



To: Park Board

Agenda Item #: VI.A.

From: Ann Kattreh
Parks & Recreation Director

Action

Discussion

Date: July 14, 2015

Information

Subject: Proposed Pickleball Court Donation

Action Requested:

Provide review and comment on a donation of pickleball courts and related amenities at Rosland Park.

Information / Background:

Edina resident Bruce Mooty has approached the city to donate funds to the City of Edina to construct pickleball courts adjacent to the tennis courts at Rosland Park. The proposed donation is in honor of his late father John Mooty, who passed away earlier this year. This location is recommended by Parks & Recreation Administrative staff and Park Maintenance staff. Several sites were reviewed, including Lewis Park, Yorktown Park and Cornelia School Park. This site was chosen due to the size of parcel available, proximity to a tennis facility, distance from residential impact and on-street parking available. If approved, the donor is interested in funding the project for construction this fall.

This project would include four to six pickleball courts, one or two shade structures and potentially court lighting. There would also be benches and trash receptacles. The site was explored for the potential of adding a restroom and picnic shelter facility similar to Wooddale Park, but the lack of proximity to sewer and water connections made this option not financially viable.

The initial survey was completed last week and Gopher State One Call locates were completed. Four to six courts could fit on this site. There is a large oak tree in this area, but the courts could be located so as to not impact this tree.

What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a sport in which two, three, or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a whiffle ball over a net. The sport shares features of other racquet sports, the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. Pickleball was invented in the mid-1960s and has quickly become popular among adults as a fun game for players of all levels across the country.

Why is pickleball becoming so popular? Players say it's easy to learn and easy on the knees and elbows, making it a great alternative to tennis, which can lead to injuries in these sensitive areas. Because the pickleball court is shorter than a tennis court, there's less running involved. The rules are simple so the game is easy to learn and master in a short time. While pickleball has the strongest following among the senior demographic, part of the appeal is that it's really a multigenerational sport. Eight and nine year olds can have fun playing with 80 year olds. Kids are learning the game in school. The smaller court also creates a social atmosphere, and playing doubles and/or mixed doubles is promoted.

Pickleball can generate an adequate heart rate to provide cardio-respiratory conditioning. Yet, at the same time, it is less taxing on the joints and muscles. The small court space reduces the speed required to reach the ball and the weight of the racquet and the weight of the ball reduce the ballistic forces transferred to the wrist, elbow and shoulder. Those who may no longer be able to play tennis, racquetball or other team sports gravitate to pickleball because it is competitive, active and enjoyable. It also is a sport that appeals to those who have never or have had limited involvement in sports.

Pickleball was introduced to Edina in July of 2012. The tennis courts at Garden Park needed restriping and pickleball lines were included at that time. Two clinics were offered at Garden Park on the tennis courts with 40 participants in each clinic. An Edina resident volunteered to come to the courts on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. to offer instruction and get players rotating. The city purchased four racquets and some wiffelballs and the group has been growing regularly. Two more clinics were offered in 2013. Today pickleball is played at Garden Park on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. on the two courts. The level of play at our location is Beginner to Intermediate play.

Since 2012 the number of requests to the Parks & Recreation Department for information about both indoor and outdoor locations has increased. There are currently 25 – 30 players committed to playing weekly on the two courts at Garden Park. Two or three new people try the sport each week. If the Garden Park courts aren't being used by tennis players, they are available for pickleball, but the lack of dedicated pickleball courts definitely limits play in Edina.

Dedicated pickleball courts would provide significantly more available time and give a tremendous opportunity to introduce the game to more players. Currently advanced players go to Eden Prairie to play. This would provide an opportunity for more residents to play in Edina. Time would also be dedicated for youth play, lessons and clinics as well as promoting times and/or activities for intergenerational play. Tournaments with all skill levels, ladder leagues, and pickleball get-togethers would make this facility a great addition to the community.

Proposed Project Timeline

July – Park Board provides review and comment

July – Bolton and Menk are completing site evaluation and project designs

August – Solicit quotes for construction and donor acceptance

August/September – City Council approval

August – Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Approval

September/October – Construction

Project Cost Estimate

Preliminary pricing was obtained for several pickleball court combinations. A battery of four pickleball courts side by side would cost approximately \$70,000. A battery of four courts with two courts over two courts would cost approximately \$75,000. A battery of just two courts would cost approximately \$39,000. Included in this price are a 6" limestone base, 2" of asphalt, color surface system, striping, nets, posts, fencing and gates. More site work, grading and watershed accommodations might be required at an additional cost. Mr. Mooty is also considering shade structures and court lighting. Proposals for these amenities are being prepared. Included in this packet is a photo of the new pickleball courts in St. Cloud showing an example of what a shade structure could look like. If lights are included, they would be the new Musco lights that have recently been installed at Braemar Field and Countryside Park. These lights are energy efficient and reduce the amount of light spill by at least 50%.

According to the Donation, Sponsorship and Advertising Policy that was approved by the City Council on November 18, 2014, the donor would receive one of the following recognitions, depending upon the total project cost:

\$50,000 - \$99,000 (Gold)

- Letter of appreciation from Mayor
- Donation listed in annual About Town Report
- Listed as gold sponsor on publicly displayed donor board at City Hall or appropriate city facility
- Engraved plaque of appreciation presented by Mayor, City Manager or other city official at an appropriate event (ribbon cutting ceremony, facility or event opening or City Council meeting).

\$100,000 or more (Platinum)

- Letter of appreciation from Mayor
- Donation listed in annual About Town Report
- Listed as platinum sponsor on publicly displayed donor board at City Hall or appropriate city facility
- Engraved plaque of appreciation presented by Mayor, City Manager or other city official at an appropriate event (ribbon cutting ceremony, facility or event opening or City Council Meeting).

Attachments:

Kare 11 Story on Pickleball from Maple Grove
Photos – Cavalry Hill Pickleball Courts in St. Cloud
Rosland Park DRAFT Pickleball Court Layout
Rosland Park Site Diagram

Kare 11 Story on Pickleball

from Maple Grove

Kare11

June 24, 2015

MAPLE GROVE, Minn. – The oddly named sport of "Pickleball" has become America's and Minnesota's newest passion. The activity appeals to people of all ages.

The sport began 50 years ago near Seattle, Washington. Three men are credited with creating the sport to combat the boredom of their children. A story is that the dog of one of them kept chasing the ball. Since the dog's name was "Pickle", Pickleball was born.

"The pickleball has a little bit slower play to it," said Patty Anderson, Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Administrative Supervisor. "I think that is what is the interest of the seniors, but we also are seeing, throughout the Park and Recreation industry, that this is a sport that all levels are getting interested in, children and adults."

Maple Grove converted two tennis courts into six pickleball courts and is adding 4 more in late summer. Other courts are up and working in Woodbury, Plymouth, Roseville, New Brighton, Bloomington, Apple Valley, Richfield and Burnsville. St. Cloud just opened six courts of their own.

The sport is played with a solid racquet (paddle) and a whiffle ball. There is a net, a couple of inches lower than a tennis net, that divides the court into two sides. It has been compared to ping-pong and involves the strategy and skill of the net play in tennis. The action is close and relatively fast.

All serves are underhand and the ball must be struck with the racquet below the waist. The formal rules of the game are set by the United States Pickleball Association (USAPA).

The appeal of the sport is that it is an accessible activity and very social.

"Oh, it is phenomenal," said Mike Kline, Plymouth resident. "I know we have met at least 120 people in the three years, we have played. I mean that is by name. Where else do you get that kind of social life with something other than you know holidays or parties or something like that or work."

Kline played racquet ball when younger. His wife, Jean, who is retired, never played tennis, but did play ping-pong in her youth.

"I started playing cards at a senior center and not very active and then I saw a flyer for pickleball and I was curious," said Jean Kline. "I just came and tried it and fell in love with it."

"I think the hook is that you can get somewhat proficient right away," said Mike Kline. "In other words, it is not like tennis where you will hit the ball way out of bounds every time."

Kline said he has played with people in their 80s and with teenagers. "Around the holidays when they're home from college, or when their parents bring them in, MEA week or something like that, they are all over the place," grinned Kline. "They humiliate us and they leave."

The enthusiasm of the players is contagious. They were anxious to praise the fun of the sport.

"I love pickleball because it is a great way to meet people, get a lot of exercise, and be competitive," said Rosemary Mueller. "And you can play men against women."

The sport has no age or gender barriers. It is regarded as the fastest growing sport in North America.

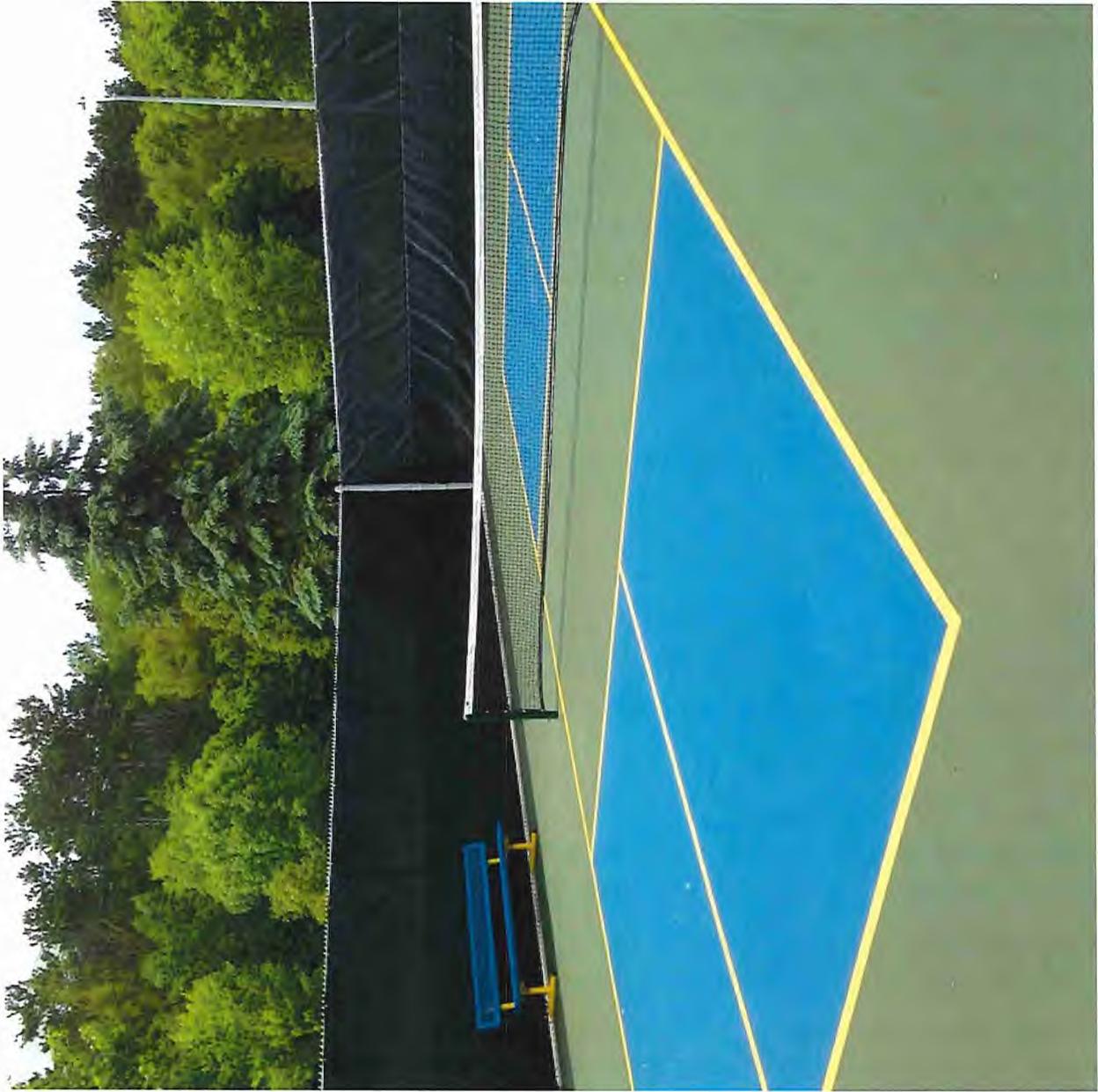
Check out this story on kare11.com: <http://www.kare11.com/story/life/2015/06/24/pickleball-anderson-mueller-kline-maple-grove/29235913/>

Photos Cavalry Hill Pickleball Courts in St. Cloud

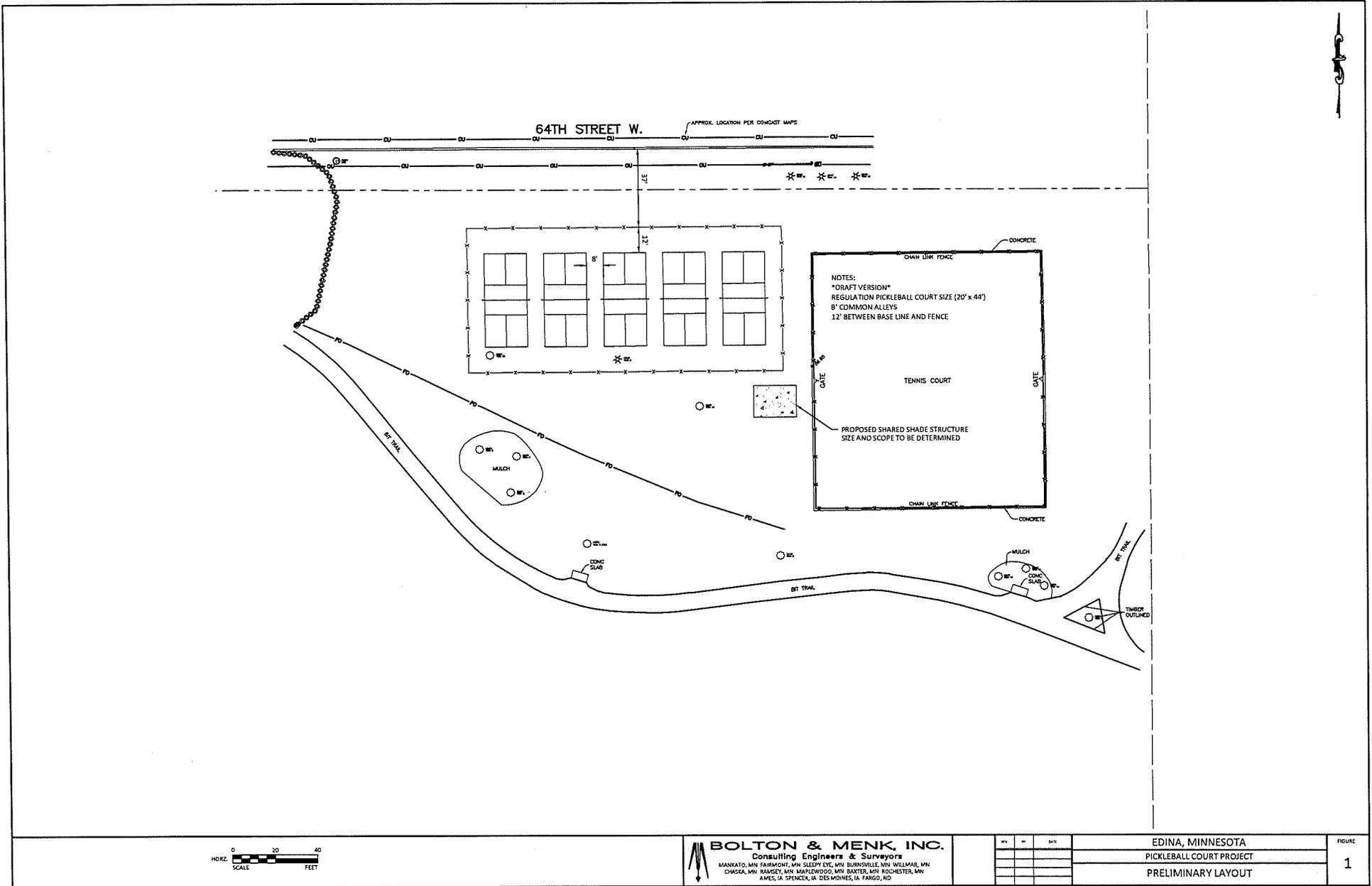
Cavalry Hill Pickleball Courts
St. Cloud, MN







Rosland Park DRAFT Pickleball Court Layout



Rosland Park Site Diagram

Edina Parks and Recreation

Edina Parks and Recreation



DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Microsoft, USDA FSA

X = Proposed location