



Agenda Item Staff Report

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
For the Meeting of December 10, 2024

From: Brad McKinney, City Manager

Prepared by: Scott Wasserman, Director of Parks & Recreation

Subject: Discussion of Cost to Convert a Tennis Court to Pickleball Courts

SUMMARY

The City Council requested that staff provide projected costs to convert one existing tennis court into four pickleball courts.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council receive the report and provide direction as appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to convert one existing tennis court into four pickleball courts is between \$29,500-\$49,500. The final cost would depend on the City Council's desire to install acoustic sound panels at a cost of \$20,000. The sound panels are designed to deaden the sound of the wooden racquet striking the plastic ball by approximately 32 decibels.

These costs are summarized as follows:	
Court Re-surfacing	\$22,000
Net posts purchase and install	\$ 3,500
Chain Link Fencing	\$ 4,000
Acoustic panels	\$20,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$49,500

BACKGROUND

Pickleball has been played for decades since its invention in Washington in the mid-1960s. In more recent times, the family-friendly sport has seen a major boom in popularity, and it is now

one of the fastest growing sports in America. This popularity has created a demand for more public pickleball courts. According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, pickleball participation has grown from 4.2 million in 2020 to 13.6 million in 2024.

Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. The game is played on a court with special nets, paddles and a hard-plastic ball that is similar to a whiffle ball. Pickleball can be played as singles or doubles and is recognized as an ideal sport for all ages and athletic abilities. One thing that distinguishes pickleball from other sports is its inherent sense of camaraderie, as it is a very social sport.

The City of San Dimas has not constructed pickleball courts or converted existing tennis courts into pickleball courts. However, several surrounding cities provide pickleball courts. The City's website directs residents to www.pickleheads.com, which is a website that assists residents to locate public pickleball courts nearby. Examples of available pickleball courts can be found at the Via Verde Country Club (6 courts), Las Flores Park in La Verne (4 courts), Finkbiner Park in Glendora (4 courts), Wheeler Park in Claremont (5 courts) and Upland Indoor Arena Pickleball (8 courts).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

It is generally more cost effective to convert existing tennis courts to pickleball courts than to construct new courts from scratch. One tennis court can be converted into four pickleball courts. The City currently has four City parks with tennis courts that have the potential to be converted into pickleball courts. These parks are Ladera Serra, Lone Hill, Marchant and Pioneer. However, all four of these parks are located in areas that are directly adjacent to private residences.

As the primary negative issue associated with pickleball is the noise of the impact between ball and paddle, sound deadening panels are recommended for courts less than five hundred feet from any residence. The sound deadening panels cost approximately \$20,000 and are designed to reduce noise emanating from the court by 32 decibels. The sound panels have a service life of 8-10 years.

All eight of the of the City's tennis courts are located within five hundred feet of housing and could potentially have a negative impact on surrounding neighborhoods. Additional impacts experienced by other municipalities that have installed pickleball courts include increased traffic, impacts to parking and noise from players and spectators. Other cities have addressed the noise issues by curtailing the hours that pickleball courts may be used. Some municipalities have experienced physical altercations between pickleball players and tennis players and/or park neighbors who are upset about the impact to their neighborhood.

The conversion of one tennis court into four dedicated pickleball courts requires the re-surfacing of the existing court as well as the replacement of the nets and net posts. Tennis courts in all parks were re-surfaced in FY 2019-2020 and are still in good condition.

Basic Scope of Work to Convert one (1) Tennis court to four (4) Pickleball Courts

- Power Wash Tennis Court
- Patch cracks and spalls
- Remove existing tennis net posts and backfill holes with concrete
- Grind displaced areas on cracks so both sides are level.
- Provide and install four (4) sets of Pickleball Posts, Sleeves and Nets, Core Drilled

- Apply one coat of re-surfacer, 100% latex acrylic mixed with #60 silica sand to smooth out the surface and provide a superior base for color coating.
- Apply two coats of Color, 100% latex acrylic, mixed with #90 silica sand for a medium speed of play.
- Color court to accommodate a total of (4) Pickleball Courts on 60 x 120 Tennis Court
- Stripe Play Lines, sharp and accurate to ASBA specifications.
- Lines to be white latex acrylic line paint unless otherwise specified.
- Remove and replace caulking.
- Grind edges for proper adhesion at center joint, at court division, and along the drain system.
- Install new chain link fence between exiting courts.
- Install pickleball court acoustic wraps.

If the City Council wishes to further explore the conversion of one tennis court into four pickleball courts, staff recommends consideration of the inner-most tennis court at Lone Hill Park. This court is 123 feet from the nearest home, which is not ideal. However, tennis courts in other parks are even closer to homes, as summarized below and in the attached aerial maps:

- Marchant Park 30 feet
- Pioneer Park 50 feet
- Ladera Serra Park 78 feet

If the City Council wishes to proceed with the potential conversion of one tennis court, it may wish to direct staff to complete community outreach within a 500-foot radius of the proposed court. Staff would notify residents via postcard of any public outreach and return to the City Council at a later date to summarize public input and to seek further direction from the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES

This item was requested by the City Council. The City Council can elect not to install any pickleball courts, to convert existing tennis courts into pickleball courts or to construct new pickleball courts. If the City Council wishes to construct new pickleball courts, a suitable location would need to be identified. If the City Council elects not to build pickleball courts, the existing tennis courts are well used and will continue to serve the San Dimas community.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This item is Categorically Exempt under the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 6, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15301 Existing Facilities Class 1 operations which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Wasserman
Director of Parks & Recreation

Attachments:

1. Aerial maps of Marchant, Pioneer, Ladera Serra and Lone Hill Parks tennis courts

2. Product Information for Acoustic Sound Panels