AGENDA

SPECIAL & REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:
https://zoom.us/j/98789477663?pwd=VURiZWl0R1Z5eEhkbWxwN0RySEd1Zz09

Event ID: 987 8947 7663  Password: 951746
or Dial in: 1-408-638 0968

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended, as well as the requirement to provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

Members of the public can watch or listen to Park and Recreation meeting via Zoom using the meeting information listed above.

Public comments may be submitted one of two ways:

1. Via Zoom using the “Raise Hand” icon to request to speak. If joining by phone, dial *9 to “raise your hand”, and when prompted *6 to unmute/mute.

2. Via email to cjones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line Public Comments – Not on the Agenda or Public Comments – Agenda Item #.

To ensure that the Park and Recreation Commission receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. All written comments received by this deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and posted online in advance of the meeting.

Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission and included with supplemental materials after the meeting. No written comments will be read into the record.

6:00 P.M. CONVENE SPECIAL PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1. ROLL CALL – Vice-Chair Ben Chuaqui; Members, Avis Codron, Norman La Force, Jennifer Kaczor, Art Machado, Shawn Purcell

2. TELECONFERENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

3. CONSIDERATION OF PERMENENT PICKLEBALL COURTS AT CASTRO PARK
Commission discussion and possible action to recommend permanent pickleball courts at Castro Park in place of the current tennis courts. A representative from the El Cerrito Tennis Club will make a brief presentation.

4. ADJOURN SPECIAL PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPECIAL MEETING – CONVENE REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Vice-Chair Ben Chuaqui; Members, Avis Codron, Norman La Force, Jennifer Kaczor, Art Machado, Shawn Purcell

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
   Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.

3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
   Staff and/or Mayor Paul Fadelli may report on matters of general interest to the Park and Recreation Commission, Council policies, priorities and significant actions taken by the City Council.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on **March 24, 2021**.

5. **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUNDS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PROJECTS**
   Review, discussion and possible action to recommend the proposed CIP projects for parks and recreation facilities and Measure H allocations for the City’s 2021-22 fiscal budget.

6. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROPOSED MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22**
   Review, discussion and possible action to recommend the proposed Master Fee Schedule for the Recreation Department for fiscal year 2021-22.

7. **REORGANIZATION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**
   Per City ordinance, select Chair and Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission for 2021-2022.

8. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**
   Update on items of interest in the Recreation Department.

9. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
   - Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.
   - Brown Act Refresher and Commission Policies & Procedure Updates – May
   - Parks and Recreation Facilities Projects Update – May

10. **ADJOURN REGULAR PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, (510) 559-7005. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530 during normal business hours.
SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIALS

SPECIAL & REGULAR PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 28, 2021
(REVISDED April 29, 2021)

PUBLIC COMMENT INDEX – SPECIAL MEETING

1. Public Comments received by 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2021
2. Public Comments received after 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2021

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM 3 - CONSIDERATION OF PERMANENT PICKLEBALL COURTS AT CASTRO PARK
1. Presentation

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM 5 – RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROPOSED MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22
1. Proposed Recreation Department FY22 Master Fee Schedule
SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIALS
PUBLIC COMMENT INDEX

SPECIAL PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 28, 2021 at 6pm
(Revised April 29, 2021)

The following Public Comments were received by 4:00 p.m. 4/28/2021, were provided directly to Park and Recreation Commissioners in advance of the meeting, and were posted online as supplemental materials at:

http://www.el-cerrito.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5477

Agenda Item 3 – CONSIDERATION OF PERMENCEANT PICKLEBALL COURTS AT CASTRO PARK

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128. Gary Soto 166. Martin Fivian
129. Neil Ramos 167. Issa (received after 4pm and
130. Patrice Chung forwarded to Commission)
131. Matthew Walsh 168. S.K. Wajid (received after 4pm and
132. Michael Tertes forwarded to Commission)
133. Mary Zaletel 169. Marilyn Ashlin (received after 4pm
134. Liz Rutter and forwarded to Commission)
135. Will Tams 170. Connie Wong (received after 4pm
136. Barbara Lovejoy and forwarded to Commission)
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139. Mary Wong
140. Molly Mitchell
141. Kiran Narsinh
142. Susanne Mitchell
143. Rodney Paul
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   forwarded to Commission)
169. Marilyn Ashlin (received after 4pm
   and forwarded to Commission)
170. Connie Wong (received after 4pm
   and forwarded to Commission)
Memorandum

Date: April 12, 2021
To: El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Commission and City P&R Staff
From: El Cerrito Tennis Club Board (ECTC)
Regarding: ECTC Position on Pickleball (PB) Group’s Request to Convert Castro Tennis Courts

It is anticipated that the matter discussed at the March 24 P&R Commission meeting will be further discussed at their April 28 meeting. The ECTC will not have had sufficient time to educate and poll our membership, but our ECTC board does not believe sufficient efforts have been made by the applicants to find alternative solutions to their needs. A committee of our board has reviewed information provided to date and offer the following comments and recommendation.

**Role of Tennis in El Cerrito.** Tennis is an important aspect of the City’s recreation portfolio. Courts are heavily used by players of all ages and capabilities. Through smart financial planning and revenue generation, the City has managed to operate, maintain, and resurface the courts to a high standard compared to many adjacent cities. The Parks and Recreation Department is also to be credited with furthering the popularity of tennis through its youth and adult tennis classes and camps, as well as maintaining a great working relationship with numerous teaching professionals who use the courts.

**Role of the El Cerrito Tennis Club.** The ECTC has partnered with the City for 75 years to provide the facilities and programs available today. As the advocate for tennis in El Cerrito, our efforts benefit not only ECTC members but the general El Cerrito tennis-playing public as well as teaching pros, who are necessary for the growth and success of tennis. We are diligent about paying for court reservations for club events, USTA and BALL team matches and practices, and other club activities. This is an important source of revenue for the City’s tennis court resurfacing, operation, and maintenance budgets. In a major early 2000s effort, the Club formed the El Cerrito Tennis Improvement Association, which raised $150,000, enabling construction of the third court at Arlington Park, as well as lighting at Cerrito Vista courts and the new touchless bottle filling/drinking fountain at Arlington. In addition, the club actively supported numerous City bond issues as far back as 1964. Our pre-pandemic membership was about 170 with a current tennis email list of over 300, but our service to the El Cerrito community extends well beyond that number.

**Argument for Tennis Court Preservation.** Courts are distributed throughout the city so they may be accessed by neighborhood players. Loss of Castro courts to tennis usage would be an impact on that neighborhood. ECTC wishes to preserve the courts that exist. Castro is one of only three sites with a
practice backboard. Even painting dual lines (PB and tennis) renders the courts not acceptable for competitive league tennis play.

ECTC’s Response to PB Player’s Demands. The foregoing comments illustrate the long-established role of tennis in El Cerrito and the importance of a club like ECTC partnering with the City. With that in mind, we feel the PB community has not made enough effort to prove the conversion of the Castro courts to exclusive PB use would be more valuable to the community than the current tennis use. And we believe the PB effort by the “East Bay PB Association” is not sufficiently El Cerrito-based currently to warrant the conversion. Our observations and recommendations follow:

1. Form an El Cerrito-based club similar to ECTC which will allow the City to gauge the local interest and commitment through dues payment – not just the ‘East Bay’ interest via a ‘mailing list’. This will also have the additional benefit of formalizing a partnership between the City and local PB community to solve court sitting, operation, and funding issues.
2. Although the group says it will pay for the court conversion, we are not aware of an accurate contractor-generated cost estimate nor source of revenue provided to the City for evaluation. The City budget is stretched thin due to the pandemic and is not likely to be able to contribute.
3. The current player group (and a subsequent EC-based club) should commit to making reservations for court use, as the tennis club and community now do. The PB club would work with the City to develop a reservation protocol and fee schedule, considering court layout is different than tennis.
4. The proponents are requesting conversion of an existing, paid-for facility at the expense of another sport (tennis). Instead, we feel it only fair that the group first investigate other sites in the City, including under-utilized, privately owned sites, that might be suitable sites for PB, and report their findings to the City.
5. The group should also evaluate possible expansion of the Castro court area into the park area to accommodate one safe, regulation-size tennis court plus as many PB courts as might be feasible, and report findings to the City.
6. The group should request review of their various alternatives for PB use with the school district regarding noise and other impacts on adjacent Cameron and Koramatsu Schools and report District comments to the City.
7. The PB group, at their expense, should have the PB lines professionally repainted in a color acceptable to their group, the City, and ECTC (note that the PB group has on several occasions spray painted lines informally without City approval).

ECTC Recommendation. Rather than convert the two courts to PB at this time, the City should defer the request and allow continuation of the current experiment of shared tennis-PB use of the Castro courts as presently configured for 12 months while the proponents complete items 1 through 7 above, then return to the P&R Commission for re-evaluation of the request.
Hi Chris,

I took a look at the State Auditor Report of the El Cerrito's finances. It's a shame that the Rec Department is criticized for offering free or low-cost services to seniors. I think you and your staff have done an admirable job.

After reading the report summary, two additional arguments in favor of converting Castro to pickleball courts come to mind.

1) The vast majority of the donors for this effort are senior citizens. We understand that the city is unable to allocate resources for what we want, and we are stepping forward to fill in the gap. In essence, a group of senior citizens is offering to donate about $40,000 to the El Cerrito Rec department to improve its facilities and enabling seniors and many others to take advantage of new recreational activities that would be free to them.

2) The city is criticized for "missed opportunities to increase revenue". Our proposal would increase the number of Castro courts that can be rented from 2 courts to 6 courts. Although I don't think the pickleball rental fee should be as high as tennis (since it takes up far less property), I do think that overall the revenues from Castro rentals would increase by adding pickleball. For one thing, pickleball people are talking about running leagues or tournaments there. The tennis community would never designate Castro for such events -- their other courts are more suitable -- so this would be an entirely new way for Castro to generate revenue.

Cathy
Hello Chris,

I understand that a group of pickleball players wish to convert the Castro Tennis Courts to pickleball only. While I understand the zeal these players have for their sport, tennis players are at least as enthusiastic about their sport.

Both sports are experiencing a surge in popularity (https://www.tennis.com/pro-game/2020/12/after-pandemic-driven-boost-how-can-tennis-sustain-new-popularity/92025/). However, there are some significant differences:

1. Pickleball may be played on any hard surface such as streets, basketball courts, or parking lots; tennis requires regulation tennis courts.
2. Pickleball equipment is portable; tennis equipment must be permanently installed although unsuccessful attempts to make it portable have been tried.

There also is an issue about usage. I am a regular user of the Castro Tennis Courts. During weekdays prior to about 3:00 PM, I have never seen pickleball players using the courts. I have seen many recreational tennis players, tennis coaches with their students, or individual players, such as myself, hitting against the backboard or practicing serves. Pickleballers generally only appear in the evenings or on weekends.

I feel strongly that pickleball players and tennis players can co-exist on the Castro Tennis Courts. Pickleball players have their courts marked off which is a distraction for tennis players. Pickleball players may use the courts bearing the minor inconvenience of having to put up their nets.

If any player finds the courts occupied, then he/she should make reservations. No change in format is required nor should be implemented.

Robert F. Hink
Dear Chris Jones,

I'm perplexed by the recent request to change the Castro Courts to strictly pickleball courts. Why would anyone want to LIMIT the potential uses of a public space? Why should the courts sit empty because they're not being used by pickleball players?

In the same vein, why should tennis courts remain empty when there's no tennis players around? The answer to both questions is that they shouldn't. If the idea is to create more space for pickleball players, add pickleball lines to more tennis courts. The old saying of "share and share alike" is relevant here.

In an era where public space is shrinking, we should not be segregating use; rather, we should be integrating use whenever possible. Indeed we should be doing everything we can to maximize the use of all public spaces by as many user segments as possible.

I play pickleball. I like it. I play tennis also. I like them both.

I don't know that my voice has any sway, but on the chance that it does, I ask you to please not limit the use of these courts, excluding tennis players. I vote that tennis and pickleball players coexist!

Thank you,

Kora Gonzalez
Resident of El Cerrito and lover of racket sports.
Lara
Hello,
I am emailing you regarding the proposal to convert the Castro Park Tennis Courts into permanent pickleball courts.
I hope that this proposal is declined for a few reasons that I'll outline in this email. One reason is that I and many others play tennis at these courts a lot. As a result of the pandemic, it has been harder to find available tennis courts and Castro is a place I often play. As a high school student who can't go to school or see my friends, I can tell you that tennis has made the pandemic easier. Converting this permanently to a pickleball court would remove a place for me and many others to play tennis and make other courts more crowded with less availability. Another reason I hope this proposal is declined is that people can already play pickleball on the courts. Yes, it takes a little more effort, but I see people play pickleball on tennis courts all the time. You can play pickleball on a tennis court but not tennis on a pickleball court. This would essentially solve a non-issue for pickleball players and completely remove a court for tennis players. This, again, will make tennis court availability harder to come by at other courts in El Cerrito.
Lastly, this is a public facility. The Pickleball players are proposing to privately convert a public facility to fit the needs of a few. One thing that makes El Cerrito a great city are our publicly funded parks. Should we really let those with money privatize our parks for the small benefit of a few? I am not against pickleball as a sport. While it is loud, it seems like a fun, socially distancable activity. I just ask that because it would be privately funded and for the benefit of a few, they not construct their courts in our public parks that I and many others use.
To summarize, this would make it harder to find available tennis courts, solve a non-issue for pickleball players, and privatize our public parks for the use and small benefit of a few.
Thanks,
Jayden
If people want to play pickle ball and have their own courts they do not get
To take over tennis courts that have been kept up to date, resurfaced regularly
And paid for by the citizens of El Cerrito and the tennis club.

Do pickle ball players support the courts by making reservations? Are most of the
Players even from El Cerrito or live in the Castro Neighborhood?

Yes, I’m sure these people would like a free ride to take over our courts that we have paid for over the years to
improve and maintain. Are they willing to pay to make it happen?
We are willing to share and be generous, but they are not!

Please do not rush to placate someone who is asking for something and giving
Nothing in return and that we do not even know how many citizens of El Cerrito
Actually want this or are willing to support it.

Thanks so much for listening and giving this careful thought!

Tanya Edgar and David Edgar

El Cerrito

Tennis players and supporters of the ECTC and the community for over 40 years.
Dear Director Jones,

I am writing to speak up about the conversion of the Castro tennis courts to pickle ball. I understand the appeal of pickle ball for older people, but I am still playing tennis at age 76.

Please do not convert the Castro tennis courts to pickle ball exclusively.

I taught tennis, to youth and adults, for the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Dept. in the 60’s while still in college. The enthusiasm and launching of a life-time activity, for the students, was so rewarding.

I want that experience to continue on the Castro tennis courts: until the pandemic I actually took lessons there from Alexander Winslow. Without those courts it will be harder for tennis pros to access courts and for us to find courts to informally play on.

I also belong to the El Cerrito Tennis Club and very much appreciate the relationship of the club to the City of El Cerrito. There is no way I could afford a private club; this is the best alternative for lower income players. Having teams and access to the courts for practice is essential and very much appreciated.

Having the opportunity to play tennis during the pandemic has kept me sane!

Thank you for considering my comments,

Patricia St. John
I support this proposal. Many people are starting to enjoy pickle ball and courts in the middle of town sound good to me. Linda Giddings  El Cerrito
I agree with the letter sent to the City of El Cerrito Recreation Department from the El Cerrito Tennis Club Board. There are already Pickleball courts in adjacent city spaces. Currently we barely have enough tennis courts in the City of El Cerrito to practice and train for the many league matches that we have played in El Cerrito for years prior to the pandemic, were not available due to the pandemic, but are now returning to El Cerrito.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Jeffrey S. Price,

A Tennis-playing, and frequent league Co-Captain, citizen of El Cerrito
I do not support the conversion of the two tennis courts at Castro to PB courts only. The courts are used by many residents of El Cerrito and has been maintain by the city and the El Cerrito Tennis Club.

Rather than convert the two courts to PB at this time, the City should defer the request and allow continuation of the current experiment of shared tennis-PB use of the Castro courts as presently configured for 12 months while the proponents complete items 1 through 7 purpose by the ECTC then return to the P&R Commission for re-evaluation of the request.

Al Shew
Dear Chris Jones,

As a tennis player I do hope the pickleball players can have courts created for them. It is a popular sport. But we have a limited number of tennis courts and they are heavily used now by tennis players. I have seen some courts repainted to accommodate both sports and the plethora of lines can be very confusing. This is not a time to build new courts I imagine, but that would be the long term solution. Given its smaller dimensions a portion of a parking lot might even meet pickleball needs. Robbing Peter for Paul now would handicap what is already a proven, popular sport. Please do not eliminate the available tennis courts.

Bill Nichols
resident
Hello City of El Cerrito:

I often play tennis on the Castro Courts. PickleBall players are there only occasionally. If the courts are converted to permanent PB courts they will stand empty most of the time.

I believe the measured approach to expanding PB facilities in El Cerrito that is proposed in the El Cerrito Tennis Association letter is sound. Before converting the courts we should know how much interest there actually is in PB. We should have a commitment from a PB association that they will make a meaningful contribution to the upkeep of the courts that have for a very long time now been supported by tennis players -- for tennis, not for pickleball.

Serious consideration should be given to the noise pollution created by Pickleball. I have been a school teacher. I would not want PB being played not far from the windows to my classroom. The sound of PB is loud and obnoxious, like a highly amplified version of the clacking sound of ping pong. It seems to me unwise to site PB right next to a school.

Finally, there is a great deal of interest in tennis in El Cerrito. The interest is growing. If there is also growing interest in PB then the PB community should work with the city to raise money for development of PB courts rather than attempt to take over courts that have been supported by the tennis community.

Sincerely, David Gerstel
Dear Chris Jones,

I am opposed to reducing the number of tennis courts available in El Cerrito. They are a great community resource that would be reduced by conversion to pickleball courts.

Joe Miller
Hi,

I live across from Castro Park and would like to comment on making the tennis courts into permanent Pickle Ball courts. I really don't see why, with reservation times or set times the courts can't be shared by all. Please take into consideration this email from a 39 year residence that I object to the courts being used exclusively for Pickle ball. Tennis has been with us since the 1800's and pickle ball only from 1965 - and let's remember THESE are tennis courts.

Sincerely,
Peggy Wilcox
Dear Mr. Jones,

Tennis a growing popular sport and needs all existing courts. Pickleball and tennis on the same courts creates a confusing number of lines which is inappropriate.

A parking lot area could accommodate the more modest needs of pickleballers who use a smaller court and need minimal space behind or alongside the court.

I urge you and others to deny expansion of Pickleball on to tennis courts.

Thank you,

Dr. Brent Green
Hello Mr. Jones,

My 11 year old son Miles and I just walked up to the courts behind his future middle school (next year) Korematsu. We noticed a sign on the fence regarding getting rid of the courts. Miles and his friends have recently become more interested in tennis and have met up at the courts some afternoons during the pandemic - sometimes it has been their only social contact during the week due to distance-learning. The two courts are the closest walkable court location from our house and my kids often have to wait due to lessons, other tennis players, or pickleball players on the court. It's fine to have to wait our turn and it seems to work out fairly well to share the courts between the two sports. I don't see any benefit to eliminating use of the courts for tennis players. The closest courts our kids could walk to would be near EC Vista park and there would be more competition for use and for waiting. There are already painted lines on the courts for pickleball and we look forward to sharing the courts. If there is some way to continue to share I'd support this effort!

Thanks,
Blake Hansen
El Cerrito
Chris, Hi, I hope you’re doing well and that things have gotten better for the El Cerrito Rec Dept in terms of COVID, budgets and staff.

I’m writing you about the Castro Park tennis courts, which I know you are considering converting to pickle ball courts. Please keep them, or at least one of them, as tennis courts. They are a truly valuable resource by the local tennis community, which, along with two instructors whose names I don’t know, uses them regularly. Closing them immediately puts more demand on other nearby El Cerrito courts, and the demand often can be more than the courts have capacity to accommodate. If the Castro Park tennis courts get closed, more tennis players will be denied the opportunity to play tennis because the other courts will be increasingly full.

As you probably are aware, there has been an absolute explosion in interest in tennis since the COVID era began one year ago. More people are playing, more people want to play, and more families are getting their kids started in the sport. These are all positive developments. But court capacity, especially on weekends, is already pretty full. Demand is continuing to increase, and the courts will continue to be busier and busier. And this is the case even with the Castro Park courts available. Closing them to tennis is the wrong direction to go, given the trends in the sport today.

I’m aware that pickle ball also is popular, and I know pickle ball players are increasingly vocal. But let’s please not rob Peter to pay Paul.

Thank you for reading this note and considering these issues.

Best Regards,

Alexander

Alexander Winslow, Winslow Tennis Academy
U.S.P.T.A.-certified teaching professional
Member, Wilson USPTA Gold Staff Advisory Program

Berkeley- and El-Cerrito-based Winslow Tennis Academy is for players of all ages and skill levels. We have fun while getting after it. We develop young kids, older kids, beginners, high school varsity and tournament players, and have an active junior development program and junior team. It’s also a delight working with adults, whether those learning for the first time, rediscovering their games, playing social doubles or competing in USTA league matches. We teach excellent mechanics, footwork and shot-making techniques; and keep players moving, drilling and having fun. With advanced competitive players, we also focus on point tactics, shot selection, match strategies, and mental approaches; I help them win more points and become more confident competitors.
Hello,

As an El Cerrito resident and a user of the Castro tennis courts (tennis player), I would strongly urge you not to convert the tennis courts to pickle-ball courts.

Yours Truly,
Jeremy
Hi, the tennis courts have been really packed. I hope that is taken into consideration.

Regards,
Kent Hargreaves
Hi Chris,

It is my understanding that there is a proposal to make the Castro Courts exclusively Pickle Ball Courts. While I understand that there is an increased interest in Pickle Ball, making these long time Tennis Courts exclusively Pickle Ball is the wrong way to share the courts.

During the Pandemic the tennis courts have been an economical and safe way for people of all ages and abilities to play. I would encourage El Cerrito Park and Rec to continue to let has many people use the courts as possible for both Pickle Ball and Tennis.

Sincerely,

Louis Rasky
Hi Cris Jones,

I am writing to you about an email my friend forwarded to me from the EL Cerrito Tennis Club. It said that some pickleballers had asked for the Lower Canyon Trails courts to be designated as pickleball only. I am sixteen and love to play tennis. Since COVID began I have been playing at these courts at least four times a week with my friend before school, my mom, and my friend's dad. These courts mean a lot to the people who live around them. Without these courts El Cerrito courts will become even more crowded. On Saturday mornings I have gone to six courts in a row before finding an opening. Making the Lower Canyon Trails tennis courts pickleball only will only increase this problem. I know that there are pickleball lines on the Castro Courts as well as multiple other courts through El Cerrito and Kensington, so why are the Castro Courts for only pickleball? Can't we share? Please consider my opinions and feelings.

-Tory
Hi Chris,

I heard there's an effort to end tennis at the Castro courts. I am TOTALLY OPPOSED. There aren't enough courts as is, everytime I go they are full. I also went by Castro and didn't see any pickleball players.

I haven't been able to get much info about this, it doesn't appear posted anywhere. It seems fishy to me, who is behind the effort? Is there some business trying to pull the strings? Why aren't there signs posted about it at all the courts? We have a city tennis club with deep roots, I can't find even a basic website about pickle ball in el Cerrito.

Pickleball should be banned in el Cerrito, it's very loud, Berkeley residents can't stand it. But if we don't ban it, limit it to shared use at one court, and possibly ask BART to put pickleball at the plaza development. I heard pickleball activists don't want to pay for reservations, that is totally unfair. Why should everyone else have to pay but not the pickleballers?

We should also start looking for a way to create more tennis courts. Tennis is more popular than ever. The courts are full, but I don't know even ONE person that plays pickle ball.

Thanks
Archie Russell
Dear Mr. Jones -- Please provide my comments below to the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Commission in advance of their meeting on April 28th. Thank you.

_________________________________________________________________

Dear El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you reject the request to convert the Castro tennis courts to pickleball on a permanent basis. My request is based on the following reasons.

1. Tennis is a lifelong sport, enjoyed by young kids to senior citizens. Among the major sports, it is probably the sport with the most ethnic diversity and with gender equity on prize money. It is a sport that promotes healthy competition and international friendships. In El Cerrito, the El Cerrito Tennis Club (ECTC) has been promoting the same spirit for over 70 years. The ECTC has worked with the City to develop the current layout of courts, to be sure that they are well maintained, and to offer many types of fun and competitive tournaments. We should keep the same opportunities for tennis players for decades to come.

2. The pickleball advocates should raise money for pickleball courts much like the El Cerrito Tennis Improvement Association (ECTIA) did about 20 years ago. The ECTIA raised money to add a 3rd tennis court at Arlington Park, lighting at the Cerrito Vista courts and other activities. The pickleball advocates should review which city park can accommodate pickleball courts, prepare conceptual layouts and work with the City on ways to fund the project.

I am a lifelong tennis player and regularly play at the courts at Arlington Park, Castro, Cerrito Vista and Harding park. Please work with the pickleball advocates on other options. Thank you.

Ray Yep
Berkeley
Dear Recreation Director Chris Jones and Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that a group of Pickleball players is trying to repurpose the Castro Park tennis courts solely for their sport. I am neither a Pickleball nor tennis player; however, I am a community resident who observes court usage on a daily basis.

I live on Lawrence Street directly across from Castro Park, use the park’s greenspace and walk by the courts virtually every day; sometimes multiple times per day. A wide variety of people use the courts for both tennis and Pickleball. In just the past week I have seen a single man practicing tennis against the backboard, a dad coaching his young daughter in tennis, numerous singles and doubles tennis players, and a few Pickleball groups. This is a well-used community facility.

I have been told that Castro is one of only three sites in the area with a practice backboard for tennis. Tennis players, including the local tennis association, El Cerrito Tennis Club, have been sharing the courts with Pickleball players for a number of years, even though painting dual lines on the courts (Pickleball and tennis) reduces their suitability for competitive league tennis play.

Frankly, I am appalled that one group of users would attempt to claim the courts for their exclusive use. Apparently, the group requesting this change is not even based in our community, but includes members from Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Alameda, Walnut Creek, Concord and other East Bay cities.

This seems like a terrible time to reduce outdoor recreation options for community members. I urge the El Cerrito Park and Recreation Commission to deny the Pickleball group’s request.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ashlin

El Cerrito Resident
To Whom it may concern,

As an avid tennis player this email is to oppose the conversion of both Castro tennis courts to pickle ball. Sharing seems to be a better option, as in one for tennis and one for pickle ball. Thank you for your time.

Melissa Meighan

Sent from my iPad
Chris Jones, Director, EC Recreation Department  
cc: Sarah DiBenedetto, Management Analyst, EC Rec Dept  
cc: Jessica Palacios, Administration, EC Rec Dept

Karen Pinkos, El Cerrito City Manager

El Cerrito City Council
Paul Fadelli, Mayor
Gabriel Quinto, Mayor Pro Tem  
cc: Janet Abelson, Member
cc: Lisa Motoyama, Member
cc: Tessa Rudnick, Member

Chris,

In a city reeling from over a year of fighting the corona pandemic; in a city grappling with the findings of the State Auditor; in a city coming to grips with financial management and budgeting in a time of scarce resources; and in a city priding itself on services and infrastructure for its citizens:

I hope you, the City Manager and the City Council will weigh VERY carefully any proposal coming your way to waylay the tennis courts at Castro Park in favor of more permanent pickleball courts.

DISCLAIMER: I'm NOT a tennis player OR a pickleball player. Instead, I am a 39-year resident of El Cerrito who, along with my wife Peggy Wilcox, raised two boys (now 32- and 29-years old) in the City. And that entire time, we have lived directly across from Castro Park and the tennis courts (on Lawrence Street).

I have just one quite simple request of your departement, of City leadership and of our City Council:

IF there's to be a change from the status quo, please convince us BEFOREHAND, not after setting the wheels-of-change into motion. Show us why the change, with facts and figures, displayed and presented in a user-friendly way.

This is not too much to ask. Particularly if a change costs $10 out of the City's coffers, much less $10,000 or even more.

==> I'll be looking for data, data, data; facts and figures; clear graphical displays; and a thorough decision support package made available to the public WELL before any final actions are taken.

THAT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK, IS IT? Especially during a pandemic; after a State Audit; during your efforts to improve budgeting and financial management; and in the face of
scarce City resources v demands on those resources for services and infrastructure.

Regards,
Gregg Visineau
El Cerrito Resident

Mobile: [blacked out] (voice, text and voicemail)
Home: [blacked out] (landline w/voicemail)
Good afternoon Mr. Jones,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing because my neighbors informed me that a group of pickleball players would like to convert both tennis courts to permanent pickleball courts. I live at [redacted] directly across the street from Castro Park, and have had the pleasure to watch the tennis courts act as a community hub for a diverse group of tennis players. In addition to a wide array of age, from children and teens, to young adults and retirees, these tennis courts serve folks from many different races -- white, Black, Asian, Hispanic -- and provide great benefits to our community. It would be a great loss to lose this valuable resource. Please keep the tennis courts at Castro Park.

Note: the pickleball players we have observed are usually the same half a dozen folks (all white, all retired) -- permanent pickleball courts would not serve our El Cerrito community in the same capacity as the present tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pia Loft
Hi there,

I have lived at [redacted] for 16 years and use the tennis courts at Castro all the time. I actually taught both my kids how to play tennis there. Recently, I saw a sign regarding the proposal to turn the tennis courts into pickleball courts and I wanted to write to express my STRONG opposition to that proposal.

One of the biggest reasons folks love living in El Cerrito is the ability to walk to recreational spots. Yes, it's true we can still walk to Cerrito Vista Park to play tennis but those courts seem to always be reserved for lessons and not available for the public for drop in after work hours and weekends.

Already, the pickleball group uses the courts at least 2 days a week so I don't understand the need for the change. My understanding is that some of the pickleball players are not even El Cerrito residents so why should they be prioritized over residents that pay taxes? And for those that are residents, why can't a shared arrangement be agreed to? I know they are a vocal and organized group but that further puts tennis players who aren't part of a group at a disadvantage as our voices are overshadowed.

Please consider having a shared arrangement vs complete removal as that is not fair to the tennis players. Unfortunately, I have a work meeting at that time and will not be able to attend. Please add my comments to the official record. Thank you.

Karineh Samkian
Chris,
Please submit my comments to the Park and Recreation Commission regarding the pickleball proposal presented to the commission at their last meeting.

My husband Fred and I are avid tennis players and fans. We started playing tennis recreationally about 30 years ago with Alvin Hom and Denise Tom who were offering a free racquet with lessons at Cerrito Vista courts. Since then we’ve played at every El Cerrito court and the EC high school prior to the rebuilding and after on the new courts. We play at Castro courts which tend to be quiet and parklike.

I ran a junior tennis program for 5 years at Castro courts and generated a grant to have the junior lines painted on the Castro courts, not requiring any city funds. Purchase and set up of portable nets for the juniors was also provided by USTA funds procured by the EC Tennis club.

As an El Cerrito Tennis club board member for most of those 30 years I've been a board member where we maintained a cordial, friendly and beneficial relationship for the city generating permit fees, reservation fees, special tennis events etc.

I am against the pickleball proposal to convert Castro courts to exclusively pickleball for these reasons:

1. The "pickleball group" proposes to eliminate a source of revenue for the city with no plan to replace or increase it. There is no mention of helping the city out financially as the current tennis community does with reservation fees and the various contributions of the El Cerrito Tennis club (lights at Cerrito Vista, new touchless water fountain at the Arlington courts, benches, trash cans). The city budget is already strained.

2. The city should focus on serving El Cerrito residents. Who is the pickleball group? Are they residents?? How many are residents? There is no formal local organization we can look at.

3. The harm the noise of pickleball will do to the neighborhood. The recent pickleball noise complaints from the Berkeley pickleball courts should serve as a warning for the neighborhood, the adjacent Cameron School for students with disabilities and the next door classrooms at Korematsu Middle School. There's no mention in the proposal of concern for and mitigation of the noise factor.

4. The recent dramatic increase in tennis players nationwide, almost 22 million new and returning players, have put a strain on available courts all week and made it worse during the weekends. We cannot afford to lose two courts including a backboard. It is only 1 of 3 available in the city, therefore, continued sharing of these courts is the best compromise for this site.
5. The pickleball proposal does not mention any investigation into other possible locations for a site dedicated exclusively to pickleball, whether within or outside of El Cerrito. It is not evident that possible sites close to El Cerrito and still convenient to El Cerrito residents have been considered. For example, Richmond's Nichol Park has plenty of available space. Why just El Cerrito where space is at a premium.

For these reasons please consider our objections and do not convert Castro Park courts to exclusively pickleball use. We want to continue the shared use of these courts.

Thank you,

Fred and Margo Takemiya
Send from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Karineh Samkian
Date: April 20, 2021 at 2:16:53 PM PDT
To: Karineh and Artineh Samkian
Subject: Castro Park Tennis Courts

Hi guys,

Now that schools are finally open, apparently I can't just rest and had to find my new issue to advocate for :) If you hadn't heard, the City's Parks and Recreation Commission is meeting next Wednesday night at 6 pm via zoom (link and agenda can be found here [https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477](https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477) and one of the items they are discussing and potentially voting on is converting the tennis courts at Castro to pickleball courts.

I sent the email below opposing the proposal. I think converting one of two may be a good compromise but getting rid of it altogether seems unfair. I know some of you probably don't use the courts (or don't care :) but I would appreciate just a quick email to Chris Jones (email below) just saying you oppose the proposal. My neighbor Esteban who is also going to send a letter is going to link all the articles from Berkeley about how residents are upset because it is so noisy.

Thanks for considering.

Karineh

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:49 PM

To: Chris Jones
Subject: Comment AGAINST Converting Castro Courts

Hi there,
I have lived at [redacted] for 16 years and use the tennis courts at Castro all the time. I actually taught both my kids how to play tennis there. Recently, I saw a sign regarding the proposal to turn the tennis courts into pickleball courts and I wanted to write to express my STRONG opposition to that proposal.

One of the biggest reasons folks love living in El Cerrito is the ability to walk to recreational spots. Yes, it's true we can still walk to Cerrito Vista Park to play tennis but those courts seem to always be reserved for lessons and not available for the public for drop in after work hours and weekends.

Already, the pickleball group uses the courts at least 2 days a week so I don't understand the need for the change. My understanding is that some of the pickleball players are not even El Cerrito residents so why should they be prioritized over residents that pay taxes? And for those that are residents, why can't a shared arrangement be agreed to? I know they are a vocal and organized group but that further puts tennis players who aren't part of a group at a disadvantage as our voices are overshadowed.

Please consider having a shared arrangement vs complete removal as that is not fair to the tennis players. Unfortunately, I have a work meeting at that time and will not be able to attend. Please add my comments to the official record. Thank you.

Karineh Samkian
Hi there,
I live at [REDACTED], a mere block away from Castro Park. The tennis courts at Castro Park are used by residents regularly and I don't believe there is any good reason to convert them to Pickle Ball Courts.
It seems to me that one of the tennis courts could be easily modified to convert to Pickle ball courts on a regular schedule to accommodate Pickle ball players (isn't that already happening?). I don't see why tennis players should be displaced when everyone can be accommodated.
Another issue that is relevant is that Pickle Ball is considerably louder than tennis. As someone who lives very nearby, it would bother me to have to listen to Pickle Ball at all hours of the day.
Maia Bazjanac
Hi Mr. Jones:

As a both Castro Park neighbor and member of EC Tennis Club I’d like add my objection to the replacement of the Castro Park tennis courts by a permanent pickleball installation.

I agree with most of what the EC Tennis Club proposed in its letter to Rec Commission and would like to add a few more points:

1. Living on Lawrence Street right near the courts, we find the clatter of the hard pickleball to be intrusive. Right now, that happens mostly on Saturday mornings. If this becomes a permanent pickleball site with multiple courts, we envision this becoming a constant din. I also suspect that the noise would be quite distracting to the students at Korematsu School.

2. The current space accommodates 2 tennis courts. If converted to 6 pickleball courts, where most people play doubles, there will be a terrible parking problem on Lawrence, Norvell, and Gladys, which will adversely affect our neighborhood.

3. Since the pandemic began it has become harder to find an open court. Many more people are taking lessons and the courts are being reserved by professionals that pass along the reservation costs to their clients. The loss of the Castro courts would exacerbate that problem.

On the other hand, I disagree with the ECTC proposal that the court area be expanded to accommodate more tennis and pickleball. Abutting the courts is a pleasant green area that is frequently used for picnics, gatherings, places for kids to play.

Those of us in the tennis community don’t understand why this needs to be a “zero-sum game”. Why does pickleball want to grow by taking away tennis from others? As ECTC suggested, I’d encourage pickleball proponents to find another location suitable for their sport. That would also enable us to remove the pickleball lines and once again make these courts suitable for league play.

Thanks for considering and supporting the wishes of a very large and avid EC tennis community.

Yours,
Roy Harkow
Good afternoon,

I am an El Cerrito resident and a regular tennis player. I frequently spend weekends and evenings looking for available tennis courts in El Cerrito. I heard about a proposal to turn the Castro Park tennis courts into pickleball courts and I wanted to communicate my STRONG opposition to that proposal.

Pickleball players are able to use tennis courts, but tennis players are not able to use pickleball courts. So, if you convert tennis courts to pickleball courts, then you are preventing usage by tennis players (while no such restriction for pickleball players is in place now). Tennis courts are already highly used and frequently reserved, and eliminating tennis courts will just make it more difficult to find places to play.

If you must create new pickleball courts, then please only convert one tennis court (which will provide sufficient space for 4 pickleball courts). Do not completely remove both tennis courts.

I am not able to attend the zoom meeting this evening, but I want my comments to be part of the official record.

Thank you,

Sarah

--
Sarah Kolarik
Hello,

I am a resident of El Cerrito and understand that there is a proposal to convert the tennis courts into pickleball courts at Castro Park. As someone who regularly plays tennis and often has trouble finding available courts in the area, I strongly oppose this proposal. With tennis courts already in high demand, this would create even longer waits and likely vacant pickleball courts that tennis players cannot use. In other cities I've lived in previously, I often would see pickleball courts that were much less frequented than the tennis courts and it is a shame to not be able to use that space to play tennis.

Additionally, tennis courts can be used as pickleball courts. Keeping them as tennis courts is ideal because either a tennis play or a pickleball player can use the court. If there are free pickleball courts, tennis players cannot use the court, but if there are available tennis courts, both sports can be accommodated.

As a tax paying resident tennis play, please do not convert the tennis courts to pickleball courts. Or if you do, please only remove one tennis court to create the pickleball courts.

Thank you,

Lindsay Nakaki
Dear Chris,

I am writing you to voice my opinion (and that of Peter, Stephanie and her family, and others in our neighborhood) regarding the proposed conversion of our neighborhood tennis courts into pickle ball courts.

We are opposed to this for a number of reasons. We have owned and lived in our house on Lawrence Street for nearly 42 years. (Stephanie and her family live on Lawrence Street as well.) Our family, our children, and now our grandchildren have played tennis on the courts in Castro Park there for as many years as we’ve lived here. Peter grew up in this neighborhood, so he has been playing tennis there for 60 years! We have watched many, many other people in the neighborhood enjoy playing on the courts at Castro Park as well. There have been tennis clinics, lessons, tournaments and other tennis-related activities there for as long as we have lived here. Many people are regulars who have played here for years. They have been quiet and respectful of the neighbors and the neighborhood as long as we have been here.

The recently formed group of pickle ball players is here only occasionally, but the loud noise of their games is invasive and annoying. Also, there are multiple players per game and they all come in different cars, affecting traffic and parking on our street. Several of the Saturday pickle ball players race up or down the street to get here. There are little kids, including our grandkids and other neighborhood kids, as well as many pets, who could be endangered by these drivers.

At this time, the tennis players vastly outnumber the pickle ball players. If the city feels it is willing to spend the resources for our parks on pickle ball courts, I would suggest putting some in over at Cerrito Vista Park by the tennis courts there. There is more room, more parking and fewer homes that would be affected by the noise.

Sports are fun, exercise is good, but the proposal is not good for our Castro Park neighborhood. Besides, pickle ball players can play on tennis courts, but tennis players can’t play on pickle ball courts.

Many more people benefit from having tennis courts than the few who would like to have them become pickle ball courts.

Please do not convert our Castro Park tennis courts into pickle ball courts.

Thanks for your consideration.
Suzanne Lock

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

As an avid tennis player who loves to hit at Castro Park, I would like to see them remain as dedicated tennis courts.

Perhaps the Park and City Commission could consider turning Booker T Anderson park into 3 pickleball courts? The tennis courts that are currently there are in poor condition and the facility needs an update.

The park is extremely safe with tons of parking and there are currently pickleball clinics that happen there now.

Thank you,
Matt
The East Bay Pickleball Association has the following responses to the seven comments and recommendations submitted by the El Cerrito Tennis Club Board in a letter to the EC Parks and Rec Commission on April 6, 2021.

1. Form an El Cerrito-based club similar to ECTC which will allow the City to gauge the local interest and commitment through dues payment – not just the ‘East Bay’ interest via a ‘mailing list’. This will also have the additional benefit of formalizing a partnership between the City and local PB community to solve court siting, operation, and funding issues.

**RESPONSE:** ECTC is not El Cerrito-based. Of its 95 members*, only 35 are El Cerrito residents, and only 2 of the 11 Board of Directors are El Cerrito residents. 40% of ECTC members come from Berkeley, Albany or Richmond, where there are an additional 51 tennis courts – some recently refurbished. In other words, those 95 tennis players in the ECTC have a total of 66 courts to choose from in their 4 cities. 92 of the 95 ECTC members live closer to ANOTHER TENNIS COURT than they do to Castro.

To be clear, we believe ‘city-based’ clubs for either sport are not relevant, given that players come from multiple cities to play together – as it should be. However, if the city mandated that a club be ‘sufficiently El Cerrito-based’ to work with the city in improving facilities, the same rule should apply to ECTC.

The pickleball community has had an ongoing relationship with EC Rec Department since 2014, when its popular city-sponsored “Open Play” sessions began. The East Bay Pickleball Association, including well over 550 players, is now incorporated as a non-profit and is applying for 501c(3) status. Unlike a tennis club, where some dues are used to enable occasional social events, pickleball is inherently social – every daily or weekly “Open Play” session is a social event. We don’t need dues to facilitate this. Instead, our strategy has always been to do fundraising on an as-needed basis. This has enabled us to purchase all of the nets and storage boxes at Castro and at Ocean View in Albany, to subsidize the Cedar Rose pickleball courts in Berkeley, and now to **FULLY FUND** the Castro Pickleball Court conversion. This fact alone should allow the city to ‘gauge local interest and commitment’.

We acknowledge and appreciate the years of service ECTC has provided to the city. However, their focus in recent years has been on their other 13 courts – particularly Cerrito Vista and Arlington. Castro, being unusable for competitive league tennis play, has received less attention. The contractor who came to give an estimate for the conversion said that Castro was ‘not in good
Removing Castro from the tennis inventory will not impede ECTC’s ability to focus improvements on the other EC tennis sites -- as they have been -- while we give Castro some TLC.

2. Although the group says it will pay for the court conversion, we are not aware of an accurate contractor-generated cost estimate nor source of revenue provided to the City for evaluation. The City budget is stretched thin due to the pandemic and is not likely to be able to contribute.

**RESPONSE:** We do not expect the City to contribute, and we would collect all donations and turn them over to the City before work would begin. We have a verbal estimate ‘for budgetary purposes’ from Chanel Johnson, Office Manager/Estimating at FirstServePro, of approximately $38-40K. We have raised most of that amount in fundraising pledges from 74 donors to-date and have also been given a grant from Google. The balance will be raised when we get the ‘green light’.

3. The current player group (and a subsequent EC-based club) should commit to making reservations for court use, as the tennis club and community now do. The PB club would work with the City to develop a reservation protocol and fee schedule, considering court layout is different than tennis.

**RESPONSE:** Of course. This is nothing new. Our participation in twice weekly fee-based pickleball sessions at Castro, sponsored by the EC Senior Center, and our regular court reservations have been contributing to court maintenance since 2014. If you check my name (Cathy Taruskin) in the Parks and Rec Accounts Receivable System, you will find $825 in payments for Castro reservations since the pickleball lines were painted, with more to come. Another pickleball player has paid over $300 in court reservations in the last few months. Unfortunately, the online reservation system doesn’t differentiate between pickleball and tennis reservations so there isn’t a way to compare pickleball revenue with tennis revenue.

We agree that a new protocol would be needed, since the city can now profit from 6 pickleball court reservations instead of just 2 tennis court reservations. We agree that reservations would be done in the same pattern as current tennis court reservations at Castro – i.e., courts are RARELY reserved for individual play and are shared on a first-come/first-served basis as players walk on. Courts would be reserved for pickleball ladder leagues, tournaments, other events. In contrast, ECTC says in their letter that the Castro courts are ‘not acceptable for competitive league tennis play’ due to the dual striping (for junior tennis originally, and now for pickleball) so
tennis reservations would remain infrequent. It is very likely that Castro revenue will go up after
the conversion, with increased usage and resumption of the City-sponsored “Open Play”
sessions.

4. The proponents are requesting conversion of an existing, paid-for facility at the expense of
another sport (tennis). Instead, we feel it only fair that the group first investigate other sites in the
City, including under-utilized, privately owned sites, that might be suitable sites for PB, and report
their findings to the City.

RESPONSE: If land use were never re-evaluated, the Berkeley Smith Dairy Farm would still
occupy the land that is now the Castro tennis courts. When the Castro courts were first added in
the 60’s, pickleball did not exist and land was cheaper. Today, if city planners were given the
task of allocating space between pickleball and tennis, what would they do? The choice is
between allocating the 7200 square feet that is needed for one tennis court and can be used by
2-4 players at a time vs. the same square footage that can accommodate 4 pickleball courts and
be used by 16 players simultaneously. Both sports are wonderful; both sports deserve space.
We are offering to correct that inequity at our own expense.

In the letters written to the Commission by EC-resident pickleball players last month, 20
mentioned how long they had been residents. Their cumulative years of living in EC amounted to
525 years! ECTC is suggesting that these EC pickleball players, who have paid substantial sums
in taxes and bonds in those 525 years, should investigate privately owned sites (for purchase or
rental?) in order to construct our own facilities. ECTC prefaces this suggestion (above) with ‘we
feel it only fair’? 15 tennis courts in EC and 0 pickleball courts. That is their idea of ‘fair’? Non-
tennis players are as entitled to city-owned parks and recreation property as tennis players are. If
the balance of parks and recreation space allocation has to shift as times and circumstances
change, so be it.

5. The group should also evaluate possible expansion of the Castro court area into the park area to
accommodate one safe, regulation-size tennis court plus as many PB courts as might be feasible,
and report findings to the City.

RESPONSE: Widening the Castro court area is a nice idea; however, our group of donors
includes many senior citizens, some on fixed incomes. We are doing our best already. Coming up
with the $40,000 estimate for converting the existing Castro space stretches us to our limits.
Any project that involves leveling, pouring of concrete, fencing, etc. is beyond our means.
6. The group should request review of their various alternatives for PB use with the school district regarding noise and other impacts on adjacent Cameron and Koramatsu Schools and report District comments to the City.

RESPONSE: As a reminder, Castro has had 6 pickleball courts since 2018 with no known issues with the district. We are simply changing the type of pickleball net being used – from portable nets requiring assembly to permanent nets. We would be happy to work with the schools if this presents new issues. Some of us are or were teachers and we all support teachers. We would also offer to partner with their Physical Education staff if they are interested in incorporating pickleball into their PE offerings, as many middle schools do. Some of us volunteered before COVID with the Oakland Public Schools to introduce pickleball to middle schoolers.

7. The PB group, at their expense, should have the PB lines professionally repainted in a color acceptable to their group, the City, and ECTC (note that the PB group has on several occasions spray painted lines informally without City approval).

RESPONSE: This would only be applicable if our proposal for complete court conversion is denied.

To set the record straight, no one has used spray paint anywhere at Castro. For a short period pickleball players did use spray chalk – which washes away with water – to indicate the location of the nearly invisible black pickleball lines. One of the alleged vandals is a prominent member of the EC community who meant no harm. When the city alerted the players not to do this, they stopped. Below is a photo illustrating the visibility issues with black pickleball lines.
CONCLUSION

We anticipate some EC senior services will be reduced, eliminated, or have fee increases as a result of the city's financial audit findings. Providing a new, free recreational option for many seniors – in the form of pickleball courts – will lessen the impact.

We are confident that by donating the funds needed to add permanent pickleball courts to EC's recreational offerings, we will be serving many EC residents who will discover pickleball for the first time. Many people who are physically unable to play tennis will now have a new, healthy outdoor recreational option with the far more accessible sport of pickleball. We look forward to sharing the courts with an influx of new players of all ages and particularly delight in seeing the younger demographic joining in the fun.

*All ECTC statistics are based on the 4/15/21 version of their Directory
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

so many new people are coming into this game.
the conditioning of many especially seniors is improving right before our eyes.
we need more courts as soon as possible.
thanks
robert temple
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. This will provide recreational opportunities for 24 individuals, at no cost to the city.

Thank you

Mary Torpey

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Pickleball is more than a sport- through play you develop friendships, laugh and of course get exercise. One tennis court converted allows 16 players to play Pickleball. It is a game for all ages and the costs are not very reasonable.
Thank you, Stacy Margolin
Correction in my last sentence- costs are very reasonable

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2021, at 1:52 PM, Chris Jones <CJones@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Margolin,

Thank you for your comments. I will make sure that the Park and Recreation Commissioners receive them before their meeting. Information on how to participate in this meeting can be found on their agenda here https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477.

Take Care,
Chris

Chris Jones
Recreation Director
City of El Cerrito

I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Pickleball is more than a sport- through play you develop friendships, laugh and of
course get exercise. One tennis court converted allows 16 players to play Pickleball. It is a game for all ages and the costs are not very reasonable.

Thank you, Stacy Margolin
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I am retired and a resident of Contra Costa County. I am a long time tennis player, but am a recent convert to pickleball, like so many elders. With our population growing, it seems the appropriate thing to do to keep us lively!

Cindy Podren
Sent from my iPad
I am sending this email in support of the proposal to convert the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

As a senior citizen, I was fortunate to stumble upon pickleball as an activity almost three years ago. There was an article in the NY Times about this sport becoming popular and it sounded really fun. With a google search, I found that lessons were being given at Albany High School on Sunday afternoons and that’s where I really caught the bug. The Mastik Senior Center in Alameda oversaw dedicated pickleball courts in Lincoln Park, and through the Center I, along with several friends, began to play the game with a passion.

In the summer of 2018, we approached different agencies within the City of Oakland, including (of course) Parks and Rec. What an open reception we received - there was support and enthusiasm for finding a way to provide outdoor physical activities for what was then a mostly older crowd of people. By December 2018 we “broke ground” with a conversion of two tennis courts to four pickleball courts in Bushrod Park. The use of the courts has been astounding since their creation - and hundreds of people from our East Bay cities rely on playing pickleball at Bushrod.

And we all need more places to play! Even with the brand new courts in Montclair, one finds long waits at pickleball courts as the crowds just keep on coming!

Please take into serious consideration the demand for places to play this ever-growing sport. The benefits are physical and psychological, getting many stay-at-home elders out and active! And I urge you to have representatives do random drive-bys to count the number of people playing pickleball and the number of people playing tennis. One tennis court that is usually serving only two players converts to four pickleball courts that serves 16 players! Our tax dollars need to be responsive to demand and use.

Thank you.

Flo Hodes
Oakland resident
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Hello,
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into six pickleball courts. The popularity of pickleball is growing by leaps and bounds and there are not enough places to play. El Cerrito needs pickleball courts.

Thank you,
Jessica
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. thank you!
Hello there,
I am writing to voice my support for converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park in 6 pickleball courts. It is a game that can be played by all ages and is extremely easy to learn. The cost of equipment is minimal. It provides an incredible social and activity outlet for seniors, who are lacking activity options, is a game for families to play together, and is great fun for children as well. There are empty tennis courts all over the Bay Area, and the few pickleball courts in the surrounding towns are full at all hours. El Cerrito residents have to drive to Berkeley, Alameda, Hayward and now Montclair Park in Oakland to play. They deserve an option close to home.
With 15 tennis courts, plus the 5 at the high school, it seems that two courts could be spared for 6 pickleball courts. That would serve 24 residents at one time, in the same space versus the eight that the space currently serves.
The number of pickleball players in the area has increased by at least 27% since COVID and the growth shows no sign of slowing down.
Please join the wave of park and rec departments across the country, and add pickleball to your offerings.
Best regards and Pickleball to the People

Darlene Vendegna
USA Pickleball Ambassador
PPR Instructor
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

This is a great location for Pickleball and will enable far more people to enjoy this wonderful sport!

I have also committed to help fund the cost of conversion.

Thanks very much.
Tiger Whittemore
Please consider converting
the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
I’ve played at these courts with Bell and many others.

I am new to the sport and have personally experienced many important benefits:
Multi-generational - teens get acquainted with seniors,

Supportive- more experienced players often take the time to instruct newbies

Efficient use of courts - the way pickleball games work, 20 or more people can rotate in and the wait time is pleasant and short.

Commeraderie - as a senior the social connection is vital, and pickle ball can be enjoyed by people with limited mobility

Thank you
Lydia Ruiz
Oakland

Sent from my iPhone
Hi there,

I’m writing to urge you to go forward with conversion of the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I play pickleball at Castro Park regularly, and playing pickleball on these courts designed for tennis is awkward. The proliferation of lines on the ground is confusing, and setting up temporary nets is cumbersome. Given that the city has 15 tennis courts and no pickleball courts, it seems to me that this conversion is entirely appropriate.

Pickleball is a great healthy sport, and I’m so glad I discovered it about 4 years ago. I’m 60, and it’s really helping me stay fit, meet people and enjoy life.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Thea Kelley
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. The number of PB courts in the East Bay is woefully inadequate for the number of players who want to play. Four newly built courts in Montclair Park opened just yesterday and were completely overwhelmed with eager players by 11 AM this morning, and the demand is surely as great at Castro Park. The limited space for courts will be much more actively used for playing PB than for tennis by a lot more people.

Christopher Amy
Thanks for your response Chris.

As a side note, and some anecdotal evidence, a tennis court in Montclair (Oakland neighborhood) was just converted into four pickleball courts. At 11:00 today, all four of the courts were full, with ten people waiting. The nearby tennis courts were empty. If you build them, they WILL come. and by the way, the local little sports equipment shop and all the restaurants in Montclair are thrilled and already commenting on an increase in customers.

It would really be a boon to El Cerrito. Thanks again for your response.
On Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 1:54 PM Chris Jones <[redacted] > wrote:

Dear Ms. Vendegna,

Thank you for your comments. I will make sure that the Park and Recreation Commissioners receive them before their meeting. Information on how to participate in this meeting can be found on their agenda here [https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477](https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477).

Take Care,

Chris

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Chris Jones

Recreation Director

City of El Cerrito
From: Darlene Vendegna
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Chris Jones
Subject: Public Comments – Agenda Item #3

Hello there,

I am writing to voice my support for converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park in 6 pickleball courts. It is a game that can be played by all ages and is extremely easy to learn. The cost of equipment is minimal. It provides an incredible social and activity outlet for seniors, who are lacking activity options, is a game for families to play together, and is great fun for children as well. There are empty tennis courts all over the Bay Area, and the few pickleball courts in the surrounding towns are full at all hours. El Cerrito residents have to drive to Berkeley, Alameda, Hayward and now Montclair Park in Oakland to play. They deserve an option close to home.

With 15 tennis courts, plus the 5 at the high school, it seems that two courts could be spared for 6 pickleball courts. That would serve 24 residents at one time, in the same space versus the eight that the space currently serves.

The number of pickleball players in the area has increased by at least 27% since COVID and the growth shows no sign of slowing down.

Please join the wave of park and rec departments across the country, and add pickleball to your offerings.

Best regards and Pickleball to the People

Darlene Vendegna
USA Pickleball Ambassador
PPR Instructor
I wish to add my opposition to the conversion of Castro courts to pickle ball only. The current situation is fine, we can share.
Thanks, Leslie Fuller
As a member of the El Cerrito tennis club, I am concerned about converting the tennis court at Castro into a pickle ball court. Please leave it as a tennis court. There already is a pickle ball court there next to the tennis court.

Sincerely

Pat Phillips
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. These courts appear to be little used for tennis.

I live in Hercules, which is up the Hwy 80 corridor. I took pickleball lessons at Castro Park because there are few or no courts within several miles of our town. Please consider approving the conversion to pickleball courts, as pickleball is a fast growing sport that can be played by young and old alike.

Sincerely,
Sandra Serrano
--
Sandra Serrano
Though I do not live in El Cerrito, I fully support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I have been playing pickleball for 8 years in El Cerrito, Albany and Richmond. It's exciting to see the popularity of the sport and disappointing that we do not have a dedicated site for playing. It is distracting to play on a tennis court that has pickleball (PB) lines painted on it for both tennis and PB players. Having to tape lines for PB on a tennis court takes time as well as setting up the portable nets. But we do it so that we can play.

The fact that the PB community has raised enough money to fund this project is a tribute to our love and dedication to the sport. Taking away two tennis courts will not hamper the many places tennis players still have to play. We cannot say the same for pickleball players. This sport is a great sport for families.

I hope you will support this issue.

Jo Scherich
Richmond
From: Ken Salonen
To: Chris Jones
Subject: Public Comments – Agenda Item #3
Date: Friday, April 23, 2021 2:56:43 PM

Hello,
I have written the commission before in support of converting the Castro Park tennis courts to Pickleball.
I just wanted to add to my previous written comments, and my verbal comments at the last meeting.
I am an El Cerrito resident and am currently playing Pickleball at the Castro courts 3 times a week.
I want to emphasize that this current proposal is the fair thing to do.
Tennis has been and will continue to be a great sport. But tennis needs to share when a new sport arises that is need of court space.
The future is now. Pickleball is way too popular to be cast aside.
Tennis can share space.
It is the fair thing to do.
Thank you very much.

Ken Salonen
El Cerrito

PS At the last meeting it was alluded to that Pickleballers did some vandalism to the courts. To my knowledge this involved putting some removable chalk down (to better see the lines). Since the city posted a restriction on this behavior, I have not seen any chalk.
The word vandalism is pretty strong wordage with very negative connotations.
I have never met a Pickleball player who could even remotely be described in this way.

Sent from my iPhone
I understand the El Cerrito Parks and Rec Commission is considering conversion of two tennis courts to pickleball. I fully support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I am a senior, and play at a variety of locations in the East Bay. Every one is overcrowded, and people are waiting. I see tennis courts in the same areas that are seldom used. Seniors primarily play pickleball, and it is a wonderful recreation and social opportunity. Please consider the request to convert these courts. They will be used and enjoyed by so many. Rick Seiter
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I am an El Cerrito resident and played my first game of PickleBall at Castro Park several years ago. No doubt you will hear from tennis players how important the courts are to them and how much noise comes from the PickleBall. Let me just say that the enthusiasm for permanent Pickle Ball is quite high and greatly needed! I also talked with a friend of my son who lives adjacent to the Courts, Jason Nitz, about the noise factor and he was totally unaware of the problem.

Thank You,
Steve Cornelison
Hello. I am writing because I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Here are my reasons:

1. Pickleball players are increasing rapidly, with 27% more since COVID. There aren't enough facilities for everyone, and the drive to other courts is quite inconvenient. Players must drive between two and six miles to the nearest dedicated pickleball court.
2. El Cerrito has 15 tennis courts (plus five at ECHS) and zero pickleball courts. Even with 13 tennis courts (after Castro is converted), EC will have the lowest ratio of residents to tennis courts (1947) in this region.
3. There are 51 additional tennis courts in neighboring cities.
4. Portable nets are heavy and time-consuming to set-up.

Thank you!
Riffi O'Brien
Oakland CA
Hello -- I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for dedicated pickleball courts in El Cerrito.

I live in the East Bay where we don't have enough pickleball courts and they are often not busy and not available. Having more pickleball courts in the East Bay, and in particular in El Cerrito, would add great value to our East Bay community. I began playing during the pandemic and have found a wonderful community of new friends and neighbors which has made a tremendous difference in my quality of life.

Please support adding 6 permanent pickleball courts in El Cerrito. Thank you!

Warmly,
Mamie Chow, L.Ac.
Hello:
I live very close to the Castro Tennis Courts, and have just learned to play pickleball. I am in my early 60's and pickleball is a sport I can do. When I was younger, tennis was fun but now it's too hard on the knees.

I hope you can consider converting the current tennis courts to pickleball courts, I can honestly tell you they will be well used by us baby boomers. It's the rage of this age group and will keep us healthy.

Thank you,
A. Rincon
Hi Chris,

I understand that there has been a request to convert the tennis court at the Castro site to Pickle Ball only.

I would like to voice my opposition to this request. It makes more sense to continue to share the court with both tennis players and pickle ball players. The court has been a tennis court for decades, and during peak hours, it's difficult to find an available tennis court. Giving up a court is unnecessary when it is possible to share the court.

I know that Pickle Ball is a big fad right now. But making a permanent change at this point is a bad idea. It would be very expensive to reverse the decision if the Pickle Ball fad fades, and tennis continues to be popular.

Thank you for thoroughly considering this matter.

Lori Staley
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Victoria Galland

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I am a 70 year old Kensington resident, and playing Pickleball is my only form of exercise.

There are so many places in El Cerrito and the adjacent cities where tennis players can show up to play, and all they need is a ball and a racquet and someone with whom to play. The permanent courts at Cedar Rose Park is the ONLY place in El Cerrito and the adjacent cities where the same can be said for Pickleball players. Please help redress this imbalance.

Thank you
Marshall Berzon
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

There is a great need for more pickleball courts in every city. It’s rare the courts are empty, and there’s always a long wait to get on to play. (Berkeley, Alameda, Walnut Creek, Oakland, Concord) Adding more courts would help immensely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helene Rostock
A tennis player and pickleball player
Hi Chris,

In our previous communications in emails, I have expressed my opinion and you offered to forward those to the Park and Recreation Commission. I thought it might be easier for you to just send one email.

You already have received the “official” ECTC response to the proposal by a group of pickle ball players to convert the Castro Courts to pickle ball use only. As president of ECTC, I fully support those opinions.

I would also like to add some personal concerns I have with this proposal.

I live in the neighborhood on Everett Street and use Castro park frequently, my kids climbed the play structures, played soccer and many other sports on that field, learned to play tennis on those courts and this park is like a big back yard for this neighborhood. A wonderful “shared” space and used by many El Cerrito families.

1. I made the effort to drive by the Castro tennis courts every day over the last 3 weeks to actually get a sense how often these courts are used and how. (in absence of a camera) They are used every day, mostly by tennis players and in those 3 weeks I have only seen pickle ball players 3x. It just doesn’t seem justified to convert those courts to pickle ball only when they are used so infrequently by them. In my opinion some research needs to be conducted to how the courts are used and proof that there actually is a high need for these courts to only play pickle ball on.

2. There is currently a shared use of the courts and it seems to work. The tennis players, I spoke to using those courts, were pretty upset with the potential of not being able to play tennis on the courts anymore, walk there with the kids, or use the back board (1 of only 3 in El Cerrito), bring out the ball machine for practice, a bucket of balls to practice serves and/or have a match or a lesson with a pro.

In case the pickle ball lines would be painted a little lighter, a compromise most tennis players would be OK with, this little park can maintain it’s wonderful attraction and “shared” use by many sports and recreational activities.

3. I cannot understand the unwillingness from this pickle ball group to compromise and just think it is justified to take away valuable resources from another sport.

Tennis courts are in high demand in El Cerrito, especially on the weekend. Tennis has become more popular over the last year and every tennis pro/coach I have spoken to agree that more people are taking lessons. This is great for the sport, but the courts are also more used to accommodate these lessons.

4. The Recreation Department has invested a lot of effort and resources into promoting tennis in El Cerrito and continues to do so. It would be a shame to have those efforts be stifled because of lack of courts to play on.

5. If this pickle ball group is serious about promoting pickle ball play in El Cerrito, I believe they
need to research the interests of the residents, research different options for creating their own courts (instead of taking them away from others) and programs with the co-ordination of the Recreation Department in El Cerrito.

Thank you!

Ellen de Neef

(no need to respond about this to me personally.)
Yeeeesssss!!!
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Pickleball is fun for all ages... grandparents can play with the grandkids. So fun!
Julie Ward

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

We need more pickleball courts!

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Lorena Ellenberger

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Pickleball popularity has exploded for people of all ages and abilities, especially seniors. Residents have to drive a few miles to find courts. We need our own dedicated courts, please.

Margaret Carlson

Typos courtesy of Samsung
Hello,

I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I’m 58 and have found pickleball a wonderful way to stay in shape without injuring myself. It is also a safe way to be social. Older adults are a fast growing population group that needs more physical activity outlets such as pickleball. Right now, I live in El Sobrante and have to travel to Cedar Rose to play pickleball. Cedar Rose pickleball will most likely be eliminated in the future because it is poorly situated too close to neighbors. Pickleball courts in Castro Park would be a boon to this area and many people in need of a safe activity.

Thank you,

Holly Reese
Dear Recreation Commission,

I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Regrettably the Tennis Industry adopted a policy first set in place by the United Stated Tennis Association some seven years ago. The USTA declared pickleball a passing fad that would fade away. Any unbiased examination of the data shows just the opposite, that pickleball is expanding rapidly throughout the United States. There are quite literally pickleball venues in retirement communities with dozens or pickleball courts. Tennis growth remains static at about 1% annual growth.

In the space of a single standard size tennis court there can be 4 dedicated pickleball courts. At Castro Park this equates to rather than 4 to 8 tennis players enjoying the two current tennis courts, 24 pickleball players can utilize the same recreation space. This is a win-win for the City as the needs of an aging population will be better accommodated and more out of town residents will be drawn to El Cerrito with their spending contributing to the local economy.

Respectfully,
Rick Schiller
To the El Cerrito City Council:

I would be so delighted if the city would agree to convert the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I live off Barrett in El Cerrito, and Castro is a very convenient place for me to play.

I have lived in El Cerrito since 1977. I am thankful for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Recycling Program which I have enjoyed since first coming here. I am especially grateful for the city's support of the pickleball community. I am a senior now and pickleball has become central to my health and my social life.

Having played on dedicated pickleball courts elsewhere, I know what a difference it makes to be able to play on a court especially designed for pickleball. Although I am grateful for the painted lines at Castro, they are difficult to see and make playing there a bit like reading by braille. I have to make my best guess, at times, where the lines in the opposite court lie.

I hope you will continue to support our nascent pickleball community and help it grow. This new sport is great for youth and elders. I hope you will allow Castro to become courts dedicated to pickleball.

Most sincerely,
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Pickleball is considered the fastest growing sport in the USA. It is also growing in popularity with our Bay Area population of all ages!

I appreciate and am grateful for your vision in providing pickleball courts at Castro Park. It is an inexpensive activity for our older generation as well as our youth. Converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park to six Pickleball courts would be a positive addition to the community.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my enthusiasm in supporting the growth of the sport of Pickleball.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Domingo
To whom it may concern,

My name is Kim Syer and I am a resident of Kensington. I enjoy living in close proximity to El Cerrito as it’s home to the El Cerrito Preschool Coop where my daughter attended, the pool; and businesses like El Cerrito Martial Arts and the Natural Foods market and these have improved the quality of our family’s life.

My husband is in his 60's and I am in my 50's and we took up pickleball a couple of years ago. This too greatly improved the quality of our lives. Pickleball is a uniquely accessible (you can enjoy a game even as a beginner) and social game. Pre-pandemic we tried to play once or twice a week at the courts in Berkeley, and enjoyed both a workout and a good social time. Owing to the increasing popularity of the game, there is a real need for more courts. Having courts, funded by the Pickleball community, would mean El Cerrito is providing recreation opportunities for which there is a demand - and this is beneficial for everyone. There would still be several courts for tennis players to choose from. I can see very few downsides to the community having dedicated pickleball courts and many upsides. I support and encourage the community to convert the courts at Castro Park into six pickleball courts.

With thanks for your attention to this email.

Kim Syer
Hello,

We are 2 El Cerrito Residents who love Pickleball. We live on Ramona Ave and have no local location to play pickle ball. Sometimes we go to Harding Park tennis courts just to practice hitting the ball. But it is nothing like playing on a actual Pickle Ball Court.
We strongly Support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. It’s a great sport that can be played by all ages. And is an especially great way for seniors to keep active.

Please support our avid El Cerrito Pickle Ball playing community by approving the creation of 6 dedicated pickle ball courts.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully

Susan and Linda Fraimow-Wong
Although I don’t live in El Cerrito, I do play pickle ball at Castro Park. I also play at other parks in the Bay Area but I particularly enjoy coming to El Cerrito. I wholeheartedly support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. It seems like there are plenty of tennis courts in El Cerrito but only one park that supports Pickleball. Viewing the number of players that gather at Castro Park on Pickleball days, I think it is obvious that permanent courts are needed in El Cerrito. Other cities in the Bay Area are realizing the popularity of Pickleball and are converting courts or building new ones. I don’t think El Cerrito should be left behind!

Joe Marin
I am a grad of ECHS — I visit my mom a lot, she lives in EC — I play pickleball when I visit — I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Art Davis ECHS 72
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Kate Jennings
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Thank you John Swindell
To my representatives:

I find it infuriating that I can drive around town and see empty tennis courts at most times of the day/week, yet when I go to a PICKLE BALL court there are 20 people trying to get on 2 courts. Why are cities so slow to accept a sport embraced by older folks. We vote and pay taxes like other people, and will remember the poor decisions fo our reps.

I strongly support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts ASAP!

Thanks!

Allan Brill
Dear Mr. Jones,

I recently heard that two courts in El Cerrito might be converted to pickle ball courts. I’m writing to urge you to maintain these as shared courts. The tennis courts at Moeser and Avis are heavily used and I’d hate to have to drive elsewhere to find a place to play tennis.

Thank you for your consideration.
Lisa King
Resident of El Cerrito
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. There are many many more tennis courts than pickleball courts. I am 70 years old & able to get lots of exercise & fun from pickleball, & would not be able to play tennis. I have also committed to help fund the project. Thanks, Maureen
As a Berkeley resident who has experienced the impacts of pickleball at the Cedar Rose courts in Berkeley, and a tennis player who has been playing in El Cerrito for over 10 years, I urge you to seriously consider the impacts of pickleball on both the residential community and the tennis community, and to pursue alternatives that will support enthusiasts of both sports.

I live down the street from the pickleball courts at Cedar Rose. When they were converted, the surrounding residents were immediately impacted by the loud smacking noises of pickleball being played, starting early in the morning and continuing through the evening. I heard from one resident that at least a dozen people moved away due to the constant, irritating noise that pickleball creates. Changes were made to require specific paddles and balls that dampened the sound. Barriers were put up along all the fences, creating an unattractive closed court and slightly muting the sound. For us tennis players, we lost one of the 3 courts at a time when tennis has surged in popularity.

I have seen many courts that support pickleball by painting lines to allow use by tennis and pickleball players, and urge you to consider a solution that accommodates the interest in pickleball, but that continues to support the growing popularity of tennis and the longtime community of tennis players who play in El Cerrito—including players like myself, who have been reserving courts and contributing funds to help maintain the tennis courts in El Cerrito. I urge you not to permanently convert the tennis courts at Castro to pickleball, but instead to look for an alternative that considers the nearby residents and allows both tennis and pickleball to be enjoyed.

Sincerely,
Diane Li
Berkeley resident. El Cerrito Tennis Club Board member
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I grew up in El Cerrito and often visit my relatives and friends there on weekends. I play pickleball mostly at Lincoln Park in Alameda even though I would love to play at Castro on the weekends.

I was frustrated with playing at Tassajara Park because Bell, the coordinator, was super nice, but we had to wait until he taped lines to make a pickleball court. The lines were confusing enough at Castro when they first painted them, but they are even worse, almost invisible, now that they are painted over with black paint. It is as if the City of El Cerrito only cares about tennis players. For all the reasons stated by so many in the pickleball community, I urge you to vote to develop dedicated pickleball courts at Castro.

Thank you.

Themy Adachi
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

It's the right action to take to repurpose the tennis courts into 6 pickleball courts to support the growing pickleball community. As an active retiree, I hope to continue playing pickleball for a very long time in my own city. The pickleball community is prepared to pay for the enhancements through donations. The city should be grateful to have this opportunity to improve recreational facilities at Castro Park without the financial burden of this improvement. If the conversion is approved, there will still be plenty of city tennis courts for the El Cerrito Tennis Club to use. One day these very same tennis players may enjoy playing pickleball too.

Connie Wong
El Cerrito Homeowner for over 29 years
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

My mom really likes playing pickleball, and I would be happy for her and the community to be able to have fun and enjoy this sport locally here in our neighborhood :)

Lia Takata
I am a member of the El Cerrito Tennis Club and reside just a couple of blocks from the Castro Tennis courts. My children went to Castro Elementary School and I have fond memories of teaching tennis to kids as a substitute teacher. We are a tennis playing family and have enjoyed through the years the accessibility of the courts as we can just walk to it. I would like to add my voice in objecting to the proposal of converting the tennis courts to pickle ball courts only. The current system of shared tennis/pickle ball courts works, please do not allow the conversion.

Thank you.

Helen de Lumen

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to SUPPORT the conversion of Castro tennis courts to dedicated pickleball courts.

My husband and I have lived in El Cerrito for over 35 years and we love it here. Over the 35 years, we have seen many changes. New residents, new buildings and now a "new" sport....pickleball. As a City, it has to change with the times, with the new interests and demands of its citizens. You cannot ignore the popularity of this fast growing sport.

As a tennis player myself, I'm all for sharing. We have limited outdoor recreational space, two tennis courts can accommodate 8 players while the same two courts converted to pickleball courts can accommodate 24 players! We all have a common goal, which is to go out and have some fun, get some healthy exercise and make some new friends. It's all good.

There are 15 plus tennis courts in El Cerrito and ZERO pickleball courts. We are only asking to take 2 of those 15 plus tennis courts.

Change is always difficult, but it's necessary. A city has to grow and evolve with its citizens and the officials representing the citizens need to step up and make those difficult decisions.

PLEASE vote FOR the conversion to pickleball courts.

Thank you,

Jeanne and Davin Wong
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

This game is so accessible to people of all ages. While it is fun and easy to learn, it gives you a good workout and really safe social time. It has truly saved my sanity during the pandemic! Because pickleball uses a smaller court and underhand serves (which are easier on the shoulder), the game is a good fit for mature adults. I tried playing tennis in my early 30s, and there was just too much impact for my low back. I was thrilled to find a game that I could play on a regular basis that wasn't as physically demanding as tennis and I didn't have to worry about injuring myself. The heavier weight of tennis rackets also put a lot of strain on the shoulder joints. Not so with the lighter pickleball paddles.

Also, pickleball courts are an incredibly efficient use of space - FOUR courts can be fit onto one tennis court. And in each court, there are typically four players in each game. At the places I played (pre Covid), there would be a waiting line to get into a game. The games run about 10 to 15 minutes, so everyone gets a chance to play.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. - it grew by 21.3% in 2020 alone. Locally, since Covid it has grown 27%. Now over 4 million players are vying for court time. As of now, El Cerrito has 15 tennis courts and ZERO pickleball courts.

It is also such a social sport that local businesses benefit greatly from the pickleball crowd. Often I go with friends (or alone) to the local businesses to shop and eat after my games. It is a boon to the local economy. I'd love to be able to spend my money in El Cerrito!

Sincerely,
Laura Cooksey
Hi Chris,

I understand that there has been a request to convert the tennis court at the Castro site to Pickle Ball only.

I would like to voice my opposition to this request. It makes more sense to continue to share the court with both tennis players and pickle ball players. The court has been a tennis court for decades, and during peak hours, it's difficult to find an available tennis court. Giving up a court is unnecessary when it is possible to share the court.

I know that Pickle Ball is a big fad right now. But making a permanent change at this point is a bad idea. It would be very expensive to reverse the decision if the Pickle Ball fad fades, and tennis continues to be popular.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Geeta

--

_Geeta Bhatt_
Hello Chris,

I oppose converting the Castro courts for Pickleball. I am a Richmond resident who has been reserving courts in El Cerrito for many years. I also captain some of the ECTC USTA and WTT league teams (and pay for our court time for matches and practices). Eliminating one of the El Cerrito tennis courts (Castro) would put a severe strain on tennis court availability in El Cerrito (reducing revenue, etc). I know not all players on the courts pay for reservations, but I do. Eliminating Castro courts for tennis would make it harder to get playing time on the other courts.

I urge you to consider alternatives for the Pickleball players rather than converting a tennis court.

Thank you,

Joel Maron
Reserver of Tennis Courts
To: cjones
From: Linda Margossian
Re: Opposition to Conversion of Castro Park Tennis Courts to Pickle Ball Courts
I am a tennis player and frequent user of the Castro Park tennis courts and want to add my name to those opposed to converting the Castro Park tennis courts to exclusive use as pickle ball courts. I support the continued use of these courts as multi-use. I am a long time El Cerrito resident (34 years) living close to the Castro Park courts and walk by them every day. More often than not I see the courts being used by tennis players, sometimes pickle ball players and sometimes both. There is a storage locker at these courts housing pickle ball equipment, and it seems unproblematic to convert one tennis court to two pickle ball courts with the stored equipment. This seems to me to be the best and most efficient use of the courts. As I am unable to attend the Wednesday April 28, 2021 Zoom public meeting on this matter, I am expressing my opposition to the permanent conversion of the Castro Park tennis courts to pickle ball courts.
Thank you,
Linda Margossian
Gladys Avenue Home Owner for 34 years
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Pickleball is incredibly popular and there simply aren’t enough courts for play. There are, however, many tennis courts. Even with the conversion of the 2 tennis courts at Castro, there will still be about 13 tennis courts in El Cerrito. There are also many tennis courts in the surrounding area--50 or so--that El Cerrito tennis players can use. In contrast, there are no permanent pickleball courts in El Cerrito and the 4 in Berkeley are often over crowded. Moreover, although pickleball players could set up portable nets at Castro, the nets are heavy and cumbersome to set up, which discourages play. Given the shortage of permanent pickleball courts, the immense popularity of this sport, and the fact that the pickleball community is willing to fully finance the conversion, the city should proceed with converting the 2 tennis courts at Castro to 6 pickleball courts.

Thank you,
Nancy Cosentino

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Please come by any Saturday 10-12 to see what an “open play” session looks like.
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I played on the El Cerrito tennis team having leaned on those two tennis courts. Great memories but the time is right to convert to pickle ball. Please consider the conversion.

Substantial interest in pickle ball far exceeds tennis these days.

Thank you,
Jim Wisener
--
From Jim Wisener’s mobile
I live in unincorporated Richmond, off the Arlington, very close to El Cerrito. I started playing pickleball in June during the pandemic because I can no longer play racquetball or join an indoor gym.

Please, please, please approve the permanent pickleball courts. El Cerrito has 13 tennis courts, Richmond has 22 tennis courts. There are no pickleball courts north, until you get to Vallejo. The pickleball courts in Berkeley are always crowded!

I like playing pickleball with my entire family because it’s easy to learn, good exercise and social. Currently I feel like a nomad, having to bring in my own nets to play and the lines are hard to see for pickleball. Everytime I go to Castro Park, there are rarely any tennis players and they have so many more options.

Thank you for your consideration,

Darlene Drapkin
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I am 65 yrs old and live in Alameda. I started playing Pickleball 2 1/2 years ago. It is such a fun healthy social sport. I love to see people of all ages playing Pickleball. We need more courts in the East Bay to accommodate the growing amount of folks of all ages starting to play.

Thank you,

Sheila Shener

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I know many people playing pickleball and trying to get some physical activity in during our transition back to normalcy.

Regards,
Denise Lapidus
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. in the Bay Area, its popularity seems to be increasing daily. New Pickleball courts just opened up in Montclair and were immediately full.

El Cerrito doesn’t have any dedicated Pickleball courts. So those of us who live here and pay taxes here must go to other towns to use their courts. Many people would prefer to have courts in their own town. It almost seems like a fairness issue; if we’re going to use other town’s Pickleball courts, there should be some that we share with others.

Pleases convert the Castro tennis courts to Pickleball courts,

Laurel Gillespie
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Ann Miller

Sent from my iPad
Good Day,

I live in unincorporated Richmond, very close to El Cerrito. I started playing pickleball in June 2020, during the pandemic because I no longer belong to a gym. I used to play outdoor tennis but I have elbow and shoulder injuries that prevent me from playing these days.

I'm asking that you please approve the permanent pickleball courts. El Cerrito has 13 tennis courts, Richmond has 22 tennis courts. There are very few dedicated pickleball courts nearby except in Berkeley and Vallejo. The pickleball courts in Berkeley are always crowded.

I like playing pickleball with my entire family because it’s easy to learn, good exercise, social, and not so hard on my body.

Currently I feel like a nomad, having to bring my own nets to play and the lines are hard to see for pickleball. Everytime I go to Castro Park, there are rarely any tennis players and they have so many other courts on which to play.

Your consideration would very much be appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Ken Lindgren
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Laura Awazu
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Pickle ball is a rapidly growing sport which should be supported and embraced by the El Cerrito. Portable nets are heavy and not a practical solution to support regular play.

Thank you,

Sarah Paul

Sent from my iPhone
April 24, 2021

To: Members of the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Fred Takemiya

Re: Response to Request to Eliminate Tennis Courts at Castro Park

Currently, people can play pickle ball and tennis on the two tennis courts at Castro Park. Pickle ball advocates, however, propose to convert the shared courts into a facility for their exclusive use.

In my opinion, the question before the Commission is not whether pickle ball should be accommodated in El Cerrito. The question is, why should accommodating pickle ball require the elimination of tennis courts? The pickle ball advocates seem not to address that question at all.

Thus, they say that players were finding it difficult to lift, move, and assemble the portable nets they have been using. While it may indeed be convenient for the pickle ball players not to have to set up their nets each time they wish to play, why their convenience can be served only at the expense of two long-used neighborhood tennis courts remains to be seen.

Similarly, they argue that they are forced to drive several miles to existing pickle ball facilities. This is misleading. People can play pickle ball in El Cerrito at Castro Park. They are not prevented from playing pickle ball in El Cerrito just because they have to share a facility. They are not prevented from playing pickle ball in El Cerrito just because they do not have permanent nets. Playing on permanent pickle ball courts is a personal choice that in no way necessitates eliminating tennis courts in El Cerrito.

The pickle ball advocates seem to argue that just because other cities have eliminated tennis courts in exchange for pickle ball courts El Cerrito should do the same thing. But just because there is a precedent doesn’t automatically mean the City should blindly follow suit.

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1 The pickle ball net storage box at Castro Park sits immediately outside and within six feet or so of one of the gates to the courts. When the El Cerrito Tennis Club and the United States Tennis Association, Northern California Section, offered youth tennis instruction, the Club volunteers and parents of participants brought similar nets to the courts, and the children often helped set them up.
So why take away tennis courts? Conveniently, tennis courts are graded, surfaced, and fenced. Conveniently, conversion would be easier and cheaper than new construction. Conveniently, targeting the tennis courts obviates the need to identify and obtain an alternate site. But without compelling reasons, the City should not simply cater to the convenience of one user group by eliminating resources for tennis players.

Tennis is one of the “community’s preferred recreation programs and activities.”\(^2\) The tennis community is an important revenue generator, offsetting many thousands of dollars the City would otherwise have to pay for tennis-related programs, maintenance, and infrastructure. Examples include the third tennis court at Arlington Park; lights at the Cerrito Vista Park courts; court resurfacing; benches, electrical outlets, new nets, center straps, windscreens; and, most recently, a water bottle filling station. Programs such as United States Tennis Association leagues, citywide tennis events and tournaments, and youth and adult programs and instruction also generate revenue.

“El Cerrito’s dense, and built-out nature requires thoughtful planning for efficient use of the City’s existing recreation amenities and the potential for recreation enhancements.”\(^3\) As the City navigates difficult fiscal straits, now is emphatically not the time to eliminate revenue-generating facilities and activities. It is even less justifiable to consider proposals based largely on arguments of convenience for a particular user group.

The pickle ball advocates deserve a full and fair hearing to present as much credible evidence as they can muster. There should be equal opportunities for rebuttals by other interested parties.\(^4\) I expect that only then can the City make the requisite “thoughtful” decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

\(^4\) Such as, for example, neighbors and the two adjacent schools.
Hi Chris Jones,

I am a member of the El Cerrito Tennis Club and have become aware of a proposal to convert the Castro Tennis courts to Pickleball only courts. While I am all for getting people outside to exercise please consider all options before converting one of our precious tennis courts to be used exclusively for Pickleball.

I often play tennis in Berkeley and ran into City of BK Rec Dept. employee Jim Edwards recently at the Cedar/Rose courts. He has been the "tennis guy" for Berkeley for 40 years. Recently he has been dealing with community complaints about the noise made by the converted tennis to Pickleball court(s). He has had to add sound insulating walls to the surrounding fencing and even provides a certain kind of ball that is less noisy. There is a sign out front that recommends a certain kind of paddle that makes less noise.

Before converting any El Cerrito tennis courts to "Pickleball only" I would hope that the City initiates environmental studies to determine what the impact would be to the neighboring areas. The City may also want to consider teaming with the Pickleball community to establish their own Pickleball only courts - instead of taking away from the tennis courts our club has worked so hard to preserve and improve.

Thank you,

Dawn Nakashima
ECTC member
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Finding a pickleball court to play in in the east bay is always a challenge and can be very frustrating. Having six dedicated courts at Castro park would be a huge help!
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,
MaryReed Johnson

Sent from my iPhone
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Thank you!
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. There are plenty of tennis courts around so this won’t really be a problem for tennis players. Whatever we can do to encourage people to get out and exercise.

Thank you!

Helen Rodrigues
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Sent from
Hello,
I support the proposal to create six permanent pickleball courts at Castro Park. I understand that to do so would reduce the current city wide tennis court inventory to 13. At this time, the current permanent pickleball courts in El Cerrito is zero.

Before pickleball existed, the City of El Cerrito funded tennis courts. The pickleball community of multi-generational players are asking for a decision in favor to replace the two Castro Park tennis courts with six permanent pickleball courts. In addition, the pickleball community is offering to FULLY FUND the conversion.

By the numbers:
2 tennis courts: 2-8 players
6 pickleball courts: 2-24 players

I urge the El Cerrito Parks and Rec Commission to vote to convert two tennis courts at Castro Park into six permanent pickleball courts.
Thank you
Justine Wong
Dear Chris,

I understand that you are considering to make a decision on transforming the Castro courts to permanent Pickle Ball courts.

As a tennis player and paying member of ECTC, I am concerned about the increase of Pickle Ball only courts in general in our area and the decision to make the Castro courts Pickle Ball only would further erode the availability for open tennis courts.

The competition for open tennis courts has increased to the point that we are having to look to other communities to find open courts. Having Pickle Ball only courts at Castro would remove another court for tennis players, In addition, special lines are being drawn on the tennis courts to accommodate Pickle Ball players and interferes with the ability to make in or out calls for tennis players.

I urge you to delay your decision until a study can be done to pursue other alternatives.

Sincerely,

Herbert G Cattanach
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. I play pickleball at Castro, and we have to set up nets all the time. It is a lot of work. I am a healthy senior and I wish to stay that way, with pickleball as my main sport! It provides social benefits, as well.

For those who complain about losing their tennis courts - very few of them play at Castro, as it needs re-paved. Plus, there are tennis courts EVERYwhere (15 just in El Cerrito) whereas I have nowhere in El Cerrito that I can play pickleball on a court designed for same. Also, I have learned that there are over 50 tennis courts in neighboring cities. It is easy to find a tennis court, and as scare as turkey teeth to find a dedicated pickleball court.

I have donated and will support our private citizen Full Funding of this pickleball conversion project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christie Look
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

I know so many people who have picked up pickleball in the last 2 years. Many are aged 55 to 70. They deserve a place in our parks also.

The fact that we are offering to FULLY FUND this conversion, at a time when the City of El Cerrito is facing large budget cuts, weighs heavily in our favor.

- Portable nets are heavy, difficult to assemble, and blow over in the wind
- El Cerrito has 15 tennis courts (plus 5 at ECHS) and zero pickleball courts
- Even with 13 tennis courts (after Castro is converted) EC will have the lowest ratio of residents to tennis courts (1,947) in this region
- There are 51 ADDITIONAL tennis courts in neighboring cities
- El Cerrito residents have to drive 2-6 miles to get to the nearest dedicated pickleball court
- The number of pickleball players locally has grown by over 27% since COVID with many more new players not included in this count

Please vote in favor of converting 2 tennis courts to pickleball courts!

Troy Nickol
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

My name is Linda Wong and I currently reside in Modesto, CA, however, I grew up in El Cerrito and attended the public schools from elementary through high school; I also attended Contra Costa Community College. During that time, I lived across the street from Castro Park and spent many after school hours participating in activities provided by the El Cerrito Recreation Department. My mother, who is 92, still lives in the same house on Gladys Ave. In fact, after the tennis courts at Castro Park were completed, I had my picture taken on the court for the local paper. I have fond memories of Castro Park. The park provided a healthy outlet for me and other kids to play team sports, shuffle board, ping pong, and to learn creative crafts projects, all of which were supervised by two recreation leaders. I think my time spent at the park influenced me later as an adult to pursue a secondary teaching credential in Physical Education; arts and crafts have also been lifelong hobbies of mine.

I was introduced to pickleball after I retired in 2015 by a work colleague who played pickleball. I was 63 years old when I started the sport; I am now 68. When I started playing, there were about 70 people who played pickleball in Riverbank, a small town near Modesto. In 2017, the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department painted lines for 8 pickleball courts on three of the Beyer Community Park tennis courts. Later, more lines were painted for additional pickleball courts at Beyer Park. Now, there are over 200 people on the Central Valley Pickleball Club roster. My husband and I took a long hiatus from the sport because of Covid, however, we are anxious to resume since we have gotten our Covid vaccinations.

Pickleball is an enjoyable and easy sport to learn, much easier and less strenuous than tennis. I have met a lot of nice people playing pickleball, many who in the past played tennis or racquetball but crossed over to pickleball because of injuries suffered from their previous sport. I encouraged my younger sister, Connie, to play pickleball since she used to play tennis competitively in high school. She enjoys the sport and even got another sister of ours who lives in Alaska to play pickleball. Six designated pickleball courts at Castro Park would be a great asset to the community as it will allow as many as 24 players at a time to play pickleball, while at most only 8 tennis players at a time could play on the two courts. Pickleball is also a great sport for children to learn to play. The rules are simple and the serve is underhand which is easier to master than the overhead serve used in tennis. Pickleball offers individuals health benefits and allows social interaction. Lastly, it is just fun to play!

Refer to Central Valley Pickleball Club on Facebook to see how much fun we have.

Linda Wong
I have been an El Cerrito Tennis club member for over 3 decades and frequently use the back board at the Castro Courts for practice especially to warm up before team matches, and also use the courts for serving practice. I've heard that the pickle ball lines were put on the Castro Courts without first getting permission from the City Government. If that is true, I think the Pickle ball lines should be removed from the courts, and if possible, at the Pickle ballers expense.

James Baker  El Cerrito
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Hello. My name is Jean Melgar. I am the USA Pickleball Ambassador for Alameda. As a volunteer Ambassador and a long time pickleball player, I've personally witnessed the rapid growth and popularity of pickleball in our city of Alameda in the last 4 years. The growth has been going strong even during COVID's red and purple tier periods. (Our Alameda courts were open during these times as long as players followed the COVID safety requirements.)

The impact of pickleball is spreading not only in Alameda but all over the SF Bay Area. In the last 6 months, tennis courts have been converted to dedicated pickleball courts in Oakland (1 tennis court to 4 pball courts), Hayward (2 tennis courts to 6 courts) and SF (1 tennis court to 4 pball courts). Currently, more dedicated courts are being planned for Alameda (6-8 pball courts - location still to be determined), San Leandro (to convert 8 tennis courts into possible 12-16 pball courts), Hayward (to convert 4 tennis courts into 8-12 more pball courts in their city parks) and San Mateo (4 courts). These cities have recognized the pickleball boom. It would be great if El Cerrito follows suit and provides current and future pickleball players (local residents or neighbors in nearby cities) new dedicated pickleball courts. Dedicated pickleball courts are in great demand especially in your side of the Bay Area.

Currently, our Lincoln Park's 4 dedicated courts in Alameda are utilized by 300+ players from all over the Bay Area and at times we do experience overcrowding. Since the sport of pickleball is easy to learn, not too physically demanding on the body, fun to play, equipment is affordable and provides enough exercise for whatever level a player chooses to be, pickleball is a great sport for the young and old.

It was pointed out recently in an article that this Pickleball "craze" is due to the Baby Boomers wanting to stay active and it may die down when the Boomer community dwindles down. But, with what I've been observing through my Intro to Pickleball classes in Alameda that I started in 2018, Baby Boomers are not the only ones getting hooked on this sport... you can even call it "addicted" for some. Half the people I've taught are in their 30s and 40s. In the last 2 months, I am seeing kids 10 to 14 years old who are now hopping onto our courts... usually with their parents. That is a good sign that pickleball will continue to grow with the next generation and the next generations after that.

The new courts will attract 100s of players even from miles away. With pickleball players... where there are nice dedicated pickleball courts, they will come... even while they are just visiting the area or are on vacation. The courts will definitely be utilized more as they were tennis courts. 2 tennis courts will be used by 2 to 8 players at a time. 6 pickleball courts can bring in 2 to 24 players... and more if Rec and Parks create park sponsored open play programs. Pickleball is a very social sport for players. They come to not just play their games but to get together with other players. The courts can add more activity programs to offer to youths and adults like lessons and clinics. Also, there will be opportunities to raise Park funds through occasional pickleball tournaments (competitive and recreational) and seasonal leagues.
The new dedicated pickleball courts would bring so many benefits to the Rec and Parks, to the El Cerrito residents and to the pickleball players near and far. All the pickleball communities in the SF Bay Area would greatly appreciate having another pickleball location they can go to. Please consider moving forward with converting the 2 Castro Park tennis courts into 6 dedicated courts.

Thank you.

Jean Melgar
I am in favor of sharing the Castro courts with both tennis and pickle ball players. At my condo association, we have been successful in sharing our courts as we did paint the lines for pickle ball and the net can be lowered easily. There are many avid tennis players in El Cerrito and they emerging from COVID restrictions and looking for courts. Eileen McDavid, ECTC member

Sent from my iPad
Please do not turn the Castro Courts into permanent pickle ball configuration. I’ve played on the Castro courts since the late 60’s. I’ve enjoyed playing casual tennis, tournaments and even recall our ECHS team hosting ACAL play using these courts for overflow matches. I currently use these courts at least 2-3 times a week to play or practice. These courts are important for the overall spread and use by local players. Without these courts the crunch on wait time to get on a local court during peak usage time will become even longer. El Cerrito has a great reputation of tennis play/facilities and in fact is somewhat unique in having enough interest to support a superb public Tennis Club.

If tennis courts must be converted to pickle ball I would suggest the Pickle ballers pursue using the Tiller Park courts that have significantly lower tennis use.

Keith Narasaki

Sent from my iPhone
I am a lifetime resident of El Cerrito and support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Director Chris Jones and El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Commission Members:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to turn the Castro tennis courts into permanent pickleball courts. The Castro tennis courts are located directly behind Korematsu Middle School. During a "regular" school year the tennis courts are used by the general public and from time to time are distracting to students. With tennis this seems to be a bit more muted. However the pickleball players are more distracting and rather loud. The classroom that backs up directly to the courts is an English Language learner classroom. I can't imagine a more important group of students that need to concentrate on developing language skills. I request that the commission take into account the needs of our students and keep equity at the forefront of decision making.

The students at Korematsu Middle School also use the tennis courts for Physical education throughout the year. We believe it is important for students to be exposed, and learn to play many different sports. Having tennis courts available for students provides opportunities to many students that may never get a chance to learn to play tennis.

Please keep the Castro tennis courts open for tennis. And please keep an equity mindset when making decisions that impact our community.

Matt Burnham, Principal
Fred T. Korematsu Middle School
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Castro park was one of the first venues and under the leadership of BELL it was a welcoming inclusive community.

Pickleball has opened my eyes to greater east bay community and I have made friends who I would never have met otherwise. During the pandemic it’s been one of the few sporting activities available.

It’s kept me active and happy.
Thanks for your consideration

James Binder
Oakland
I wholeheartedly support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. It’s a fabulous location for Pickleball.
It’s a location that many of us have played at for years and proven the success by popularity and great numbers of attendance.

I have committed to help with the funds for the conversion.
Please Support the cause and make a space for the fastest growing sport in the nation!
Thank You Kindly,
Debra Bernhardt

P.S.
I understand that some of the tennis players have a problem with this conversion.
It’s very difficult for me to hear this. Why can’t there be a more cooperative sharing attitude???
El Cerrito has 20 tennis courts and zero pickleball courts????? This does not make sense!
To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to weigh in with some thoughts on the benefits of pickleball. I am 73 years old and a physician who continues to practice emergency medicine on a full-time basis. I began playing pickleball approximately two years ago and, with the exception of a period of time due to Covid, have continued to play on a more or less regular basis since then. I’ve been surprised and delighted by the multiple and major benefits of engaging in the sport.

The most immediate and obvious initial attraction of pickleball is the ease-of-use. This is the only sport that I have ever played, or have knowledge of, where someone who has no experience with racquet sports can come out and learn the principles of the game and not only begin playing immediately, but actually begin enjoying playing the game within approximately 15 minutes. As in all sports, there is obviously a learning curve, but there is no other sport that I have ever seen where someone could actually be playing and enjoying themselves within such a short period of time, regardless of their fitness level or athleticism. This seems to be a universal experience of the game, which delights and thrills newcomers, and may account for why this game seems to be almost addictive in its attraction. As an added benefit, there is very little expense involved in beginning play (extra paddles are made available for newcomers to borrow), which has a democratizing effect on who can play. It is customary within the pickleball community to be welcoming, open, and inviting to new players, with fee free instruction liberally made available when needed.

I believe that the health benefits of pickleball, particularly for seniors, are legion. When I first began playing pickleball, I was doing resistance training regularly, as well as doing long-distance road biking at least two or three times a week. I was quite fit and I’m generally thought to be quite athletic. One of the things that pickleball has demonstrated to me is that my fitness routine was essentially inadequate. Although my cardiovascular fitness and muscle tone was excellent, I had lost a certain amount of an important physiologic function known as proprioception. Proprioception has to do with awareness of the location, movement, and action of the body at any given time. It is the presence of this physical ability that protects older people from falling easily or tripping while walking. One of the most common injuries sustained by senior citizens from a fall is a broken hip, which leads to profound disability and, statistically, enhances the likelihood of death within six months. I believe that pickle ball is a bulwark in the fight against fall related disabilities. When I first began to play, I found that I stumbled several times during play. I realized that I had lost the ability to move laterally, backwards, or forwards quickly in response to the needs of the situation. My involvement in this sport has
made an enormous difference in promoting a feeling of steadiness on my feet, which, in turn, leads to increased confidence in the ability to perform activities of daily living. Another benefit is stemming the progression of osteoporosis, which requires physical activity involving ambulation or running or generally working against gravity (bicycling does not provide this benefit). It is well known that a disproportionate percentage of health care dollars are used for care of our senior population. I think it is not too much of a stretch to hypothesize that an activity like pickleball, that gets seniors out of the house, increases their mobility, enhances their well being, and benefits their general health could be responsible for enormous savings in health care costs.

At this stage in my life, it is inevitable that I begin to consider my future after retirement. It is well documented that amongst seniors, social engagement is crucial to not only length of life, but also quality of life. It is axiomatic that as we age, we are more liable to lose family and friends, even spouses, causing a downward spiral of loneliness and isolation, ultimately resulting in depression. One of my principal concerns about retirement has been disengagement from the social aspects and camaraderie of the workplace. These same issues apply to almost anyone contemplating retirement. I believe that the social aspects of pickleball can serve as a more than adequate replacement for the interactions that are mandatory for maintenance of long-term good health. I have met people I would never have come into contact with. These people are now like my new “family”. They are supportive, encouraging, and genuinely care about my welfare. I feel the same towards them. We have formed a “pickleball community”, if you will, that get us out of our homes to enjoy each others’ company and friendly competition. Pickleball people walk robustly and confidently, laugh heartily, stand up straight, exude healthfulness, and look and act remarkably youthful. I am convinced that many of these people would not be enjoying these benefits today if not for their ability to enjoy this sport.

One final thought. More and more of the newer pickleball acolytes are young people. I didn’t want to leave you with the impression that this is a game played only by seniors. That may have been mostly true at one time, but is no longer the case. In fact it is quite the opposite, with a large proportion of the newer players coming from younger age groups. Players of all ages are enthusiasts; it is not unusual to see someone in their 70’s competing successfully against a 20 something opponent. Pickleball is by far the fastest growing sport in the country, and will require forward thinking and planning to keep up with the ever increasing demand and need for playing venues. I am aware there are inevitable space limitations that must be taken into consideration, but I suggest that pickleball remains the best use of available court space. In the Bay Area, when pickleball courts open up, they appear to be in use throughout most of the daylight hours (night time also if lights are available). A single tennis court accommodates 2 to 4 players; the same space accommodates 16 pickleball players on four courts. There are usually an equal number of people waiting to get on the courts and there are also usually spectators looking on, who invariably inquire about what they can do to get in on the play. If you do the math, it is a convincing argument for best use of the space. Four
pickleball courts are likely to bring close to 50 people throughout the day to a park court that may frequently be almost empty. I posit that having this many people in an otherwise quiet and neglected area of the park would be a deterrent to criminal activity and, thereby, an enhancement to the perception of public safety that would be appreciated by the larger community of park users. Parks full of people are an inviting venue for others to enjoy what parks have to offer.

For all of the above reasons, I believe that the conversion to pickleball courts would be the best use of this space for the city of El Cerrito.

Please feel free to share this message with any interested parties.

Sincerely,

Neal S. Dickler, M.D.
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.
Barbara Cooper
I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

My name is Ginny and I am so happy you are considering this request for Permanent Pickleball courts at Castro. I grew up in ElCerrito and am living now in the home I grew up in. I love Pickleball and the people who play; but, it has become increasingly hard to carry my net and set it up at the park. Having permanent courts and nets would be fantastic. Please make this a reality for those of us who love playing. Thank you for your consideration. Ginny Russell
Many tennis players are deeply concerned about the pickle ball (PB) attempting to TAKE Castro courts!

Here are a few of my points on this subject:

1. Tennis players have been **paying for the upkeep** of those and **ALL EC courts for 40+ yrs**
2. Tennis has **NEVER been more popular**! I play 3-5/week and have to make reservations for **weekdays and most definitely on weekends**! (which has never has been the case!) People are playing like never before!! And all the pros I know, they have NEVER been more busy!
3. For my household alone (2 players) I pay **$40-$100 a WEEK** for reservations! I have never had to put out that kind of money to play on public courts, but have been HAPPY to because I know **I'm contributing too MY community tennis and the UPKEEP of OUR courts!** I have always been quite proud of that!
4. I don't know the numbers, but I am SURE if you **add up tennis players/pros contribution** to the “upkeep fund” you will find that tennis contributes MANY times more!
5. On average, PB players are older with maybe more time on their hands, making it SEEM like they have lots of people wanting this. **I am absolutely sure that there are WAY more ACTIVE tennis players of ALL ages**! (simply looking at “what's available” when I make my many reservations, makes me quite confident of this!)
6. We already share those courts with PB, it's ridiculous for PB to take them over completely! They did that in Berkeley on one of the Cedar Rose courts and now high school tennis cant use those courts (because now there are only two).
7. There are MANY places in EC, that would fit a PB court (or 2!)
   - CV has room for 2
   - Castro has room for at least 1, maybe two.
   - Arlington could fit one, I am told.
   - Yes, building a PB court from scratch is more expensive than **taking our courts**, but building tennis courts are not only **MORE expensive**, but we **cannot** build another court in all of these places! **ECTC has looked into it!** PB players could raise their own money, instead of taking **OUR PRECIOUS COURTS and our funds!** (I think — where else would the money come from other than the tennis fund?)
8. Many others have made additional point that I fully support.

This is critical to the future of this beautiful **model community that supports PUBLIC COURT TENNIS!!!** Way too many communities have been eliminating and/or letting their public courts go so long they either can’t be fixed or they’re too expensive, so they don’t!! This is making the whole sport much more for the RICH Country Club people, not “ regular people”. **Do we really want that when we have worked so hard for decades to preserve and protect our public courts??**

I used to live in Berkeley and coached BHS tennis as we struggled now for decades to simply have **high school courts**. We even got the **business plan from El Cerrito**, to show them how beautifully it worked for the EC community. City of Berkeley turned us down flat, saying it was “elitist” — to have COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE to the well-being of tennis courts! RIDICULOUS! In my opinion, **THAT** was elitist and snobby! It truly was one very big reason I left Berkely and moved to El Cerrito! **Please don’t take away our much needed and USED tennis courts!!**
Liz Holland

PS - for those cc’d here, that can attend the zoom mtg on this subject it is **tomorrow, Wed 4/28/21 6:00PM**
the Event Id is **987 8947 7663** Password is **951 746**
(I requested to ECTC send out the actual link, so that people can just click on it to join). If you’re on their mailing list, keep an eye out for it, if that’s easier. Let’s ALL take a little time tomorrow to express how important this is to us!!
Dear Sir/Madam:

I'm writing to argue that the Castro tennis courts should remain tennis courts. There are so few courts for tennis players that cutting up courts in favor of pickleball will dampen our spirits. We love tennis.

Gary Soto
Hi,

I’m a long-time tennis player who discovered Pickleball and now play as my main form of exercise. I find Pickleball easier on my body, more social and great for mixed ages. I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts.

Thank you,

Neil Ramos
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. I play pickleball almost every day. Since there are no dedicated courts in this area, I have to drive to Willow Pass Park in Concord or Rudgear Park in Walnut Creek.

Patrice Chung

Patrice Chung
To whom it may concern:

I play tennis regularly at the Castro courts. I know that there is often competition for tennis court time and that El Cerrito can ill afford to lose two tennis courts completely to pickle ball.

I have read ECTC’s recommendations and agree that converting courts at this time is premature. ECTC’s items 1-7 are reasonable and should be addressed before courts are permanently lost to tennis.

Matthew Walsh
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts.

Honestly, Pickleball has completely changed my life. Having access to more pickle ball courts for myself and others looking for a sport that we can play makes a really big difference.

Thank you,
Michael Tertes
I fully support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. There are numerous pickleball players in El Cerrito and the surrounding areas, many empty tennis courts and long lines at the few and far between pickleball courts. It is a growing sport and the courts will be an asset to your community and well used!

Thank you for considering this!

Mary Zaletel
I support expanding and improving the Castro Pickleball court system. I have played there, and other local courts many times. The Castro courts really need help! They are popular but not well marked. Thanks much. Liz Rutter
Hello,

I want to express my support for converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. It is a sport that welcomes both young and old and everyone in between. It also typically enables four times as many players to play within the same space as a single tennis court so it is a more efficient use of public resources that supports a broader swath of the local community.

Thank you,
Will Tams
To: cjones
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Item #3

I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. It makes good sense for our growing community of Pickleball players.

Thank you!
Barbara Lovejoy
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts.

The nearest dedicated pickleball courts from home are at Cedar Rose Park in Berkeley, a distance of 6 miles from home. There you will find long waiting lines to get on a court. Having dedicated courts at Castro would alleviate the wait time at Cedar Rose.

The nearest courts marked with pickleball lines from my home, are located at Castro Park in El Cerrito, a distance of 1.4 miles. There the pickleball lines are marked in black color (difficult to see). Then we would need to set up the heavy pickleball net; and take down the net after play. It would be awesome to have dedicated pickleball courts at Castro Park!

Rosario Ysip
Pickler since 2016
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts.
Please, please make this a priority!

A friend introduced me to pickleball about 5 years ago and I instantly became addicted. It’s incredibly easy to learn and accessible to many different age groups. Easily a family sport!

I’ve met many interesting people and get to spend quality time outdoors! It’s so good for the soul!!! We definitely need that in our lives right now!

You need to try it and I’m confident that you too will be hooked!

Many thanks,
Lisa Brodsky

Sent from my VERIZON iPhone!
I support converting the two Castro Park tennis courts into 6 pickleball courts.

Mary Wong
El Cerrito Resident and Homeowner for over 60 years
Dear El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Department,

I would like to express my wholehearted support for converting the two tennis courts at Castro to 6 pickleball courts. I have played at Castro many times beginning many years ago when Bell was teaching there. Since then pickleball has really taken off and it is enjoyed by all ages. Just last week I was happy to see some teenage beginners playing there. I believe tennis players have many choices for courts, but pickleballers do not. I hope you will decide to convert the two tennis courts to six pickleball courts. That will give 24 players a chance to play at once while only 8 players can play tennis at once. I live in Albany, but my National Pickleball Ambassador lives in El Cerrito. I hope we bayside communities can work together to provide recreational activities for as many people as possible. Playing pickleball in El Cerrito should help El Cerrito businesses as we would be more likely to shop in El Cerrito. Thank you for your consideration. Molly Mitchell
Hello Cris,

I just finished playing tennis at Castro with my friend. The courts are one of my favorite in the area...the beautiful trees, homes on the hills, distant sounds of kids playing in the field nearby, wind rustling and chirping birds. I understand the pickleball contingent is vocal, but I don’t think the solution should be to take away our tennis courts. At the very least, we should be able to share them and coexist! With the renewed interest in tennis as a safe pandemic sport, it is getting near impossible to find court time. Some of us aren’t made of money to pay thousands of dollars to country clubs and want to keep tennis accessible to the public. Please don’t take away our tennis courts.

Thanks
Kiran Narsinh

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

I am a pickleball player living in Berkeley and I fully support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. This would allow more folks to play and provide an amazing space for the growing pickleball community.

I hope this agenda item is approved as more courts are sorely needed.

Thank you,

Susanne Mitchell
I would like to register my support for pickleball courts in El Cerrito at Castro Park and elsewhere. I see no reason why some of the tennis courts can't be converted.

Pickleball has grown in popularity because it is a great way for large numbers of people to get exercise and enjoy themselves. Given the number of people who regularly play, I don't understand the argument that 100% of the courts have to be for tennis.

Thank you for considering my input.

-Rodney Paul
This is to lend my enthusiastic support to the building of six dedicated pickleball courts at the Castro tennis courts. The tennis players of Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito etc. are already well served: there are plenty of tennis courts in El Cerrito and within easy reach of El Cerrito. In contrast, there are only the four dedicated pickleball courts at Cedar Rose within easy reach and they are often swamped. While there are a lot of tennis players, there are also a lot of tennis courts. And the population of pickleball players is exploding. I’ve been playing over five years and the lack of courts, particularly dedicated courts, has been a constant difficulty.

Thanks

Alan Kaplan
To Whom it May Concern:

I became a dedicated (addicted) Pickleball player a few years ago and it has changed my life in so many positive ways. At age 70, I am fitter than ever and have made a multitude of new friends in the East bay as a result of this wonderful sport. I know, first hand, that as a group, we are always looking for more courts to play on. Hence.... I wholeheartedly support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 Pickleball courts!!

Thank you for your consideration!

Josée Scanlan
Hi All,

I support converting the Castro Tennis courts into 6 pickleball courts.

Steven Kessler
Dear Mr. Jones,

I write in opposition to the proposal to permanently convert the tennis courts at Castro Park to pickle ball courts. My wife and I are avid tennis players who reside in El Cerrito. We routinely play at courts throughout El Cerrito, including at Castro Park. Demand for tennis courts, particularly in the past year, has been significant, and it is routinely difficult to find available courts in the city of El Cerrito or neighboring areas. Permanent removal of two additional courts would dramatically exacerbate this already-significant problem and would harm the vibrant El Cerrito tennis community.

I note that the Castro Park courts are already painted with pickle ball lines, allowing the courts to be used for both tennis and pickle ball. In contrast to the current multi-use alternative, conversion to pickle ball courts would preclude use of the facilities for tennis. Further, despite visiting the Castro Park courts approximately 50 times in the last year, I have seen the courts used for pickle ball on only two occasions. Absent evidence of robust demand for pickle ball facilities and in light of the fact that the Castro Park courts are already equipped to accommodate pickle ball, I submit that permanent conversion harms, rather than enhances, the quality of recreational facilities available to the citizens of El Cerrito. I accordingly ask that the city reject the proposal.

Sincerely,

Christoph Riddle
I strongly support converting the Castro tennis courts into 6 pickleball courts. Permanent courts in El Cerritos would be a great asset to the community and believe me, the facilities would be used a great deal and with great joy.
Thank you. Nancy Leibowitz

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. I live in Berkeley, shop at El Cerrito Natural Grocery, and love to play Pickle Ball. I look forward to having more courts available in El Cerrito. Pickle Ball is a perfect game for those of us who are older.

Valerie Kanter
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts. Please consider this request.

Signature,
Judith Rubin
Please do NOT make Castro courts pickleball only. The existing tennis courts in El Cerrito are in heavy demand for tennis. I know because I live one block from Tassajara and can rarely get on court in the mornings. Canyon Park is within walking distance but usually the situation is the same. Then I have to get in my car and drive to Arlington or Castro. Arlington is heavily used and often Castro is the only place I can get a court, especially on weekends. Pickelball certainly is popular too, but the answer is not to take away tennis. The answer is to find a location to put in 2 pickelball courts exclusively for pickelball and share in the meantime. El Cerrito needs MORE recreation opportunities, not less.

In Bend, Or, where I live part of the year, the local pickleball club partnered with the park district to build 8 new pickelball-only courts. I’m told the club raised $100,000 to support this. Has the E.C. Park district considered some type of public-private partnership like that?

Jan Even

Sent from my iPad
Hello

I'm writing to support conversion of Castro courts to permanent pickleball courts. There are already 15+ tennis courts in El Cerrito and no pickleball courts. Temporary courts are hassle - it takes time to put up / down the nets and they are heavy. I think of this as a equity issue and there's such an imbalance here between the two sports I don't understand why we can't have 2 less tennis courts to gain 6 pickleball courts. Thank you.

Angelo
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<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>herb riffkin</th>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Chris Jones</td>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Public Comments – Agenda Item #3</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
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I support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. Herb Riffkin, El Cerrito resident
Dear El Cerrito Parks & Rec and City Council

I grew up in El Cerrito and several family members still reside there. I understand that there is a request for, high participation in and offer of funding to convert the two tennis courts at Castro peak into 6 dedicated pickleball courts. They will be the only dedicated pickleball courts in El Cerrito and leave 13 dedicated tennis courts. I highly recommend moving forward with this proposal because
1) it is a highly accessible sport across all age brackets and easy to learn in a short period of time

2) the 2 tennis courts can only accommodate 8 players while the proposed 6 courts can accommodate 24 players thus serving a larger population with the same space resources

3) by not accommodating this request, some sport enthusiasts receive 100% of city resources while others receive 0% or meager support at best. This scenario does not seem fair.

4) support of the conversion will make El Cerrito a more diverse and well rounded community for all.

I hope that this proposal is enthusiastically supported by those in a position to make it happen. I look forward to playing whenever I visit family members in El Cerrito.

Regards,
Victoria Wong
Please approve use of 6 pickleball courts! It’s fastest growing sport! Help us be healthy, PLEASE!
I support converting the Castro Tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts!!

Having more options to play pickleball would help alleviate the line up of people wanting to play at Cedar Rose. It is always more enjoyable to play on actual dedicated courts.

The sport is growing exponentially here in the bay area so having more dedicated courts would be great!!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Regards,
Karen Kaner

Sent from my iPhone
Hi I see that the pickleballers are trying to take over the great Castro tennis courts. The baseball field next to the tennis courts shares baseball, soccer, after school programs, PE classes, boxing, ultimate frisbee, fitness training, dog walking and on and on. Nobody is complaining.

It literally takes 2 to 3 min or less to set up the pickleball nets. What is the problem? The amount of tennis far outweighs the amount of pickle ball being played there. The whole community of that neighborhood uses those courts. Many families and kids everyday.

If money is the issue I will donate to keep the tennis courts and share with the pickle ballers.

PS The courts need a set of windscreens on the side facing the baseball field as it is very very windy at times

Thanks Chris

sincerely Tony
I support creating pickleball courts out of the tennis courts at Castro Tennis.

Thank you,
Karen L. Bowen
I want to express my support for the conversion of the 2 tennis courts at Castro Park to pickleball courts. Kathy Taruskin laid out the case pretty well in her report - the number of tennis courts per capita in El Cerrito vs pickleball courts per capita is extremely skewed toward tennis. This makes sense as tennis has been around since forever, but here is an opportunity to change it.

I'm sure there will be opposition to the conversion by tennis players - this is inevitable. If there were 100 more tennis courts and no pickleball courts, this would still be the case. No one ever wants to give up something they have.

But the facts are facts. People that play pickleball should have the same influence over park services as people that play tennis. Pickleball players are not asking for an equal number of courts -- just one.

Best regards,

Chuck Temple
Hi,

I am weighing in on the pickle ball conversion at Castro Park. I am a retired tennis player (30 years) and a retired pickle ball player (3 years).

In order to have a fun filled well attended racquet sport activity you need a cluster of courts. Two tennis courts does not constitute a cluster and 6 pickle ball courts does. With 6 pickle ball courts available you could have 24 people playing at one time. And with the strong number of pickle ball players in the East Bay (many of which are retirees) the 6 dedicated pickle ball courts are going to stay plenty busy.

I strongly support the conversion of the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 brand new pickle ball courts.

Harley Hill
Pinole, CA
Hello!

I’m writing again to express my support for the conversion of the Castro Park tennis courts to pickleball courts. I am an El Cerrito resident and have been so for the past 26 years. As a former tennis player, I can say that pickleball is infinitely more accessible, easier to play, and a ton more fun for the average player. That has definitely been the case for me, after many years of struggling with the more difficult overhead tennis serve, the ability to cover a big court, and the need to find a partner. That pickleball is a more accessible sport is fairly obvious from its huge nationwide growth over the last several years and the popularity of the very few permanent courts we have in the Bay Area. And yet we have no permanent pickleball courts in El Cerrito! I strongly support the conversion of just 2 of El Cerrito’s 13 tennis courts to pickleball courts. I am a semi-retired senior and have pledged funds to support this conversion.

Please vote to support a move that will enable many of us to get healthy exercise, enjoy the camaraderie of community members, and improve El Cerrito’s standing as a city with recreational opportunities for all.

Mary Foley
Hi Christopher,

My name is Cali Fuller and I am emailing you in regards to the Castro tennis courts being fully taken over by pickle ball players. I grew up playing at those courts and to this day I play there at least a couple times a week. The courts are beautiful.

I don’t understand why the courts need to be completely torn down in order for the pickle ball players to play. To me, it’s rather selfish of them to even request that, considering there’s only a handful of them and hundreds of tennis players throughout the Richmond/ El Cerrito area.

The pickle ball players should have their own court(s) built somewhere else or take over another spot that isn’t so populated with tennis players — both young, old and everything in between, or we can share the courts as we have been doing for the past few years. There’s never been any problems and no one minds. I truly hope that you do not let this happen, it would really be a travesty.

All my best,
Cali
I strongly support converting the two tennis courts at Castro Park into 6 pickleball courts. A group of us (young 70 year-olds) have been playing at Castro since the black pickleball lines were added. It has been a challenge deciphering the lines between tennis and pickleball while playing - not to mention hauling the portable nets, assembling and disassembling before and after play. Installing permanent nets and clear lines would make life easier as well as having additional courts - much needed- for a growing population of young and old pickle ball players.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christina Casenza
Please, please, please consider permanent courts in El Cerrito. I live nearby and there is nowhere to go to play pickleball in El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and all other communities going west. It is a fabulous sport and one that is designed for older adults -- like me. Since Pickleball has entered my life three years ago, I am healthier in both physical and psychological ways. It is free to play--games only last 15 minutes so anyone can play or increase stamina to play. I would love to see more people of color using the courts and improving their health. My husband is African American and I know his life has improved and he'd like to see the health status of his cultural community improve as well.

Castro Park is perfect -- although it is a bit windy so maybe one day we can put up wind guards. In the meantime, if it is built, people will come and they will play. I also love that its near a school. We get so many parents asking if they can bring their kids onto the courts. Yes! Please do! I have stayed behind to teach them and they have a blast!

Please, please PLEASE allow permanent pickleball courts at Castro Park in El Cerrito!

Shoshana Grammer
Dear El Cerrito Parks & Rec and City Council

I have friends in the El Cerrito area and look forward to being able to visit and enjoy the outdoors playing pickleball. I understand that there is a request for, high participation in and offer of funding to convert the two tennis courts at Castro peak into 6 dedicated pickleball courts. They will be the only dedicated pickleball courts in El Cerrito and leave 13 dedicated tennis courts. I highly recommend moving forward with this proposal because

1) it is a highly accessible sport across all age brackets and easy to learn in a short period of time. It is great form of exercise for people of all ages and a fun low-cost activity for families to do together.

2) the 2 tennis courts can only accommodate 8 players while the proposed 6 courts can accommodate 24 players thus serving a larger population with the same space resources

3) by not accommodating this request, some sport enthusiasts receive 100% of city resources while others receive 0% or meager support at best. This scenario does not seem fair.

4) support of the conversion will make El Cerrito a more diverse and well rounded community for all.

I challenge you and other decision-makers to try the game once—I’m sure you’ll be hooked! I hope that this proposal is enthusiastically supported by those in a position to make it happen. I look forward to playing whenever I visit friends in El Cerrito.

Best regards,
Mary Hudson Kelley
Dear Community,

I live in the neighborhood of the Castro Park since about 8 years and I observe the use of the Tennis Courts at the park from frequently playing tennis with my son, and from walks and bike rides in the neighborhood.

The court is used by a broad range of people, individuals and families, and youth. It is a thriving group of active people of all demographics. This public court serves an important purpose in a community of families. The court is very well frequented, and so are the other public tennis courts in the city of El Cerrito. It is the only court in the flats of North El Cerrito.

The court is mostly used on a first-come-first-serve base. The pickleball players have a stationary box with their equipment, and they easily set up their play every time they play. As it is, everybody can play at this community place. In addition, the pickleball group has their reserved time. Besides all that, there is still available time when they can go on a first-come-first-serve base, like everybody else.

The Castro Park Tennis Court is right next to our new middle school, the Korematsu Middle School. School age kids, and their families, do play tennis. But they are not part of a more senior group of pickleball players.

I understand that the city is looking for revenue. I also understand that the pickleball group is offering fundraising and financing of the courts. It would be very wrong to sell out the public place to a more restricted group. We have to find other ways of financing public places.

Taking away this court from the public and give it to a relatively small group of players of one sport, a group of mostly seniors, would be a great disservice to an increasingly diverse and family friendly community.

Sincerely,
Martin Fivian
To Whom It May Concern,

This email is in response to the proposal to convert the multiuse tennis courts at Castro Park to pickleball exclusive courts. I urge you to vote against approving this proposal.

There is already a lot of pressure on tennis court use in El Cerrito, which I'm sure is reflected in an increase in court reservations. Getting rid of two tennis courts would make it even harder to find a court, especially considering that the courts at El Cerrito High School are not accessible in the same way as those at the parks -- sometimes they're open, sometimes they're locked, and, rightfully so, they are reserved for use by the high school teams after school during the seasons.

Two tennis courts at Cedar Rose Park in Berkeley were converted into pickleball exclusive courts. Pickleball is much louder than tennis because the balls and rackets are both made of hard material, and both the local residents and landlords are not happy with this.

“If I had personally known the nature of the noise associated with pickleball, I would have been very concerned about locating the courts at the Cedar Rose courts,” [Berkeley Councilmember] Kesarwani said. “In hindsight, there was a failure to consult with the neighbors that would be impacted most acutely and a failure, I think, to mitigate the noise to begin with.”

“In 36 years I have never heard a single complaint about the tennis courts,” Berger said. But in the year since the courts were repurposed for pickleball players, “we’ve had three people move out, 100% because of the pickleball.”


Please be sure to read the comments below the article above.

Here are more articles about the noise problems:


Learning at Korematsu would also be affected by this noise as well.

I also suggest the city also do thorough research on potential litigation against the city if the courts at Castro are converted into pickleball exclusive courts. This lawyer argues against installing pickleball courts near residences due to the increased risk of liability:

https://hoalaw.tinnellylaw.com/pickleball-installation/

Here are a few of the legal cases that have been brought by residents living near places where
pickleball courts were built:

- https://www.rrstar.com/article/20130419/BLOGS/304199844

One point that pickleball players sometime make is that kids often play at parks, and kids are louder than pickleball. The occasional sounds of kids at play wafting through the air is very different than the constant and incessant thwack of pickleballs being struck non-stop for hours and hours throughout the entire day and everyday, which has been a main complaint from residents who live around Cedar Rose Park.

Finally, in conversation with some members of the pickleball community in the East Bay, some have told me that they don't even play pickleball at Castro Park because it's so windy there. Pickleball uses hollow, plastic balls that are similar to a wiffle ball, and even light wind takes the ball off course. Tennis is playable at Castro when it's windy, but even tennis balls, which are significantly heavier than a pickleball, get blown around in the wind at Castro Park. Pickleball can't be played in the strong winds that often blow through Castro Park due to the open field next to it because the ball will just fly off the court.

Let's share, not exclude.

Thank you,
Issa
Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of Contra Costa county, I strongly oppose the proposal to convert the Castro Tennis Courts on Navalier and Moeser streets in El Cerrito to pickle ball courts. There are many of us in the community who regularly play tennis on those courts. Often kids from the community also play or learn to play tennis there. It would be a shame to take away such healthy activities option for these youngsters and expose them to getting into other undesirable activities and trouble.

Hope you will reject the proposal.

S. K. Wajid
Kensington, CA 94707.

Sent from my iPad
Hello Mr. Jones. I am participating in the meeting via Zoom. Avis Codron asked the question why noise was never mentioned as an issue before. The reason is that Pickleball used to be played one day a week on Thursdays. Now it is played frequently on no apparent schedule.

Under the requested plan, the number of players and frequency of play would increase dramatically. So the noise issue has to do with what is likely to happen if the conversion is approved.

Parking and traffic issues would also be exacerbated if the courts are converted.

Thank you.

Marilyn Ashlin

On Monday, April 19, 2021, 09:19:31 AM PDT, Chris Jones wrote:

Dear Ms. Ashlin,

Thank you for your comments. I will make sure that the Park and Recreation Commissioners receive them before their meeting. Information on how to participate in this meeting can be found on their agenda here https://www.el-cerrito.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=5477.

Take Care,

Chris

Chris Jones
Recreation Director
City of El Cerrito
Dear Recreation Director Chris Jones and Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that a group of Pickleball players is trying to repurpose the Castro Park tennis courts solely for their sport. I am neither a Pickleball nor tennis player; however, I am a community resident who observes court usage on a daily basis.

I live on Lawrence Street directly across from Castro Park, use the park’s greenspace and walk by the courts virtually every day; sometimes multiple times per day. A wide variety of people use the courts for both tennis and Pickleball. In just the past week I have seen a single man practicing tennis against the backboard, a dad coaching his young daughter in tennis, numerous singles and doubles tennis players, and a few Pickleball groups. This is a well-used community facility.

I have been told that Castro is one of only three sites in the area with a practice backboard for tennis. Tennis players, including the local tennis association, El Cerrito Tennis Club, have been sharing the courts with Pickleball players for a number of years, even though painting dual lines on the courts (Pickleball and tennis) reduces their suitability for competitive league tennis play.

Frankly, I am appalled that one group of users would attempt to claim the courts for their exclusive use. Apparently, the group requesting this change is not even based in our community, but includes members from Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Alameda, Walnut Creek, Concord and other East Bay cities.

This seems like a terrible time to reduce outdoor recreation options for community members. I urge the El Cerrito Park and Recreation Commission to deny the Pickleball group’s request.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ashlin

El Cerrito Resident
Hi Chris

I logged onto tonight's Zoom meeting and had every intention to share a few more thoughts about the proposal to convert the Castro Park tennis courts into pickleball courts.

Unfortunately, when I was called on to share my comments, there was an issue with my audio. For whatever reason I wasn't "unmuted."

Throughout the meeting the audio cut in and out for me and the screen froze several times too. I had to sign into Zoom a few times. Using the dial in number was no better. The audio on my call also cut out too.

I can only hope that the next time pickleball is a parks and recreation agenda item, that I will be able to attend a meeting in person instead of by Zoom!

Thank you.
Connie Wong

Here's what I intended to share tonight before the commissioners made a decision on next steps.

Hello my name is Connie Wong

I grew up in El Cerrito across the street from Castro Park

I have been a homeowner in El Cerrito for over 28 years.

I'm a retiree and most importantly for the purposes of this meeting, I am a former tennis player and current pickleball player. I started playing pickleball in 2018.

I fully support Cathy's proposal to convert the 2 Castro Park tennis courts into 6 pickleball courts.

With Cathy's leadership as our pickleball ambassador and with the input of the pickleball community, I believe all the commissioners have a well rounded knowledge of pickleball. Over the years, in my opinion, the pickleball community has presented to the parks and recreation commission a compelling and convincing case to move forward with the proposal to convert the Castro tennis courts into pickleball courts.

I believe our city can harmoniously support two racket sports. The El Cerrito Tennis Club can continue their long standing role in promoting tennis. With permanent pickleball courts at Castro, the pickleball community can continue growing our sport. This is the perfect time for El Cerrito to provide its residents and neighboring residents of all ages and abilities an opportunity to play both tennis and pickleball in our town.

If any of the commissioners are not leaning towards approving the pickleball permanent courts at Castro Park, then please share your concerns tonight so that the pickleball community may quickly address those specific items.

Thank you.
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Staff Comments
2. El Cerrito Tennis Club Presentation, Bob Guletz
3. Commission Clarifying Questions
4. Public Comment
5. Commission Discussion, Comments, and Possible Action
Largest specific parks and recreation facilities planning effort since 1960’s

Extensive Community Engagement

Adopted by the City Council in 2019; represents the City’s policy guidance and goals

Goal A: Enhance El Cerrito’s Park Network

Policy A2. Rehabilitate existing parks to meet operational and safety standards (GP, PR 1.1) (SP, Goal D), maximize their use (UGP, Objective 4) to meet community demand, and support community identity (SP)(CP)

- Improve outdoor sport courts – basketball, tennis courts, pickleball amenities, and futsal amenities

Castro Recommendation 7.2 (Early Win): Add pickleball amenities at existing tennis court – court striping, nets, and storage. Priority Score 8 (of 13 possible points)

- Did not include Potential Revenue Generation score, possible addition of 2 points for score of 10
WHY CAN’T WE SHARE?
COURT HOURS USED BY LOCATION AND DATE RANGE
(APRIL THROUGH MARCH, 5 YEARS)
Castro Park Hours Used By Date Range

CASTRO PARK – DAILY RESERVATIONS BY TYPE

RESERVATION DAYS

City Reservations  | Korematsu Middle School  | Private Reservations

2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21
11        | 30      | 188     | 126     | 466
104       | 98      | 175     |         |
COMMISSIONER OPTIONS TONIGHT

1. Recommend Permanent Pickleball Courts at Castro Park
2. Recommend Permanent Pickleball Courts at Castro Park with Conditions
3. Find that Pickleball Needs are met with Status Quo; Take no Action
4. Receive public comment, provide direction, continue discussion at a later meeting(s)
5. Other as defined by Commissioner Motion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Adopted FY 2020-21</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease Amount</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Resident (includes Skylight Room, Kitchen and Courtyard)</td>
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<td>$270</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$276.00</td>
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<td>$50</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$51.00</td>
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<td>Item Description</td>
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<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington (large group area with tables &amp; BBQ)</td>
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<td>$216</td>
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<td>Other Parks, picnic tables with BBQ pit</td>
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<td>$86</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$88.00</td>
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<td>Other Parks, picnic tables without BBQ pit</td>
<td>per day</td>
<td>$108</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<td>Picnic Sites Weekday Discount</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Midtown Activity Center Social Hall/Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$107</td>
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<td>Non-Resident, Commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hana Gardens Senior Center</td>
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<td>Combined Room - Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$129</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$132.00</td>
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<td>Combined Room - Non-Resident/Commercial</td>
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<td>$161</td>
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<td>Alcohol Service Permit</td>
<td>per event</td>
<td>$169</td>
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<td>$332.00</td>
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<td>4 Clubhouses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Rental Time (Sat-Sun); 3 hours (Arlington, Castro Side A, Castro Side B</td>
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<td>Item Description</td>
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<td>Maximum Advance Reservation: 12 Months Resident, Non-Profit or Co-Sponsored Group; 10 Months Non-Resident or Commercial; 12 Months Annual Rentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private, Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>$82.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private, Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
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<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$43.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Facility Rental Related Fees &amp; Discounts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Fee - Rooms and Clubhouses</td>
<td>per date</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Fee - Picnics</td>
<td>per date</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Payment Fee</td>
<td>percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Co-Sponsored Rental Fee Discount</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Rental Fee Discount</td>
<td>percent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Governmental Agency/School District Rentals (per WCUSD Joint Use Agreement)</td>
<td>per event</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair Rental—Non-Profit/Co-Sponsored</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Foot Table Rental—Non-Profit/Co-Sponsored</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Foot Table Rental—Non-Profit/Co-Sponsored</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Storage Fee - Co-Sponsored Groups Only</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Locker</td>
<td>per year</td>
<td>$357</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$365.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Locker</td>
<td>per year</td>
<td>$423</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$432.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Locker</td>
<td>per year</td>
<td>$568</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room/Small Clubhouse</td>
<td>per year</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>substance more space than lockers above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Field/Sports Venue Rentals and Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Tennis Courts</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>Adopted FY 2020-21</td>
<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Club</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instruction Use</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Co-Sponsored Group Team Permit Fee</td>
<td>per season</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
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<td>Tennis Transfer/Cancellation Fee</td>
<td>per hour</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Instructor Processing Fee (Tennis Certification and Insurance Required)</td>
<td>per year</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Surcharge (Cerrito Vista)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Play Fields</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$41</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cerrito Vista Hardball Field (2 hr. minimum)—Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$43.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cerrito Vista Hardball Field (2 hr. minimum)—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$54.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cerrito Co-Sponsored Youth Group</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>matching area average hourly rate for local youth leagues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine for violation of field policies and/or damaging fields when wet and or not</td>
<td>per infraction</td>
<td>$342</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$349.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Adult Swim Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lap Swim/Recreation/Family Swim</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Day Monthly Day Pass—Resident</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$91</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$93.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Day Monthly Day Pass—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$113</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>$116.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Day Pass Three Month Discount</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see misc. fee section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass Fifteen-Swim Pass—Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$52</td>
<td>$41.00</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>$93.00</td>
<td>Pass increased from 10 to 15 visits</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Fifteen-Swim Pass—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$51.00</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>$116.00</td>
<td>Pass increased from 10 to 15 visits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-In</td>
<td>per use</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters Swim Team</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-In</td>
<td>per use</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Day-Monthly Pass - Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days, per month</td>
<td>$62</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Day-Monthly Pass - Non-Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days, per month</td>
<td>$103</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>$113.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>Adopted FY 2020-21</td>
<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters Three Month Discount</td>
<td>per-month</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>moved to section 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters 10 Workout Pass - Resident</td>
<td>per-pass</td>
<td>$99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>purchase monthly or drop-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters 10 Workout Pass - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per-pass</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>purchase monthly or drop-in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters Plus—Any Masters Workout/Lap Swim 1 Month Only (No quarterly discount)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly Masters Plus Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days per month</td>
<td>$126</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$129.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly Masters Plus Non-Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days per month</td>
<td>$158</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>$162.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Recreation Parent &amp; Child Swim/Splash Park/Tot Splash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (18+)</td>
<td>per-use</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>should match Lap Swim Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child (1-6 years)</td>
<td>per-use</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>one price for all youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (2-17 years)</td>
<td>per-use</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Park Only &amp; Tot Splash</td>
<td>per-use</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Swimmer Fee</td>
<td>per-use</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organized Groups (minimum of 15)</td>
<td>per child</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Days</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (1-6 years), Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Child (1-6 years), Non-Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth—(1-17 years) Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days</td>
<td>$53</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth—(1-17 years) Non-Resident</td>
<td>valid 30 days</td>
<td>$68</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>$68.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Swim Pass (valid April through Oct.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Resident (ages 1-6)</td>
<td>per-pass</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>one price for all youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Non-Resident (ages 1-6)</td>
<td>per-pass</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>one price for all youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Resident (1-17)</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$37</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Non-Resident (1-17)</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$47.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Season Passes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Season Pass (6/1-9/30) Resident (max 5 family members per address)</td>
<td>Valid Season</td>
<td>$399</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$407.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Season Pass (8/1-9/30) Non-Res (max 5 family members per address)</td>
<td>Valid Season</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$459.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Family Members (up to 3 additional)</td>
<td>Valid Season</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
<td></td>
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DRAFT FY22 Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule
UPDATE - April 28, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Adopted FY 2020-21</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease Amount</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Additional Family Members (up to 3 additional) Non-Res</td>
<td>Valid Season</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>$39.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Splash Park/Tot Splash Only Ten Swim Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Water Aerobics Deep/Shallow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop In</td>
<td>per use</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ten Workout Pass - Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>$82.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ten Workout Pass - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$97.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Swim Lessons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private—Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>$41.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semi-Private - Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$54</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>$56.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semi-Private - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$68</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Groups—Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Groups—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>Teen/Adult &amp; Special Arrangement Group Lesson—Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$13</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
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<td>Teen/Adult &amp; Special Arrangement Group Lesson—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Swimming Clubs, Teams &amp; Meets</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-Swim Team (50 minutes, 4 days/week)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Increase cost recovery due to displacing normal programming during this season</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<td>El Cerrito High School Swim Team (February through May)</td>
<td>per season</td>
<td>$2,671</td>
<td>$329.00</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
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<td>El Cerrito High School Swim Team (February through May) non-operating hours</td>
<td>per hour per staff</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
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<td>Gators Swim Team</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One Swimmer - Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One Swimmer - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
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<td>New Fee</td>
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<td>Each Additional Household Member Discount</td>
<td>monthly discount percent</td>
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<td>6 Swim Center Rentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term Pool Rentals</td>
<td>per lane/ per hour</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>Lane Rental Fee</td>
<td>per lane/ per hour</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool-Resident, non-operating hours, practice time</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$153.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool-Non-Resident, non-operating hours, practice time</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$188</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$192.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool—Resident, non-operating hours, event rental</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$254.00</td>
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<td>Emery G. Weed III Lap Pool—Non-Resident/Commercial, non-operating hours, event rental</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$311</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$318.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swim Center Rental Deposit (refundable)</td>
<td>per event</td>
<td>$106</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>$109.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Pool-Resident (1-50 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$174</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$178.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Pool-Non-Resident (1-50 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$218</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$223.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Pool-Resident (51-100 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$188</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$192.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Pool-Non-Resident (51-100 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$235</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$240.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splash Park Rental-Resident (1-50 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$153</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>$157.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splash Park Rental-Non-Resident (1-50 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$191</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splash Park Rental-Resident (51-100 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$164</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$168.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splash Park Rental-Non-Resident (51-100 people) (2-hour minimum)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$210.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Fee</td>
<td>per booking</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$51.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Area Rental During Recreation Swim (Splash Park Area &amp; Swim Camp Lawn Area) Resident (11-20 people) - listed fee plus lifeguard rate below</td>
<td>per event $80 + $30/hour</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>$82.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Area Rental During Recreation Swim (Splash Park Area &amp; Swim Camp Lawn Area) Non-Resident (11-20 people) - listed fee plus lifeguard rate below</td>
<td>per event 125% of Res Fee</td>
<td>125% of Res Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area rental during Recreation Swim (Swim Camp Lawn Area) Resident (11-15 people) - listed fee plus lifeguard rate below</td>
<td>per event $60 + $30/hour</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$62.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic Area rental during Recreation Swim (Swim Camp Lawn Area) Non-Resident (11-15 people) - listed fee plus lifeguard rate below</td>
<td>per event 125% of Res Fee</td>
<td>125% of Res Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeguard Fee</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DRAFT FY22 Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule
UPDATE - April 28, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Adopted FY 2020-21</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease Amount</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auto-Debit Pass Discount</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>replaces dollar discount, only applies to continual enrollment (auto-debit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Lane Program/Holiday Reservation Surcharge - Resident</td>
<td>per swim</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Lane Program/Holiday Reservation Surcharge - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per swim</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly Passes Pro-Rated for Remaining Days Based on Beginning Effective Date Only (proration will not be applied to the Admin Fee)</td>
<td>per pass</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Youth Programs

1. **Day & Overnight Camps *Effective 9/1/2021***

   **City Run Camp Resident** (Price based on number of days, hours, special events, field trips, supplies needed)
   - See brochure for actual costs
   - $20-$420 to $0-$80
   - 19.0%
   - $20-$500

   **City Run Camp Non-Resident**
   - 125% of resident fee

   **Day Camp Deposit**
   - per camp/week
   - $33
   - $2.00
   - 6.1%
   - $35.00

   **Day Camp Cancellation Fee**
   - per camp/week
   - $33
   - $2.00
   - 6.1%
   - $35.00

2. **Overnight Camp *Effective 9/1/2021***

   **Camper - Resident** (price depends on staffing and rental costs, duration of session and other fixed costs)
   - per session
   - $415 - $775 to $10-$50
   - 2.4%-6.4%
   - $425-$825

   **Camper Non-Resident**
   - 120% of resident fee

   **CIT/TILT Programs - Residents**
   - per session
   - $185 - $370 to $15-$55
   - 8%-15%
   - $200-$425

   **CIT/TILT Programs - Non-Residents**
   - per session
   - $185 - $370 to $15-$55
   - 8%-15%
   - $200-$425

   **Deposit**
   - per week
   - $155
   - $4.00
   - 2.6%
   - $159.00

3. **Before/After School Childcare**

   **5 day schedule, AM Care (~ 1.5 hours/day)**
   - per month (10 Total)
   - $247
   - $42.00
   - 17.0%
   - $289.00

   **4 day schedule, AM Care (~1.5 hours/day)**
   - per month (10 Total)
   - $218
   - $36.00
   - 16.5%
   - $254.00

   **3 day schedule, AM Care (~1.5 hours/day)**
   - per month (10 Total)
   - $178
   - $30.00
   - 16.9%
   - $208.00

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**DRAFT** FY22 Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule

**UPDATE - April 28, 2021**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Adopted FY 2020-21</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease Amount</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 day schedule, AM Care (~1.5 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$129</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 day schedule, AM Care (~1.5 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 day schedule, AM Transitional Kindergarten Care (~1.75 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$288</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>$337.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 day schedule, AM Transitional Kindergarten Care (~1.75 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$254</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>$296.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 day schedule, AM Transitional Kindergarten Care (~1.75 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$208</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>$243.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<td>2 day schedule, AM Transitional Kindergarten Care (~1.75 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<td>1 day schedule, AM Transitional Kindergarten Care (~1.75 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>$88.00</td>
<td>aligning with comparable programs, accounting for hard costs associated with program even thought it is only 1.5 hours per day</td>
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<td>5 day schedule, TK/Madera Kinder Childcare (~4.25 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$679</td>
<td>$46.00</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>$725.00</td>
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<td>4 day schedule, TK/Madera Kinder Childcare (~4.25 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$597</td>
<td>$41.00</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>$638.00</td>
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<td>3 day schedule, TK/Madera Kinder Childcare (~4.25 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$489</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>$522.00</td>
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<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<td>6.8%</td>
<td>$377.00</td>
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<td>1 day schedule, TK/Madera Kinder Childcare (~4.25 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$177</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>$189.00</td>
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<td>5 day schedule, Kindergarten Childcare (~4 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$626</td>
<td>$57.00</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$683.00</td>
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<td>8.9%</td>
<td>$601.00</td>
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<td>8.6%</td>
<td>$355.00</td>
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<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$164</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>$177.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>Adopted FY 2020-21</td>
<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>5 day schedule, 1st - 6th PM Care (~3.33 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$557</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>$591.00</td>
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<td>4 day schedule, 1st - 6th Care (3.33 hours/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$491</td>
<td>$29.00</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>$520.00</td>
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<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$402</td>
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<td>6.0%</td>
<td>$426.00</td>
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<td>$290</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>$154.00</td>
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<td>4 day schedule, TK &amp; Madera Kinder Club (~1 hour/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$146</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>$158.00</td>
<td>making minimum charge 1 hour regardless of program time due to staffing and hard costs</td>
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<td>3 day schedule, TK &amp; Madera Kinder Club (~1 hour/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$132</td>
<td>($3.00)</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>$129.00</td>
<td>last year's fee was incorrect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 day schedule, TK &amp; Madera Kinder Care (~1 hour/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$96</td>
<td>($3.00)</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
<td>$93.00</td>
<td>last year's fee was incorrect</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 day schedule, TK &amp; Madera Kinder Club (~1 hour/day)</td>
<td>per month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>($1.00)</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
<td>$47.00</td>
<td>last year's fee was incorrect</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 day schedule, Kinder Club (~6 hours/day)</td>
<td>per-month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$544</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 day schedule, Kinder Club (~6 hours/day)</td>
<td>per-month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$528</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 day schedule, Kinder Club (~6 hours/day)</td>
<td>per-month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$512</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 day schedule, Kinder Club (~6 hours/day)</td>
<td>per-month (10 Total)</td>
<td>$296</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day schedule, 3 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$544</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 day schedule, 3 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$528</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 day schedule, 3 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$512</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 day schedule, 3 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$296</td>
<td>-100.0%</td>
<td>licensed care only, not planned for this year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day schedule, 3 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$126</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$134.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>Adopted FY 2020-21</td>
<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day schedule, 4 hour program</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$168</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>$179.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Other Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before/After School &amp; Preschool Programs - Non-Refundable Registration Fee</td>
<td>per registration</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>$78.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before/After School &amp; Preschool Programs - Drop-In fee, under 3 hours program</td>
<td>per day/program</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before/After School &amp; Preschool Programs - Drop-In fee, over 3 hours program</td>
<td>per day/program</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>$43.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before/After School Program - Receives Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-14.3% 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before/After School Program - Receives Free Lunch</td>
<td>discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
<td>-9.1% 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschools - Non-Resident Rate</td>
<td>surcharge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschools - Qualifies for City Scholarship - Residents</td>
<td>discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschools - Qualifies for City Scholarship - Non Resident</td>
<td>discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Resident Rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Resident Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees can be adjusted proportionally due to substantial changes in program hours at the discretion of the Recreation Director</td>
<td>program hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees can be adjusted proportionate to any mandated staff to child ratio changes at the discretion of the Recreation Director</td>
<td>staffing/ enhanced requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschools - Over 8 hours (full day)</td>
<td>monthly discount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Run Youth Program (Price based on number of days, hours, supplies or equipment needed)</td>
<td>$5-$200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>moved to &quot;Other Fees &amp; Discounts&quot; Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before/After School &amp; Preschool Fees Include 3% Admin Surcharge listed in &quot;Other Fees &amp; Discounts&quot; Section</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Programs and Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 &amp; Better Rewards Club - Resident</td>
<td>annual</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>was never implemented due to pandemic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 &amp; Better Rewards Club - Non-Resident</td>
<td>annual</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>was never implemented due to pandemic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket Based Class Fee—Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ticket Based Class Fee—Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Class Pass (ticket-based class) - Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Class Pass (ticket-based class) - Non-Resident</td>
<td>per class</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Monthly Shopping Trips, round trip</td>
<td>per trip</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respite Group—Resident</td>
<td>per month</td>
<td>$109</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>$112.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DRAFT FY22 Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule
UPDATE - April 28, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Adopted FY 2020-21</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease Amount</th>
<th>% Increase/Decrease</th>
<th>New Fee</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$136</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>$139.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Per date</td>
<td>20%-40%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see brochure for actual costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15-$150</td>
<td>0%-33%</td>
<td>$15-$200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125% of resident rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>125% of resident rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration Fees—Refunds, Transfers, Cancellations, and Late Payments (25% of fee, up to maximum and rounded to nearest dollar)</td>
<td>maximum charge per session</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Late Pick-Up Fee ($20 minimum + $1.00 per minute)</td>
<td>minimum late pick-up fee</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Misc. Product Fee (depending on level of effort)</td>
<td>each + surcharge</td>
<td>Cost + 5%-20%</td>
<td>Cost + 5%-20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Total Cost (i.e. custodian, part time recreation leader, etc.)</td>
<td>per hour</td>
<td>Full Hourly Cost</td>
<td>Full Hourly Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signage/Banner on Recreational Facilities (per policy)</td>
<td>per banner or sign/month</td>
<td>$0 - $50</td>
<td>$0 - $50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long Term Rental Discount - as determined by Recreation Director</td>
<td>per transaction</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Surcharge Fee for City Run Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Promotion/Marketing Fundraising Opportunities - as determined by Recreation Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Classes, Events, Field Trips, Leagues, Programs, Products, Uniforms, etc. as approved by Recreation Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City Run Program (Price based on number of days and hours)</td>
<td>per day/per program + any supply, entrance &amp; trans. costs</td>
<td>$5-$200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5-$200</td>
<td>moved from youth section to apply to all Department programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Basis</td>
<td>Adopted FY 2020-21</td>
<td>Increase/Decrease Amount</td>
<td>% Increase/Decrease</td>
<td>New Fee</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Third Party Programs</td>
<td>The fees for all third party provided activities may vary based on contract negotiations &amp; market rates at discretion of the Recreation Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Non-Resident Surcharges for El Cerrito School Based Enrichment Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Surcharges on Fee-Based Programs by Independent Contractor (4% of fee, up to maximum and rounded to nearest dollar)</td>
<td>maximum charge per session</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Optional Disabled and Senior Discount (independent contractors may choose to use discount and split discount with City) - for ages 60+, disabled patrons. Does not apply to fees in &quot;Adult Programs and Services&quot; section.</td>
<td>percent of fee</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-25.0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Recreation Brochure Advertisements</td>
<td>Copy Ready, 1/8 page</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$204.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Copy Ready, Quarter page</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$459.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Copy Ready, Half page</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$765.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Copy Ready, Full page</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>$1,275.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Full Year of Advertising (3 rECguide Issues)</td>
<td>Discount</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Graphic Preparation-Graphic Designer</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Actual Cost</td>
<td>Actual Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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