

From: Barrie ODonnell <barrieodonnell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 1:58 PM
To: ParkRec Commission
Subject: Urgent request for attention re pickleball court issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Park and Recs Commission,

I'm writing to inform you of several issues occurring at the pickleball courts. All easily fixable but I want to be sure the Commission, and not just the staff, are aware of these issues.

Hazardous Court condition: The courts, especially on the end of the courts that lies under the large row of eucalyptus trees, has become filthy: there primarily seems to be sap that falls on the court, and along with the dirt that collects in the sap, the surface has become very slippery. Players are actually slipping when they play. The "rumor" is that the City will not use water to clean them due to the drought. I want to be sure that the Commission is aware of the danger should someone fall and have a serious accident. Given the high use of the courts by the public, it would seem to me that some water and a little soap would be appropriate, if not essential right now.

Nets sagging and not set correctly: The nets have all begun sagging significantly. If you were to drive by the courts, you will notice that citizens have taken to shoving everything from rocks to crushed pickleballs into the cable gaps in an attempt to tighten the nets. I've measured them and all but one are off, most significantly. Someone from the City needs to come by with the

tool used to crank the nets tighter. More importantly, why is someone not coming to do this on a regular basis?

Discriminatory Mixed-Use Court Policy: As you may recall you assigned a section of courts to be "mixed use" to be shared by tennis and pickleball. It provides for pickleball priority on weekday mornings, but states that seven days a week after 3pm, tennis has priority. This policy essentially gives pickleball priority during "off peak time", when retired people can come to play, and it forces working people to have to fight to use eight dedicated courts in the evenings. This is not equal access. It reminds me of the old days at golf courses where the reserved men's day was Saturday morning, and the reserved women's day was on a Tuesday morning. The course would say we had equal access, but all of us working women would know this was just giving us "non-peak" time that made it difficult for working women to play. We have the same type of discrimination happening with your current policy. The City could easily remedy this by splitting the priorities to offer certain evenings to pickleball, and certain evenings to tennis. Doing this would be simple, fair, and allow players to plan for an evening of pickleball without being run off the courts in the middle of their games by tennis players. Without access to evening play, working class people in Palo Alto just don't get equal access to courts.

I hope you will take action on these three issues to ensure optimal, safe and fair play.

Can you also please confirm that this letter is being shared with members of the Commission, and not just with the staff.

Sincerely,

Barrie O'Donnell

3254 Bryant St.

From: Scott Kilner <scott.kilner7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Anderson, Daren; Bourquin, Catherine; ParkRec Commission
Subject: Degradation of Los Trancos Trail (Foothills Nature Preserve)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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As regular hikers in, and admirers of, the Foothills Nature Preserve, we would like to register our strong concern over the recent deterioration of the Los Trancos Trail.

Los Trancos is the park's premier trail and a truly wonderful asset. It is regrettable to see how much erosion, which borders on dangerous in spots, has taken place in recent weeks and months.

We strongly hope that maintenance of the Los Trancos Trail can be made a priority of park maintenance.

Sincerely,

Scott & Jan Kilner

827 E. Greenwich Place

Palo Alto