

Date: February 7, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Update on Improvement Plans for Accommodating Pickleball in Long Beach

This memorandum is intended to provide an update on the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine's (Department) efforts to address the facility needs for the burgeoning pickleball community. The Department is excited about the progress to date and the prospects for adding additional playing sites in the short- and long-term.

Progress to Date

On August 12, 2022, the Department shared an [update](#) on the Citywide Pickleball Master Plan that was created with significant input and research by the Long Beach Pickleball Advisory Group. Prior to this, Long Beach had only one dedicated pickleball court located at Bayshore. In addition to the dedicated court, dual striping of the Bayshore basketball courts created a shared use set of eight (8) pickleball courts which collectively generated a significant nucleus group of pickleball players. Dual striping was also present at the College Estates Park tennis and basketball courts to allow for shared use. However, over time, the frequency and intensity of the play (court usage) and impact upon the surrounding neighborhood created a challenging environment and prompted the reconsideration of pickleball at this neighborhood park. The plan to remove the dual striping that allowed for pickleball has been coordinated with the action plan to provide alternative pickleball court play time in more appropriate park locations.

Marina Vista Park was identified as a viable candidate park site for dual striping of the existing tennis courts. These improvements were accomplished over the past year and another significant and growing nucleus group of pickleballers have embraced the shared use of these courts. It is important to note that one tennis court can accommodate four pickleball courts where the perimeter fencing, and tennis court net help provide the necessary containment of pickleball court play.

Overview

| Park Location | Court Type | Number of Courts |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bayshore | Dual striping | 3 dual-striped |
| Marina Vista | Dual striping | 8 dual-striped on tennis courts |

Current Action Plan

Plans to add additional pickleball court play time in Long Beach parks contain a variety of needed improvements that expand shared use courts (dual striping for tennis and pickleball

play) and dedicated pickleball courts. Work at the following park locations with planned improvements will be scheduled, weather permitting, in the coming weeks:

| Park Location | Court Type | Number of Courts |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Junipero Beach | 2 dedicated | 2 dedicated pickleball on repurposed half basketball court |
| Whaley | Shared sports | 2 pickleball courts on 1 volleyball court/sports court |
| El Dorado Park W | Shared Sports | 3 pickleball courts on sports court |
| Somerset Park | Dual striping | 8 pickleball on 2 tennis courts |
| Cherry Park | Dual striping | 8 pickleball on 2 tennis courts |
| Veterans Park** | Hybrid Location | 4 pickleball on 1 tennis court and 4 dedicated pickleball courts |
| DeForest Park** | 8 dedicated | 8 dedicated pickleball courts |
| Houghton Park | Dual striping | 8 pickleball on 2 tennis courts |
| Ramona Park | Dual striping | 8 pickleball on 2 tennis courts |
| Total Number of Courts | | 66 |

** Capital Improvement Project proposed in Year One of the City's 5-Year Infrastructure Plan

Area Tennis & Pickleball Centers

Surrounding municipalities have realized the popularity of pickleball and taken steps to evolve their tennis centers into Tennis & Pickleball Centers. Those municipalities include Los Angeles, Cerritos, Torrance, Seal Beach, Anaheim, Tustin, Huntington Beach, and Irvine to name a few.

- **LA City Parks** has four dedicated, lighted pickleball courts and 34 shared use courts with eight dedicated, lighted pickleball courts coming soon, under development.
- **Cerritos** has three dedicated pickleball courts in Liberty Park on a first come, first served basis.
- **Seal Beach Tennis & Pickleball Center** has 17 dedicated pickleball courts with a monthly membership-based patronage with non-member drop-in fees.
- **Anaheim Tennis and Pickleball Center** has ten dedicated, lighted pickleball courts and ten temporary courts with a monthly membership-based patronage with non-member drop-in fees.
- **Tustin** has ten dedicated pickleball courts with an annual membership program for play.
- **Huntington Beach** has four dedicated, lighted pickleball courts that are free.
- **Irvine** has six dedicated, lighted pickleball courts and nine shared use courts.
- **Lakewood** has several pickleball courts with dual striping on park basketball courts.

El Dorado and Billie Jean King Tennis Centers

In the past six months, efforts have been made to accommodate pickleball at both of the City of Long Beach (City) tennis centers. Several pickleball tournaments have been hosted by

transforming tennis courts into pickleball courts by the addition of taped lines and portable nets. In September 2022, the entire Billie Jean King Tennis Center was dual striped into pickleball courts for a major regional tournament attracting over 500 pickleball registrants, illustrating the popularity and potential of pickleball at the City's tennis centers. Similar, but smaller scale tournaments have been successfully hosted at the El Dorado Tennis Center with a similar approach of taping lines and installing portable nets. Both tennis centers are currently managed by Bridge Enterprises Inc. (dba Bridge the Gap Tennis Management), through the latter part of 2023.

Both Long Beach tennis centers have added court play time for pickleball. The following days of the week and blocks of time have been allocated for pickleball drop-in pay to play:

- **Billie Jean King Tennis Center** offers four shared use pickleball courts with drop-in play currently available on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 pm. Future offerings will expand drop-in play on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 8 to 11 am on four courts and private pickleball reservations from 11 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 8 pm on four courts. A capital improvement project to add dedicated pickleball courts at BJK is proposed for Year One of the 5-Year CIP.
- **El Dorado Tennis Center** offers eight shared use pickleball courts with drop-in play available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 to 11 am, and Friday evenings from 6 to 9pm. Future offerings will expand drop-in play on every weekday morning from 8 to 11 am and continue Friday evenings from 6 to 9 pm and private pickleball reservations from 11 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday on eight courts. The pay to play rates at both tennis facilities are \$5 per person for drop-in play (up to three hours), while private pickleball court reservations are \$10 per court per hour.

Indoor Pickleball Court Play Opportunities with Community Partners' Facilities

- **Jewish Community Center** Gymnasium has three indoor pickleball courts, dual striping on the basketball court with membership-based play.
- **Salvation Army** Gymnasium has two indoor pickleball courts, dual striping on the basketball courts with membership-based play, drop-in program play under development.
- **Lakewood Family YMCA** Gymnasium has three indoor pickleball courts, dual striping on the basketball court with membership-based play and daily non-member fees, seven days per week.

Other Future Development Opportunities

As discussed in the Citywide Pickleball Master Plan memorandum, the pickleball community believes that Long Beach would greatly benefit in the long term from a major pickleball complex that contains a minimum of 24-36 dedicated pickleball courts and a center court stadium to

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facilitate higher profile tournaments. This facility would ideally include a clubhouse style facility containing a pro shop, locker rooms, public restrooms, food service concessions, adequate shade, and parking accommodations with lighted courts, Wi-Fi and televised coverage capabilities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

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