



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of April 8, 2024

Title/Subject

Site selection for locating Pickleball Courts at Theater Sports Park.

Summary and Background

Exploding in popularity, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States and has seen popularity and play grow in Hermiston. Over the past 2 years, the Hermiston Pickleball Club has been playing at the School District owned, Sunset Tennis Courts during the summer and at EOTEC in the winter. The courts at Sunset are not ideal for pickleball use as they are tennis courts and have hand painted pickleball court lines on them. The school district has indicated they want to keep them as tennis courts and closes them to the public during school hours.

The Hermiston Pickleball Club has formed a committee to research, fundraise and construct pickleball courts in Hermiston. The Parks & Recreation Department has supported this effort and has consulted on potential locations. After careful review of different sites, the Pickleball Committee has settled on Theater Sports Park for the site which has been endorsed by the Parks & Recreation Committee and recommended to the City Council.

Site Selection

The proposed site for the new pickleball courts is on the eastern side of Theater Sports Park, adjacent to the playground area and approximately 160 feet from the outfield fence of the softball field. The site encroaches 9 feet into the existing water lift station yard. The selection of this site has been driven by the park's predominantly industrial surroundings, minimizing potential noise complaints from residents, location near an existing restroom facility and space for future growth.

Facility Description and Cost

The proximity of the pickleball courts to the playground and softball field positions the facility as a versatile sports hub, revitalizing Theater Sports Park throughout the year.

The new facility is planned to include the following features:

- Two ADA compliant courts, designed for wheelchair-accessible pickleball. This will be a pioneering feature in the Pacific Northwest, accommodating extra space for wheelchairs.
- Courts will be separately fenced with a central passageway for easy court access.
- Court lighting for extended play hours.
- Benches and shaded areas for players' comfort.
- The entire facility will be enclosed by a 10-foot fence to keep balls in play and softballs out of play.
- Security cameras will enhance the safety in the area.

The estimated cost for the development of the pickleball court facility is approximately \$650,000. With approval of the site, the committee will continue to fundraise to cover the development costs.

Recommendation

The development of pickleball courts will enhance the recreational value of Theater Sports Park, providing an engaging environment for Hermiston residents and regional players. With the Parks and Recreation Committee's endorsement, it is anticipated that the pickleball courts will serve as a vibrant addition to the community's amenities.

It is recommended that the City Council approve the site selection and move forward with the development of the pickleball courts at Theater Sports Park.

Tie-In to Council Goals

Goal 2: Hermiston ensures a healthy and safe environment for all through abundant recreation and wellness opportunities, high-quality health care, collaboration with community partners, and a healthy and attractive built environment.

Fiscal Information

The Pickleball Court Committee will be fundraising for the estimated \$650,000 cost of constructing pickleball courts through a donation program through the Greater Hermiston Foundation. Hermiston Parks & Recreation will be assisting in the effort by applying for grants that qualify for the project.

Alternatives and Recommendation

1. Approve authorizing the location for Pickleball Courts at Theater Sports Park.
2. Modify the request.
3. Reject the location for Pickleball Court construction.

Requested Action/Motion

Approve

Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director

THEATER SPORTS PARK

1800 NW 6th Street

