



STAFF REPORT

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: June 18, 2026

From: Nicole Acquisti, Recreation Manager – (650) 558-7307
Molly Crossfield, Recreation Supervisor – (650) 558-7317

Subject: Adoption of Permanent Priority Use Times at Washington Park Sports Court

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend making the Washington Park Sports Court Priority Use Schedule permanent.

BACKGROUND

In March 2020, the Department opened the Washington Park Sports Court. The Sports Court can accommodate full-size basketball, futsal, and pickleball courts. The lines for the three sports overlap, and all three sports cannot play at the same time. The Sports Court is currently designated as a drop-in facility (first-come, first-served), consistent with the usage model of other City courts. The only exception to this model is the City's tennis/pickleball single-use courts, which operate under established guidelines.

In June 2025, a commissioner notified staff that they had received concerns from basketball players who felt their access to the court was being impacted by other uses. While additional pickleball courts are available nearby, basketball options are limited and farther away.

On July 17, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the significant increase in pickleball activity at the Washington Park Sports Court, often extending into evening hours. In response, the Commission asked staff to work with an ad hoc committee of commissioners to propose options, adding guidelines with priority use times on the Washington Park Sports Court.

The Washington Park Sports Court Ad Hoc Committee met on August 18, 2025, and included Commissioner Milne, Commissioner Wettan, Commissioner Brunello, Recreation Manager Nicole Acquisti, and Recreation Supervisor Molly Crossfield. After reviewing court usage and discussing the needs of various user groups, the committee recommended implementing a pilot program to establish priority use hours for basketball and pickleball while maintaining open access at all other times.

The committee recommended the Priority Use Pilot Program hours of:

Monday–Friday

- 8:00 AM–10:30 AM: Priority Pickleball
- 3:30 PM–6:00 PM: Priority Basketball

Sunday

- 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Priority Pickleball
- 12:00 PM–3:00 PM: Priority Basketball

Outside of these designated hours, the court remained available for all users on a first-come, first-served basis.

The committee also recommended installing signage that encouraged shared use of the facility and directed pickleball players to check availability at the nearby dedicated pickleball courts before using the Sports Court.

In September 2025, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Priority Use Pilot Program, effective through May 31, 2026. Following approval, staff installed signage at the court and implemented the pilot schedule.

DISCUSSION

Staff have monitored court usage throughout the pilot period and observed activity during both priority and non-priority hours. Staff observed that basketball and pickleball were played primarily during their designated priority-use times.

Throughout the pilot period, staff did not receive any complaints regarding court access, scheduling conflicts, or the designated priority use times. Signage outlining the priority use schedule and court guidelines was posted during the pilot program.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, permanent signage will be required. The average cost for a park sign is approximately \$300. To ensure visibility, three signs, one at each entrance to the Washington Park Sports Court, are recommended. The total cost for the signs, staff time, and materials to hang the signs is approximately \$1,500. Sufficient funds are available within the Department's current budget to cover this expense.

EXHIBIT

A: Washington Park Sports Court Guidelines

Exhibit A: Washington Park Sports Court Guidelines



Washington Park Sports Court Guidelines



- Be courteous to fellow players.
- Non-marking shoes only.
- Bicycles, rollerblades, scooters, skateboards, strollers, or other like items are not permitted on the Sport Court.
- Maximum of 3 pickleballs per court.
- The Sports Court may be reserved for City programming/events and closed for maintenance.
- No dogs or food on courts.
- Anyone may ask a player(s) to adhere to court guidelines.
- Share the Washington Park Sports Court by using the middle pickleball court first.

Outside of the below hours, the court remains open for all users on a first-come, first-served basis.

Priority Times:

- Monday – Friday
 - 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM → Priority Pickleball
 - 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM → Priority Basketball
- Sunday
 - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM → Priority Pickleball
 - 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM → Priority Basketball

Additional pickleball courts are available at Washington Park Tennis Court #1, #2 and #3.

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