

From: John Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Rachel Dials <rachel.dials@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball

Ashland Parks & Recreation

Dear Sir or Madam:

My wife and I are pickleball players and senior citizens – but then I repeat myself. We're Ashland residents too. On any given day this month, there are at least 50 of us in various areas of the county. In Ashland, we usually have 12-16 players at Lithia Park. Another 4-8 play at Helman School. Add to these the people playing in Talent and Medford and 50 is likely a conservative number. Unfortunately, we usually have to compete with tennis players for the same court space. If there are six tennis players throughout Ashland on any given July day, I'd be surprised. It is not my intent to see fewer opportunities for tennis players. What we need are dedicated courts for pickleball players. As predominantly senior citizens, we're trying to stay fit and pickleball is an excellent way to do that, but we need your help. I know resources are particularly scarce right now, but you have the opportunity to do the most good for the most people by spending those resources on pickleball courts and equipment. Please help keep us healthy and outdoors!

John & Cori Frank
[REDACTED] Ashland, OR 97520
email: [REDACTED]

From: Andy Stallman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Joel Alan Heller <joelalanheller@gmail.com>; mmgardiner@charter.net; Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Court striping for Pickleball

Dear Parks Commissioners,

As both a tennis player and pickleball player, I am well aware of the growing need for more pickleball courts in Ashland, and the strong desire within the tennis community to preserve courts for tennis only. As Ashland struggles to recover financially from the pandemic, and work with less funding, striping some of the tennis courts at Hunter Park is an excellent cost-effective possibility! I would like to suggest the courts on the opposite side of the courts closest to the pool, and only putting 2 pickleball courts per tennis court as opposed to four (as the lower courts in Lithia Park are striped). This is less confusion for both sports, and also affords more room to negotiate the points without colliding into the neighboring players. These Covidian times require us to work together and do more with less, not to mention the need for greater respect for your fellow community member's needs and safety. Some obvious arguments come to mind, and I offer my viewpoint for your consideration.

1) High Schools need those courts for the teams

Fine ... Parks can sanction the times needed and reserve Hunter appropriately. Availability for the teams would not be compromised. Courts in Lithia Park get reserved for City sponsored Pickleball classes already.

2) Big Al's needs those courts in July

Same deal Parks reserves the courts for this tournament anyway, and the Pickleball community is already forced to yield all courts during the opening days of the tournament.

3) Multiple stripes are confusing

Pickleball players accept that condition everywhere in Ashland, and mostly all the other courts in Medford as well. It's not a big deal to adapt, and by limiting the number of courts to 2 per each tennis court minimizes this issue.

4) Tennis courts are sometimes full of tennis players

The Pickleball courts are also frequently full. Court use is a good thing That's what this is all about! Share!

5) Hunter Park is sacred ground for tennis

If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that we need to adapt and be considerate of more needs than our own. SHARE!

6) If Helman School indeed expands, and the tennis courts are taken out, Lithia Park becomes THE ONLY place to play pickleball in Ashland ... Hunter offers a solution that wouldn't cost the Parks & Rec any money at all if Southern Oregon Pickleball Association stepped in to do the striping. If SOPA didn't want to buy the paint, I personally would be happy to pay for it, AND help with my skills as a painter.

7) I'm asking for a minimum of two tennis courts at Hunter (equaling 4 Pickleball courts). Obviously, 8 pickleball courts would still fill up during the scheduled "open play" as established in Lithia Park on MWF.

Thank you for your consideration! - Andy Stallman [REDACTED]

From: James Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Rachel Dials <rachel.dials@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball courts

I have heard that the proposed dedicated pickleball courts that had a chance to be built at the Oak Knoll golf course are not happening. I imagine this is due to budget cuts related to COVID-19. I understand that this might not be the time for new courts but I would encourage you to paint pickleball court lines at the Hunter Park tennis courts to help with our over crowding issues. Also it would allow us to play under lights on the hot summer nights.

Thank you for your consideration, James Clark
[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Rachel Dials <rachel.dials@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Courts

Dear Commissioners,

I just recently returned to Ashland after a short trip and learned of the proposal to line Hunter Courts for pickleball. I play both sports and find that I have several options to play pickleball but very few to play tennis. While it appears that the two games are compatible for the same court, they are not. The pickleball lines are very distracting. I have played with the same drop-in group of tennis players for nearly 20 years. We play four times per week and the activity is a great source of social interaction as well as outdoor exercise. The group also welcomes out of town players (in non-pandemic years) and adds value for tourists coming to Ashland for the plays and other attractions. Big Al's Tennis Tournament is a

draw for both players and spectators. I doubt that Ashland would continue to be an attractive venue with pickleball lines interfering with play.

We have lost multiple courts over the years. Please preserve Hunter for tennis.

Dale Gates

 Ashland