (44 feet long X 20 feet wide with sufficient space in between the courts), that would be ideal. The new courts should have been in the CIP years ago but unfortunately it is still not on the long list of the CIP Improvements.

I urge you to direct staff to find a location for 8-12 new permanent pickleball courts in Mountain View with construction completed ASAP. Please include this for an upcoming CIP year. Knowing that planning, design and construction will take some time, the shared courts with the tennis courts is a good interim solution but needs to be implemented soon.

Thanks for the consideration.

Cliff Chambers
Resident of the City of Mountain View

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 3.1 Study Session on the Capital Improvement Program
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:07:54 PM

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Dear Mayor Ramirez and Mountain View City Council Members,

The following paragraph is an excerpt from a letter that I sent to City Council seven years ago on May 11, 2015

“.....This letter is to request your consideration, when voting on the budget for the Parks and Recreation Department for fiscal year 2015-2016, that the item for striping the tennis courts be increased by the amount of \$5,400 to cover the cost to paint blended lines for Pickleball on some tennis courts, to allow the courts to become shared-use.....”

Subsequently, in April 2019, the City converted the practice hitting wall at Rengstorff Park into 2 permanent pickleball courts, and painted pickleball lines next to these for use with a portable net.

This effort by the City was greatly appreciated at the time, but since then pickleball has been exploding nationwide, with all ages including many families taking up the sport. Consequently, we need a much larger pickleball facility to serve the many pickleball players in our Community.

The reason for its popularity is because pickleball is easy to learn and inexpensive to play. Kids and adults can play together, it's drop-in so players don't have to arrange a game, and besides the physical exercise, the social aspect of all ages gathering together to play a fun sport is beneficial to everyone's emotional health and good for the Community.

Please add pickleball courts to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that you will be addressing at the meeting on Tuesday.

Thank you for your consideration,

Monica Williams
Mountain View Resident

From: [Paige Kolze](#)
To: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: Pickleball courts in Mountain View
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:15:20 AM

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I noticed that you are discussing capital improvements tomorrow evening and did not see additional pickleball courts on the list.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports locally and nationally, and is played by people of all ages. I love being able to ride my bike over to the courts at Rengstorff Park to play, but the courts there are just so crowded that I often drive my car to Mitchell Park in Palo Alto where there are 15 courts or the Sunnyvale Tennis center where they offer classes, clinics and tournaments. Those courts are crowded too, but the facilities are larger so they can handle the crowds better.

Please consider building an outdoor pickleball facility in Mountain View with 8-12 courts. 3-4 pickleball courts fit in the space of a tennis court and Cuesta Park is a potential location with adequate space. Pickleball tends to be a friendly, social sport, with drop-in play where the participants not only get the health benefits of physical exercise, but also the social connections of the local pickleball community. More courts would be a great asset to the city.

Thank you for your consideration.
Paige Kolze

