

8. **PICKLEBALL PROGRAM AT HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK**

**Report: Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Council approve an ongoing pickleball program at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

*Description:*



## **Item No. 8**

### **Town of Atherton**

#### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2024**

**SUBJECT: PICKLEBALL PROGRAM AT HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approve an ongoing pickleball program at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer was initiated at the end of January. The City Council received an update regarding the on-going pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer Park at the July 17, 2024, meeting, including usage data and interim results of the assessment survey. The assessment survey was closed at the end of July, with results provided to the Pickleball Subcommittee of the Park and Recreation Committee for review and recommendation to the full Park and Recreation Committee.

#### **ANALYSIS**

As noted above, the Pickleball Subcommittee reviewed the overall assessment survey results as well as breakdowns based on residency and park/court users, as well as reservation information pulled from the court reservation system. The Pickleball Subcommittee then presented its findings and recommendations to the full Park and Recreation Committee at its September 4, 2024, meeting.

The Subcommittee reported that over the last four months (May – August) there were approximately 47 different players that reserved a pickleball court, totaling 405 hours, with approximately 117 hours reserved in August. Several people remarked they would play if more times opened up or “drop-in” play were allowed. There were 154 respondents to the survey, with 77 respondents indicating that they played pickleball (50 Atherton residents), and 56 played tennis (32 Atherton residents). The Subcommittee also reviewed the potential detrimental effects of pickleball including noise and impacts to tennis. It was also noted that overall key sales were up,

152 keys sold to date vs. 99 keys last year.

The subcommittee concluded that there was sufficient interest in maintaining pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park; that though noise could be an issue, it has been mitigated by the installation of the sound baffling materials, and there have not been any complaints from park neighbors; that pickleball use has not shown a meaningful loss in tennis opportunities; and that there was interest in expanding hours and providing “drop-in” play opportunities.

Overall, the Subcommittee recommended the continuation of the pickleball program at Holbrook-Palmer Park, with expanded hours to include all-day Sunday, with “drop-in” play available on one court in the afternoon. They recommended monitoring of that noise levels related to increased use. They further suggested that long-term, permanent court(s) at a separate location could be funded by donors.

After review and deliberation, the Park and Recreation Committee recommended continuation of a pickleball program as follows:

Continued shared use of Court 1 with the following hours:

- Mornings (until noon) – daily
- Evenings (after 4pm) – Tuesdays and Thursdays
- All day – Sunday, with one court reserved and one court available for “drop-in” play

The Committee also recommended a sign in sheet be provided to track “drop-in” play usage/interest, and that the program be continued through the end of the tennis year. There was also some discussion of a potential demonstration event to introduce new players to the sport. It was also noted that, similar to all courts, key holders may play on open/unreserved courts on a first come-first served basis. It was also suggested that should Player Capital Tennis provide pickleball instruction, it should be outside of the regular pickleball hours, such that they do not impact the limited availability of the courts.

Though tracking of “drop-in” play may be useful, it would be difficult to manage and track a paper sign-in sheet. If desired, an on-line form or survey can be hosted, but there will be no monitoring of players requiring sign-ins.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Limited, associated with new signage and paddle holders, if desired.

## **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 E – Strengthen Community Engagement and Transparency
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

### **POLICY FOCUS**

The policy focus for this item is regarding Council direction regarding the continuation of pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

### **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**

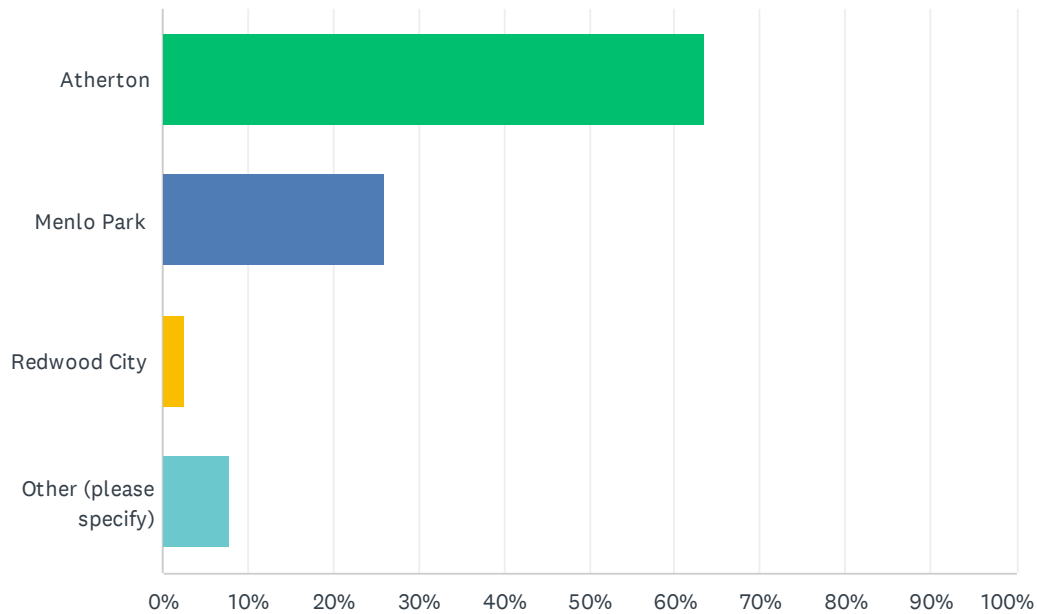
Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Pickleball Trail Assessment Survey Results
2. September 4, 2024, Pickleball Subcommittee Presentation

## Q1 City of Residence

Answered: 154 Skipped: 0



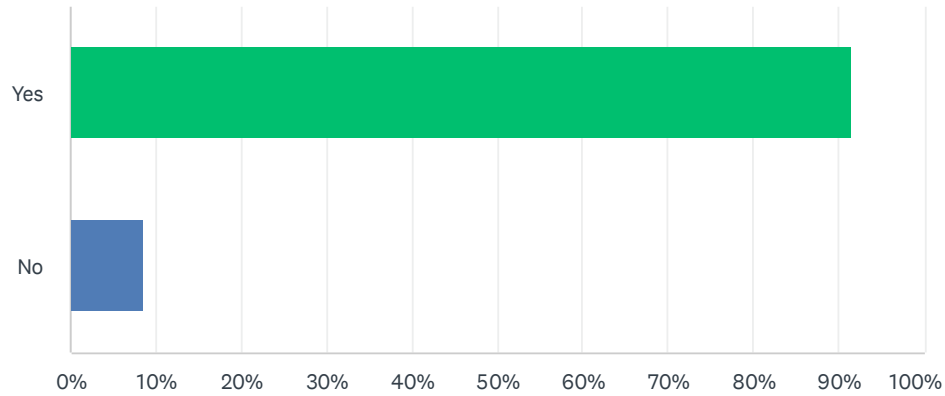
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Atherton	63.64%	98
Menlo Park	25.97%	40
Redwood City	2.60%	4
Other (please specify)	7.79%	12
TOTAL		154

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Palo Alto	7/27/2024 6:41 PM
2	Palo Alto	7/19/2024 4:36 PM
3	Atherton	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
4	Atherton	7/11/2024 4:55 PM
5	Palo Alto	7/9/2024 4:56 PM
6	Palo Alto	7/9/2024 3:56 PM
7	Woodside	7/9/2024 1:02 PM
8	Palo Alto	7/9/2024 12:50 PM
9	Hillsborough	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
10	Palo Alto	6/23/2024 3:51 PM
11	Portola Valley	6/22/2024 4:14 PM



## Q2 Are you aware that the Town initiated a pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer Park?

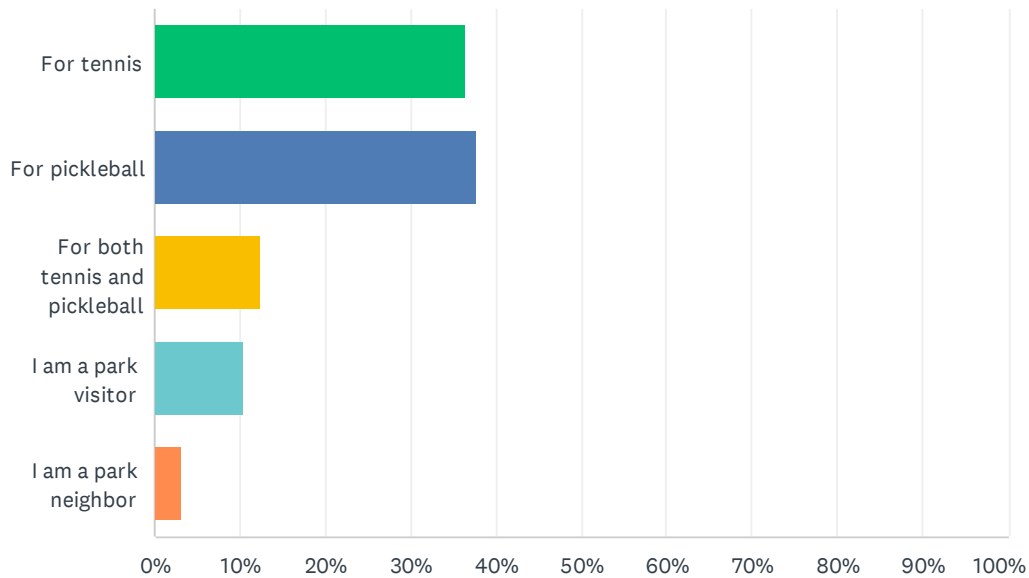
Answered: 153 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.50%	140
No	8.50%	13
TOTAL		153

### Q3 Do you use the courts at Holbrook-Palmer Park

Answered: 154   Skipped: 0

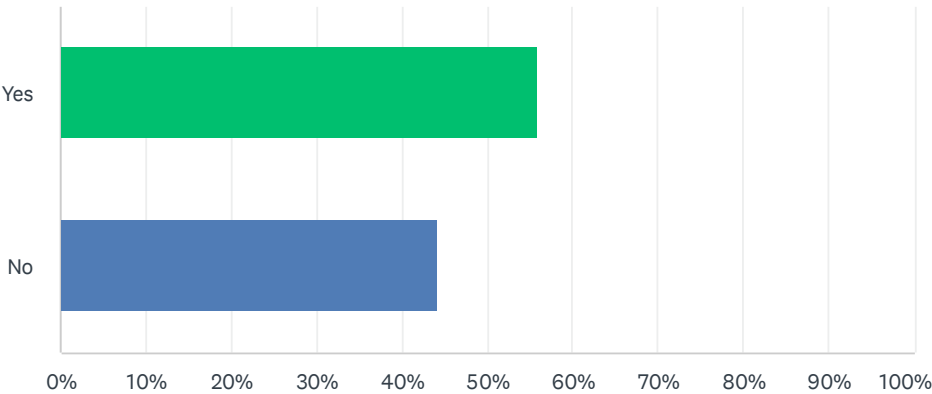


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
For tennis	36.36%	56
For pickleball	37.66%	58
For both tennis and pickleball	12.34%	19
I am a park visitor	10.39%	16
I am a park neighbor	3.25%	5
TOTAL		154



Q4 Are you a current court key holder?

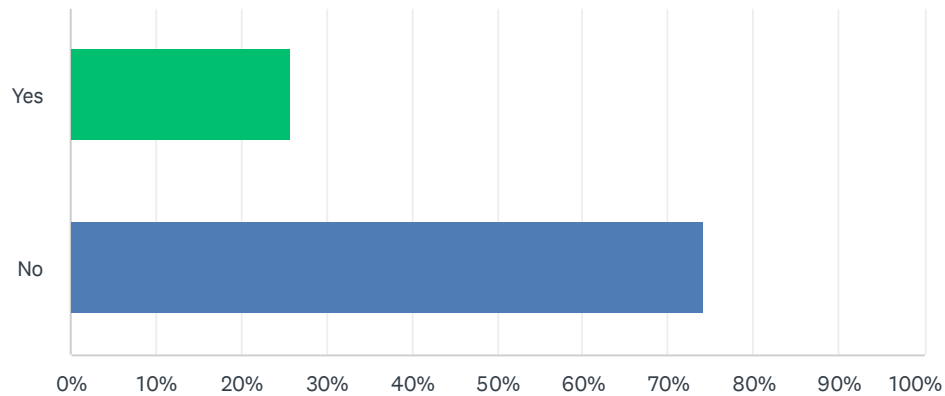
Answered: 154    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		55.84%	86
No		44.16%	68
TOTAL			154

## Q5 Did you purchase a key to participate in the pickleball trial?

Answered: 151   Skipped: 3

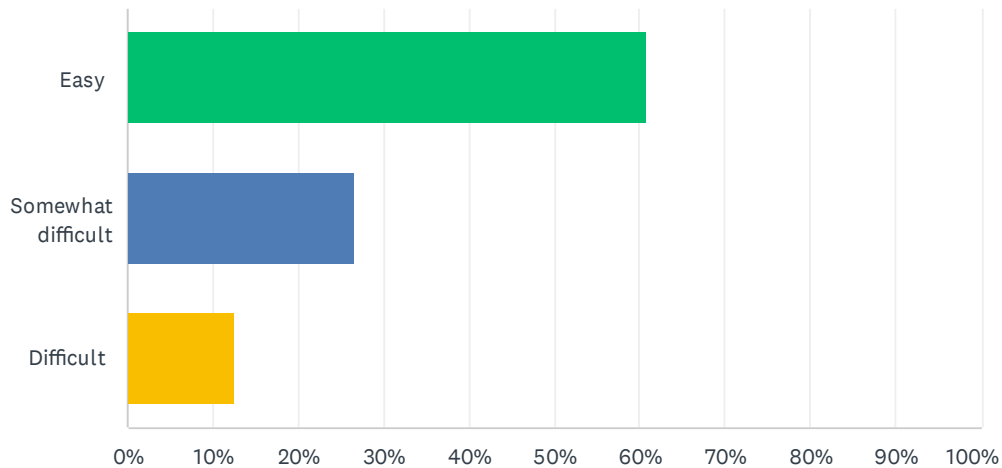


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.83%	39
No	74.17%	112
TOTAL		151

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Planning to get a key, but pickleball court time is somewhat limited	7/31/2024 3:32 PM
2	I am an instructor	7/19/2024 4:36 PM
3	I had an injury which prevented me from getting this earlier this year, but I plan to purchase a key to try out pickleball soon!	7/17/2024 5:14 PM
4	I purchased the key for both	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
5	Working under Player Capital only to play tennis.	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
6	Not an Atherton resident, but I would be happy to.	6/30/2024 1:37 PM
7	Atherton friend has key	6/30/2024 11:55 AM
8	Am intersted in learning about Pickleball	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
9	My wife and I like to support the park in any way we can. We have purchased a court key the past c few years to support the park and in anticipation of playing pickleball	6/24/2024 7:08 AM
10	Went with a friend who did.	6/23/2024 6:53 PM
11	Nope. A fellow pickleballer did.	6/23/2024 5:42 PM
12	I would buy a key if pickleball is permanently available	6/23/2024 2:46 PM
13	But am interested!	6/21/2024 6:26 PM

## Q6 Do you find it easy or difficult to make a reservation for court use?

Answered: 120   Skipped: 34



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Easy	60.83% 73
Somewhat difficult	26.67% 32
Difficult	12.50% 15
TOTAL	120

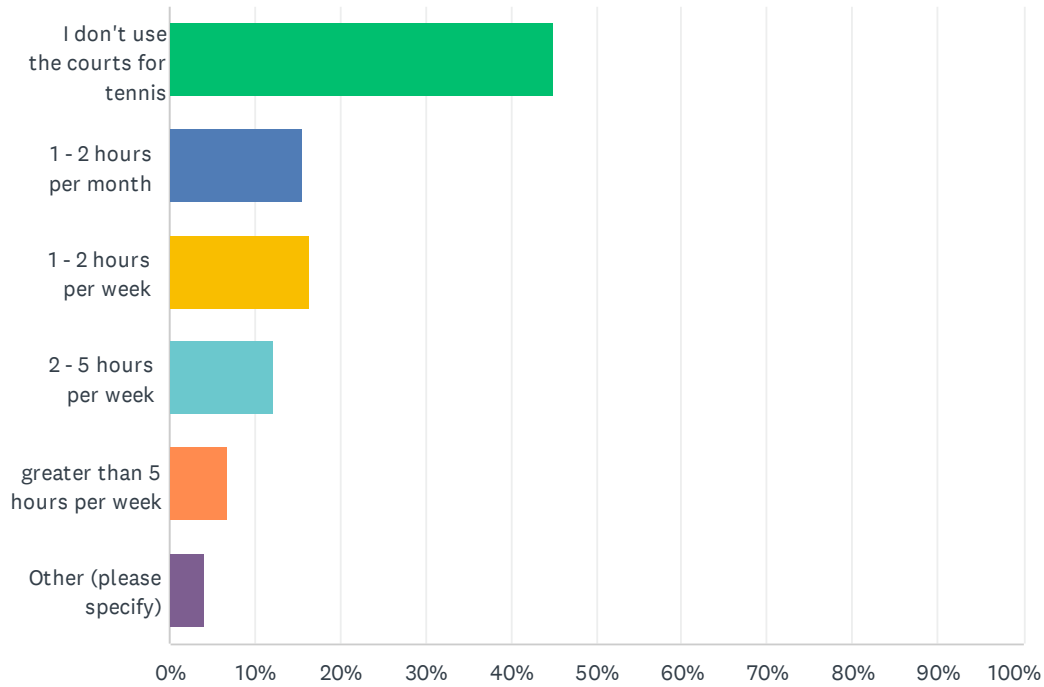
#	WHY?	DATE
1	Too many courts for training	7/18/2024 11:24 AM
2	reserved courts often do not show up to use them	7/18/2024 11:20 AM
3	you log in, you pick your day/time, if it's open you book...easy!	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
4	The online system is easy to use. However, pickleball makes it a little more challenging due to availability	7/15/2024 1:03 PM
5	courts are often full	7/11/2024 4:55 PM
6	limited court space	7/9/2024 7:27 PM
7	It is generally great but you don't abide by the one week in advance rule. Often, when I login at precisely one week, most of the slots are already taken.	7/9/2024 4:04 PM
8	Many late afternoons and evenings are all reserved for either Player Capital or Pickleball - leaving only one court left for resident key holders.	7/9/2024 3:52 PM
9	Fewer tennis courts	7/9/2024 2:37 PM
10	hardly any hard courts are available in mornings for tennis	7/9/2024 1:58 PM
11	NA	7/9/2024 1:35 PM
12	Lately there are few to no options to choose from in the morning due to pickleball and tennis camps	7/9/2024 1:16 PM
13	Because of the pickleball trial	7/9/2024 1:04 PM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

14	I can log in and see the openings easily.	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
15	Software is easy but PB trial hurts our court usage.	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
16	Player Capital admin helps with court reservation	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
17	Player capital has taken over all the courts at the popular times. Is this really a court for Atherton residents or for them to make money?	7/9/2024 12:45 PM
18	One less court for tennis players to use!	7/9/2024 12:45 PM
19	N/A	7/9/2024 12:44 PM
20	name and password changes each year	7/9/2024 12:44 PM
21	less courts at certain times	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
22	Would love more slots	7/8/2024 8:04 PM
23	Limited times and dates for pickleball play. Even when other courts are not in use.	6/30/2024 1:37 PM
24	Easy, BUT then one needs to organize a group to play with as opposed to an easy drop-in system.	6/29/2024 2:46 PM
25	we have still not received our email code, despite emailing and calling to get it	6/25/2024 7:41 AM
26	NA	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
27	N/A	6/24/2024 1:02 PM
28	NA	6/23/2024 6:53 PM
29	Can't comment. Key holder makes the reservations.	6/23/2024 5:42 PM
30	Not applicable	6/23/2024 3:51 PM
31	Limited hours of court availability	6/23/2024 2:46 PM
32	Difficult to connect to sign up. It would be nice if we could just show up and enjoy a Pickleball game with whoever wants to play.	6/22/2024 9:37 PM
33	My good friend has a key and makes the reservations	6/22/2024 4:14 PM
34	So many lessons and usta matches	6/22/2024 9:01 AM
35	Not enough availability in early afternoons	6/22/2024 7:25 AM
36	no key no reservation	6/22/2024 7:18 AM
37	Very few times available	6/21/2024 11:25 PM
38	I would love to have more Monday and Friday availability as those are work from home days for most companies in the area.	6/21/2024 6:44 PM
39	Limited times and availability	6/21/2024 6:02 PM
40	N/a. I don't have a key	6/21/2024 5:29 PM
41	Very restrictive due to hours	6/21/2024 5:24 PM
42	I don't reserve because I don't have a key.	6/21/2024 8:58 AM

## Q7 On average, how many hours do you play tennis at Holbrook-Palmer Park?

Answered: 147    Skipped: 7

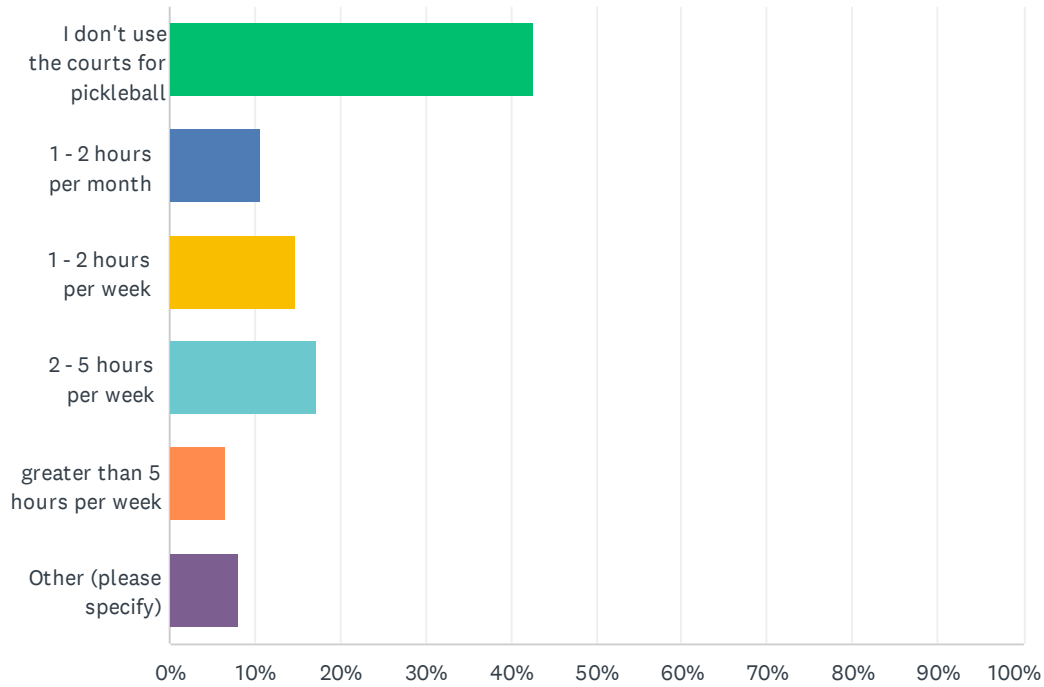


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use the courts for tennis	44.90%	66
1 - 2 hours per month	15.65%	23
1 - 2 hours per week	16.33%	24
2 - 5 hours per week	12.24%	18
greater than 5 hours per week	6.80%	10
Other (please specify)	4.08%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>147</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	There everyday to play and coach tennis.	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
2	Would like to play more but currently only get courts 2-3 hours/month.	7/9/2024 12:45 PM
3	NA	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
4	I use the tennis courts intermittently	6/21/2024 6:04 PM
5	I use the courts for pickleball	6/21/2024 6:02 PM
6	On occasion by invitation.	6/21/2024 5:29 PM

## Q8 On average, how many hours do you play pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park?

Answered: 150    Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I don't use the courts for pickleball	42.67%	64
1 - 2 hours per month	10.67%	16
1 - 2 hours per week	14.67%	22
2 - 5 hours per week	17.33%	26
greater than 5 hours per week	6.67%	10
Other (please specify)	8.00%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150</b>

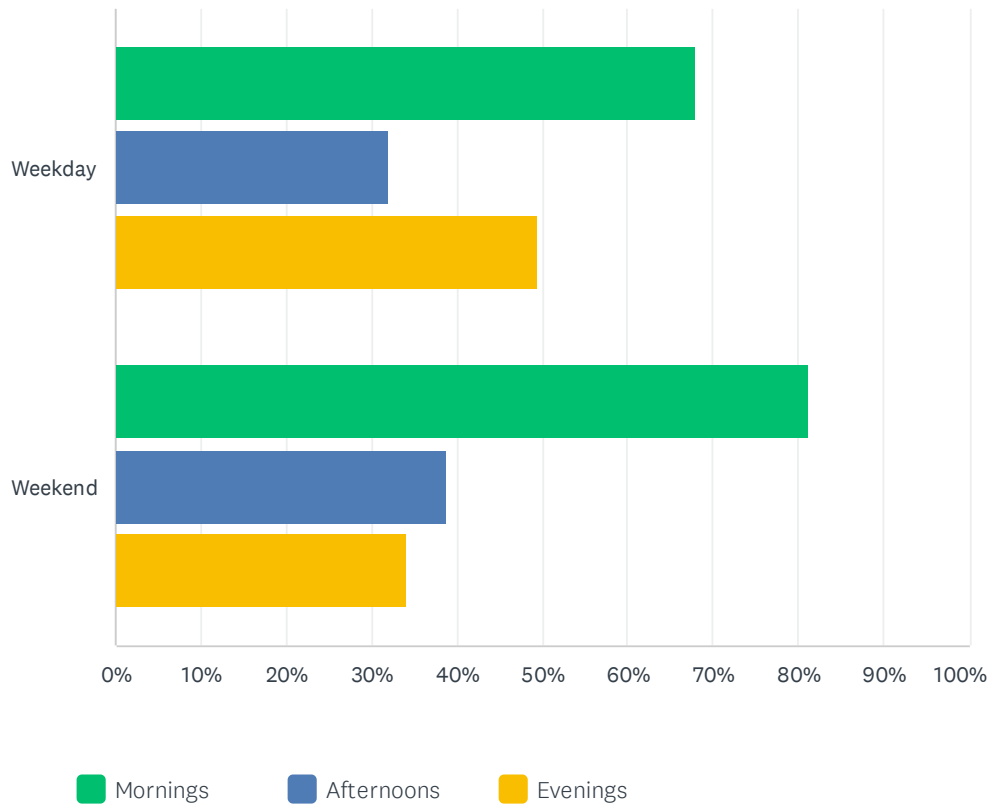
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Planing for 2-3hours per week	7/31/2024 3:32 PM
2	None yet, but I plan to soon	7/17/2024 5:14 PM
3	I just got the key, but this is the plan.	7/9/2024 1:04 PM
4	I end up playing else due to limited availability.	6/30/2024 1:37 PM
5	I have tried to book three times and still can't get email access	6/25/2024 7:41 AM
6	I broke my foot doing something else, but did go once and planned to get a key.	6/23/2024 6:53 PM
7	Twice as guest. I have access to courts at several other locales.	6/22/2024 11:33 AM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

8	I would love to, but I am a single player. I was hoping for drop in pickleball	6/22/2024 9:01 AM
9	Only used it twice	6/21/2024 8:55 PM
10	I have a shoulder injury so I have not been able to use the PB courts much the past few months.	6/21/2024 4:55 PM
11	varies, but I try to use the courts at least 5 hours/week	6/21/2024 4:46 PM
12	The limited availability impacts my ability to play here often.	6/20/2024 9:39 PM

## Q9 When do you play (or prefer to play) pickleball

Answered: 98 Skipped: 56

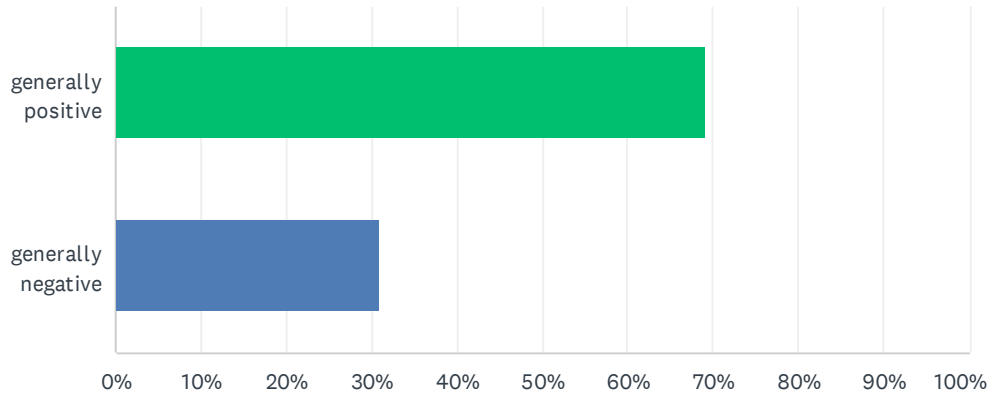


	MORNINGS	AFTERNOONS	EVENINGS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Weekday	68.04% 66	31.96% 31	49.48% 48	97
Weekend	81.18% 69	38.82% 33	34.12% 29	85



## Q10 Please describe your opinion of the temporary pickleball courts (layout, striping, nets, noise)

Answered: 146    Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
generally positive	69.18%	101
generally negative	30.82%	45
TOTAL		146

#	PLEASE ELABORATE.	DATE
1	FUN	7/18/2024 7:15 AM
2	Disturbs neighbors with noise	7/17/2024 5:24 PM
3	I don't feel it's too noisy bc plenty of tennis going on and v-ball	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
4	takes up space needed for tennis	7/11/2024 4:55 PM
5	Very noisy.	7/10/2024 8:32 PM
6	It's very loud: both the players noise and the pickleball sound	7/9/2024 9:19 PM
7	I found some pickleball player come without reseving court. I have reserved for court 1 and I ended up moving to the other court.	7/9/2024 5:29 PM
8	I don't love them but fine to keep to a single court for a morning	7/9/2024 5:13 PM
9	I think the noise reduction panels have helped a lot	7/9/2024 4:56 PM
10	I like the acoutic fence on two sides. It does a good job of funneling noise.	7/9/2024 4:04 PM
11	It doesn't interfere with the tennis lessons at all. The sound dampening seems to work well too.	7/9/2024 3:56 PM
12	Takes up too much reserved courts	7/9/2024 3:52 PM
13	Noise is annoying.	7/9/2024 2:37 PM
14	would prefer permanent courts	7/9/2024 1:44 PM
15	Pickleball players are loud and crass, including using expletives around small children. Have never seen that behavior in a decade of using tennis courts.	7/9/2024 1:35 PM
16	noise	7/9/2024 1:20 PM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

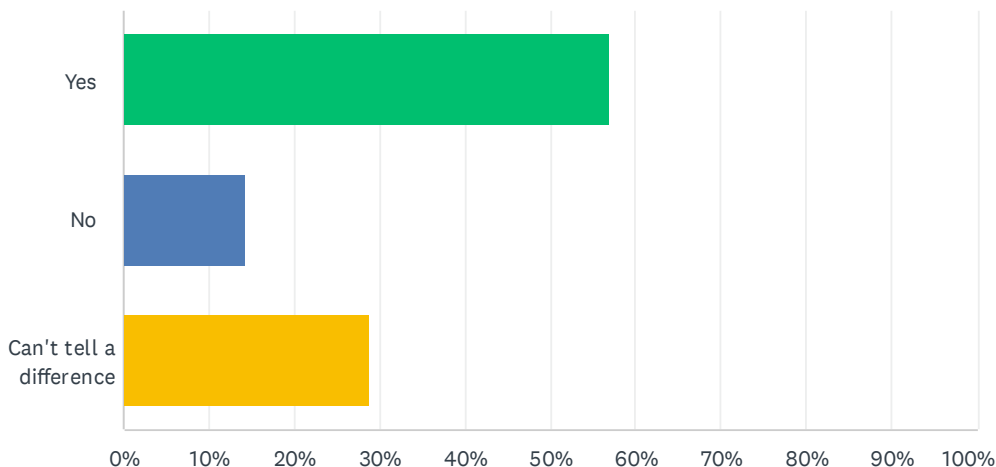
17	Not used very much and reduces the options for tennis. Could pickleball be moved to the practice courts next to the train tracks? They don't need much space or a proper tennis court.	7/9/2024 1:16 PM
18	Excellent	7/9/2024 1:15 PM
19	Tennis courts should remain	7/9/2024 1:12 PM
20	It's too loud and makes reservations even more difficult	7/9/2024 1:03 PM
21	pickleball is very noisy	7/9/2024 1:02 PM
22	they take up space that would otherwise be available for tennis players	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
23	Loud.	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
24	It is loud and pickleball is a social sport so when you have that many people on the court talking and you are actually trying to play tennis it is super distracting . The noise from the ball and the people talking the whole time has taken a lot of enjoyment away from my tennis experience. I strongly feel the court should be turned back to the tennis players..	7/9/2024 12:52 PM
25	I just prefer tennis over pickleball	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
26	Loud. Disruptive to tennis players and the neighborhood and park.	7/9/2024 12:44 PM
27	noise is an issue and also the sound barrier installed will not help courts to dry during the winter - it should be at least 1 foot above the surface to let air flow	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
28	It'd be great to have a permanent net and lines installed. We could also consider removing tennis net and have 3 pickleball courts next to each other horizontaly.	7/8/2024 8:04 PM
29	Rude pickleball players in this area	7/8/2024 4:47 PM
30	Too noisy. All the competing lines are distracting. PB courts should be isolated from the tennis courts. Tennis is a game of quiet concentration. Pickleball is noisy and socially raucous. PB courts should not be near tennis	7/7/2024 12:40 PM
31	Pickleball has made booking tennis courts harder	7/6/2024 7:57 PM
32	Noise abatement is excellent. Nets and lining is very good.	7/3/2024 9:09 AM
33	However- the HPP tennis court perimeter is 2' wider than Nealon Park's...therefore there is plenty of room to stripe 4 pickleball courts on the one tennis court like Nealon.	6/29/2024 2:46 PM
34	Nice to have them, but need better lineage	6/29/2024 12:47 PM
35	Blue pickleball kitchen line blends in with tennis court.	6/26/2024 5:02 PM
36	Why absorb existing courts; just add 1 02 two Pickleball Courts away from the tennis courts	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
37	Very loud.	6/24/2024 1:02 PM
38	People love the Pickleball! Please keep these courts open - they bring such joy!	6/24/2024 9:34 AM
39	I know it's a delicate balance accommodating pickleball while trying to not disrupt tennis. For the trial, I think the courts are appropriate	6/24/2024 7:08 AM
40	We need more pickleball courts please!	6/23/2024 8:41 PM
41	We need four on the court.	6/23/2024 6:53 PM
42	need more hours of play	6/23/2024 6:38 PM
43	Courts are roomy. Court lines are Legible.	6/23/2024 5:42 PM
44	Well done! Night safety have four permanent courts there.	6/23/2024 5:16 PM
45	Need better striping and higher quality nets	6/23/2024 2:46 PM
46	Noise, Pickleball should not be played on tennis courts. Should have separate courts,	6/23/2024 7:52 AM
47	Nice to have court reservations; beautiful park. Lines could be more differentiated. Nets are good but permanent would be much better.	6/22/2024 4:14 PM
48	Striping is a bit confusing	6/22/2024 8:23 AM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

49	Excellent!	6/22/2024 7:25 AM
50	Too noisy	6/21/2024 8:55 PM
51	This is a noisy game, period -- not much to be done about that, and it's annoying.	6/21/2024 8:52 PM
52	So great to have this sport available in our park!	6/21/2024 6:44 PM
53	N/A	6/21/2024 6:26 PM
54	Fun and appropriate addition to the park for residents	6/21/2024 5:38 PM
55	Lines could be painted a better color that is easier to distinguish	6/21/2024 5:29 PM
56	We would play MORE and in AFTERNOONS if court times not blocked off. Please open more court times!	6/21/2024 5:07 PM
57	I see quite a few people using the pickleball courts - more than use the tennis courts! I am delighted to see people using the Park.	6/21/2024 4:51 PM
58	Love the courts	6/21/2024 8:58 AM
59	The implementation of this trial is appreciated. I hope that play hours can be revisited and pickle ball players can have more play opportunities.	6/20/2024 9:39 PM

## Q11 Has the sound baffling material installed between courts been effective in reducing noise related to pickleball use?

Answered: 139 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.83%	79
No	14.39%	20
Can't tell a difference	28.78%	40
TOTAL		139

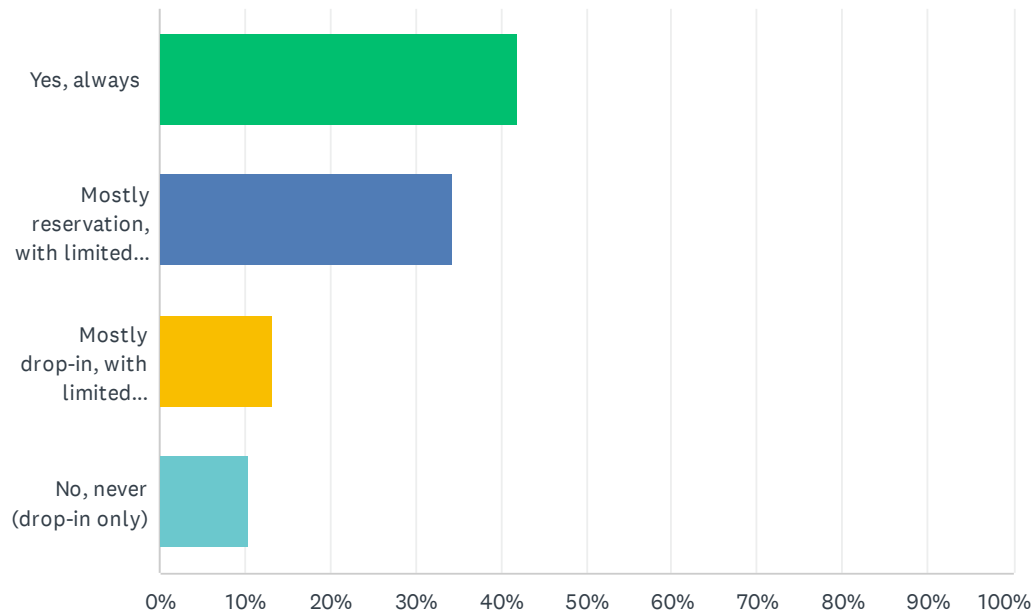
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	I'm not sure but maybe that's why I don't think p-ball too loud there	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
2	I can hear pickleball players shouting from another court farther away	7/9/2024 9:19 PM
3	I'm surprised this works but it actually does dampen the noise	7/9/2024 5:13 PM
4	Laughable to think it would	7/9/2024 1:35 PM
5	Excellent	7/9/2024 1:15 PM
6	I can't tell, I've never played right next to them and the train is so loud anyway.	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
7	It has but I wonder because a few years ago someone had a heart attack on that court and unfortunately he passed away but one of the coaches who worked there saw the man fall and tried to help. With the new tarps put up for noise cancellation, we can't see anything or hear anything. So yes, I can't see or hear the pickle players but I also won't be able to see or hear if anyone will need help on court 1.	7/9/2024 12:58 PM
8	You can hear the ball and all the people constantly talking.	7/9/2024 12:52 PM
9	Don't ever see people playing pickle ball.	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
10	but playing in the court with the sound barrier is very loud	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
11	Don't know.	6/24/2024 7:40 PM
12	NA	6/24/2024 7:37 PM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

13	Makes the courts really hot!	6/24/2024 9:34 AM
14	I do think it helps a bit....sound is a huge issue so it should be an ongoing effort to find different, effective, reasonable ways to mitigate the sound	6/24/2024 7:08 AM
15	Live in Lindenwood	6/23/2024 6:53 PM
16	Works well	6/23/2024 5:16 PM
17	Depends what court you play tennis	6/23/2024 7:52 AM
18	I never pay attention to Reduction of noise	6/22/2024 9:37 PM
19	I don't play tennis nor a resident of Felton Gables, which are the sides that face the baffling. It's hard for me to tell any difference from the park side.	6/22/2024 8:20 AM
20	IT makes the courts very hot. I wish you would remove it	6/22/2024 7:18 AM
21	N/A	6/21/2024 6:26 PM
22	No noise concerns.	6/21/2024 5:07 PM
23	I've never been bothered by court noise - either pickleball or tennis.	6/21/2024 4:51 PM
24	I can't hear the tennis players so assume it's equally effective to block pickleball noise on the tennis courts.	6/21/2024 4:46 PM

## Q12 Should reservations be required for pickleball use?

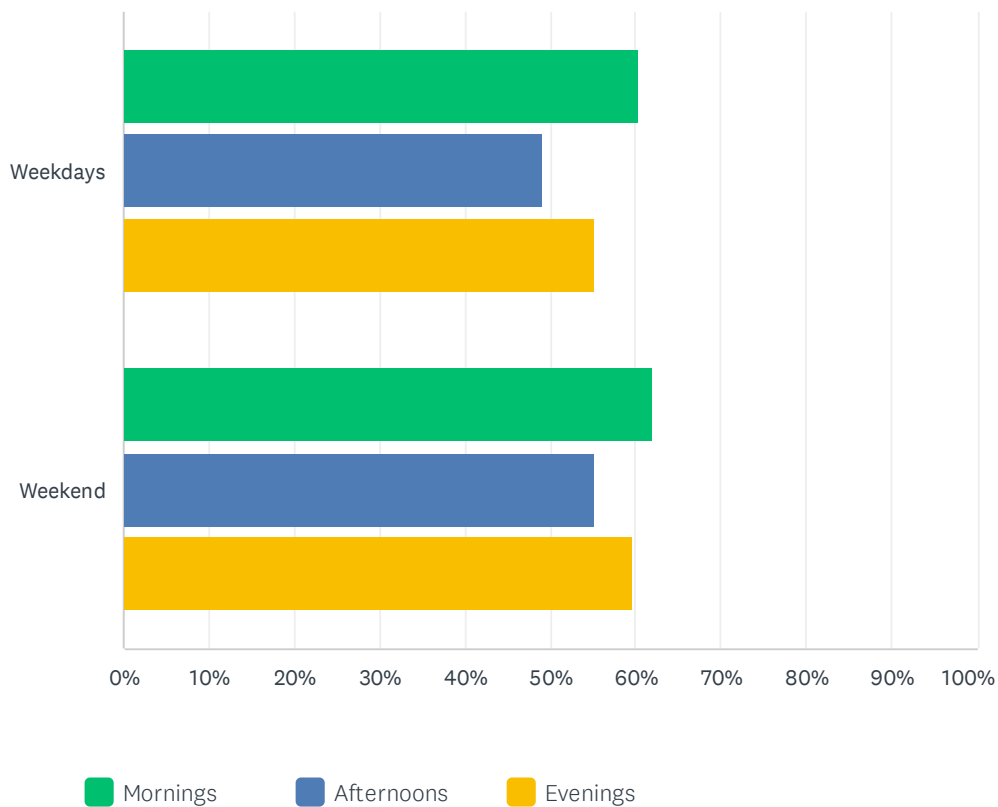
Answered: 143 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, always	41.96%	60
Mostly reservation, with limited drop-in play	34.27%	49
Mostly drop-in, with limited reservation	13.29%	19
No, never (drop-in only)	10.49%	15
TOTAL		143

## Q13 If drop-in hours were available, when should they be provided?

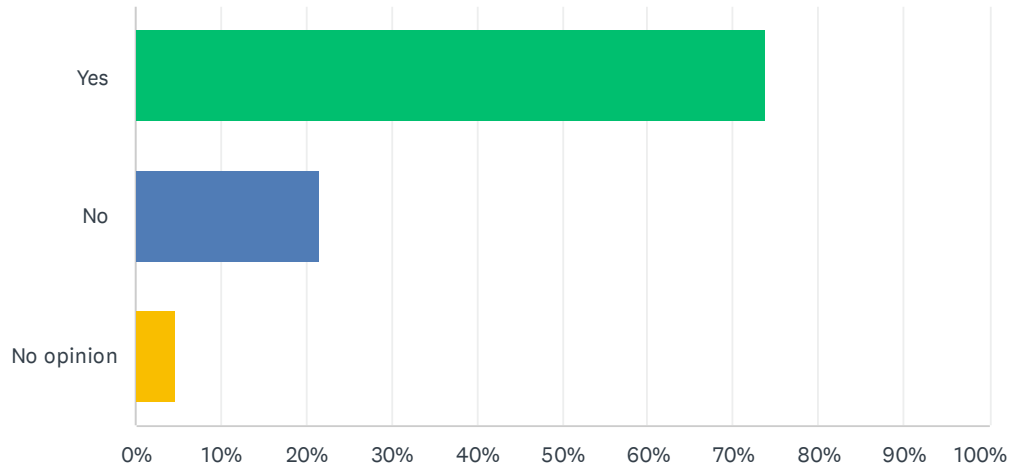
Answered: 101 Skipped: 53



	MORNINGS	AFTERNOONS	EVENINGS	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Weekdays	60.42% 58	48.96% 47	55.21% 53	96
Weekend	62.07% 54	55.17% 48	59.77% 52	87

## Q14 Should the Town consider installation of permanent pickleball facilities at Holbrook-Palmer Park?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 5

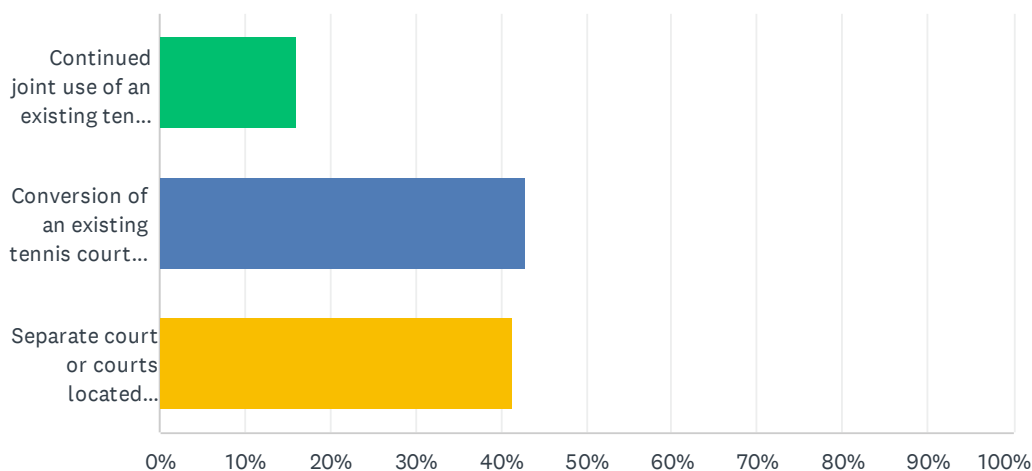


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.83%	110
No	21.48%	32
No opinion	4.70%	7
TOTAL		149



## Q15 If permanent courts were provided, where should they be located?

Answered: 138   Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Continued joint use of an existing tennis court	15.94%	22
Conversion of an existing tennis court to full-time pickleball court(s)	42.75%	59
Separate court or courts located elsewhere in the park	41.30%	57
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>138</b>

#	WHERE?	DATE
1	Conversion of more than one tennis court to full time pickleball	7/17/2024 5:14 PM
2	in the tennis court area	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
3	In between tennis courts and parking lot	7/10/2024 8:09 AM
4	along railroad tracks next to baseball field	7/9/2024 7:27 PM
5	perhaps away from the houses and courts, on the other side of the park	7/9/2024 4:56 PM
6	Between tennis courts and parking lot.	7/9/2024 4:04 PM
7	2 courts next to the sandbag fill station.	7/9/2024 2:37 PM
8	where the current unused tennis wall is	7/9/2024 1:58 PM
9	Ideally not anywhere in the park	7/9/2024 1:35 PM
10	Parking lot near the playground	7/9/2024 1:04 PM
11	The handball court	7/9/2024 1:03 PM
12	By the park exit gate / parking lot	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
13	Maybe where the tennis wall is.	7/9/2024 12:58 PM
14	Wherever there is an empty place for separate court from tennis. The tennis courts should only be used for tennis.	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
15	Elsewhere in the park	7/9/2024 12:45 PM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

16	There is more than enough space to build separate pickle ball courts on the other side of the park.	7/9/2024 12:44 PM
17	it does not matter plenty of space but behind the tennis courts by the train tracks makes sense	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
18	Other field	7/8/2024 4:47 PM
19	Away from the tennis courts	7/7/2024 12:40 PM
20	No preference, Somewhere away from tennis courts to avoid the sounds	7/6/2024 7:57 PM
21	Minimal cost.	7/3/2024 9:09 AM
22	Anywhere!	6/30/2024 11:55 AM
23	Confusing question as I take "permanent " to mean it's not joint use... if there are "permanent " pickle nets, how could one possibly play tennis on it? In any case- the one tennis court should be striped for 4 pickleball courts like at Nealon- plus HPP is bigger so there's plenty of room... more courts encourages more players and less waiting to play during drop-in days. Court 1 works.	6/29/2024 2:46 PM
24	You could also arrange pickle courts on an existing court such that you fit 3-4 on one court. (See Nealon Park). This would accommodate more players.	6/26/2024 5:02 PM
25	Back wall behind court 4-5	6/25/2024 9:23 PM
26	in left fiels foul area of baseball field	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
27	Strongly prefer to build pickle ball courts elsewhere in park. This is an amazing tennis facility. Used by the best jr players in the country. Incredible resource.	6/24/2024 1:02 PM
28	Courts should absolutely NOT be located elsewhere in the park. I think the conversion of ONE court is appropriate, with the option of "portable" conversions of other courts as needed to accommodate peak times.	6/24/2024 7:08 AM
29	Anywhere as long as there are plenty of them.	6/23/2024 8:41 PM
30	The current temp court would be great for a permanent spot	6/23/2024 5:16 PM
31	any of the above	6/23/2024 4:53 PM
32	Yes	6/22/2024 9:37 PM
33	In back next to carriage house maybe?	6/22/2024 9:01 AM
34	More availability with minimal cost	6/22/2024 7:25 AM
35	Suggest converting the rarely used clay court; adjacent to current courts and/or where the rebound wall is located	6/21/2024 8:12 PM
36	Use current trial court	6/21/2024 6:48 PM
37	Maybe somewhere near the tennis courts	6/21/2024 6:26 PM
38	Or could put in additional pickleball courts in another part of the park.	6/21/2024 6:13 PM
39	Use existing trial court.	6/21/2024 6:01 PM
40	There is such a growing popularity for PB that permanent courts are needed. It matters less where they are but that they should be permanent. Option B is cost effective and would increase availability of PB courts (a win-win!)	6/21/2024 5:07 PM
41	Near the railroad tracks so near by neighbors wouldn't hear the noise much.	6/21/2024 4:55 PM
42	It would be nice to have permanent courts. Location not so important to me.	6/21/2024 8:58 AM
43	closer to the main road	6/21/2024 8:33 AM

## Q16 Please provide any additional feedback regarding the pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Answered: 77    Skipped: 77

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More hours for playing are needed	7/27/2024 6:41 PM
2	It was good to get input	7/18/2024 11:24 AM
3	I don't see much use of the tennis courts so let's open them up	7/18/2024 7:15 AM
4	Who pays for the erection if courts, I am Atherton resident and feel who ever uses the courts should pay and not overall residents	7/17/2024 5:24 PM
5	I think that conversion to more than one court could be nice, and the ability to reserve at any time. There is often at least one free tennis court, so limiting the ability to reserve for pickleball in favor of tennis only which may not actually be used doesn't quite make sense. It's been nice seeing folks playing in the park.	7/17/2024 5:14 PM
6	Please please keep the pickleball courts at the park. It's so much fun! I'm 63 and appreciate the opportunity to get out there with friends, move my body outside and appreciate the beauty of H-P park. There is a growing group of pickleball people in Atherton and it's nice to finally get a court at our town park. I don't feel that the courts are too loud and there's plenty of activity already going on in the park (Little League baseball, evening volleyball, walkers, bike riders, kids at the playground). Pickleball provides exercise and socialization for all age groups...kids to seniors can play this game. Please keep the courts. Thank you.	7/17/2024 8:22 AM
7	I like pickleball being an option, but my preference would be for it to be separate so it does not limit the number of tennis courts.	7/15/2024 1:03 PM
8	We need to covert two tennis courts to pickle ball	7/14/2024 1:13 PM
9	I would strongly recommend not using tennis courts for pickleball	7/11/2024 4:55 PM
10	Very loud. It's a real issue.	7/10/2024 8:32 PM
11	Consider pickle ball needs 4 players normally, but one key holder can book 1 hour per day only, that's not enough. That's why most time we will choose somewhere else to play.	7/9/2024 9:54 PM
12	Please check on how often the court is being used for pickleball. There are many other parks nearby offering pickleball courts, so if HPP courts are very rarely used for pickleball, I would suggest removing it.	7/9/2024 9:19 PM
13	Taking away a court really makes it difficult to get a reservation at the time I can play	7/9/2024 7:27 PM
14	I think the reservation system and access to courts should be the same as for the tennis courts.	7/9/2024 4:56 PM
15	It's great having people get into racket sports. It hasn't been a nuisance to the tennis courts at all, although the courts do tend to get pretty busy w/ lessons, so it'd be nice to have separate courts.	7/9/2024 3:56 PM
16	I'm disappointed that the pickle ball has impacted the playing time for tennis players so negatively- since it is already hard to get courts because of Player Capital using the majority of court times. I am unable to use the courts much at this point. More courts need to be available for residents to use.	7/9/2024 3:52 PM
17	Please enable 2 hour reservations	7/9/2024 2:53 PM
18	Pickleball is frankly more popular. Like to see more availability	7/9/2024 1:44 PM
19	The pickleball courts have been disruptive	7/9/2024 1:35 PM
20	It can be noisy to park goers. The sound baffling is pretty ugly and takes away from the open	7/9/2024 1:16 PM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

feel of the courts. Not used very much and takes away options for tennis players.

21	Keep tennis courts, tennis	7/9/2024 1:12 PM
22	1. The clay court that is seldomly used should be converted back to the hard court, which will decrease the time conflict between pickleball and tennis users	7/9/2024 1:04 PM
23	It's great being able to play both pickleball and tennis!	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
24	Separate the two. One sport makes too much noise the other doesn't. Plenty of space at park to build new PB.	7/9/2024 1:01 PM
25	I was very disappointed to see them even have this trail and feel if they want another place to play then build something away from the tennis courts as when you are trying to take a lesson or play a match the ball noise and all their talking interferes with my tennis experience. You need to understand it is a social sport so the amount of talking while playing is excessive and the ball noise is also too loud. I strongly recommend this trail to be shut down and if they want a pickle ball court they place it in another location. Taking that court away for a couple of hours has now made it harder for me to get a court reservation and when taking a lesson or trying to play a match it is super distracting. Thank you for sending a survey I hope people take the time to express their opinion.	7/9/2024 12:52 PM
26	Not a fan of pickleball and would not play it.	7/9/2024 12:48 PM
27	The tennis facility is an incredible asset to the community. The #1 16 yo girl in the country and top Stanford recruit grew up on those courts and uses them daily. The #1, 12U boy in Nor Cal and several other top level juniors use them; may be on their way to ivy leagues. Player capital is an incredible gem and asset to the community and outstanding steward of the courts; they maintain them in impeccable shape and adhere to the highest standards and at the highest levels of tennis, while maintaining a positive atmosphere and promoting the sport among youths and adults. It would be an absolute travesty to take this asset away from the community of Atherton and Menlo Park because of pickle ball - an easy solution is to build additional courts elsewhere.	7/9/2024 12:44 PM
28	We should build or adjust the hitting wall behind the tennis courts for pickleball. There is a very successful tennis program at the park now and we should not diminish it by taking courts away	7/9/2024 12:39 PM
29	Thankful for the pickleball trial! Hopefully we can find a way to keep it.	7/8/2024 8:04 PM
30	Need separate from tennis courts in another space as balls fly between both irregularly	7/8/2024 4:47 PM
31	The sooner the court #1 can be restored just for tennis the better	7/6/2024 7:57 PM
32	More availability please.	7/3/2024 9:09 AM
33	Convert clay court to pball, remove practice wall behind courts for additional pball courts.	7/1/2024 10:39 PM
34	Love it, so fun!!!	6/30/2024 11:55 AM
35	There should be alternate reservation days and drop-in days. (If the only way to get this past the City Council is to continue key sales then require drop-ins to be key holders or guests of key holders.) Try M/W/F/Sun for rez and Tue/Thur/Sat drop-in. However- Atherton is THE only town in the area without free Pickleball... so for the past 4 or 5 years, all us Athertonians have been using free courts in neighboring MP, RWC, & PA. We need to be more neighborly!	6/29/2024 2:46 PM
36	Loooooove pickleball!!! Looking forward to many more years of enjoyment at Holbrook Palmer pickle courts PLEASE :)	6/27/2024 8:35 AM
37	Shared courts are fine as long as there are enough hours for pickleball. Court 1 (the shared court) should be the last one available for tennis. Key holders should have some drop in options. I am a park neighbor as well. Loved meeting new community members through this trial.	6/26/2024 5:11 PM
38	afternoon sign ups are only available T/Th. Often no tennis players are playing then. It would be nice to allow either tennis or pickle in afternoons. It only takes one minute to move nets. Also if other tennis courts are open tennis folks should sign up for those before taking court 1.	6/26/2024 5:02 PM
39	sound fencing has helped. Build separate pickle ball facilities	6/25/2024 12:17 PM
40	I have played at lots of different Pickleball courts in many towns. The way to go is to put in permanent pickle ball courts like the Ritz Carlton and Half Moon Bay has done. They are a great example.	6/25/2024 4:39 AM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

41	Allow Pickleball in existing courts ASAP & build a new court elsewhere I enough "keys" are purchased	6/24/2024 7:37 PM
42	I can't even tell you how much excitement, joy and community building these pickleball courts are bringing to my friends!!	6/24/2024 9:34 AM
43	I am in favor of pickleball in the park. However, I do think the sound of play is a true issue. Continued efforts to limit sound disruption is paramount. Concerns and comments from our neighbors at Felton Gables should be listened to and given attentive consideration. A park should be about recreation, and part of that recreation could be accommodating pickleball players. The town, and the players enjoying the park need to be cognizant of the different opinions about the game, and the concerns of non-players. Active compromise by both should be an on-going effort to provide the activity while mitigating the sound. I am a resident of Atherton in nearby Lloyd Park (the "Poverty Pocket" as the great Jim Massey used to refer to it)	6/24/2024 7:08 AM
44	Please allow the pickleball courts to be drop in and please build more.	6/23/2024 8:41 PM
45	Pickleball has been the fastest growing sport over the past three years. Be progressive and hop on the pickleball bandwagon. Make HPP an inviting pickleball destination for all levels of play.	6/23/2024 5:42 PM
46	Very pleased to see my hometown embracing pickleball. Thank you	6/23/2024 5:24 PM
47	Love having courts in our community since all other cities around us have pickleball too. It's growing massively in popularity and HPP would be a great place to let locals play close to home.	6/23/2024 5:16 PM
48	it should not be a competition between tennis and pb	6/23/2024 4:53 PM
49	It's been great using these pickleball courts, please keep them and expand	6/23/2024 3:51 PM
50	This is a great idea and a chance for people to play more pickleball. I'll definitely purchase a key if the program extends.	6/23/2024 2:48 PM
51	Love having the ability to play pickleball in HPP. Making the courts permanent would add a lot to the community. For permanent courts, you can get 3 or 4 pickleball courts on a single tennis court which means that 16 people could play simultaneously (like at Nealon Park in Menlo Park)	6/23/2024 2:46 PM
52	Drop in/open play should be encouraged! Social events surrounding PB should be initiated	6/23/2024 10:37 AM
53	Trial does not have enough people playing pickleball	6/23/2024 7:52 AM
54	I think that pickle ball is much more popular now than tennis. When I cannot play pickle ball at Holbrook Palmer Park I go to the Red Morton community center	6/22/2024 9:37 PM
55	Overall fantastic unique experience. Ideal would be move to permanent courts and maintain reservations to key holders only; there is enough drop in between Palo Alto and Menlo Park. I would be happy to require all users to buy a key.	6/22/2024 4:14 PM
56	I was looking forward to playing, but without drop-in hours, a single player is shut out. Would also love some drop tennis hours with courts separated by level. Also, think about being able to reserve 1 hour singles and 1.5 hours doubles for tennis	6/22/2024 9:01 AM
57	If there are separate courts that can be converted that would work as well. Any thing that will allow for permanent pickleball courts.	6/22/2024 8:23 AM
58	If there is some demand for pickleball, I would support continued joint use of an existing court between tennis and pickleball. If there is high demand for pickleball, especially if there are donations (a good demand indicator), an existing tennis court could be converted or new courts could be constructed. If the clay court is deemed not suitable for tennis anymore, it could be converted back to a hard court, whether that be tennis or pickleball play. That would keep the number of usable courts for tennis about equal as now. Alternatively, new pickleball courts could be constructed where the tennis hitting wall is currently located. There may be room for two or three courts there.	6/22/2024 8:20 AM
59	Please make pickleball a permanent option. Thank you!	6/22/2024 7:25 AM
60	Love playing at HPP!!! Please continue to let PB players have a court.	6/22/2024 7:18 AM

## Atherton Pickleball Trial - Assessment Survey

61	Pickleball is inclusive for old and young also pickle courts get used more. Build a full time court.	6/21/2024 11:25 PM
62	Don't do anything permanent until this fad wanes. It's a noisy game, and neighbors already have park noise. The entire town is so noisy with out of control construction, we need some respite. Spend the money on other much needed resources. Staffed offices, employees that answer the phone, planning department that is open longer hours, etc.	6/21/2024 8:55 PM
63	This is a very noisy sport, between the sound of the paddles/balls and the increasing number of players per square area of court. Unless there's a whole new place to put it that doesn't disturb neighbors, park visitors, or others, it just cannot be accommodated. Atherton budget would be much better spent cleaning streets, fixing gutters and drains, and other infrastructure.	6/21/2024 8:52 PM
64	Thank you for conducting the trial and continuing pickle ball fun for Atherton residents at Holbrook Palmer Park.	6/21/2024 8:12 PM
65	I love pickleball and it is a lovely way to meet fellow community members. I will continue to purchase a key if pickleball is permanent.	6/21/2024 6:13 PM
66	I'm supportive of having pickleball at the Holbrook Palmer courts. Makes sense, since pickleball is so popular, and it's a service/function that our City ought to make available to its residents.	6/21/2024 6:04 PM
67	The town needs to realize that pickleball is yet another way for our more senior community to gather and enjoy each other.	6/21/2024 6:02 PM
68	Fun times! Great way to meet other residents from the community!	6/21/2024 6:00 PM
69	It would be great to have at least one permanent court and one dual purpose court as the tennis courts are not always used	6/21/2024 5:24 PM
70	Geez guys! Atherton is way behind the times of getting on board with the pickleball craze. It is the fastest growing sport in America, maybe the world. Two courts is not enough and stop with all the questions and get up to speed (no pun intended).	6/21/2024 5:10 PM
71	Not enough folks know about pickleball being available but the ones who do are frequent players. We just started playing PB brand new 2 months ago DUE to the pilot! Now we are avid players 3x per week and have shared PB with 8 friends so far who have begun playing. PLEASE make some PB courts permanent and INCREASE availability (we often can't play now due to full reservations). Consider option for 90 min reservations if possible.	6/21/2024 5:07 PM
72	If it's not financially feasible to build new pickleball courts than it would be nice to have dedicated courts so converting an existing tennis court would be the next preferable option. Also, would like Atherton residents to be the only players able to reserve the courts to ensure that the courts are not taken over by other players who do not live in the Town.	6/21/2024 4:55 PM
73	HPP is a jewel of Atherton! It is for all residents - not just dog walkers, not just soccer players, not just tennis players. I love that pickleball has brought in a whole new group of park users	6/21/2024 4:51 PM
74	The pickleball trial has shown how the community can benefit from permanent pickleball courts at HPP. As the trial continues, please consider extending the hours for pickleball use.	6/21/2024 4:46 PM
75	Love playing close to home. Courts are in great shape. Please keep pickleball alive at the park.	6/21/2024 8:58 AM
76	The community is enjoying the pickle trial. Please consider increasing our equity.	6/20/2024 9:39 PM
77	I think the trial is has been terrific, and I very much hope it becomes permanent. I use the courts frequently, I've met new friends here, including nearby neighbors who have been enthusiastic about the pickleball courts.	6/20/2024 3:10 PM

## Q17 Contact Information (OPTIONAL)

Answered: 56   Skipped: 98

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	98.21%	55
Company	0.00%	0
Address	85.71%	48
Address 2	1.79%	1
City/Town	89.29%	50
State/Province	85.71%	48
ZIP/Postal Code	85.71%	48
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	91.07%	51
Phone Number	0.00%	0

#	NAME	DATE
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# Pickleball Subcommittee Report on the PB Trial

Park and Recreation Committee

September 4, 2024





# Analysis of Trial Success

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Whether there is sufficient interest to warrant continued PB at the Park: reviewing reservations through August; both PB surveys; and comments from PB players.



Any detrimental effects to preclude PB, such as noise or elimination of tennis if PB is played on a present tennis court.



In addition, consideration of possible changes as to when, how and where PB is played should it continue at the Park.



# PB Interest

- **Last 4 months usage by reservations**

- Approximately 47 different players reserved a court
- 405 hours, approximately 44% of availability (9 AM -12 PM every day, 4-7 PM Tu/Thu)
- For August, 117 hours by 27 players (57% by 6 players and 79% by 11 players)
- There can be 2 – 4 people on a court, totaling 230 – 460 PB hours a month

- **Survey Results**

- 77 respondents said they played PB at the Park (50 Atherton residents)
- 246 residents in the 1<sup>st</sup> survey before the trial reported playing PB
- Several people remarked they would play if more times opened up or “drop-in” play were allowed

- **Conclusion**

- Sufficient interest to continue PB at the Park

# Detrimental Effects of PB: Noise Issue

- No complaints received by Town staff from neighbors, etc.
- Baffling has helped
- Survey responses
  - 18 noise complaints (10 Atherton) in response to Q10 about opinion on stripping, layout, noise
  - 8 noise complaints in response to Q16 requesting “additional feedback”
  - No response by neighbors
- Town ordinance of 60 dBa not exceeded, but designed for continuous noise, not PB sporadic sounds
  - Measurement devices installed for the trial measure sound peaks at intervals but do not measure PB sporadic sounds
- Noise nationwide has been a PB problem
  - Noise is not linear and each 3 dBa increase is double the sound energy and each 10 dba doubles the effect
  - Cycles/sec or pitch is much higher for PB than tennis
- Circus Club had to move courts and mandate soft paddles after complaints even with no dBa violation and court baffling
- Noise issue should be monitored as it may increase with increased play and “drop-in” with players waiting and making noise along with players

# Effect on Tennis


- Courts 1 and 6 are used by tennis keyholders, with Player Capital using 3 or 4 courts, including a clay court of limited use
- Survey: 56 played tennis not PB (32 Atherton residents)
  - 75% “generally negative” about the shared court
  - 96% resisted conversion of a court to PB
  - 10% could allow continued joint use
  - 86% wanted a permanent PB court built elsewhere
  - Very few complaints that PB precluded tennis, probably given the limited PB hours and other tennis court availability
- Conclusions
  - Trial does not show a meaningful loss of tennis opportunities
  - A separate PB court would eliminate any conflict



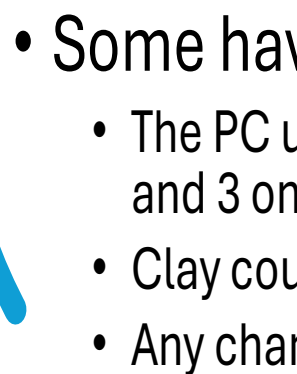
# Possible Alterations in PB Availability

- Same shared Court 1 with 8 AM-12 PM daily and 4-7 PM Tu/Thu
  - Only about 12 days when no AM times available over 7 months
  - No unavailability during the 4-7 PM Tu/Thu time
- Some PB players have requested more availability and “drop in”
  - Might extend PB to all day Sunday and/or Saturday 4-7 PM
  - Drop-in: 26% of PB players want only reservations and 49% want mostly reservations; 74% want some drop-in
    - Trial of drop-in on Sunday afternoon on one PB court?
    - Could allow PB/Tennis on Court 1 any time not reserved at certain times
    - Monitor drop-ins with keys: sign-in sheet, guests and sign as to hours
    - Monitor noise given survey complaints about “yelling and banter,” ball noise and talking from PB generally; may require soft paddles








# Separate PB Court or Permanent Conversion of a Tennis Court

- 74 % survey respondents favored a permanent PB Court
    - 42% favored elsewhere in the Park (tennis players preference)
    - 42% converting a tennis court (PB players preference)
    - 16 % continue joint use
    - Average PB use of 2 hours a day per PB court does not mandate either type of permanent court
    - PB might fund a new court, like tennis players did
  - Some have suggested fewer courts for PC
    - The PC usage and the original contract based on 4 playable courts during the week and 3 on weekend (one or both days)
    - Clay court of limited use and could be converted to a hard court
    - Any change might affect lessons and children's summer camps
- 



# Summary and Recommendations

- Sufficient interest to continue PB
  - Not sufficient evidence of detriments to preclude PB, with appropriate limitations and integration with tennis usage
  - Best solution
    - Short-term: Continue shared use, with increased PB hours
      - Sunday all day, with afternoon drop-in on one PB court
      - Monitor noise levels from increased use
      - Any keyholder can drop in along with up to 3 companions
      - Review after 1-year trial
    - Long term: Entertain separate PB court
      - Could be funded by donors if Council approves and a suitable location can be identified, such as the practice wall located by the RR tracks; consider reconstructing the clay court
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