

E-mails Supporting Pickleball Courts at Bellevue Airfield Park
10/01/2022-10/05/2022

	A	B	C	D
1	Date	Name	Subject	Message
2	10/1/2022	Kirk Kajita	Dedicated Pickleball Courts at Bellevue Airfield Park	<p>Dear Park Board Members,</p> <p>Thank you for including dedicated pickleball courts in your master plan update for Airfield Park. Unfortunately 4 courts is not enough to serve the local area. If you were to visit the six pickleball courts at Bellevue International School on the weekends (public pickleball is not allowed during school hours) you would find throughout the day that the 6 courts are full with 24 players playing pickleball, with another 24 players, a majority of the time, waiting their turn to get on the courts. These pickleball courts will be removed during the School's major renovation project. This shows a need for at least 12 public/dedicated pickleball courts at Airfield Park. This increase in the number of courts to 12 does not meet the need for more courts if you account for pickleball being the fastest growing sport or does it account for the need to replace pickleball courts in family neighborhoods with courts in public parks to reduce noise problems. Airfield Park can serve so many more residents with pickleball courts than any other sport because player density per square foot of space is so much higher. Compare the size of a baseball field that accomodates 18 players to the size of 4 pickleball courts (which equals the size of 2 tennis courts) that accomodate 16 players. Please incorporate at least 12 pickleball courts in your master plan update for Airfield Park.</p> <p>Kirk Kajita</p>

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3	10/1/2022	Arnie Liati	Bellevue Park Advisory Board- support email for additional pickleball courts at Airfield Park	<p>Hello,</p> <p>First of all, thank you for putting 4 dedicated pickleball courts into the proposal for Airfield Park.</p> <p>I am a Pickleball Instructor who leads clinics at Si View Community Center in North Bend. The popularity of this sport has increase so rapidly, I was asked by our community to lead these clinics basically on a volunteer basis.</p> <p>This sport is bringing a diverse group of ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic people together in an affordable community oriented outdoor and indoor sport.</p> <p>With this in mind, it would be outstanding if additional courts could be added to the 4 already slated. Unlike other outdoor sporting fields, etc., pickleball courts are used during the day on weekdays. This means high utilization of the investment.</p> <p>You would be amazed to learn how far people will travel to play pickleball on courts that aren't too busy. This is becoming harder and harder. 12-16 courts would alleviate some of this but more importantly showcase Bellevue as a leader in this growing community sport.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and again thank you for all your efforts.</p> <p>Sincerely, Arnie Liati Snoqualmie, WA</p>

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4	10/2/2022	Jessica Prince	Pickleball at Airfield Park	<p>Thank you Park Board, for listening to the community and adding pickleball to the master plan for Airfield Park. I hope you continue to listen to the community and recognize that 4 courts will not be sufficient. With adequate space at Airfield, the city should plan for 12 – 16 courts.</p> <p>This would provide room for current players and those newbies coming to the sport daily in droves; as well as position Bellevue as the perfect venue for a regional or state tournament. It has been proven and well-documented that the economic impact of pickleball tournaments is a significant boon to the host city. The extra revenue from the recent Seattle Metro Pickleball Classic was estimated at well over \$120,000!</p> <p>Besides supporting emotional and physical health, pickleball helps people forge new community bonds. It is being taught in detention centers. It helps the elderly improve mental and motor skills. And the learning curve is such that anyone can pick up a paddle and play, in any age group. The sport is growing so fast it is projected to exceed 20 million players by 2030. We will need your support to ensure the community has places to play. There is no other sport that can be played and enjoyed equally by EVERYONE in Bellevue.</p> <p>This past March Governor Inslee signed into law pickleball as Washington’s official state sport. What better way to embrace and support the growing surge in the sport than by providing your residents a fabulous place to play?</p> <p>Thank you again for being such an open and responsive Park Board.</p> <p>Jessica Prince Seattle Metro Pickleball Association Director USA Pickleball Association Ambassador</p>

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5	10/2/2022	Chuck Nelson	Bellevue Airfield Park Dev Plan	<p>Can you please strongly consider increasing the number of pickleball courts from 4 to preferably 12-16? I know of many Eastside pickleball players who would prefer to play in Bellevue but must travel to Seattle where court availability is greater and more likely assured.</p> <p>Thank you, Chuck Nelson</p>

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6	10/3/2022	Barb Carey	Airfield park	<p>To Park Board Members</p> <p>I am a senior pickleball player in Bellevue. I would like to express support for the addition of pickleball courts to the plans for the development of Airfield Park. I would like to speak for the senior community as pickleball has become an important avenue for staying in shape as we age. Because it is fun, social and easy to learn, it is providing a growing number of seniors a path to healthy exercise and social interaction. I am sure you are aware that the Bellevue International School has been a popular center for the growth of the sport. Some days up to 75-100 people use these six courts throughout the day. It is clear that the school is providing a resource that is very important to the community. As the school is scheduled to be destroyed and rebuilt these courts will no longer be available.</p> <p>I believe the mandate of the Bellevue park system is to serve the needs of the community. As the sport of pickleball grows and one of the largest local resources for the sport goes away, it is essential for the park board to incorporate plans to build enough courts to meet the growing demands.</p> <p>Because of the nature of the sport, where players mix levels and go in and out of games, it is essential that complexes be in the future plans rather than single courts spread around the community. People do not need to have set foursomes in order to play. They just show up and get into a game as a spot becomes available. Bellevue should have the resources and the vision to establish a world-class 16 court complex. This would enable leagues to form and tournaments to be held, greatly benefiting the local business community.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to consider a 16 court pickleball complex for the Airfield Park master plan. The current number of players could fill it up on a daily basis even now - and as the number of players only increases the need for such a quality complex will only increase.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Barbara Carey Bellevue resident Senior pickleball player Member Bellevue Network On Aging.</p>

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7	10/3/2022	Zhen Yang	Requesting more pickleball courts at Bellevue airfield park	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a Bellevue resident, and a pickleball player for two years. During Covid my friend got me into pickleball and I became addicted!</p> <p>It has helped me reduce stress and anxiety, get good exercise while meeting new friends. It eventually improved my depression.</p> <p>Currently we do not have many dedicated pickleball courts at Bellevue. Most of the time we need to share with tennis players on tennis courts, w tennis nets! Tennis courts are everywhere but pickleball courts are so hard to find! Given the fact pickleball is the fastest growing sports and wa state sport, it's time to consider pickleball as a popular sport to bring all age group people together!</p> <p>It would be so great to have 16 courts at Bellevue airfield, with light and cover for rainy days and Sun in the summer.</p> <p>This will allow eastside to have the opportunity to attract more players and tourists, host annual tournament nationwide, provide pro players to coach/clinic activities.</p> <p>It's such a disappointment to see other states have much better pickleball facilities than Seattle!</p> <p>Time for action! Please consider the growing need for local and national players in the all the years ahead.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Zhen</p>

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8	10/4/2022	Eric Le	Bellevue Airfield Park - pickleball courts request (qty 12+)	<p>Dear Advisory Board,</p> <p>The purpose of this email is to request your consideration for 12+ dedicated pickleball courts at the Airfield site. Such a foreword thinking decision would be make Bellevue a premier city for PB in the region and one that would be reflect the booming growth of the sport.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Eric Le</p>
9	10/4/2022	Hai Tran	More Pickleball court in Bellevue	<p>I am a Bellevue resident for over 42 years and have been proud to live in this cosmopolitan city. I notice during my recent trips to cities in Florida, Arizona, and California that Bellevue lack a vision for catching up with those cities when it comes to the sport of Pickleball. Our city don't have dedicated Pickleball courts or related permanent infrastructure while they have sport complex with 8 to 16 Pickleball courts. I attended a recent meeting with the park department about airfield park plan. I was frustrated to see no provision for Pickleball or Pickleball was just an after thought. Please consider adding more Pickleball courts to your Airfield park plan. An 8 permanent courts should be a minimum in your plan.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Hai tran</p>
10	10/4/2022	Huadong Gai	Pickleball Courts At Bellevue Airfield Park	<p>Dear board members:</p> <p>Please consider more pickleball courts in your development plan. I have been playing tennis at least twice a week for 20 years. I started playing pickleball last winter and have been really enjoying it. Unfortunately, there are just not many places to play. Adding courts at the Bellevue Airfield Park will help a lot.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Huadong Gai</p>

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11	10/4/2022	Jim Breckenridge	Pickle ball courts at bellevue airfield	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am a Pickleball player at Bellevue international school, and like many of us, we are looking for quality Pickleball courts to start playing at. Bellevue is a first rate city with lower than first rate Pickleball play. There are always 12 to 24 people waiting to play at the peak Times at BIS. Can you imagine how many more people will be playing in just one year let alone three years. It's growing exponentially. We won't be able to keep up with the man unless there is a plan to add more courts every year and convert some of the tennis courts as well. Thank you for your consideration. There are literally now probably 3 to 400 people that want to play at Bellevue but it's too crowded so they leave.</p> <p>Most people work and can't play before it gets dark for about the next five months. Community center play is limited to a few hours during a few days. That leaves only the weekend which is overwhelmingly crowded.</p> <p>12 to 16 Courts is what's going to be needed with lights...</p> <p>Thank you, Jim Breckenridge</p>
12	10/4/2022	Austin Owen	Additional Pickleball Courts	<p>Please add more courts to the Bellevue Airfield Park. 4 is not enough for the amount of growth and turnout for game play. We truly need 8 courts minimum and also covered with lighting due to being in the rainiest state! The pickleball community thanks you!!!</p>
13	10/4/2022	Connie Cheng	more pickle ball courts at Bellevue Airfield park	<p>Dear Bellevue Park Advisory Board members:</p> <p>We appreciate very much that you approved 4 dedicated PB courts at Bellevue Airfield park for now, Please consider increase the numbers of courts to 8 , which will be greatly enjoyed by a big group of residents, youn or old and keep them out of trouble☐ Thanks so much! Connie Cheng</p>

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14	10/4/2022	Casey Engstrom	Pickleball courts	<p>Hi Bellevue Parks & Rec board-</p> <p>As Pickleball is now the state sport of Washington, it would be nice if there were more lighted courts for drop-in play in Bellevue. To see the popularity and inclusiveness of the sport, just go to International school during daytime hours. Or Evergreen Park in Kirkland. Or Perrigo Park in Redmond any time of day because it's lighted. You'll find people of all ages playing together! It's the best. Bellevue has a strong Parks & Rec for people of all ages in the community. And having more Pickleball courts available would be fantastic!!!! Lighted and covered would be the best!!!! Thanks for considering.</p> <p>Casey Engstrom</p>
15	10/4/2022	Paul Cameron	Air field park pickelball	<p>I support increasing the number of pickelball courts to 8. The sport is rapidly growing. The smaller court size compared to other sports enables more sustainable land use, and higher utilization because an increasingly broader demographic plays pickleball. The entry costs for basic equipment is less than \$40. Thanks for your time and attention. I hope to see you playing soon. Let me know if you would like a free intro session for yourself and some friends or colleagues. I'd be happy to bring some extra paddles.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Paul Cameron</p>

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16	10/4/2022	Eric Breecher	Airfield Park: 8 PickleBall Courts	<p>Please consider increasing your allocation to eight dedicated PickleBall courts in your park plans.</p> <p>The demand for Pickleball courts has already far exceeded the available courts (Most of which are poorly visible lines on top of hardly used tennis courts).</p> <p>Only decent dedicated courts are at Bellevue International School. These 6 dedicated courts on a weekend will have at least 40 people vying for time. Only doubles and only 1 game allowed so everyone has an opportunity to play in order to avoid a civil disturbance.</p> <p>Please plan for the current demand as well as the this game's exponentially increasin popularity.</p>
17	10/4/2022	Greg Fletcher	Support for Additional Pickle Ball Courts	<p>I wish to offer my full support as a resident of King County for obtaining 12 to 16 dedicated pickleball courts in the Airfield Park. Pickleball is now the official state sport of Washington - easily enjoyed by all ages and abilities and the existing supply of dedicated courts are far below what the community needs and desires. Because of the amount of rainy days here in the PNW - if at all possible some sort of roof would provide for many more months of use if at all possible.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>--</p> <p>Greg Fletcher</p>

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18	10/5/2022	Shara Stevens	Pickleball fastest growing sport	<p>Hi,</p> <p>The pickleball community in king county are always trying to find places to play. There are usually lines of people waiting on most courts. It's a social event where anyone can come join and we all play together. All ages and levels are welcome. But we are in need of more space to play. The International school has allowed us to use their 6 courts (packed with people most days), but they are taking them down. This leads people to go both north and south seeking places to play and most places are getting longer waits due to the popularity of the official state sport. Pickleball serves the community. Please come visit a game to see why. Mercer island Luther Burbank park or Bellevue international school. Try it and you also may be hooked.</p> <p>Please find/build places to play for us.</p> <p>Shara Stevens</p> <p>"The only thing that matters, is doing what matters most."</p>
19	10/5/2022	Steve Jamieson	more pickleball courts please!	<p>Hi Guys -</p> <p>Just like to chip in with my support for more pickleball courts in Bellevue and in particular at the new Airfield Park site.</p> <p>Let's make Bellevue the best place for pickleball in the Pacific Northwest!</p> <p>Thanks!</p> <p>Steve Jamieson (long time resident of Bellevue and pickleball player)</p>
20	10/5/2022	Brent Vitolins	Pickleball courts	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Please add as many pickleball courts as possible to Bellevue Airport Park.</p> <p>Thanks, Brent</p>