



Item No. 12 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER

DATE: JULY 19, 2023

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF PICKLEBALL SURVEY RESULTS AND DIRECTION TO STAFF

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council review and discuss the 2023 Pickleball Survey Results and provide direction to staff on next steps.

BACKGROUND

Beginning February 2022, the Park & Recreation Committee undertook a review of pickleball options for Holbrook-Palmer Park which ultimately made its way to the City Council in March 2023. In March 2023, the Council directed that staff work with a Subcommittee of the City Council to create a community interest survey for pickleball at the Park.

The Survey sought community feedback on the possibility of adding pickleball to Holbrook-Palmer Park. The Survey suggested that if the Town were to add pickleball, it could be done by:

- Converting one of the six tennis courts (such as the underutilized clay court) permanently to pickleball configurations;
- Converting a tennis court to a multi-sport court, which would allow for tennis, pickleball and basketball;
- Converting any underutilized space in the Park, such as the handball court or other open areas, to a permanent pickleball court; or
- Allowing pickleball, using any of the preceding options, but only on set times and days.

The purpose of the Survey was to understand and gather comments, both positive and negative, that would serve as a guide to the Council's decision-making about pickleball in the Park. The Survey was released in early April 2023 and closed at the end of May 2023. There were 401 respondents.

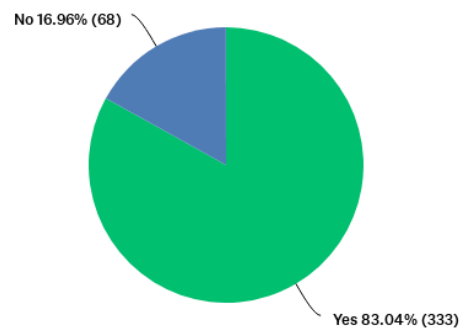
ANALYSIS

The Survey asked 7 questions.

Question #1 – Are you or your family members residents of the Town of Atherton?

Of the 401 respondents to the Survey, 333 answered affirmatively that they were residents of the Town. Attachment #1 includes any detail associated with the question.

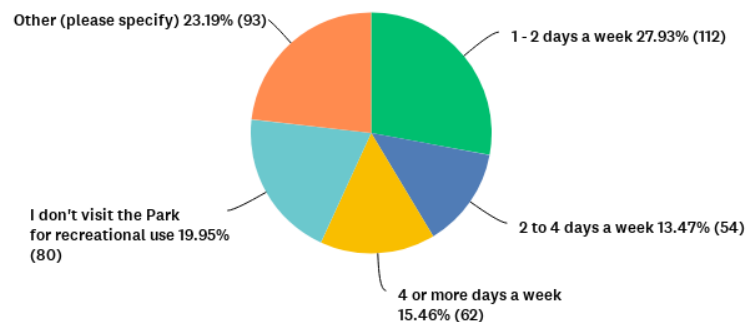
Q1 Are you or your family members residents of the Town of Atherton?



Question #2 – How often do you visit Holbrook-Palmer Park for recreational use?

Of the 401 respondents, the 116 visited more than 2 days a week, 112 visited for 1-2 days a week, 93 visited via other parameters, and 80 advised that they do not visit the Park for recreational use. Attachment #2 includes any detail associated with the question.

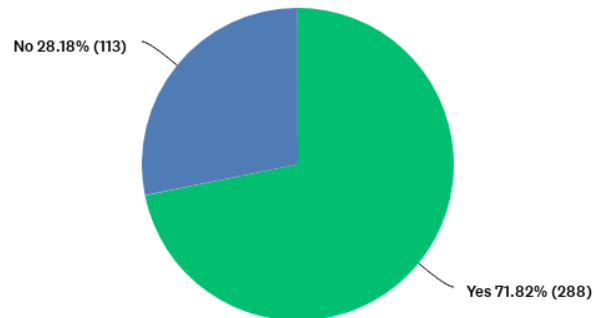
Q2 How often do you visit Holbrook-Palmer for recreational use?



Question #3 – Do you or a family member currently play or want to play pickleball?

Of the 401 respondents, 288 responded that they or a family member currently play or want to play pickleball. Attachment #3 includes any detail associated with the question.

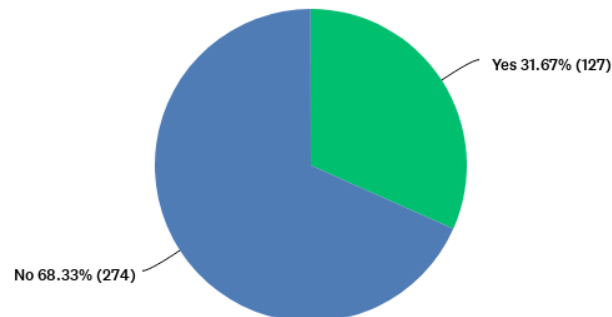
Q3 Do you or a family member currently play or want to play pickleball?



Question #4 – Are you or a family member a tennis key holder at the Town's Park?

Of the 401 respondents, 127 responded that they were tennis key holders. Attachment #4 includes any detail associated with the question.

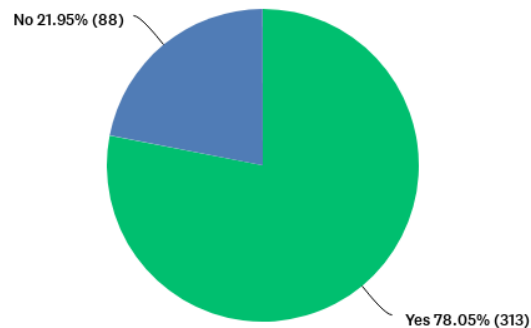
Q4 Are you or a family member a tennis key holder at the Town's Park?



Question #5 – Do you support adding pickleball options (via a trail or on a permanent basis) at the Park?

Of the 401 respondents, 313 responded affirmatively. Attachment #5 includes any detail associated with the question.

Q5 Do you support adding pickleball options (via a trial or on a permanent basis) at the Park? (If No, Skip to #7)



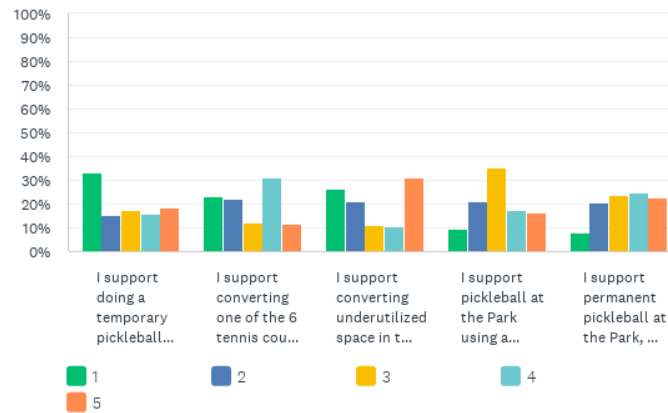
Question #6 – Rank the following in order of support (1 being the most and 5 being the least) for pickleball options at the Park.

This question asked respondents to rank 5 options.

1. I support doing a temporary pickleball trial using one of the tennis courts to determine a level of community interest.
2. I support permanent pickleball at the Park, but only to be played on certain days and times.
3. I support pickleball at the Park using a multi-sport court opportunity (i.e. a court designed for basketball, pickleball, and tennis).
4. I support converting one of the 6 tennis courts to a permanent pickleball court (possibly the clay court).
5. I support converting underutilized space in the Park (such as the handball court or other areas of the Park) to a permanent pickleball court.

Of the 401 respondents, respondents placed the above in the following ranked order - #1, #4, #5, #3, and then #2. Attachment #6 includes any detail associated with the question.

Q6 If yes, rank the following in order of support (1 being the most and 5 being the least) for pickleball options at the Park.



Question #7 – Do you have any additional comments about using space in the Park for pickleball?

There were 179 comments provided by respondents. Attachment #7 provides a list of all of the comments received.

Crosstabulations

Of the 401 respondents, 333 responded that they were **residents**. Of these:

Question 3, Do you play pickleball? 74% answered Yes and 26% answered No.

Question 4, Tennis Key Holder? 32% answered Yes and 68% answered No.

Question 5, Support Adding Pickleball? 80% answered Yes and 20% answered No.

Question 6, Where? Most popular response is doing a temporary trial on one of the tennis courts.

Of the 401 respondents, 127 responded that they were **tennis key holders**. Of these:

Question 3, Do you play pickleball? 50% answered Yes and 50% answered No.

Question 5, Support Adding Pickleball? 53% answered Yes and 47% answered No.

Question 6, Where? Most popular response is doing a temporary trial on one of the tennis courts.

Of the 401 respondents, 80 responded that they **do not use the Park for Recreation**. Of these:

Question 1, Resident? 79% answered Yes and 21% answered No.

Question 3, Do you play pickleball? 84% answered Yes and 16% answered No.

Question 4, Tennis Key Holder? 2.5% answered Yes and 97.5% answered No.

Question 5, Support Adding Pickleball? 94% answered Yes and 6% answered No.

Question 6, Where? Most popular is converting one of the 6 tennis courts.

Options

There were 4 options presented as part of the Survey.

- Converting one of the six tennis courts (such as the underutilized clay court) permanently to pickleball configurations;
- Converting a tennis court to a multi-sport court, which would allow for tennis, pickleball and basketball;
- Converting any underutilized space in the Park, such as the handball court or other open areas, to a permanent pickleball court; or
- Allowing pickleball, using any of the preceding options, but only on set times and days.

The Council can discuss any of these options or other options for consideration if the Council wishes to move forward with pickleball at the Park. Options could include a trial run using one of the existing tennis courts with temporary markings and portable nets. Coordination of any pickleball solution at the Park that involves the Tennis Courts will require coordination with Player Capital, the Town's current court vendor.

Funding

The City Council representative to the Park Foundation has advised that the Foundation may be open to funding portions of the development of a pickleball solution at the Park. Other options for funding include expressing support for pickleball but directing that funding in support of conversion of any space in the Park must come from private donations.

Noise and Other Impacts

Lastly, any solution for pickleball must address concerns related to noise, court availability, hours and days of use, and other impacts.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area B – Preserve Small Town Character and Quality of Life
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

POLICY FOCUS

The policy focus for this item is whether or not the pickleball should be a supported use in Holbrook-Palmer Park. If supported as a use in the Park, the Council should direct staff with respect to next steps – identified solution, trial program, permanent solutions, timing, funding, etc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

ATTACHMENTS

1. Q1 PDF Summary
2. Q2 PDF Summary
3. Q3 PDF Summary
4. Q4 PDF Summary
5. Q5 PDF Summary
6. Q6 PDF Summary
7. Q7 PDF Summary