Proposal to LARPD

Implement Pickleball Recycling Bins at District Facilities

Enhancing sustainability through recycling initiative

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Pickleball Recycle Proposal

Agenda

- Growth of Pickleball in the District and Nationally
- Environmental Concerns Associated With Pickleball Ball Disposal
- Pilot Study Results and Recycling Feasibility
- Proposed Recycling Program

TRI-VALLEY PICKLEBALL CLUB

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SUPPLEMENTAL ITEM 4
March 17, 2026

Growth of Pickleball

Pickleball's Rapid Growth

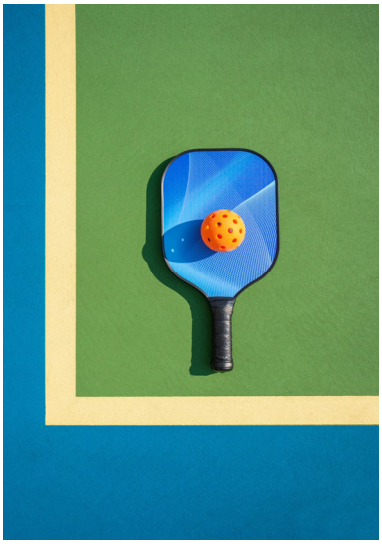
- Fastest growing sport in the U.S.
- 36 million players at 8.9% growth annually through 2028.

Expanding Demographics

- The sport now attracts millennials and youth, expanding beyond its original retiree demographic.

Tri-Valley Pickleball Club

- Started in 2021, TVPC averages over 500 members per year.
- LARPD Courts Usage: May Nissen Park and Livermore Downs Park average 2,500 players per month in summer and 1,500 in the winter.



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Environmental Concern = Pickleball Disposal

Material Composition

- Pickleball balls made from polyethylene plastic. These balls take between 100 to 500 years to decompose in landfills.
- Outdoor balls typically last 5 -10 games before they crack or lose their bounce.

Environmental Impact

- Slow degradation leads to microplastic pollution, threatening ecosystems and complicating waste management.

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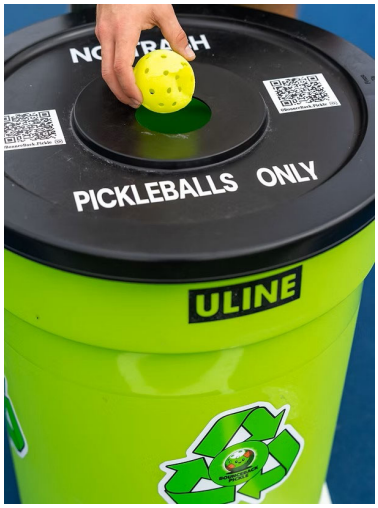
2025 Pickleball Recycling Pilot



Tri-Valley Pickleball Club Pilot Program Outcomes

- We conducted a 3-month pilot collecting over 700 discarded pickleballs at May Nissen and Livermore Downs courts
- 100 were donated to a local Little League for training
- The balance were shipped to recycle partners
  - P3 Cares in North Carolina
  - BounceBackPickle in Florida
- Partners process used pickleballs into reusable materials.
- Estimated 2,500 – 3,000 unusable balls could be collected at LARPD facilities each year

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Proposal – Pickleball Bins at LARPD facilities

TVPC Responsible for

- Supplying clearly labeled outdoor-ready Collection Bins
- Installation at LARPD approved Pickleball Facilities
- Ongoing Collection, Maintenance and Volunteer Labor
- Package, Shipping and Recycling Coordination
- Program Administration and Reporting

LARPD Responsible for

- Granting permission and approval for the placement of Collection Bins at District-Managed sites

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Benefits to LARPD and the Community

Cost-Free Environmental Impact

- The proposed program requires no financial or operational commitment from LARPD
- Aligns with Regional sustainability goals and community expectations

LARPD Leadership

- Reinforces LARPD's role as steward of public parks and recreational areas
- Reduces plastic waste and landfill impact
- Promotes community engagement in sustainable practices
- Fosters community goodwill and serves as a pioneering model for sports-related recycling in public parks.

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