



**Agenda Item No. 15.**

**Staff Report**

**Date:** December 8, 2022

**To:** Mayor Kuhl and Council Members

**From:** Richard Simonitch, Public Works Director/Town Engineer  
Gretchen Castets, Recreation Manager

**Subject:** Town Council Discussion Regarding the Potential Addition of Pickleball Courts to the Ross Town Tennis/Platform Tennis Facility

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**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Town Council direct staff to implement a trial pickleball program by adding four pickleball court lines to one tennis court to make it a multi-use facility. Additionally, it is recommended that the Town Council appropriate funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Facility and Equipment fund to complete the work.

**Background:**

At the November 10, 2022, Town Council meeting, staff presented options for introducing pickleball to the existing tennis and platform tennis courts as an additional recreational activity. After discussing the four options presented by staff, the Town Council determined that they would like to obtain more input from Ross residents as to what they would like to see on the Town Tennis/Platform Tennis facility. Staff sent letters to all current court key holders, residents that live within 500 feet of the town court facility, and an email "blast" to everyone on the Town's email list. The email blast included a link to a survey requesting input on the potential addition of pickleball courts to the Town tennis court facility.

The survey was completed by 165 residents. 102 of those survey respondents are current key holders (61%). The key holders that responded to the survey reported that they use the courts daily, weekly, monthly. The results did not indicate that the courts would be overwhelmed by users. The platform tennis court reported less frequent use than the tennis courts.

Of the 165 that responded to the survey, 71% said that they are interested in having pickleball courts added to the Ross Town Courts, 20% said no and 9% said other. There were four options given and they are as follows with the response results:

1. Add pickleball lines to the platform tennis court: 27.61% (45 respondents)

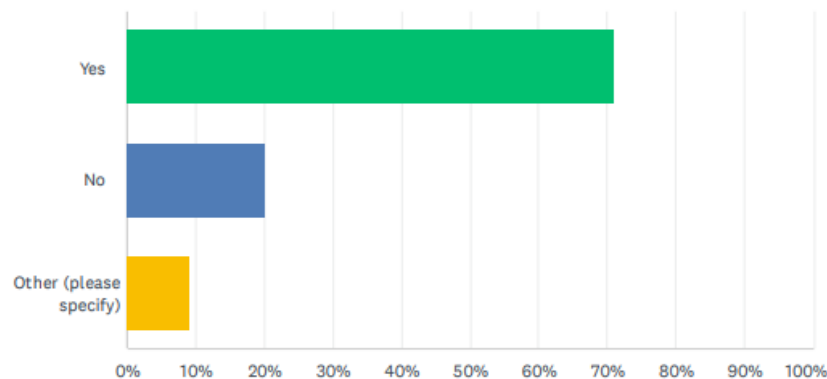
2. Create a multi-use court by adding pickleball lines to one tennis court (4 pickleball courts on 1 tennis court): 44.17% (72 respondents)
3. NO pickleball courts lines added to any courts: 10.43% (17 respondents)
4. Other (please specify): 17.79% (29 respondents)
  - a. Most of the “other” responses were that they were indifferent to adding pickleball courts

In addition to the survey results, there were eight e-mails sent to Recreation Manager Gretchen Castets providing input regarding the potential addition of pickleball courts. Four of the emails were in support of adding pickleball courts and four were not in favor. Quite a few residents wrote in either via email or in the survey that the platform tennis court surface is not compatible with pickleball which is one reason why Town staff is not recommending that the platform tennis court have pickleball lines added to it.

Pickleball Court Survey

#### Q4 Are you interested in having pickleball courts added to the Ross Town Courts

Answered: 165 Skipped: 1

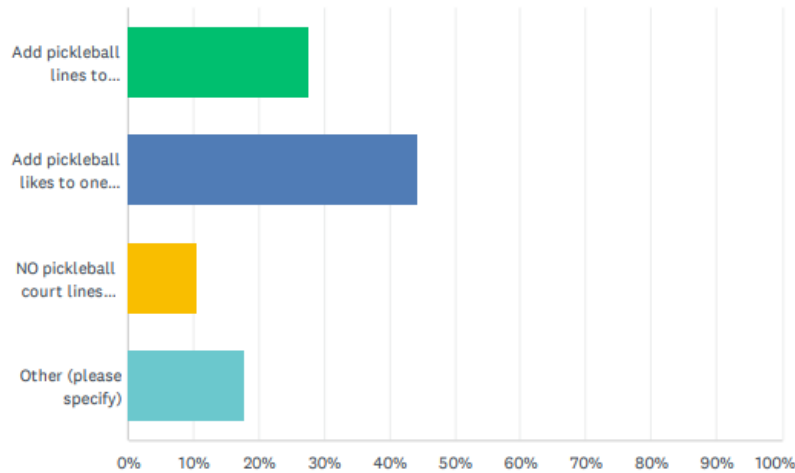


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.91%	117
No	20.00%	33
Other (please specify)	9.09%	15
TOTAL		165

Pickleball Court Survey

Q5 Which option are you most interested in

Answered: 163 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Add pickleball lines to platform tennis court	27.61%	45
Add pickleball likes to one tennis court (4 pickleball courts on 1 court)	44.17%	72
NO pickleball court lines added to any courts	10.43%	17
Other (please specify)	17.79%	29
TOTAL		163

### Discussion

The results from the survey and other communication received from residents indicates strong support for adding pickleball as a recreational activity to the Town's tennis court facility. A common strategy used by other municipalities to accommodate demand for pickleball while still maintaining the ability to allow for tennis play is to create a multi-use court on a trial basis. In order to accomplish this, lines will be painted on one tennis court to create four pickleball courts. The lines will be in a different color from the existing tennis court lines. Four portable pickleball nets would be purchased and stored on the sides of the existing tennis court. Pickleball players will roll out the portable nets to play. Although some tennis players may find the addition of pickleball lines to be unattractive, creating a multi-use court will accommodate up to 16 pickleball players at one time. Tennis players that prefer a traditional court will still have one remaining tennis court for their use.

Implementing a multi-use court on a trial basis will allow the Town to evaluate the program for participation, compatibility with the traditional tennis court, and impacts that may result such as noise. It has been suggested that the Town could use tape to install the pickleball lines at a

cheaper cost. Based on the experience of other municipalities, staff recommends that the pickleball lines be painted onto the existing tennis courts.

**Fiscal, resource and timeline impacts**

The estimated cost to create a multi-use court by painting lines (one tennis court into four pickleball courts) is \$10,000 including the purchase of four portable pickleball nets.

The adopted FYE23 budget does not include funding for adding pickleball play to the Town's tennis/platform ball facility. If the Town Council directs staff to implement the plan to add four pickleball courts to one tennis court, then it is necessary for the Town Council to appropriate funding of \$10,000 from the Facilities & Equipment Fund to cover the associated costs.

**Alternative actions:**

An alternative action would be to leave the courts as they are now and not make any modifications.

**Environmental review (if applicable)**

The project is categorically exempt under the following Sections:  
CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1 – Existing Facilities.