



Where Life is Sweet

TRT GRANT APPLICATION

PROPOSAL FOR RECREATION PROJECT FUNDING

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Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025

**PROJECT TITLE:** Building Ten Pickleball Courts at Theater Sport Park

### ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization: **Greater Hermiston Coi**

Non-Profit Tax #81-0877658

Contact Person: Cindy Middleton

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### PROJECT INFORMATION

Funding Request: \$ **\$75K over 5 years** Estimated Project Revenue: \$ 0

How many people will benefit from this project? Hundreds or more

Organization Annual Revenue: \$ NA

**Project Description:** (attach additional pages if necessary)

See attachment #1

Authorized Signature:

Cindy Middleton

Date:

5/23/24

Applications submitted after May 31 will not be accepted.

## **Attachment # 1**

The Hermiston Pickleball Committee is partnering with the Greater Hermiston Community Foundation, to build pickleball courts at the Theater Sports Park in Hermiston. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. First championed by older folks (55 and older), now all ages are playing pickleball. Currently old and young, retired or not, with numbers nearly growing daily, have begun to play pickleball in Hermiston. A year and half ago the pickleball Facebook page numbered approximately 30 members. Today (May 20<sup>th</sup>) that number is 335 (162 last October), including some from Echo, Stanfield and Umatilla, besides Hermiston. Many of our members do not use Facebook so the total number is much larger.

Current outdoor play is on 6 repurposed tennis courts on Hermiston School District property managed property. These six courts have inadequate capacity given the number of players. Additionally, cracks in the concrete cause irregular ball bounces, with confusing lines (both tennis and pickleball court lines), are smaller than regulation size pickleball courts and have restricted play when school is in session. The plan is to build 10 pickleball courts, including one ADA court, on Hermiston City owned property at the at the Park (See attachment #1 and #2). The initial building site was just south of the Funland playground at Butte Park but noise concerns by nearby residents caused us to look for more options. Ten courts will be standard pickleball courts but the 10th one will be built to special ADA specifications. That court is much larger and may be the only one in Pacific Northwest, but can still be used for regular and championship play. The intent is to ensure this facility is completely inclusive to all who would like to play, both young and old, and of all abilities.

This request is not only to help build pickleball courts to provide community members the opportunity to play, the project could easily also be classified as economic development. With the capacity and quality, these courts will be a regional draw and be a positive economic impact for Hermiston. Pickleball tournaments have become popular, even the cities of Condon and Baker have seen the benefit by hosting tournaments, and the TriCities have them often. We anticipate 2 sponsored tournaments each year at the beginning, which given how pickleballer's enjoy traveling to play in tournaments, this will bring hundreds of players and associated spectators/families to Hermiston.

We have letters of support from Hermiston's Mayor, City Manager, Parks and Recreation Director, Chamber of Commerce, The Hermiston School District and Good Shepherd Hospital (all available upon request), because of the far-reaching positive aspects of this project. Pickleball has literally transformed the daily lives of individuals aged 60 and older, who were previously more inclined towards activities like BINGO. Today we have players that range in age from middle school to 82 years old. This sport, played on a smaller court with a whiffle-type ball, offers a range of significant public health advantages that extend beyond seniors to

encompass all age groups. Here are some of the key benefits reported for seniors though other age groups have similar benefits:

1. Reduces Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (Bad Cholesterol).
2. Decreases the Risk of Various Diseases.
3. Enhances Balance and Control, Reducing the Risk of Falls.
4. Improves Mobility and Agility.
5. Enhances Reflexes, Reducing the Risk of Falling.
6. Accelerates Recovery from Hospitalization or Bed Rest.
7. Provides Protection Against Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.
8. Helps Prevent Insomnia and Sleep Disorders.
9. Boosts Brain Function, Preventing Memory Loss and Cognitive Decline.
10. Alleviates Anxiety and Depression-Related Behaviors.
11. Fosters Improved Mood and Feelings of Well-Being.
12. Promotes Social Engagement, Boosting Self-Esteem and Reducing Loneliness.
13. Increases Overall Life Expectancy.

Beyond the physical benefits, participants of all age groups, as mentioned, have embraced pickleball. The unique aspect of this sport lies in the intergenerational interactions that occur when players of different ages face off. It serves as a platform for communication and connection that is unparalleled in other settings. In other words, on any given day your partner (2 players on each side) may be 18 years old one game and 65 the next.

While the primary purpose is to construct pickleball courts, the pickleball committee is also working with the Parks and Recreation Dept on ways to further enhance Theater Sports Park,, beyond just the building of the courts, for the enjoyment of the entire community. Several ideas have been considered but will be driven by collecting funds beyond needed to construct the courts. However even at this stage, we have worked with Parks and Recreation to place the courts to ensure better usage of the facility including our plans to increase the number of parking spaces.

The Pickleball Committee has secured funding from The Good Shepherd Health Foundation, Good Shepherd Hospital, Wildhorse Foundation, the City of Hermiston, Umatilla County, Umatilla Electric and misc. contributors (see attachment #3). We are currently pursuing funds from Amazon Web Services, Union Pacific Railroad, and Port of Umatilla, all of which have indicated likely support. We will be requesting additional funds from the Wildhorse Foundation,

and Good Shepherd Health Foundation as their grant cycles open. We are currently developing other possible sources of funding including AARP, Oregon Community Foundation and other local business and individuals.

Plans are to begin building the courts late fall/winter 2024. Given the agreement we have with the Bank of Eastern Oregon, they are providing financing (free in support of this project) for those who would like to make commitments through 5 years. The bank, however, will provide those committed funds when needed. We are hopeful that the TRT grant committee will consider, what amounts to annual contributions of \$15,000 for 5 years, in support of this project.

Donor levels provide many ways to be recognized as contributors to this project. As an example, contributors of \$50,000 or more will have one of the 10 courts with a permanent identification who contributed towards its construction along with their logo of the business/organization on the court. A budget for this entire project can be found on Attachment #4).

## Attachment # 2. Aerial View of Theater Sports Park with Pickleball Courts



**Attachment # 3. Closer View of the Proposed Pickleball Courts at Theater Sports Park.**



#### **Attachment # 4. Contributors as of May 20th**

| <b>Organization/individual</b>      | <b>Contribution</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| JM Manufacturing                    | \$ 500.00            |
| Elmer's Irrigation                  | \$ 5,000.00          |
| Phil and Linda Hamm                 | \$ 2,500.00          |
| Umatilla County                     | \$ 10,000.00         |
| D. Hittle & Associates              | \$ 500.00            |
| Hermiston Generating                | \$ 500.00            |
| Peter Turping                       | \$ 250.00            |
| Wildhorse Foundation                | \$ 30,000.00         |
| Good Shepherd Community Health Foun | \$ 22,500.00         |
| Hermiston Enterprise Zone           | \$ 50,000.00         |
| Good Shepherd Health Care System    | \$ 100,000.00        |
| Dewald Education Foundation         | \$ 1,000.00          |
| Midway                              | \$ 1,000.00          |
| <u>Umatilla Electric Coop</u>       | <u>\$ 50,000.00</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$ 273,750.00</b> |

## Attachment #5. Project Budget

| Description of work                      | Expense          |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Site prep <sup>1</sup>                   | \$42,840         |
| Concrete                                 | \$171,360        |
| Fence <sup>2</sup>                       | \$59,560         |
| Net support system                       | \$17,850         |
| Acrylic coating of concrete <sup>3</sup> | \$42,268         |
| Wind screen, south and west side         | \$6,680          |
| Lighting for complex                     | \$68,425         |
| Overhead/project management              | \$64,627         |
| Landscaping and water                    | \$13,105         |
| Engineering and permitting               | \$30,000         |
| Parking <sup>4</sup>                     | \$50,000         |
| Contingency <sup>5</sup>                 | \$54,700         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                     | <b>\$621,415</b> |

### Footnotes

1. We are hopeful some of this prep will be donated
2. The price is for a 10 foot perimeter fence with a four foot fence between each court.
3. To seal and protect concrete for longevity
4. Providing additional paved parking.
5. To ensure sufficient funds are collected and any unknowns. If more funds are collected than needed for the initial project, other items will be added to project, such as picnic table etc.