

The notice to submit public comment (see below) was sent on July 13, 2021 to the people who made public comments at the August 2020 meeting regarding Lithia Park court usage and to representatives from Southern Oregon Pickleball Association and the Ashland Tennis Club for further dissemination. All comments received prior to July 29, 2021 are listed below. Comments received on/after July 29, 2021 will be made available to Commissioners on August 4, 2021 prior to the meeting. All comments received prior to the meeting will be included in the meeting minutes.

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners will be discussing changing the lower court in Lithia Park from mixed use to dedicated pickleball at the August 4, 2021 Special Business Meeting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please send public comments to sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us. All comments received 24 hours before the meeting will be forwarded to Commissioners. All comments received will be included in the minutes.

The agenda and packet for this meeting will be [posted online](#) as soon as July 29 or no later than July 30. Instructions on viewing the meeting and providing verbal comments will be included on the agenda.

For more information, please contact 488-5340 or parksinfo@ashland.or.us or contact Sean Sullivan (contact info below).

Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager
Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC)
340 S Pioneer St, Ashland OR 97520

sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us

Direct Line: 541.552.2256

ashlandparksandrec.org

From: Jack Methot [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: 8 dedicated Pickleball courts at Lithia Park

Dear Sean and P & R Commissioners,

As many of you know, I'm the president of SOPA and I wish to tell you that considering 8 dedicated courts at Lithia is the best news I've heard in the almost 4 years of SOPAs' existence.

Given the number of times SOPA has spoken in front of the Commissioners and the number of players everyone sees at Lithia, you know this will be an important step in easing the ever growing need for dedicated courts and opens up an opportunity to host jamborees and tournaments in our own backyard.

Please, please vote yes to 8 courts.

Regards,

Jack Methot

From: Arnold Bleicher [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball courts @ Lithia

Hello, Sean -

With regard to input for the PB courts at Lithia Park, I would urge the APRC to approve removing the one remaining tennis court and put in 4 pickleball courts. That would give Ashland 8 dedicated PB courts and Hunter Park will have 8 dedicated tennis courts, not striped for pickleball.

The numbers of people playing pickleball continues to grow. On any given morning one can find 6 courts set up, if not all 8. This is not a fad. This is a popular and growing sport that attracts young and old. We need places to play and I think we should keep the pickleball players that play in Ashland, in Ashland.

There is an economic impact on the community. On occasion, when there is a lack of open courts in Ashland, I drive to Central Point to play. After play, I often have lunch there. When I play in Ashland, I will often visit a local coffee shop with others, or have lunch. Let's keep the Ashland folks in town and bring in others to play and spend their money in Ashland.

Please note my support for 8 dedicated pickleball courts at Lithia Park.

Thank you,

Arnold Bleicher
Ashland, Oregon

From: Kelly Sacks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park Courts

Hi Sean,

As an avid tennis player and a beginning pickle ball player I last wrote to implore you to keep Hunter courts for tennis only and dedicate more court space in Lithia for Pickle Ball.

I still strongly believe in keeping these sports separate for various previously stated reasons.

With the growing PB population, I think it makes perfect sense to dedicate ALL of the court space in Lithia to PB, with permanent nets.

I have nothing but wonderful memories of playing tennis next to the rushing creek with the blue herons flying overhead and the sounds music coming from the bandshell and the birds in the trees.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Kelly Sacks

From: William Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: PB court discussion

Hi Sean,

I think with the increasing popularity of pickle ball in the area and along the west coast that designating eight courts in Lithia Park is a "no brainer". As a side note the use of the process blue tape for visibility improved the fair/foul calls during a game, making the court areas that blue I think is another consideration.

thanks for listening or reading,

Bill Schmidt

From: Jo Wayles [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Please do not make the Lithia courts Pickleball only!

Dear Sean,

I strongly object to making the Lithia courts pickleball-only! We have lost so many tennis courts in Ashland in the 18 years I have lived here.

PLEASE keep one court as mixed use.

And..is there still a plan to create pickleball courts at Oak Knoll? That makes a lot of sense to me.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,
Jo Wayles

From: Sally Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park Tennis Courts

Thanks for asking for input. I am very supportive of maintaining tennis courts at Lithia Park. First, I want to acknowledge the historical perspective of the courts. I believe the courts were first built in 1912 (I may be wrong by a few years) intended for tennis. Second, it seems the arrangement that has been established by the pickleball players with designated times for pickleball and tennis is a fair arrangement. Third, I know that visitors (before and hopefully after COVID) have used the Lithia Park courts when in Ashland -- more convenient for downtown lodging and in a beautiful setting. Fourth, a separate pickleball facility should be on the priority list for Ashland Parks and Recreation -- that would reduce the squabbling. It's great to see so many participating.

Good luck. Sally Jones (former APR Commissioner and a tennis player)

From: Mary Heckenlaible [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball Courts

Hello Sean,

I am so pleased that the Commissioners will soon be discussing changing the lower court in Lithia Park from mixed use to dedicated pickleball.

No doubt you have by now heard about the growing sport that attracts all ages.

Often when I have been at the Lithia Court, there has been a dad, mom and two young daughters playing. What a great inexpensive family outing !

I have also seen teens there how nice to see them away from TikTok !

It's just fun for everyone, really :)

Thanks for supporting this project.

Mary Heckenlaible (a 75 year old senior that plays pickleball)

[REDACTED]
Ashland OR

From: Liz Olson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:13 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Special Business Meeting 8/4

Mr Sullivan,

I was so pleased to receive the email from Jack Methiot regarding the lower court at Lithia Park and the possibility of changing it to a dedicated pickleball court. Please do!!

I have played pickleball very regularly at Lithia for the past 4 years. The number of people showing up to play has grown rapidly. There are always new people taking private lessons or through Parks & Rec and I wonder to myself "where will we all play?"

There is lots of enthusiasm for the sport in Ashland. Please support us!!

Liz Olson

[REDACTED]

P.S. During the renovations, would it be possible to extend the fence across the steps between the upper and lower court? It is flat out dangerous to be playing so close to the steps when on the upper court. Somebody is going to have a bad accident there one of these days.

From: Vicki Purslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:23 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Message for Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that Lithia Park transition to 8 pickleball courts. On any given day, upwards of 40 citizens come together to engage in the fast growing sport in America. We are fortunate to have free weekly lessons - provided at Lithia - available to anyone wishing to learn the game, and people of all age and skill levels come together. As public schools (and colleges) continue to add pickleball to their physical education curricula, pickleball has made the intergenerational leap - something few sports can boast of. Pickleball is no longer the game of our senior citizens. Few other interactive sports accommodate players of all ages safely playing together.

At present, the tennis courts at Lithia Park are substantively underutilized for their original intended purpose. Tennis simply is not the predominant racquet/paddle sport in S. Oregon.

Converting the remaining tennis court to 4 additional pickleball courts best fulfills the mission of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission: to provide and promote recreational opportunities.

I sincerely hope the Commission will convert Lithia Park to an 8-court pickleball site.

Vicki Purslow
Ashland, OR (outside city limits)

From: Margie McKinsey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Eight Dedicated PB Courts!!!

Wow! This is wonderful news, Sean! This morning, on a Tuesday, I arrived for a free 5 week Tuesday morning clinic with US Pickleball Ambassador, Katie Lawler, and the other courts were full and overflowing. There were so many people meeting and having fun at all levels! This was not during our regular MWF morning community play!

Pickleball is an international community, and during this summer, I have played with three different people that I play with in Mexico during the winter. Someone bragged that their town now has x number of permanent courts, and now, I hope to say that Ashland will have eight!

We are seeing families play with their children and grandparents, new young people expressing their athleticism, and retired regulars enjoying an active lifestyle, riding up in the electric bikes.

There is a metal box that provides newcomers with paddles and balls. We introduce ourselves to new faces, explain the rules and support new people and those that are just coming through. Eight courts will give experienced players a place to have periodic round robin play.

I don't know anywhere else in Ashland where so many different people come together spontaneously, friendly and helping each other. This welcoming activity is a beautiful reflection of Ashland's spirit, as I remember it when I arrived in 1980.

So far, Ashland PB has not been organized through Pickleball Schedule, like Medford courts do. I hope that we will continue to keep our PB friendly and inviting while allowing some players to play in competitive fours. I believe that inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness builds better community in a small town!

Thank you, Sean, for your support!

Margie McKinsey
[REDACTED] Ashland
[REDACTED]

From: Jen Sturges [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park Pickleball Court

The way I see and experience it is that there is a shortage in town of both tennis and pickleball courts. I play both sports. I feel that by converting the historic Lithia Park tennis courts to pickle ball is not fair. They were made for tennis and should stay that way.

I propose that new pickleball courts should simply be put in the budget where money could be found. A few pickleball courts should be made both at Lithia park AND at Hunter where adequate land could be found.

If there is a will there is a way.

Jen Sturges

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia courts Pickleball

Greetings Sean,

I'm a long time Ashland resident and someone who has enjoyed many pleasant times in our beautiful Lithia park. I'm also a very enthusiastic pickleball player and supporter of introducing people to this fun activity. All of us who play in the park were thrilled when we heard the APRD was going to put in four dedicated courts. Without going into what happened to the surface and why, we have enjoyed them very much even in the shape they are in. We are again happy to hear that the courts will be resurfaced in August and that the counsel is considering making the lower courts for pickleball as well, which I highly support. I have talked to a number of pickleball players about some small changes which we feel would benefit everyone who plays. If the open section of the fence between the upper and lower courts would be permanently closed off it would do two things. First many, many times players on the upper courts will miss a ball or hit it out of bounds and watch it roll down those rock stairs onto the lower courts and interrupt one or more games going on there. There really is no need to have players accessing the courts thru this opening when on other courts players enter and leave at the ends. When new players come onto the upper courts many times they walk along the short fence to the opening and go onto the lower courts creating congestion and a possible unsafe environment for the people using the upper court. The second reason to close off the opening is safety and liability. In the colder months I have seen many people almost fall as they were walking down from the upper to the lower courts on those non code steps and one time one player did fall. I really don't want someone to fall and then go after the city in a nasty lawsuit for injuring themselves. I'm not a fence contractor but I think it would be a rather easy project do at the same time they are fixing the rest of the damaged fencing. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Philippe Sprague

From: Brian Lovett [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:27:54 PM
To: Parks Infomation <parksinfo@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Citizen support for additional Pickleball courts

Dear Parks and Recreation,

As an Ashland citizen for the last 15 years this is my 1st time writing in to the Parks and Recreation, but I wanted to express my support for expansion of the pickleball courts in Lithia Park and converting the remaining tennis court in

Lithia to Pickleball-only courts so that there are 8 permanent Pickleball courts. Also, hopefully repainting the lower tennis court to more visible Pickleball lines.

In the time that I have been playing Pickleball in Lithia it has continued to grow rapidly with people constantly using the courts at all times of the day. For example, this morning all 8 courts were full.

Multiple times there have been people waiting for use the Pickleball courts and people are continually setting up and taking down the portable nets throughout the day since there are currently only 2 functioning Pickleball courts.

As the fastest growing sport currently in the USA, the Pickleball courts are a great Tourist attraction for Lithia Park as I've continued to meet tourists that are in town visiting and come to use the Pickleball courts as they actively play where they are from. Also, many Pickleball players are Seniors (I routinely have played with players in their mid 80's) so it a great activity for that part of our community.

On only a few occasions over the years have I seen a tennis player using Lithia court and I routinely see the Hunter Park tennis courts empty when have I been at Daniel Meyer pool, so I don't really see the need for a tennis court in Lithia Park.

thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Brian Lovett

From: Harry Purslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball Courts at Lithia Park

Hello Sean. I'm sure you have received many emails pointing out the obvious need for dedicated pickleball courts in Ashland. The old tennis courts at Lithia Park have shown to work out well for pickleball players while not creating a disadvantage for those wishing to play tennis - Hunter Park appears more than adequate for that purpose. The Parks and Recreation decision to resurface and line the Lithia Park site for pickleball indicates an acknowledgement that the City of Ashland can justify making the old tennis courts at Lithia Park dedicated to pickleball.

It also appears that Parks and Recreation has decided to add additional fencing in the gap separating the upper and lower courts. While the elimination of this dangerous situation, whereby a player could trip or take a bad fall, is great news for players, the existence of the fence, in itself, has created a minor problem - the lack of space between the fence and courts, especially the lower courts, for those placing their gear and waiting to play. Obviously this requires some sort of long term fix but for now, most players feel that the addition of a few benches outside the courts would act as a stop gap measure. This would encourage and allow players to store their gear outside the playing area and to congregate without interfering with those using the courts. In this simple fix, it should be noted that there are already two benches in place outside the upper courts so in all likely-hood only two or three more benches or a small section of stadium style seating risers would be needed to make it work.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out.

Harry Purslow

From: NANCY ZAHOV [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hi

As a tennis player in Ashland , I am not in favor making Lithia park only pickleball . If I read this right , it only one court ? Where are we suppose to play tennis ? There are 8 courts at Hunter . Now you are allowing pickleball there also . The other day , three courts were people playing pickleball . I do not want to join the private club. What about tourists? They think they can play at lithia as it is very visible and now with your proposal , they will not . I realize that pickleball is most likely growing faster than tennis . And also they play pickleball st Hellmann school .. it looks like some new place needs to be developed for pickleball to meet the growing demands .. in opinion nancy

Ps: also the court they use for bicycles has no net .. one less court at Hunter it is down to seven and now the camp takes two during the week .. down to what 5 Usable courts

From: Jan Albrecht [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:02 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts

To Sean Sullivan -

I am a longtime pickleball player in the valley. I have seen the exponential growth of the sport over the last 5 years and the need for more playing sites. I fully support changing the lower court in Lithia Park to dedicated pickleball courts. I think this will better serve the public - especially the older demographic, which is quickly transitioning from tennis to pickleball. Thank you for your support on this issue.

Jan Albrecht
Talent, OR

From: John Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball

Mr. Sullivan, please pass on our active support to convert the Lithia Park tennis courts to Pickleball. If you drive by particularly on weekends there are lines waiting to play. We are seniors who love being outdoors and playing a game that helps us physically, emotionally, and socially. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, John and Cori Frank [REDACTED]

John & Cori Frank
email: [REDACTED]

From: Jonathan Owen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball Lithia Park

Sean-
Hello. Thank you for your hard work

In the pursuit of pickleball dedicated courts. There are plenty of dedicated tennis courts and would be a good move for Ashland. Would be positive for the community and would open up more opportunities for locals to get involved and learn the sport and would also be an opportunity to put Ashland in the map and as a great place to visit, not only to enjoy the town's amenities but also be a destination town for pickleball tournaments or clinics in the future.

Personally, I have been wanting to get involved in Ashland. I can walk to the courts but often find Ashland to be a bit gate keeping and though I have only played a dozen times I am probably a 4.0 player and just not into the "exclusiveness" of pickleball I found in Medford and hope with things opening up I can get involved in Ashland. Thanks you.

Jonathan A Owen

[REDACTED]
Ashland Or 97520
[REDACTED]

From: Doug Godwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Dedicated Pickleball Courts in Lithia Park

Dear Commissioners:

I've lived in Ashland for over 12 years and the pickleball community in the Rogue Valley (especially Ashland) has grown exponentially. There is a great need to provide pickleball courts for our fellow citizens. One tennis court can accommodate four pickleball courts, so instead of two or four tennis players, you can have 16 pickleball players. It's important to have a healthy community and pickleball helped facilitate being active and healthy.

I encourage you to convert the lower tennis court to pickleball only.

Doug Godwin

[REDACTED], Ashland, OR 97520

From: sharon monroe [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Ashland P B Courts

Hi Sean,

Just want you to know I'm ALL for more courts in Ashland and around the Rogue Valley. It seems the way our new sport keeps growing the courts HAVE NOT kept up. Most of the time I go to play there are too many people of all different levels of playing skills. I'm there mainly for the exercise and enjoy the game tremendously. Sometimes certain people are very competitive & seriously want to win which spoils it for me. I've played in Ashland and was totally SHOCKED by a man there and decided I'd NOT play there again! I did change my mind and have played there since that experience and enjoyed it with a group of very nice people. I'm looking forward to having more choices to play and would definitely enjoy having eight dedicated courts in Ashland!

You have my support. Hoping it happens, Sharon D. Smith

From: George Heath [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park tennis courts

Here we go again!

I was ok with what the city came up with on the last changes to the city courts ... at Lithia the top court was made into a pickleball court & Lower court left for tennis and pickleball ... I was particularly happy with the resurfacing of the Hunter courts & NO pickleball lines ... Thank You

The courts in Lithia are historic Southern Oregon tennis courts! ... an effort needs to be made to preserve that ... tourists & families go to those courts for casual tennis play ... They are an important part of the Lithia Park experience ...

Pickleball can still use the lower court by setting up their nets ... though I feel that tennis should have priority!

I recognize the popularity of pickleball and the need for more courts ... but pitting tennis & pickleball against each other is creating a very toxic environment ... hopefully the city can come up with solutions (the college courts etc). Tennis needs to remain part of the Lithia Park experience!

Thank You ... George Heath ... Ashland Oregon

From: Barbara Settles [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 7:48 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: regarding pickleball courts

Dear Parks and Rec.,

It is a pleasure to be part of the pickleball excitement. I have broken my wrist, have had a tree fall on my court as I played, yet, I love being there. I am impressed by the energy of the community in their commitment to pickleball. Please do what you can to insure that our courts are not shared tennis courts, the lines are confusing and those playing tennis need to have their own courts as well. If there can be an extra unit built for tennis only, to the far end of the courts, an area that would ensure safe play for the tennis players as well, that would be the best solution.

Thank you for taking up this issue, an important entertainment and exercise for many in the community. The pickleball community is exemplary for the community, come and watch good fun, youngsters can be proud, oldsters can be alive.

Sincerely,
barb settles
[REDACTED]
Ashland

From: Pamela Chaddock [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball courts

Dear Commissioners,

We are encouraged to hear about the upcoming discussion around the future of the pickleball courts.

I am writing in favor of making all courts pickleball. There are growing numbers of players who need to be accommodated. In addition, we've been beseeched by handicaps with trees falling, large cracks in other courts, and trying to decipher the court lines intermingled with tennis. There are tennis courts at the other end of town.

I understand that improvements were being planned for early August which will be welcomed! When the estimator was present I heard the possibility of making fences 4' high without tennis. If this is the case, I do not feel 4' is high enough – we would be continually chasing balls into the park woods! At this point I am requesting that you choose to vote in favor of pickleball courts. Thank you again for your attention to this issue.

Respectfully,

Pamela Chaddock
[REDACTED]

Ashland

[REDACTED]
Name : Pamela Chaddock
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]
Subject: pickleball courts

Message : Dear Commissioners, We are encouraged to hear about the upcoming discussion around the future of the pickleball courts. I am writing in favor of making all courts pickleball. There are growing numbers of players who need to be accommodated. In addition, we've been beseched by handicaps with trees falling, large cracks in other courts, and trying to decipher the court lines intermingled with tennis. There are tennis courts at the other end of town.

I understand that improvements were being planned for early August which will be welcomed! When the estimator was present I heard the possibility of making fences 4? high without tennis. If this is the case, I do not feel 4? is high enough? we would be continually chasing balls into the park woods! At this point I am requesting that you choose to vote in favor of pickleball courts. Thank you again for your attention to this issue. Respectfully, Pamela Chaddock [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ashland

Name : Deborah.delaunay
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]
Subject: Lithia park courts

Message : I am new to pickleball and have introduced 15 of my friends already to the sport. This is not unusual. We like to share what we enjoy with others. Lithia park is the only place in Ashland to play. Hunter park has 8 tennis courts and the tennis club on Washington has 4 courts ..Please give us 8 courts at Lithia Park....or 8 more at Hunter park. For every one tennis court you can have 4 pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the USA . The demand is already there and growing as the sport is enjoyed by all ages. Please resurface Lithia park courts to all Pickleball courts in all fairness to the wide audience of Pickleball enthusiasts. Thank you in advance.

Name : Ronald David Owen
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]
Subject: Lithia Pickle Ball

Message : I am new to pickleball and have introduced 5 of my friends already to the sport. This is not unusual. We like to share what we enjoy with others. Lithia park is the only place in Ashland to play. Hunter park has 8 tennis courts and the tennis club on Washington has 4 courts ..Please give us 8 courts at Lithia Park. For every one tennis court you can have 4 pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the USA . The demand is already there and growing as the sport is enjoyed by all ages. Please resurface Lithia park courts to all Pickleball courts in all fairness to the wide audience of Pickleball enthusiasts. Thank you in advance.

Name : Alison Chandler
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]
Subject: Pickleball Courts

Message : Dear APRC commissioners, I am requesting your consideration in adding additional Pickleball Courts to Ashland parks. As a 40 year resident of Ashland and a decades long tennis player, I am witnessing the decline of tennis players and the steady increase of Pickleball players! APRC needs to accommodate both interests and currently Pickleball isn?t getting its fair share of court space. Please consider converting all the courts at Lithia Park to Pickleball courts. Easily accessed by bike or by foot, the courts at Lithia Park are a great location for the many dozens of folks who gather to recreate through the fantastically fast growing game of Pickleball! Thank You, Alison Chandler

From: marty stratton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickle ball court

Please I'm sending a request for more pickle ball courts at Lithia Park. I've been playing pickle ball for about a year it's been excellent for my health for my mental health and for my friendships I've just retired and it's giving me great contacts to help me stay involved with people and the game is challenging but on a level that it supports people who aren't 100% tennis capable thank you for a chance to speak towards this I look forward to playing many games of pickle ball at Lithia courts.

Thank you Martha Stratton..

From: Su Grossmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 6:56 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Lithia Park Tennis Courts

Dear Sean,

I write to encourage the continued dual usage of the Lithia Park courts for both tennis and pickleball. These public courts should not be designated to only one sport. In the recent past, Ashland has lost a court at Helman School, and 11 courts at Southern Oregon University. Ashland still has a significant number of tennis players and eliminating another two courts does not serve the best interest of sport or the community. Dual usage remains the best option.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Su Grossmann

From: Jan Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Dedicated pickleball courts

Dear Commissioners Gardiner, Landt, Lewis, Bell and Eldridge:

I'm writing to encourage you to dedicate the lower courts at Lithia Park to pickleball use. As it stands, it's difficult to differentiate between the pickleball and tennis stripping. Right now, blue painters tape is being used to show the court limits for pickleball. Putting the nets up and taking them down after every use is burdensome and not accessible for those who don't know the storage locker code. People use those courts for pickleball every day of the week at all times of the day and early evening and would appreciate visible court stripping and fixed nets.

In addition to many local enthusiasts, the pickleball courts at Lithia Park have become a destination for folks traveling along the I-5 corridor. This morning I played with a couple traveling between Arizona and Washington. They planned their trip to spend the night in Ashland, play in the morning, eat lunch, then continue on their trip. They are doing the same for the return trip. I mention this because it is typical to meet people who are doing this or something similar.

We appreciate the improvements that you have made to date. Please continue with your good work and thank-you for your dedication to Ashland Parks and Rec.

Jan Weydemeyer
[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR

From: Fran Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Dedicated Pickleball courts in Lithia Park

My husband and I have loved the increasing crowds of pickleball players over the past six years at Lithia Park. We have played with other Ashland residents from 8 to 87 years old. When we began, we took care of all our nets, swept the courts and taught each other to play. Now that dozens of us turn out at a time, the upkeep and permanent netting from Parks and Rec has been appreciated. Thanks! If you have the capacity to dedicate the lower tennis courts to pickleball, a lot of us citizens will applaud you. As many of us used to be tennis players, we also hope P&R can keep their courts available in Ashland.

With Appreciation for your consideration,
Fran Curtis
Charles Barnes

From: jack cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball Court Designation

Dear Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

We would like to add our names to the list of Ashland citizens who support changing the designation of the lower Lithia Park pickleball court from mixed use to only pickleball.

We play pickleball 2-3 times a week and have been at Lithia many times when all eight of the available courts are occupied by pickleball players. The sport is growing fast and it's obvious from seeing the number of beginning PB classes being taught that demand for court time is only going to grow. Some of the overflow at Lithia used to be picked up by the courts at Hellman School, but because of the schools renovation, those courts are no longer available. Lithia Park is the only outdoor Ashland option that we know of.

Some tennis players – especially ones who live nearby – would rather the change wouldn't happen, but honestly, we have not observed that many tennis players even trying to use the Lithia Park court. And they also have the option of the seldom-used tennis courts at Hunter Park if they want.

Pickleball as a sport is exploding all over the country and it makes sense to be proactive as a community to support a sport that is becoming so popular for people of all ages.

Jack Cannon and Jamie McLean
[REDACTED]
Ashland OR 97520

From: Mary Sollinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Special business meeting concerning Pickleball courts

Mr. Sullivan,

I hear that there is a chance that the pickleball/tennis courts could all be converted to permanent dedicated Pickleball courts. I urge you and whoever else has the power to make that decision. If you ever go down to the park, any day of the week, at almost any time of the day, the Pickleball courts are in use. During certain times, the demand for court space is overwhelming. All for Pickleball, not for tennis. It is only growing in popularity and it is a great activity for people of all ages and skill levels. If the pandemic should hang around, the courts would be a much needed relief for being stuck inside unable to exercise safely. Please consider making this space a permanent dedicated Pickleball space. And to make it safer, please extend the fence between the two levels, in order to prevent any serious injuries from happening. Thank you, the courts will get lots of use.

Mary Sollinger

[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR 97520

From: Allen Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Re: Lithia Park Courts Discussion (Possible Action)

To the commissioners:

Before you is a proposal to dedicate the lone tennis court at Lithia Park to pickleball only. It is clear that pickleball is a growing sport, and it would be good to have more courts for the sport. But those need to be added, not taken from the limited number of public tennis courts in Ashland, now just eight or nine total. Remember, there will always be a Wimbledon, and kids will continue to play tennis. Pickleball may be the future, or not. But tennis won't go away, and Ashland's dwindling supply of courts for tennis shouldn't be whittled away further.

we have a tennis court shortage already. Courts at Hunter Park are filling up on a regular basis during the comfortable playing times, which is early mornings and, to a lesser extent, late afternoons. All courts were full yesterday and today with people waiting or choosing to go home. Granted, there was special camp on the four "back courts," but many weekdays there are court shortages as well.

Meanwhile, we have inexplicably lost one of the eight courts at Hunter Park. Court Five, on the back side, was altered as a dual-use court for Friday evening bike polo events. That wasn't perfect, but it worked OK until recently, when the bike polo people stopped putting the nets back up after they had their game. So not only are people waiting for a court at Hunter, there's a blank court designated and built for tennis that's empty and useless.

I enquired of Director Black what was going on with that court, and did not receive even the courtesy of a response.

Sharing that court for a few hours a week isn't a huge thing. Having the court used for bike polo a few hours a week and being useless for its intended purpose the rest of the time isn't a good use of public facilities and funds.

I would ask the commissioners to consider that Hunter Park issue and reject any reduction in tennis opportunity at Lithia Park until the Court Five issue has been addressed and that court has been restored to tennis use.

Allen Baker, [REDACTED] Ashland [REDACTED]

From: bebarnes@jeffnet.org [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Tennis courts

I have heard that there is consideration being given to designating the two tennis courts in Lithia Park to be for Pickle Ball only. You are probably aware that there are several self-organized tennis groups here in town which routinely use the courts at Hunter Park. These groups have about 15 or 20 members, most of whom play two or three times a week. Not infrequently all usable courts are in use; that is, except for the one Hunter court which has been disabled for tennis and perhaps sometimes used for pickle ball.

Put simply, I have no problem calling the Lithia Park courts the pickle ball courts as soon as the Parks Department has made all courts at Hunter usable for tennis.

Happily I am one of the regular players who is over 80 years in age, and tennis at Hunter brings us "old guys" (and women) lots of satisfaction. Please do what you can to make all Hunter courts usable for tennis, and give the pickle ballers the courts at Lithia.

Thanks for what you do for our community,

Bruce Barnes

[REDACTED]
Ashland

From: Linda Gamble [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 7:10 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Proposed repurposing of tennis courts to pickle ball courts

To the Ashland Park Commissioners:

I have been a resident of Ashland for 25 years, and in those years I have played at the two Lithia Park courts (one of which has been taken away for pickle ball). I have played at the Webster Avenue courts (which were removed to build university dorms). I have played at the stadium courts (which have become neglected and are unusable). I now play at Hunter with a group of 18 senior players. One of the 18 courts has been made into a multi-use court, but the net is almost always down when we come to play.

I realize that pickle ball has become very popular, but the answer is not to convert tennis courts. There are still many tennis players in Ashland, and the Hunter Park courts are insufficient to handle all these players. The answer is to build pickle ball courts, not to take away even more tennis courts!

Linda Gamble

From: Jane Ferguson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Tennis courts in Ashland

Dear Sean and commissioners of the Ashland Parks and Recreation,

I strongly urge the commission to build more courts for pickleball players..but not at the expense of the tennis court players. Allen Baker said it well.

Before you is a proposal to dedicate the lone tennis court at Lithia Park to pickleball only. It is clear that pickleball is a growing sport, and it would be good to have more courts for the sport. But those need to be added, not taken from the limited number of public tennis courts in Ashland, now just eight or nine total. Remember, there will always be a Wimbledon, and kids will continue to play tennis. Pickleball may be the future, or not. But tennis won't go away, and Ashland's dwindling supply of courts for tennis shouldn't be whittled away further.

We have a tennis court shortage already. Courts at Hunter Park are filling up on a regular basis during the comfortable playing times, which is early mornings and, to a lesser extent, late afternoons. All courts were full yesterday and today with people waiting or choosing to go home. Granted, there was a special camp on the four "back courts," but many weekdays there are court shortages as well.

Meanwhile, we have inexplicably lost one of the eight courts at Hunter Park. Court Five, on the back side, was altered as a dual-use court for Friday evening bike polo events. That wasn't perfect, but it worked OK until recently, when the bike polo people stopped putting the nets back up after they had their game. So not only are people waiting for a court at Hunter, there's a blank court designated and built for tennis that's empty and useless.

Sharing that court for a few hours a week isn't a huge thing. Having the court used for bike polo a few hours a week and being useless for its intended purpose the rest of the time isn't a good use of public facilities and funds. The problem with the bike polo...the surface of the courts get really dinged up.

I urge the commissioners to reject any reduction in tennis courts at Lithia Park until the Court Five issue has been addressed and that court has been restored to tennis use.

Thanks for maintaining the courts for us.

Regards,

Jane Ferguson

From: Vicki Orendurff [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball Courts

Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

My husband and I are Ashland resident and avid pickleball players. There is a very active pickleball community in Ashland which is becoming larger by the week, it seems, with people of all ages learning to play. The four current dedicated courts and the four other courts on the lower level are very often full, on mornings during open play as well as other times. Rarely does anyone play tennis on the lower court. In my experience spending time at Hunter Park or riding my bike past on the bike trail, the 8 tennis courts are underutilized and also could be a place for adding dedicated pickleball courts. One tennis court = 4 pickleball courts (2 players vs 16 players). Even if they were set up so that either tennis or pickleball could be played, that would be a huge benefit to our community.

I have met a number of people playing pickleball who are visiting Ashland or passing through on vacation. They stop in Ashland because we have pickleball courts. When they are here, they stay in hotels, eat in

restaurants, shop, and generally bring money into our town which relies heavily on tourism. If we had 8 dedicated courts at Lithia Park, we could consider hosting an occasional tournament which would bring many more people to town and increase income for local businesses. This is another way of diversifying the City's income stream.

Having 8 dedicated pickleball courts at Lithia seems like the best use of that space. Please also consider adding pickleball lines to one of the tennis courts at Hunter.

Ashland is a wonderful place partly because of all of the beautiful parks we have. Thank you for your dedication to maintaining them.

Kind regards,
Vicki Orendurff
Ashland

Comments on the following pages were received after July 29, 2021

The following public comments were received after July 29, 2021

From: Louise Shawkat [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 5:07 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input - May 13, 2020

Re: converting lower Lithia courts to permanent pickle ball courts.

A fine idea. Courts are busy from 7 AM on-young and old-(80+ years).

A fine addition to what visitors can do while here. and many visitors do use the courts-when they leave Ashland they will know that there are many outdoor activities to be done in Ashland-including pickle ball.

Re: the steps-my are they dangerous. Balls from the upper courts are frequent visitors to lower courts and it a sight to see bodies in motion navigate those dangerous steps.

if one looks at courts in other cities one sees nets dividing courts so that balls don't go hither and yon- a danger to players.

Also why would repairs be done during summer when courts are used the most?

Thank you.

Louise

[REDACTED]
Louise D Shawkat

[REDACTED]
Ashland, Oregon 97520-1008

From: Lisa Ann Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 01, 2021 9:30 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: I support more dedicated pickleball courts at Lithia Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please include my comments in the minutes for the Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners Special Business meeting on August 4, 2021.

I am writing about the possible plan to change the lower court in Lithia Park from mixed use to dedicated pickleball court. I strongly support that. I'm an avid pickleball player and see the courts well used every day I go. Pickleball is a fast-growing sport and although it appeals to all ages it's especially popular for seniors such as myself. Especially now that Lithia has the only public pickleball courts in Ashland, we really need more dedicated courts.

I see new pickleball classes and more people learning all the time, so this is shouldn't be regarded as a passing craze or a poor cousin to tennis. Please listen to the clamor for more dedicated pickle ball courts!

Thank you,
Lisa Wagner
Ashland, OR

From: Ren Kolar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2021 6:48 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball comments for the meeting

Hi Sean

I just wanted to send a quick comment about the option to convert Lithia into all dedicated pickleball courts. I vote yes please. There are more and more players joining this sport. And as we open up again post Covid, this game has historically been a great inclusive and social sport. We have always had long waits to get into games and having the dedicated courts will allow more people the opportunity to play and get involved.

Thank you all for even giving this consideration. We're grateful for all that has been done to the courts thus far and hope we can get the others lined up as well.

Ren

From: Michelle Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2021 7:08 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Yes to Pickleball!

Good Morning Sean,

First let me say thank you for all that the City has done to the courts at Lithia with the resurfacing and permanent nets! I support fully that Lithia become dedicated to Pickleball and let Hunter remain for tennis. Pickleball is an ever growing sport and there are always lines to play at Lithia. I also would support the future of the Oak Knoll build for Pickleball.

Thanks for all you do!

Michelle

[REDACTED] has attached the following document:

Letter to Ashland Parks & Rec Commission

To the Ashland Parks & Rec Commission—

I've been playing Pickleball here in Ashland since 1969. It is the fastest growing sport in America, attracting retirees, broken down (injured) tennis players of all ages, and is frequently taught and promoted in school PE classes and, thus, creating a cadre of even younger enthusiasts. At that time the only outdoor court spaces were at Helman School, limited to days and times when school was not in session, and we furnished our own nets.

Your August meeting has an agenda item to consider establishing more dedicated pickleball courts at Lithia Park. I'm sure the steadily increasing demand for more playing surfaces in our community has not escaped either your personal or official notice e.g. the recent effort to establish courts at Oak Knoll GC, the effort some time ago to line tennis courts in Hunter Park for Pickleball. In 1969, we might have attracted 5, 6, or 8 players to a game at Helman. These days, Lithia Pickleball hours will attract 20 or sometimes 30, or more. (Note: SOPA sponsored its first tournament in Medford in early June and attracted over 300 contestants-- women, men, and youth.)

In my experience, Pickleball creates community. The sport actively promotes honesty, due regard for your opponents, and good sportsmanship; and it seems to attract people who are naturally friendly and gracious. In my particular case, finding Pickleball also answered the question "what am I going to do with the remainder of my life," and it gave me the

nerve to belatedly retire. So Pickleball embodies some nice extra values beyond just getting out into the fresh air and exercising with sport.

Accordingly, I strongly urge the Commission to install additional dedicated Pickleball courts at Lithia Park, and elsewhere as opportunities and funding arise.

Sincerely,
Fred Krasner

PS/ Many years ago, with golden memories of playing youth hockey on frozen ponds and rivers near my home, my wife Bev and I made a substantial donation toward the establishment of the collapsible skating facility (then referred to as the Meese Family Skate Rink) in Lithia Park. And we stand ready to join in any public, private, or joint effort to raise funds for establishing more pickleball courts, whether dedicated or joint use, in Ashland.

Fred Krasner
Ashland,OR

From: Arnold Bleicher [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball courts @ Lithia

Hello, Sean -

With regard to input for the PB courts at Lithia Park, I would urge the APRC to approve removing the one remaining tennis court and put in 4 pickleball courts. That would give Ashland 8 dedicated PB courts and Hunter Park will have 8 dedicated tennis courts, not striped for pickleball.

The numbers of people playing pickleball continues to grow. On any given morning one can find 6 courts set up, if not all 8. This is not a fad. This is a popular and growing sport that attracts young and old. We need places to play and I think we should keep the pickleball players that play in Ashland, in Ashland.

There is an economic impact on the community. On occasion, when there is a lack of open courts in Ashland, I drive to Central Point to play. After play, I often have lunch there. When I play in Ashland, I will often visit a local coffee shop with others, or have lunch. Let's keep the Ashland folks in town and bring in others to play and spend their money in Ashland.

Please note my support for 8 dedicated pickleball courts at Lithia Park.

Thank you,

Arnold Bleicher
Ashland, Oregon

Dear APRC Commissioners

I very much appreciate your work and decisions to try and serve the most people possible in your sometimes difficult decisions. This is one of them.

Hunter Park was preserved for Tennis only, yet a compromise was created for Lithia Park. Perhaps the same compromise could exist at Hunter Park? I know the tennis community very much opposes this idea, but to create a compromise only in Lithia park seems unbalanced to me.

If a compromise at Hunter Park is not desirable, then please dedicate Lithia Park to the growing Pickleball community, and create 4 more permanent courts. APRC, by offering Pickleball classes, is contributing to seeing this popular sport grow, yet has not yet created more space to accommodate these new players.

While the existing shared configuration on the lower tennis court was worth a try, we frequently have a situation where two tennis players displace as many as 16 Pickleball players (sometimes even more waiting) who have no other option in Ashland to play.

Arguments in favor of keeping the tennis court include “historical” perspectives. When the courts were built, pickleball had not yet been invented. Advancements are made in countless other technologies and practices. To deny advancements because history didn’t include them “back then” is a very narrow perspective, and I hope we can look forward instead.

“Tourists expect to find tennis in Lithia Park”. Should we deny the locals access to 4 more Pickleball courts for this reason? Tourists come to the park to play Pickleball as well. With 8 dedicated courts, we could hold tournaments there! A recent tournament last June in Medford (hosted by SOPA) attracted over 300 participants ... they also brought families and friends. It was a great success! Let’s do it in Ashland too!

I like the ideas about building more Pickleball courts, and if that happens at Oak Knoll, perhaps then the shared court configuration in Lithia Park could be revisited. Nothing’s set in stone ... but it is very clear that the demand for Pickleball in Ashland far surpasses court availability.

Please dedicate Lithia Park courts to Pickleball. Thank you for your consideration!

Andy Stallman

