

Parks and Recreation Commission



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date: 5/26/2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 911 6597 4358

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Access the meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – Regular Meeting ID 911 6597 4358
 - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:
(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID 911 6597 4358
Press *9 to raise hand to speak

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the Zoom webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the Zoom webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agenda).

Regular Meeting ([Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 911 6597 4358)

- A. Call To Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Public Comment**

Under "Public Comment," the public may address the Parks and Recreation Commission on any subject not listed on the agenda. Each speaker may address the City Council once under public comment for a limit of three minutes. Please clearly state your name and address or political jurisdiction in which you live. The Parks and Recreation Commission cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, the Commission cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under public comment other than to provide general information.

D. Regular Business

- D1. Accept the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes for the meeting of April 28, 2021 ([Attachment](#))
- D2. Recreation scholarship pilot program ([Staff report PRC – 21-011](#))
- D3. Recommendation to implement a pickleball court at Nealon Park ([Staff report PRC – 21-012](#))

E. Informational Items

- E1. Department update: COVID-19 recovery ([Staff report PRC – 21-010](#))
- E2. Parks and Recreation Commission tentative agenda calendar ([Attachment](#))

F. Commissioner Reports

- G1. Individual Commissioner reports (Commissioner Bryman)

G. Adjournment

At every Regular Meeting of the Commission, in addition to the Public Comment period where the public shall have the right to address the Commission on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during the Commission's consideration of the item. At every Special Meeting of the Commission, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during consideration of the item. For appeal hearings, appellant and applicant shall each have 10 minutes for presentations. If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing. Any writing that is distributed to a majority of the City Council by any person in connection with an agenda item is a public record (subject to any exemption under the Public Records Act) and is available by request by emailing the city clerk at jaherren@menlopark.org. Persons with disabilities, who require auxiliary aids or services in attending or participating in Commission meetings, may call the City Clerk's Office at 650-330-6620. Agendas are posted in accordance with Government Code §54954.2(a) or §54956. Members of the public can view electronic agendas and staff reports by accessing the City website at menlopark.org/agenda and can receive email notification of agenda and staff report postings by subscribing to the "Notify Me" service at menlopark.org/notifyme. Agendas and staff reports may also be obtained by contacting City Clerk at 650-330-6620. (Posted: 5/21/2021)



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Date: 4/28/2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 911 6597 4358

A. Call to Order

Chair Baskin called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Baskin, Bryman, Diepenbrock, Harris, Staley-Shenk, Payne

Absent: None

Staff: Library and Community Services Director Reinhart, Assistant Library Services Director Szegda

C. Public Comment

- Julie Shanson asked that dates and captions be added to the Karl E. Clark storyboard photos.

D. Presentations

D1. City Council Liaison report – Mayor Drew Combs

Mayor Combs made the presentation.

E. Regular Business

E1. Accept the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes for the meeting of March 24, 2021

ACTION: Motion and second (Staley-Shenk/Bryman) to accept the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes for the meeting of March 24, 2021, passed unanimously.

E2. Expanding public access to facilities, programs, and services (Presentation)

Director Reinhart made the presentation (Attachment).

F. Informational Items

F1. City Council reports for Parks and Recreation Commission review:

- a. Proposed phase-in sequence for safely and sustainably expanding public access to facilities and services (Staff Report #21-090-CC)
- b. City Council direction on cost recovery policy, library overdue fines and recreation user fees (Staff Report #21-050-CC) (Presentation)

- c. Extend terms of various advisory bodies, extend recruitment application deadline, and postpone interviews and appointments of various advisory (Staff Report #21-075-CC)

F2. Storyboard for Karl E. Clark Park (Staff Report 21-009-PRC)

- Pam Jones commented on the storyboard design process, thanked Adriane Lee Bird, Brian Henry and Two Sisters Design for their work, and suggested June 19, 2021, for unveiling the installed storyboard.
- Cecilia Taylor thanked the Commission for their help on the project and suggested that former Commissioners who had worked on the project be invited to the unveiling.

F3. Parks and Recreation Commission agenda calendar

By acclamation, the following additions were made to the tentative agenda calendar:

- May – Planning for Karl E. Clark storyboard event
- June – Commissioner Report – Johnson
- Add to unscheduled:
 - Bedwell Bayfront Park master plan review
 - Commissioner tour of City parks

G. Commissioner Reports

G1. Individual Commissioner reports (Commissioner Diepenbrock)

Commissioner Diepenbrock suggested adding disc golf to Sharon Hills Park

G2. Acknowledging outgoing Commissioners Harris, Johnson, and Staley-Shenk

- Pam Jones thanked the outgoing Commissioners for their work on the Parks and Recreation master plan.

H. Adjournment

Chair Baskin adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM

Nick Szegda, Assistant Library Services Director

PHASE-IN SEQUENCE FOR SAFELY AND SUSTAINABLY EXPANDING PUBLIC ACCESS

Parks and Recreation Commission

April 28, 2021

BACKGROUND

The City Council received published reports on the topic of expanding services to further indoor public access:

- [March 9](#). Upcoming City Council consideration of objective criteria to guide facility reopening, service restoration, and reactivation of programs and events
- [April 6](#). Approve criteria to guide facility reopening, service restoration, and reactivation of programs and events
- [April 13](#). Library and community services facility, program and event reactivation
- [April 27](#). Proposed phase-in sequence for safely and sustainably expanding public access

SERVICES CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN MODIFIED FORMATS

- Police department 24/7
- Water utility, streets, landscape, facility maintenance
- City-owned outdoor parklands
- Senior center nutrition by home delivery, wellness checks by telephone
- Childcare, afterschool care, aquatic centers, skate park, tennis courts, athletic fields, and the city hall permit counter since mid-2020
- Library curbside pickup since mid-2020
- Recreation classes, community events outdoor or virtual since fall 2020
- City-owned playgrounds since fall 2020
- Community development, city manager's office, and administrative services - remote work with some on-site operations like building inspections

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICE EXPANSION

- Non-congregate City services are operating in modified formats to protect health safety of customers and city staff
- City lacks the operational capacity to safely and sustainably expand indoor public access to all facilities and services at once
- Most customers and all city employees are now eligible for vaccination; vaccine access and vaccine hesitancy continue to pose challenges
- City budget has yet to be amended to provide for staffing, contract services, and capital improvements necessary to expand public access to facilities and services
- Public health guidance on variants and safety protocols

PRIORITIZATION AND PHASE-IN SEQUENCE

- Provides City Council, advisory bodies, staff, and the public clear and realistic expectations for when city services may be safely expanded
- Minimum lead time needed to expand public access to facilities and services is eight to 10 weeks
- Phasing-in and sequencing is recommended over several months, starting soon after the State lifts restrictions June 15
- Library Commission unanimously recommends expanding library access, considered a lower-risk activity, on or near July 1
- New fiscal year takes effect July 1
- Phase-in sequence can be adjusted to changing circumstances
- City Council can revise the phase-in sequence at any time.

EXPANSION PHASE 1

1. Interim services during MPCC construction

- Senior center services (at Arrillaga Recreation Center)
- Onetta Harris Community Center (at Belle Haven Branch Library)
- Neighborhood Services Center. Possible option to provide community meeting space in phase one or phase two, depending on site modifications.

2. Lower-risk public services currently operating in modified format

- Indoor public access to Main Library and Belle Haven Branch Library
- Outdoor recreation programs
- Virtual classes and events

3. Police lobby

EXPANSION PHASE 2

4. Moderate-risk indoor community services programs
 - Indoor recreation programs targeted to children and youth
 - Indoor recreation programs targeted to the general population.
5. City Council chambers for meetings of elected and appointed governmental bodies
 - Meetings of government bodies are open to the general public and can result in high-density gatherings lasting several hours, i.e., high-risk environments for viral spread. The Governor in March 2020 temporarily suspended certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow these meetings to take place virtually and decrease the risk to officials and their constituents when engaged in official government business. It is recommended that meetings continue to be all-virtual until this risk has been fully mitigated, or until the relevant Brown Act provisions are modified or reinstated by the Governor or Legislature.

EXPANSION PHASE 3

6. High-contact indoor programs, including gymnastics

- These programs, primarily gymnastics, involve close, physical person-to-person contact combined with high levels of physical exertion and respiration for extended periods of time in indoor environments. Additionally, the gymnastics program currently has no city resources allocated toward operations, and additional time is needed for City Council, advisory bodies, staff, community to undertake the process needed to assess service delivery options, identify resources, and implement services for the program.

7. City Hall for general public access

- City Hall is a complex office facility that includes some public access areas, some employees-only areas, and some elevated-security areas. In some areas, public access hallways and conference rooms are embedded in employee work areas, and restrooms are shared by employees and the general public. The permit counter on the first floor is currently accessible to the public on a limited basis by appointment and is recommended for further expanded access in an earlier reactivation group.

EXPANSION PHASE 4

8. Facility rentals

- This facility use involves high-density indoor gatherings that last for extended periods of time and often include consumption of food and drink, loud talking, singing, and physical exertion such as dancing, and are high-risk environments for viral spread. For these reasons, this facility use is proposed to be among the last to reactivate.

9. Special events

- Large-scale special events, whether indoors or outdoors, result in large, high-density gatherings of people from numerous households that carry the greatest risk of viral spread and can take several months of advance planning and investment in financial and personnel resources to execute safely and effectively. For these reasons, large-scale events are proposed to be among the last to reactivate.

10. All other indoor programs

**THANK
YOU**

Parks and Recreation Commission
April 28, 2021



STAFF REPORT

Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: 5/26/2021

Staff Report Number: 21-011-PRC

Regular Business: Recreation Scholarship Pilot Program

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review and provide feedback to a proposed need-based recreation scholarship pilot program.

Policy Issues

The Parks and Recreation Commission advises the City Council on matters relating to programs and facilities dedicated to recreation. User fees are established by City Council in the master fee schedule. The City Council may set new fees, change fee amounts, or eliminate fees at its discretion, subject to applicable law.

Background

On March 9th 2021, the City Council directed staff to develop a need-based recreation scholarship pilot program for residents of Menlo Park. (Attachment A)

Analysis

Need-based recreation scholarships are consistent with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan goal 1.1.4 regarding equitable access.

GOAL 1. ONE MENLO PARK

Menlo Park has a high-quality system of parks and recreation facilities. The City's parks, facilities, and events bring the community together as "One Menlo Park." As the City grows and evolves it must ensure that these parks and facilities meet the needs of all members of the Menlo Park community. The system should provide equitably distributed active and passive recreation opportunities which engage users, and which are accessible to residents of all ages and abilities, throughout the City.

1.1.4 Equitable Access: Activity and rental fees and program offerings should be comparable and balanced across the City. Implement a scholarship program to support access to recreation and sports facilities and programs to residents with limited financial means.

Current need-based scholarship and fee subsidization programs

The City currently offers limited scholarships and fee assistance aligned with its adopted cost recovery policy and master fee schedule:

- Onetta Harris Community Center. The Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), an independent nonprofit, administered a one-to-one scholarship program to waive the \$25 class fee for youth recreation classes and provided a full subsidy for up to 8 participants in the Summer of Service Camp (SOS.) City staff track the number of requested scholarships and invoices the BHCDF for reimbursement, approximately 58 scholarships awarded per year.
- Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center. Income-qualified residents receive a reduced hourly rate of \$5/hour from the normal \$16/hour. Applicants must submit recent pay stubs and W-2 forms to qualify. The program serves approximately 15 families per year.
- Burgess Pool and Belle Haven Pool (operated by third-party provider Menlo Swim and Sport). Fee assistance via scholarships are administered by the Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation. In 2019, 271 youth participants (not exclusively Menlo Park residents) received free swim lessons at both Burgess and Belle Haven pools. The Beyond Barriers scholarship can also be applied toward Menlo Swim and Sport's summer camp and the lifeguard certification program.

Expanding need-based scholarships to all recreation programs

In the absence of a citywide financial assistance or scholarship program, residents for whom recreation fees are prohibitive are currently limited to participating in a relatively small selection of subsidized classes as noted above. Expanding scholarship opportunities to all recreation programs would be a further step toward lowering barriers to participation.

The proposed pilot program would provide discounted recreation fees for residents showing proof of other public assistance. Municipal recreation professional associations recommend that participants pay a nominal fee toward the activity to promote attendance, however City Council could choose to waive even the nominal fee, if desired.

Estimated annual subsidy and cost

In the proposed pilot program, qualified Menlo Park residents would apply to receive a recreation scholarship to offset 75 percent of the fees for one class or activity per cycle. The proposed maximum annual scholarship value is \$250 per individual or \$500 per family.

It is estimated that up to 100 scholarship applications could be approved during the pilot program's first year, a potential maximum value to program participants of up to \$50,000 total per year. Contracted recreation instructors are reimbursed at 60% of the total fees collected, with the city retaining the remaining 40% as program revenue, resulting in an estimated net cost impact to city resources of up to \$30,000 in the pilot program's first year.

An estimated up to 100 hours of city staff time would be needed to accept, review and process the applications and administer the program.

Application process

Applications would be accepted online and in person at city facilities year-round. Residents would be required to submit an application and provide proof of eligibility based on financial need. Qualified city staff would review the applications and administer the scholarship process according to the eligibility criteria.

Public engagement and outreach

City-produced outreach materials including the recreation activity guide would prominently advertise the availability of scholarships, with every effort made to present the program in a positive and sensitive

manner that is free of any perception of stigma. Similarly, online registration portals would note the availability of scholarships at the points-of-sale. City-produced messaging to the community in the form of email blasts, webpages, and social media posts would reinforce and further amplify awareness of the program. Printed materials including flyers and posters in recreation facilities would raise awareness of the pilot program among facility users.

To help increase community participation and streamline the administrative burden of enrollment verification to the greatest extent possible, the city could potentially seek partnerships with local school districts to proactively enroll all Menlo Park families who are enrolled in the districts' free or discounted school lunch programs into the city's scholarship program. However, coordination with school districts would likely still entail significant administrative burden to city staff; student information privacy is subject to multiple protections; and school districts are under no obligation to participate in such partnerships.

Mitigating impacts to neighborhoods during construction

Reducing financial barriers and increasing access to recreation programs will be especially vital during the Menlo Park Community Campus construction. The new facility will be a state-of-the-art crown jewel that will serve the community for decades to come. However, the temporary lack of access to nearby recreation facilities is especially challenging for neighborhoods that were impacted by redlining and other discriminatory practices of the 20th century which contributed to stark inequities in wealth, health, education, employment, and other vital outcomes that continue to affect residents of Menlo Park neighborhoods to this day.

Next Steps

Staff will synthesize feedback received from the Parks and Recreation Commission and will present the proposed recreation scholarship pilot program to City Council on June 8.

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink: <https://www.menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/27556/G4-20210309-CC-Cost-recovery-policy-library-fines-recreation-fees>

Report prepared by:

Todd Zeo, Recreation Supervisor

Nick Szegda, Assistant Director of Library Services

Report reviewed by:

Sean Reinhart, Library and Community Services Director



STAFF REPORT

Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: 5/26/2021

Staff Report Number: 21-012-PRC

Regular Business: Recommendation to implement a pickleball court at Nealon Park

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Recommend implementation of a pickleball court at Nealon Park by restriping existing tennis court #5 for pickleball play and collecting pickleball user fees consistent with tennis user fees
- Place on a future meeting agenda: further review and consideration of the tennis court usage survey results and options to enhance services in response to community feedback therein.

Policy Issues

The Parks and Recreation Commission advises the City Council on matters relating to programs and facilities dedicated to recreation. The Parks and Recreation Commission has placed a priority on modifying existing programs and facilities to meet changing community needs.

Background

In August 2020, city staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission received requests from interested community members to create a pickleball court in Menlo Park. On September 23, 2020, the Commission recommended initiation of a six-month pilot program to gauge community interest (Attachment A).

In November 2020, the pickleball pilot program was initiated at Kelly Park tennis court #1. User fees for the pickleball court were waived during the pilot period, and pickleball equipment was purchased and made available for the public to borrow through the city library.

On January 27, 2021, the Commission received an update on the pilot program's progress (Attachment B).

Analysis

The level of use of the pickleball court at Kelly Park demonstrated that interest in pickleball is strong, but that other locations in the City might draw more players. To gather data on the current use of the City's tennis courts, and to identify options for moving the pickleball court to a more central location, staff released a survey to all current tennis court key holders in April 2021. Tennis court use remains strong throughout the pandemic, with the courts at Nealon Park the most popular, and the courts at Kelly Field and La Entrada the least used. The results of the user survey are included as attachment C.

Next Steps

Based on the results of the pickleball pilot program and tennis court usage survey results, staff

recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Recommend implementation of a pickleball court by restriping Nealon Park tennis court #5 for pickleball play and collecting pickleball user fees consistent with tennis user fees
- Place on a future meeting agenda: further review and consideration of the tennis court usage survey results and options to enhance services in response to community feedback therein.

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink: menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/26180/Pickleball-Pilot-Program-Staff-Report-20200923
- B. Hyperlink: menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/27229/Staff-report_PRC_21-003_Update-pickleball-pilot
- C. Tennis court usage survey results

Report prepared by:

Todd Zeo, Recreation Supervisor

Nick Szegda, Assistant Director of Library Services

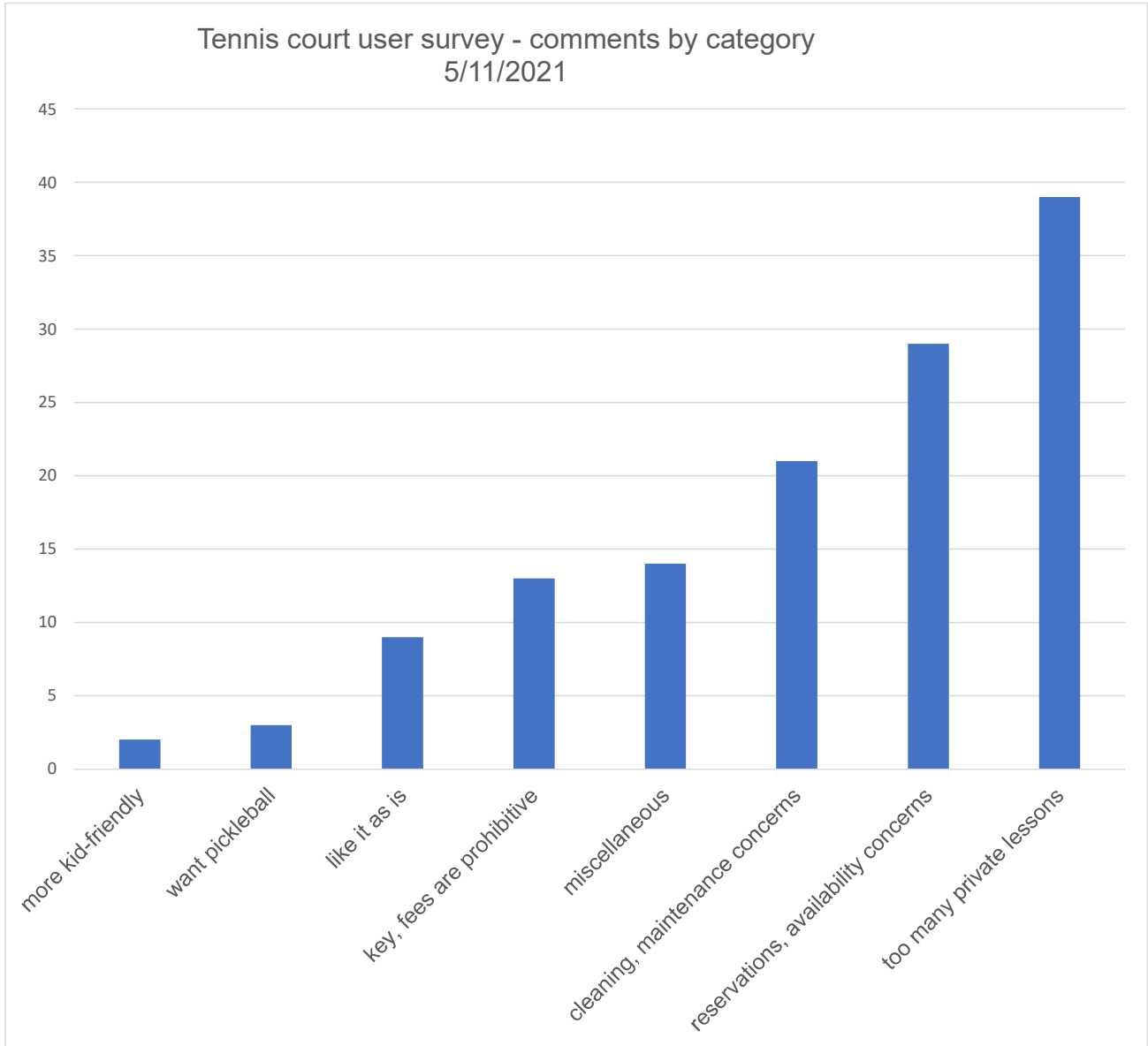
Report reviewed by:

Sean Reinhart, Library and Community Services Director

CITY OF MENLO PARK
TENNIS COURT USER COMMENTS

5/11/2021

more kid-friendly	2
want pickleball	3
like it as is	9
key, fees are prohibitive	13
miscellaneous	14
cleaning, maintenance concerns	21
reservations, availability concerns	29
too many private lessons	39
Total comments	130



Tennis court use survey

Published 4/29/2021

Project Engagement

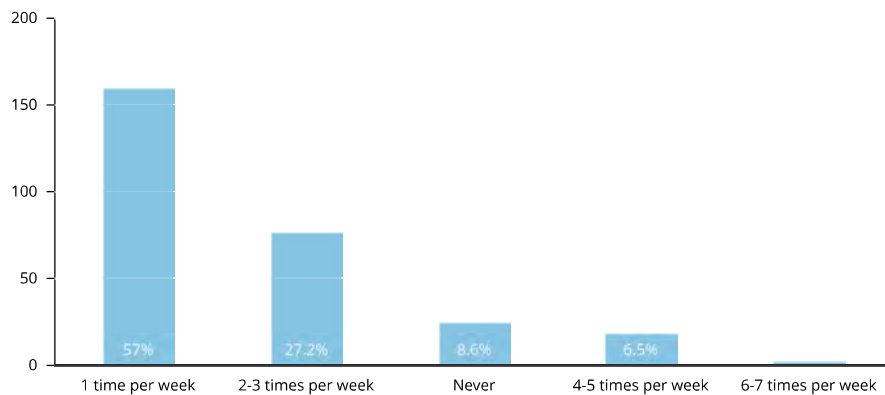
VIEWS	392	PARTICIPANTS	282
RESPONSES	2,007	COMMENTS	132
SUBSCRIBERS	92		

* 1. Which Menlo Park tennis courts do you use when you play? (Check all that apply)

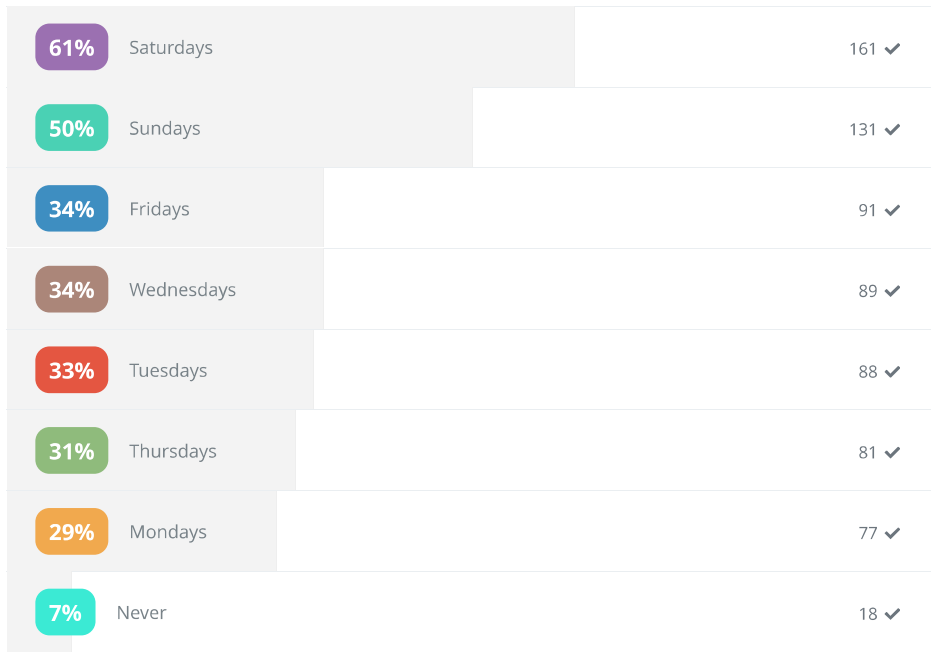
64%	Nealon Park	175 ✓
40%	Willow Oaks Park	109 ✓
39%	Burgess Park	107 ✓
18%	La Entrada	49 ✓
5%	Kelly Park	14 ✓
1%	I don't use any of these tennis courts	3 ✓

272 Respondents

* 2. How frequently do you use Menlo Park tennis courts?

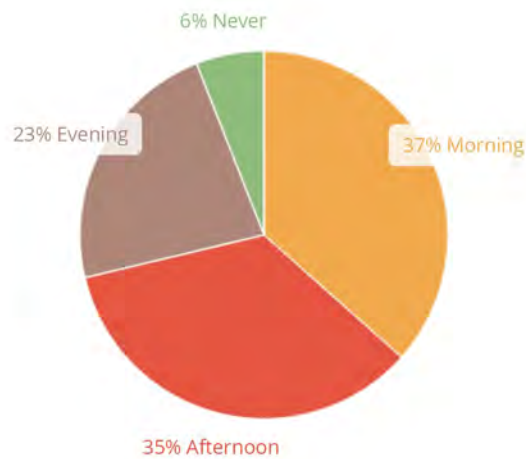


* 3. Which days of the week do you typically use Menlo Park tennis courts? (Check all that apply)



264 Respondents

* 4. What time of the day do you most often use Menlo Park tennis courts?



268 respondents

* 5. Are you a Menlo Park resident?



267 respondents

6. (Optional) Please share any additional feedback or suggestions to improve your experience using Menlo Park tennis courts.

Resurfaced Nealon courts are great - thank you! Good to see slowdown of private coaches - thanks if city has been involved in stemming this.

8 days ago

I don't like that Jim Heebner takes up a big portion of the courts at Nealon and then you also have reservations so it is difficult to get onto the courts - especially in the afternoons. Also, given Covid and the inability to play last year, I think you should have given 2020 key holders a pass or at least a discount for 2021.

8 days ago

We got our tennis key right before the lockdown. Since then, we have used the courts about 6 times. We are hoping to use it more this year.

8 days ago

Wish we had pickle ball. Wish they enforced the key. So many people ask to be let in, and however I am with let's them in. I worry that some instructors might not deserve to be there (Jim excluded)

9 days ago

We pay for a key but have become frustrated that there seem to be a lot of lessons being given that take up court time by people that don't have a permit to teach or reservations. We have begun looking elsewhere not even bothering to go to Menlo Park courts. Fortunately we have access to Stanford facilities.

9 days ago

2021 has been frustrating. In many cases the courts are packed and sometimes people just hang around and use the courts even without a key. There seems to be more lessons and it is hard to predict when a court would be available. Some sort of online calendar/booking system or live cameras would be awesome to see when courts are open, or at least more likely to be. It is a bummer to head over and see courts packed. Other times, there seem to be more empty but it's hard to predict. In any case, love the resurfacing!

9 days ago

It is great that courts are often accessible due to the key purchase policy.

9 days ago

The new Nealon courts are great but La Entrada and Burgess need to fix the huge cracks running through the courts. ALSO, it would be a nice gesture for City of MP to discount the keys for the next year for those of us who paid the non-resident rates and didn't get to use the courts for most of 2020.

9 days ago

I would like easier and cheaper ways to reserve. Like a \$5 charge to reserve for recreational residents.

9 days ago

More tennis courts needed

10 days ago

It'd be nice to have clearer postings of prior reservations (not as handwritten notes) or a more user-friendly calendar of reservations.

10 days ago

Is there a practice wall at any of the city courts??

10 days ago

It is great that we have these courts. It would be nice to keep up the La Entrada courts as you have with Nealon. Lights would be fantastic! Thank you!

10 days ago

It has difficult to get a court on the weekends especially at Nealon. I think it is a bad idea to allow all these tennis lesson companies (it's not just Jim Heebner any more there are several. Jim is fine). They take the 2-3 courts for 2-4 hours. That is ridiculous on the weekend.
We do like your tennis key program it at least filters most of the people out so we have a reasonable chance to get a court at Nealon. The courts are beautiful after the resurfacing we don't mind paying h to r fee as you keep them clean and lights working. If you can resurface Burgess or La Estrada that would be great!

10 days ago

At Willow Oaks, it would be nice if there were better lights on courts 3&2 as well as if there were lights at all on courts 1&4.

11 days ago

A reservation system would be nice as it is difficult to find an open court in the evenings. Or a live streaming web cam so you can look online to see if anyone is on the courts before you head over.

10 days ago

saw schools from outside menlo park reserving courts for use during COVID which seemed to disadvantage MP resident usage.

10 days ago

Don't charge residents for a key.

10 days ago

We were using the courts for Hillview tennis team. Now, we are at M-A, and coaching is at Paly and Sacred Heart, so we haven't been using the MP courts as much as we used to.

10 days ago

trash cans INSIDE that are not for balls, and maybe a water fountain closer

10 days ago

There are a LOT of people using the Willow Oaks courts for lessons on weekends. We have given up trying to play there on the weekend. It is unclear whether they have permits to do so. The courts were a godsend during COVID so thank you for opening them for us!

10 days ago

Didn't yet find time to play this yea.

10 days ago

When I tried playing at Nealon park at around 11:00 Friday morning, all the courts were full and some people were waiting for the next round. The tennis professionals were using 2 of the 5 courts, and it appeared that these courts were used pretty much all day for teaching. It would be great if you could limit use of courts for teaching to one court only.

10 days ago

Can you move the bench on court 3 (the one by the door) to at least 5-10 feet further so that way the players don't bump into it. All the other courts the bench is out of the way except this court. It is mounted to the ground.

10 days ago

willow oaks park very crowded!

10 days ago

We were mailed a key that could not open the tennis court doors... we tried calling and getting a new key but never got a hold of anyone.

10 days ago

Courts need to be cleaned more frequently - La Entrada

10 days ago

It would be great if there was a check in system so that people only use the courts for their allotted time.

10 days ago

The courts are usually covered with leaf and other junk. add a leaf blower to the court for cleaning. Also why there is a charge for the key? We already pay a lot of taxes and it should be covered. Reduce the pension benefits and give some more for our tax dollars, will you?

10 days ago

The tennis courts are great. Very well maintained. My one suggestion would be to create a system to note who is waiting for what courts – one example is at some of the courts in Santa Clara they have a place to hang your racquet in the order you arrive if all of the courts are currently in use. This would be a nice addition to the Menlo Park courts because sometimes when it is busy it is difficult to figure out who has priority.

10 days ago

I have found players to be very polite with one another and helpful with finding an open court

10 days ago

We do not use the courts 1 x per week, but more like 1 x per month. (not given as an option) This is because most times when we go to use the courts they are filled with tennis lessons and we struggle most times we want to use the courts to find a court that is available. We use them less and less because it's so hard to find an open spot and then we end up driving all over Menlo Park to find a court.

10 days ago

Change locks to a combination so one doesn't have to bring a key. And provide residents a way to pay for the access online.

10 days ago

We have only been able to use the courts about once every 2 months. That's not because of any issues, just with timings of other commitments.

10 days ago

Access to La Entrada courts is not acceptable. The school campus closure should not impact access.

10 days ago

I have been VERY frustrated that other groups have locked up use of the courts from 3:00 PM-9:00 PM on many days...what is up with this?? Aren't the courts there for the use by residents??

10 days ago

The online reservation system is known for double booking and making mistakes (at Willow Oaks).

10 days ago

We always have to wait a long time because at least 2 of the 5 courts are being used for lessons. It is very frustrating

10 days ago

I used to have a key, but haven't bought one bc it's impossible to get a court! There are always lessons on 2 of them and people on the other courts. It's impossible to just go hit balls with my kids for 45 minutes.

10 days ago

Please fix the cracks at La Entrada which have been there for at least 3-4 years. It REALLY needs resurfacing.

11 days ago

Shouldn't have to pay to play.

Aren't our taxes enough?

I lost my key this year. They want to charge me full price to replace. Ridiculous

11 days ago

It would be nice to know if and when a court is reserved. Nothing worse than playing for 15 minutes and then someone shows up to say the court is reserved.

The interface / website for reserving courts is outdated and hard to use.

Too many instructors reserving courts for hours and teaching kids. There needs to be more balance

11 days ago

Love the new courts at Nealon

11 days ago

The tennis courts are great, and I really appreciate them being well maintained and reasonably available (except at certain times of day) thanks to requiring the key purchase to use.

11 days ago

Please move the bench on Nealon court #3. It is on a very dangerous location!!

11 days ago

The courts are pretty worn and there are several lights out at Willow Oaks. It would be nice to get those replaced

11 days ago

Can be difficult to get a court on Friday and weekends. Often courts are occupied by coaching. I think paid coaching should not occur at peak times, and should be limited to 1 court out of 4 at any time.

11 days ago

I'd love to see la entrada coyets resurfaced. The cracks have plants growing in them! Also if the balls could be emptied more regularly that would be great and encourage people to recycle

11 days ago

Middle courts are

Too frequently occupied by coaches and students.

11 days ago

Need a divider between courts 1 and 2 so one can be used for play while the other is used for lessons

11 days ago

Implementing the use of clocks on the courts do it's easier to tell how long someone will be.

11 days ago

The Burgess park courts are often in use with lessons so not accessible to residents from 3-9 pm on most week days. That is a little disappointing but I do support the tennis coaches needing to have courts to teach on. I just wish it was a little less time.

11 days ago

Last year, I paid for the tennis court key but could not use the tennis court because of the Pandemic. I believe that the City should reimburse us for the fee or give the key for 2021 and 2022 for free.

11 days ago

We use MA courts now. It works better for us. Thank you,

11 days ago

It is very annoying all the tennis lessons that take place. Sometime they are both courts from 3-9pm. That is way too long for them to be reserved and sometimes not highly utilized that way.

11 days ago

Better maintenance of courts

11 days ago

I would love if we converted some to Pickleball courts. Please!!!

11 days ago

Many times when we arrive at the tennis court, the courts were occupied by someone clearly taking tennis lesson from a coach. Can you please enforce the rules? Thank you!

11 days ago

In the past there was too much use of Nealon courts to do lessons

11 days ago

I really have enjoyed the facilities, courts are in good condition.

11 days ago

I obtained the key in fall 2020, and played only 4 times in October/November, but had an elbow injury and stopped playing. That's why I answered "never," about these 5 months. I am still recovering. I still have a key and I don't know if I should return it or if I can renew it next fall after I get better. I am assuming that there will be a notice when it comes to the time of renewal.

11 days ago

PLEASE move the bench on Court 3 (? the one closest to the door) at Nealon. Multiple people have crashed into it running for a ball. Putting it by the net might be better.

11 days ago

More frequent court cleanup - for those who are unfortunately inconsiderate and leave a mess. Newly finished courts are great. Thank you.

11 days ago

Both Burgess courts always seem to be taken on weekday afternoons by classes. Willow oaks courts are always being taken by tennis lessons as well on weekday afternoons. The teachers always arrive early and just sit on the court until their students arrive.

11 days ago

Would be great to have lights for all the courts at willow park. I noticed that the lights maintenance can be improved - takes too long to replace burnt out bulbs.

11 days ago

We always reserve the court.

11 days ago

The courts tend to get a lot of fallen leaves and dirt. Would be nice to have them maintained more frequently

11 days ago

Improve access to La Entrada during construction.

11 days ago

The key fees are too high

11 days ago

Often the Burgess courts are full w Kim Grant tennis when we would like to play there as Kim Grant seems to be able to reserve both courts every weekday afternoon. It would be great if you could limit her hours or limit her to 1 court so the general key holders could have access at least some afternoons!

11 days ago

All four Willow Oaks courts are often taken by lessons. All teachers there insist they've reserved the courts.

11 days ago

i pay for a key to the menlo park courts but rarely play at menlo park courts (other than M-A). There are too many teachers who teach at Willow Oaks. We have asked some of them for permits and have gotten into shouting matches. We have called the city to complain, but it's not worth it. We and our children have been yelled at by teachers who should not be taking our courts.

11 days ago

Would be great to have more tennis courts in Menlo Park- particularly at Nealon. Two of the courts are often taken up by tennis classes and they are frequently full.

11 days ago

Have sign ups online. This would eliminate waiting times.

11 days ago

I'd like to play more on the weekends but the courts are always full and I don't have time during the week. The online reservation system is a big barrier to usage.

11 days ago

We have rarely been able to use the La Entrada courts over the past year as the school gates are locked on weekends which prevents access to the courts.

These courts should have a separate entrance that is accessible when the school gates are locked.

11 days ago

coaches take all the good courts

11 days ago

At the courts there should be signage on how to obtain a key. should be

11 days ago

I used to live in Menlo Park and now my daughter does.

Suggest:

1. Add the rule that one single person can't hold a court, especially if two or more people are waiting.
2. The fee for reservable courts should be reduced and especially to students with proper student IDs and who maybe taking lessons to get better at tennis.
3. People who bring their pets should be asked to leave their pets outside the gates of the courts and not allowed in.

11 days ago

Have a better court sign up or court waiting system so that everyone has a chance to get onto a court.

11 days ago

The courts at Burgess park are booked out from 3pm - 9pm every day during the week, so as working professionals we don't really get the opportunity to play on these courts during the week. That is frustrating because it is walking distance from our apartment and now we need to drive to other courts that are most likely also going to be full.

11 days ago

need more courts

11 days ago

I would love to see coaches required to reserve a court in order to play on one. Many times a coach will take a first come first serve court and will remain on it for multiple hours

11 days ago

Please maintain the court lights and fix the cracks in the courts. Cheaper to maintain the courts every year vs resurfacing the entire thing every 5 years.

11 days ago

All courts are frequently taken for hours, and are essentially unavailable for residential key holders, by instructors (both apparently authorized and not authorized by Menlo Park rec) particularly Kim Grant instructors. Jim Heebner has been at Nealon for years and I have no objection to his continuing, but for an 'outsider' to come in and use these as if she had been hired by a private club (taking % from her instructors) is WAY over the line....particularly when we who are residents pay taxes, AND are paying for a court key that cannot be used to get an afternoon court. The Menlo Park court system is NOT a private club. I must add that having public courts locked, so that the occasional child who just wants to hit around with a parent or other child can't get in, is way, way outside the spirit of the game and making courts available to everyone. I can't think of another place in the Bay area that locks its public courts. And, while traveling, I can't think of another town we have driven through and were looking for a place for a relaxing hit, that public courts are locked.

11 days ago

Love the courts. Please keep the fees and the locks as it helps reduce waits.

11 days ago

Hi! Thanks for survey. SO much busier this past year. The use of the courts now from Kim Grant tennis is a lot. They may only use 1 court but kept using so in big picture one less court at Nealon. Went at 7pm hoping it get court and got kicked off by Kin Grant. Crazy. Can't even go late evening. Also tons of independent lessons going on by private instructors all the time now. Yes I like the flexibility of just showing up last minute with the kids when time and just playing not having to plan ahead as for us would never happen then. Thanks for keeping courts in such good condition.

11 days ago

Would be great to have more trash cans for cans and old balls for example outside court 5. Frustrating with Kim Grant using courts for lessons at peak times when there are no courts available.

11 days ago

It would be nice if we could strike a balance between teaching pros and the general public trying to get in on the courts. Many times, early afternoon on Fridays or Sat AM, the courts are unavailable which is a bit disappointing.

11 days ago

often not clean

11 days ago

The key is too expensive otherwise we'd play more

11 days ago

Nealon Park courts in good shape now after resurfacing. I'm concerned that the courts are being rented out too much and there are rogue instructors there without reservations.

11 days ago

Often there are people coaching when they shouldn't be. And they stay there for hours . If we can minimize that, it would be great

11 days ago

Burgess courts are in need of serious resurfacing. I've slipped several times on some uneven spots of the court.

11 days ago

Put a "do not litter sign/pack your trash!" above each bench inside by each court.. ppl leave there garbage (empty ball containers, lids, bottles, old balls, wrappers). Blows around & don't want to touch especially with Covid.

11 days ago

The courts need a pressure wash every so often.

11 days ago

Court should unlock the courts. I play at Menlo Atherton High School because they are open and free.

11 days ago

new sun canopies over the benches and a trash can at every court would be a good idea. an online reservation system as the one used at Atherton to make free reservations for all courts, up to one week ahead would be nice.

11 days ago

love the courts and the lights!!! Thank you!

11 days ago

We enjoy playing on the courts when we manage to find an open one, but court availability is a big problem. On weekends it is very difficult to find an open court and you often wait at least an hour. Often times at least a few courts are taken up by private coaching sessions. There are simply not enough courts to meet demand. We usually end up having to play at a public HS instead. We will likely not be purchasing another annual key for these reasons.

I also find it a bit ridiculous that we have to pay an annual fee for an access key to the tennis courts. I can't think of a single city in the Bay Area that charges it's residents to access tennis courts - they are all open to the public. The City of Menlo Park has plenty of funding to offer these keys to residents at no cost.

11 days ago

it would be great to be able to sign up online so that you know if a spot is available. But of course, that would likely mean only regulars could play. Maybe a sign up at the court that day?

11 days ago

Use 2-3 times a year if that

11 days ago

Lessons and classes have chased me away recently. The lack of a restroom is a real negative. The fact that the permit for the gas stations was based on the requirement that they would allow park users to use their restroom without a hassle. I remember. Most have forgotten.

11 days ago

1. Provide an easy way to check ahead of time if courts are reserved.
2. Ask landscape maintenance personnel to exercise care so as not to blow debris onto the courts from outside the fence.

11 days ago

It would be nice to be able to reserve court like how atherton does it.

11 days ago

When someone reserves a court, the court number and time slot should be publicly disclosed. Also, the sequence of court numbers typically used for reservations should be publicly available.

11 days ago

We don't use the courts because there is anything wrong with them, we just can't get the kids to play on their own. The key is encouragement and summer is coming. Fingers crossed!! ;-)

11 days ago

I live in unincorporated Menlo Park (University Heights less than 1 block from La Entrada) and was required to pay the non-resident fee.

11 days ago

I'd love to see the courts resurfaced.

11 days ago

Never sure when I need a new key

11 days ago

Make a better system than the keys

11 days ago

I love the courts so much.

11 days ago

I feel there needs to be clock in clock out system. Many people don't stick to the hour rule and I have ended up waiting most of the times I go to play for a very long time.

11 days ago

Too many lessons taking up courts. Maybe simplify the reservations process for residents online or on mobile?

11 days ago

La entrada parking lot gates are not open on weekends, making it difficult to access. Burgess and willow oaks need new surfacing.

11 days ago

I never get to use them because courts always in use. Key was a waste of money 😞

11 days ago

The tennis courts are booked by schools, etc and I am unable to use them at times that are convenient to me. I am extremely unhappy with this situation.

11 days ago

Give resident rates to Ladera residents. And stop renting out to others for clinics because it's so disappointing to show up and not be able to play.

11 days ago

It is very hard to get a court
Willows impossible most of the time
Nealon only if i go Very early

11 days ago

I wish there were more courts. During the past year it's been hard to get a court!

11 days ago

i wished there was a way for me to know if any of the courts are available. i understand there's one court that you can reserve (for a fee), however that's too expensive for me weekly. So each time i visit the court with my friend (also menlo park resident) we're always anxious if its already full and we'd either have to wait for nearly an hour or so, or not play for that day.

If there's a way to even a) monitor the court via some check in system or b) enable all the courts to be reservable for free.

This would give the predictability and i am sure all tennis enthusiasts would appreciate this (no one would want to come with their family or friend) and have to wait nearly an hour to play...)

11 days ago

Courts are full as of lately, mostly reserved by Kim Grant and other teachers. Very limited opportunities for residents to use the courts if you do not reserve a week in advance. You used to be able to just drop by and there were always courts available.

11 days ago

Can we get some pickleball courts in Menlo Park?

11 days ago

The single court at Burgess has a lot of dead bounce spots since the resurfacing.

11 days ago

We have recently stopped playing at Willow oaks courts because they have been rented out to private coaches so much of the time that we end up in conflict with them. For court access.

11 days ago

More kids camps

11 days ago

It seems a lot of people are using the reserved courts for private lessons. That seems like a violation of the rules. This needs more enforcement.

11 days ago

More lit courts and later hours would be nice!

11 days ago

It's always very hard to find a court available and it seems like I can never get one. Is there a reservation system I'm not aware of?

11 days ago

Nealon's courts are very nice. Burgess, Willow and la entrada need to be resurfaced.

11 days ago

It'd be great to have brooms to clean up the dead leaves and dust. Thanks!

11 days ago

I love the Menlo Park tennis courts!

11 days ago

7. (Optional) Would you like to receive the results of this survey? If so, please provide your name and email address. Thank you!

No data to display...



MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Library and Community Services Director
Date: 05/26/2021
Subject: Department update: COVID-19 recovery

1. COVID-19 recovery update: expanding city services

To protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, most city facilities have been closed by local emergency order. Throughout the pandemic, essential city services like public safety and childcare have continued in-person. Most other city services have been safely provided in modified formats including virtual, online, and curbside pickup.

While the end of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been achieved yet, heartening signs of progress have brought it into view, not today or tomorrow but in the foreseeable future.

Vaccinations are critically important to ending the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting community members who are most vulnerable. All persons 12 years and older are eligible to receive the vaccine and all are strongly encouraged to [get vaccinated as soon as possible](#).

With the expectation that many more residents will get vaccinated in the weeks ahead, the City of Menlo Park is preparing to significantly expand access to city services and facilities in four phases in the over the next four to six months, including (partial list):

Phase 1

July 1 – Picnic area reservations
July 6 – Main Library and Belle Haven Branch
July 6 – Police department lobby
July 12 – Senior center meals and classes at Arrillaga Recreation Center and Main Library

Phase 2

Aug. 2021 – Indoor classes and programs for children, youth, people with special needs
Aug. 2021 – Small-scale special event permits
Sep. 2021 – Indoor classes and programs for the general population
Sep. 2021 – Indoor City Council and advisory body meetings

Phase 3

Sep. 2021 – Indoor gymnasium access
Oct. 2021 – City Hall general public access
Nov. 2021 – Indoor gymnastics

Phase 4

Dec. 2021 – Large-scale special events

Dec. 2021 – Indoor facility rentals

Dec. 2021 – All other indoor access

All dates are tentative and subject to change. More details about specific operating hours and safety precautions will be announced to the community soon. Updated information will be posted to the city website, menlopark.org

Key considerations

The phase-in sequence is anticipated to take place in four phases over the next four to six months. The sequence reflects and takes into consideration the following factors:

- Employee and public safety
- The escalating levels of risk associated with various indoor activities
- Progress of community vaccination efforts
- Time and investment needed to prepare facilities and staff
- The city organization's sharply limited operational capacity due to budget and staffing reductions
- The substantial demand on city resources to prepare facilities for the increased public usage in addition to other major construction and facility projects

Prioritization and sequencing

Protecting public health and employee safety by minimizing exposure risk have been hallmarks of the city's emergency response efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The city's service delivery efforts have prioritized essential services like public safety, and services that meet critical needs like childcare and services to older adults. As services expand during the recovery phase of the pandemic, city operations will continue to reflect and operationalize these priorities.

Service impacts

Some of the services listed above will reopen at substantially reduced or modified levels of service compared to those to which the community had become accustomed prior to the pandemic.

Childcare

The childcare programs have been in operation since summer 2020, with some limitations to comply with health orders and guidance. Enrollment is expected to increase as state health restrictions are relaxed and lifted. While it is not known exactly when state health restrictions around childcare are set to change again, our best estimate is that some changes are likely to occur before K-12 school resumes in the fall.

Libraries

The city's two public library locations are planned to reopen on July 6 with approximately 30% fewer open hours than before the pandemic, because of substantial staffing and operating budget reductions. Without a significant budget enhancement, the libraries will only have sufficient staffing capacity to reopen 40 hours over five days per week each (same hours at both locations), compared to 59 hours over seven days per week at the Main Library and 55 hours over seven days per week at the Belle Haven Branch before the pandemic.

Senior Services

The senior center base of operations is planned to relocate to the Arrillaga Recreation Center (ARC) on June 7. Currently provided services will continue from the ARC, including home delivery of boxed meals and wellness checks by telephone. Onsite meal service for seniors is planned to begin at the ARC on July 12. Transportation will be provided for seniors via shuttle, just like before the pandemic. Also planned to start July 12 are seniors-only hours at the Main Library, for additional classroom and gathering spaces for senior center users.

Gymnastics

Due to the infeasibility of safely delivering the gymnastics service during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, City Council suspended the gymnastics program operations in fiscal year 2020-21, and no firm date has been set for restarting indoor gymnastics classes as of yet. Protecting the health and safety of employees, their families, and the community from COVID-19 is the city's main priority during the pandemic. The city is evaluating options for eventual reopening of various city facilities in the future, including gymnastics, depending on the continued progress of vaccination efforts in the community and other factors. This process will take some time and is complicated by significant budget reductions made necessary by the economic downturn, but we're very focused on it. Look for additional information and community outreach on this subject in the weeks ahead.

Comparisons to other communities

Reopening multiple public facilities after a year-long pandemic is a complex challenge that doesn't lend itself to a one-size-fits-all approach. Every community has its own unique circumstances to contend with during the pandemic. Some cities like Menlo Park sustained more severe budget reductions in the economic downturn than others. Some cities have more operational, staffing, and facility capacity than others. Menlo Park is unique among area cities in that the city is simultaneously initiating construction on a major new facility project (MPCC) and relocating multiple public services for the interim, while also preparing for post-COVID reopening of other facilities.

2. Menlo Park Community Campus project moves forward with utility work

Starting Monday, May 24, the construction team will begin utility exploration and excavation throughout the Onetta Harris Community Center parking lot as part of the Menlo Park Community Campus project. The work is expected to last two weeks and public access to Kelly Park and Beechwood School will be maintained.

As recommended for all construction or dig sites, including even small residential projects, the approximate location of underground utilities have been marked. However, underground utilities can still be a hazard for work crews. Ahead of the major construction work planned for the site later in the project, this process will determine the precise location of utility lines. By making a series of small test holes, crews will be able to accurately locate underground lines including the horizontal position, depth, type of line and if there are any existing signs of previous damage.

The work will be completed by Level 10 Construction who is providing advance construction notice to nearby residents. Since public access to Kelly Park and Beechwood School will remain open, few impacts are expected for residents. For more information, visit the project page at menlopark.org/communitycampus

or subscribe to updates at menlopark.org/projectupdates.

3. Karl E. Clark Park storyboard unveiling

A ceremony is planned on June 19 to unveil a new storyboard honoring the life and story of local veteran Karl E. Clark. The unveiling will take place in the city park bearing his name, Karl E. Clark Park, 313 Market Place. The event is being coordinated by Menlo Park Historical Association and Belle Haven Action. More details will be shared as they become available.

4. Adaptive recreation programming

LCS staff are piloting several new programs for the summer including offerings for children of different ages and abilities. Details of dates and times are being finalized now. Staff will provide updates on the pilot program classes as they become available.

The classes include:

- Music makes connections
- Martial arts
- Manipulative/sensory experience
- Social adventures - opportunities for social connections

5. Suggestion box

See Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT A

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUGGESTION BOX
JANUARY 2021 - MAY 2021

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Jan 16 Spanish classes, Menlo Park Sr Center with Alex....thought they would Zoom now after first of year.. 2classes just bought new books before the virus visit</p>	<p>Jan 20 Hi M. Thank you for checking back in. We are currently processing Alex's (Spanish instructor) contract and are looking to begin his Zoom classes on Mondays from 10-11. I will have Airel contact you on the start date as soon as Alex confirms. Best, Adriane</p>
<p>Jan 23 Hello, we are hoping that things can begin to open up again soon. It is surprising that the Library is not open given bookstores and some schools (including Menlo Park City School District) are open. It would be at least nice to allow kids to walk into the Children's area and pick out a book... even if just a small number can be in there at a time. Perhaps we can do checkout near the front door where pick-up is now being conducted? Also, we would appreciate more flexible pick-up times for books and I do not understand why books have to sit for days given science has shown that Covid-19 passes through the air. Thank you for any improvements along these lines you would be willing to make!</p>	<p>Jan 24 Dear Ms. N., Thanks for your message. It is nice to hear from you again. City facilities are closed to indoor public access to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19. As you may be aware, the Bay Area region is experiencing the largest wave of new COVID-19 cases and deaths since the pandemic began. In a clear sign of the severity of the current crisis, the entire Bay Area region is currently subject to a Regional Stay-at-Home Order imposed by the State of California. At this time, no public library in San Mateo County is open to indoor public access. For these reasons, Menlo Park's library indoor areas remain closed to the public at this time and until further notice. I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>Jan 16 Love the newsletter, especially the quotes. Marin Co. Library has Book Bundles for Kids. Suggest doing the same.</p>	<p>Feb 3 Hi Ms G. – Thanks for taking the time to write us. I am glad that you are enjoying the newsletter – I'll be sure to pass along your kudo to the newsletter team. The book bags for kids suggestion is a good one! Our librarians are working on just such a project now. Look for it to roll out in the next couple of weeks. If you (or your kids) are looking for reading suggestions, check out Novelist and Novelist K-8 Plus on our online resources page: https://www.menlopark.org/430/Online-resources They provide a really good "if you liked that, try this" service for suggesting a new read. Be well – Nick</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Feb 7 John Weaver is doing an amazing job organizing very diverse events that are suitable for a range of ages and interests. We especially enjoyed the virtual of the Marine Mammal Care Center and the Nate Guinto concert. Thank you for offering these opportunities!</p>	<p>Feb 8 Hi H. – Thanks so much for taking the time to write us a note. We are so glad that you are enjoying the programs that John and the LCS programming team are creating. Please spread the word! We'd like to see more people taking advantage of these great programs. Would it be OK if I shared your message with John? I'm sure he would really appreciate it. Kind regards – Nick</p>
<p>Mar 15 I think a nice addition would be for the library to have a section in which they elucidate/enumerate recent acquisitions to the library's collection of books, ebooks, emagazines, music CD's, DVD's, etc.</p>	<p>Mar 15 Hi B. – Thanks for taking the time to send in your suggestion – it's a good one! FYI, the librarians on our Infoservices team hold a monthly Zoom event where they do just this on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00. The next one is on Wednesday, April 14 – (link) We'll also work to add a "what's new" section to our e-newsletter, as you suggested. Cheers – Nick</p>
<p>Apr 16 Hello Sean, I'm reaching out to find out whether residents of West Menlo Park are eligible for access to the libraries and recreation center of West Menlo Park. For example, would the address at 25 Vasilakos Way be able to have access to these facilities? 1. Libraries 2. City recreation centers/pools 3. Summer camps - My understanding is that residents of West Menlo Park would be treated as non-residents and have to pay a higher fee. Is that correct? Are there other Menlo Park city facilities that I may be missing from the above list that are available only to residents of Menlo city and not to residents of West Menlo Park? Thanks for your help, A.</p>	<p>Apr 16 Hi A., Thanks for your question, which is a common one. The address you gave is located outside Menlo Park city limits, in an unincorporated area of San Mateo County. All of the services you list below are available to the general public including people who reside in other cities or in the unincorporated areas like West Menlo Park. However, for users who do not reside within Menlo Park city limits, the fees for recreation classes, pools, and summer camps would be at the non-resident rates (as opposed to the resident rates). I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>Mar 15 Complaint: there is no restrictions reason at this point not to allow/have Friends of the library, one volunteer at a time, accept and process donated books. We are backed with book donations and Friends are going to lose the books to recycling or worse if they don't get going.</p>	<p>Mar 15 Good Morning, Mr. D. – Thanks for taking the time to write us. I will share your feedback with the Friends of the Library. Kind regards – Nick</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Mar 15 It would be wonderful if the tennis courts have a free reservation system similar to the Atherton tennis courts.</p>	<p>Hi N. Thank you so much for your comment regarding the current tennis court reservation system. Currently, Menlo Park sells an annual tennis key (\$63 for residents) very similar to the program in Atherton. In Menlo Park, 50% of all courts at each location are not available for reservation to also accommodate walk-ons. The current registration system is \$17/hour for residents and while the some community members reserve a court to play for their own recreational use, 90% of our reservations are made by instructors who teach for-profit lessons.</p> <p>We really appreciate your feedback and will be reviewing our tennis court policies in the near future, so we will definitely keep your comment in mind. Please let me know if you have additional questions or feedback. Best, Adriane</p>
<p>Apr 17 Thank you so much for all the events you hold, and for access to library materials. I've been able to visit museums, cook new recipes, and learn many things. Library staff usually answer my emails within a day and are always helpful. Thank you so much for your wonderful staff, and for keeping the community entertained during these dark days.</p>	<p>Apr 26 Hi C. – Thanks so much for taking the time to write us a note. We are so glad that you are enjoying the programs that John and the LCS programming team are creating. Please spread the word! We'd like to see more people taking advantage of these great programs.</p> <p>We're also happy to see that you've been able to get good service at the curbside window and the info desk.</p> <p>Would it be OK if I shared your message with our staff? I'm sure they would really appreciate it.</p> <p>Kind regards – Nick</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Apr 26 Hello - I am considering joining up with the Canada College program in Fashion. To review the content of the program I plan to pre-read the textbooks. Is there any way that you can provide me the following books? Fashion by Design, ISBN: 9781563678486, by Ellingwood. Sewing Machine Basics, A Step by Step Course for First Time Stitchers, by Jane Bolsover. Principles of Flat Pattern Design, ISBN: 9781501353529, by Macdonald. Apparel Merchandising, ISBN: 9781609015398, by Rosenau. Patternmaking F/Fashion Design w/DVD, by Joseph Armstro, ISBN: 9780135018767.</p>	<p>Apr 26 Hi J. – Thanks for taking the time to write us. Unfortunately, the library does not buy textbooks. They are expensive (as I am sure you have discovered), change from year to year, and are not formatted or useful for most library users. There are a couple of alternatives you might want to explore. Link+ (https://linkencore.iii.com/iii/encore/?lang=eng&suite=def) is our interlibrary loan system for bringing in items from outside of San Mateo County. Usually we have pretty good luck with finding things in there, but the only place I could find the textbooks you were interested in was the Academy of Art College, and they are currently closed. A colleague suggested that you look into Chegg (https://www.chegg.com/books). Chegg is a textbook rental service/used textbook sales service. A quick check showed the titles you were interested as available for sale for about half of the list price, and for rent for less. Once facilities open back up (and hopefully that will not be too far in the future), my suggestion is to try the class reserve shelves at the colleges. The libraries at the community colleges will place copies of the course books on reserve at their library for students to use in the building. It would be a good way to audit the course readings to see if a class at Canada is of interest. On a side note, my wife is completing a few certificates at the fashion design program. She currently works for the City of Palo Alto's Children's Theater, and she has been attending classes at Canada over the last several years. She might have some insight for you on the content of particular classes. If you are interested in chatting with her about the classes and the programs, I can pass along her information. Kind regards – Nick</p>
<p>May 10 Thank you so much for [the Seeds By Mail] program. The seeds have given me wonderful plants. It is very timely in the covid era to receive seeds by mail. -M.D.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear M. D. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>May 10 I enjoy getting the variety of seeds and I am successfully growing plants that I have never grown before. -L.I.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear L.I. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 I love Seeds from Mail...I think it is a creative and useful program, I am growing beets for the first time in my life! -P.R.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear P.R. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 Thank you for [the Seeds By Mail] service. It would be even better if seeds arrived a month earlier - tomato seeds need to be started before May 1. M.W.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear M.W. Thanks for the feedback. Glad you like the service. I agree that it would be better to start a little earlier in the calendar year, and we're planning to do that. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 Weather now warm enough for planting. Seeds been in water for 3 days and this AM put them in small pots to grow without fear of snails and slugs. H.S.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear H.S. Thank you for sharing about your seed planting. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>May 10 Seeds by mail is awesome - so much fun and a great reminder to get out in the garden. I love all the additional information that comes with the seeds, too! M.M.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear M.M. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 I am very grateful for all of the innovative and wonderful programs and resources our Menlo Park Library provides ... you truly have been a life saver during the pandemic and you keep growing (both literally and figuratively) us/your community through amazing programs like the "Seed" one! 🌱 Our Menlo Park Library/Peninsula Library System helps make our community GREAT 🌟!!! Thank you 🌱🌿🌻🌻🌻 M.T.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear M.T. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 Thank you!! The packages of the seeds we received were super cute! This has sparked the interest of my 13 year old daughter who singlehandedly germinated the seeds and tended to the crops and we just harvested the beautiful and delicious lettuces of different kinds this week. This activity has helped my daughter to destress from the pandemic tremendously. Thank you Menlo Park library and Community! K.N.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear K.N. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 10 Good job on this [summer program] registration priority! • City of Menlo Park resident registration opens May 10 • Unincorporated Menlo Park resident registration opens May 13 • Nonresident registration opens May 17 B.N.</p>	<p>May 10 Dear B.N. Thank you! I'll pass along your compliment to the team Best regards, Sean</p>

SUGGESTION	RESPONSE
<p>May 10 Maybe send the seeds out earlier. S.P.</p>	<p>Dear S.P. Thanks for the feedback. I agree that it would be better to start a little earlier in the calendar year, and we're planning to do that. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 13 Love the seeds by mail. I've received squash and carrots, both of which are now sprouting up in the garden. Love the surprise of what you get since these are not normally items I would pick up. And, they are not the standard varieties you find in any seed stand. Really looking forward to seeing what comes next. M.G.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear M.G. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 13 We love the seeds by mail program! My kids have really embraced growing our own food this year and your program has really supported that goal. Thanks so much for the super fun and innovative idea! A.M.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear A.M. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>
<p>May 13 [Seeds By Mail] is a lovely program to encourage our community with home garden projects - love it and am grateful! Thank you! S.B.</p>	<p>May 13 Dear S.B. Thank you for your kind compliment. So glad you like the Seeds By Mail project. We're grateful to be able to provide this service, and for the support of volunteers and Menlo Park Library Foundation who help make the program possible. Thank you for being a Menlo Park Library patron. We look forward to seeing you again soon. Best regards, Sean</p>

**City of Menlo Park Parks and Recreation Commission
2020-21 Tentative Agenda Schedule**

*Meetings are held virtually via videoconference at 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month
unless otherwise specified*

MEETING DATE	PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS
January 27, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 update: Indoor and outdoor sports leagues • MPCC project update • Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion update: Adaptive programming • LCS Strategic Plan Update: 2020 and Beyond • Pickleball pilot program update • Commissioner's Report - Staley-Shenk
February 24, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro by the YAC - presentation • Director's Report update on Pickleball/MPCC project/Aquatics update • Commissioner's Report - Baskin
March 24, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPCC project update • Dedication program report – Public Works • Update on CIP projects • City council updates: cost recovery/reactivation • Director's Report – youth sports/outdoor sports update • Announcements – recruitment for commissioners • Commissioner's Report – Harris
April 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council liaison report - Mayor Drew Combs • Safely and sustainably expanding public access to facilities and services • Karl E. Clark Park Storyboard • Commissioner's Report - Diepenbrock
May 26, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation scholarship pilot program • Pickleball pilot program 6-month review • Department updates • Commissioner's Report - Bryman
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPCC project update • Commissioner's Report • Election of Chair and Vice Chair • Bedwell Bayfront Park Master Plan update
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Tour
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<i>Unscheduled future items (tentative)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inclusion Programs/Classes update</i> • <i>DEI initiative update</i> • <i>Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan update</i> • <i>Special Events update</i> • <i>Public engagement</i>