



Date: 12/31/2017 **Updated:** 12/31/2022 **Date To Be Reviewed:** Five Years – 12/31/2027

Title of Document: 10.6 LOPR_Research Investigation

Background:

Lake Oswego Parks & recreation (LOPR) has conducted several exploration and research investigations related to park and recreation operations. The 2022 Pickleball study is the most current (not including the current updating projects for Parks Plan 2025 (the master plan) and the LOPR Marketing Plan.

Listed in the Procedure section is information about the 2022 Pickleball Study and other exploration and research projects conducted over the past 5 years.

Procedure:

2022 Pickleball Study

According to 3.4.2-3.4.3 LOPR_Marketing & Community Relations Plan, the population is 40,731 (2020 census), and the demographics of Lake Oswego residents indicate the median age is 46.9 with about 21.4% of the population age over 65 years. Pickleball has exponentially increased as a popular sport among older adults. Informal pickleball play began at George Rogers Parks (GRP) in 2015 when a group of community players taped pickleball lines that overlaid the tennis lines. Refer to the Related Documents section: *LOPR_Pickleball Staff Report 030922* for more background information about the steps LOPR took to address the needs of pickleball clubs and LOPR programming, and the concerns of the Old Town Neighborhood Association (OTNA) with noise levels from the pickleball paddles and balls.

- In 2015, LOPR modified the tennis courts by removing the tape and re-painting lines to provide both two tennis and 6 pickleball courts.
- In 2016, LOPR allowed the LO Pickleball Club to store and set up nets and equipment four times weekly to provide free lessons to anyone.
- In 2018, the courts were permanently converted to just 6 pickleball courts only. LO Pickleball Club began holding exhibitions promoting the sport and LOPR began offering organized clinics and workshops to first-time and beginner level players. LOPR implemented a sound barrier system to respond to Neighborhood Association noise



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concerns, which were then mitigated during 2020-2021 due to COVID shutdowns and limitation of players and play time.

- In 2021, City (including LOPR) representatives met with the board members of the Old Town Neighborhood Association (OTNA) to hear their concerns with the pickleball courts. LOPR implemented a formal process to permit use of the courts for limited hours.

In 2022, LOPR conducted a noise study which resulted in the noise level measured being within acceptable decibel (dB) ranges. Refer to the Related Documents section: *LOPR_Pickleball Noise Study_P3863_061422*. LOPR continued to mitigate OTNA concerns by recommending the best equipment to use for sound reduction, reducing playing hours availability, and utilizing locking gates to allow authorized users only access the courts. Refer to the Related Documents section: *LOPR_GRP Pickleball Court and Program Updates_052722*.

LOPR worked with the public through the LO Pickleball Task Force which began meeting August 4, 2022 and met 5 times in 2022. The task force was charged with researching potential pickleball sites and developing criteria to address any affected neighborhood association concerns. Some potential sites include the large dog park at Hazelia Field, Westlake Park (LOPR premier athletic sports fields and basketball court), and a private site on Pilkington Road.

At the Parks Board meeting held December 21, 2022, Parks Board members unanimously agreed on two motions: 1.) The continued use of George Rogers Park courts until such time new courts and equal opportunity can be made in Lake Oswego and install a sign and kiosk with info on noise reduction equipment; and 2.) Identified the development of a new site for pickleball as a low priority in terms of funding availability and other priority capital projects. The Pickleball Site Suitability Study and Task Force meeting information can be found at [Pickleball Site Suitability Study | City of Lake Oswego](#).

2020-2021 COVID Impact Reporting & Virtual Activity Programs

LOPR tracked actual results as well as activity and financial impact due to COVID closures that began mid-March 2020 and lasted through 2021. The purpose of the tracking was to provide revenue loss data to the City in order to potentially receive any COVID loss funding (LOPR was granted a total of \$91,016.65* additional funding in FY20-21 to help cover losses due to COVID.) - *{LOPR general = \$83,716.93, ACC = \$11,714.44, and Tennis Center - \$6,122.28}

LOPR created the typical Annual Reports for FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 which included new virtual programming methodologies and results for both years. LOPR also created the COVID Impact Report which identified activity and revenue metrics losses (using the same reporting metrics as used in the typical Annual Report.)



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2019 \$30M Park Bond Project (Approved by Voters May 2019)

LOPR researched worked on the \$30M Park Bond Project to identify opportunities for projects that could be funded with little impact to taxpayers due to a sunset bond. The wording in the bond indentified high level project areas, and once the bond passed, LOPR sought public input to prioritize how the bond money is spent.

The result of the project includes the Adult Community Center (ACC) Remodel (completed), Athletic Fields, LO Recreation and Aquatic Center (design completed – construction in progress due to complete fall 2024, Land Acquisition, Skate Park (a new skate park to replaced the one closed in 2016 due to the 2017 maintenance center expansion into the location), Parks and Natural Areas & Trails Development.

2018 Indoor Tennis Center Expansion

On December 5, 2022, the Indoor Tennis Center (ITC) re-opened after the completion of the rehabilitation and expansion project that began in 2009 with the first feasibility study and then again in 2018 with a specific plan for expansion. The ITC was remodeled to provide ADA accessibility, and improved entryway and parking, provide front desk customer support space, new restroom facilities, adequate staff office space, a multi-use room and an enlarged viewing area for court and play visibility. Construction materials and labor delays due to COVID resulted in the project taking longer to complete than originally planned. [Tennis Center Rehabilitation | City of Lake Oswego](#)

Links to Sources:

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball Site Study and Task Force Meetings [Pickleball Site Suitability Study | City of Lake Oswego](#).

Pickleball program at George Rogers Park (GRP) [Pickleball at GRP | City of Lake Oswego](#)

\$30M PARKS BOND (Approved by Voters May 2019)

Parks Bond Investment Final Report [Microsoft Word - LO Parks Bond Outreach Final Report revised.docx \(oswego.or.us\)](#)

[Bond Investment | City of Lake Oswego](#)



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PARKS & RECREATION

INDOOR TENNIS CENTER EXPANSION

ITC Rehabilitation Project Web Page [Tennis Center Rehabilitation | City of Lake Oswego](#)

2009 Golf Tennis Feasibility Study <https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/golf-tennis-feasibility-study-2009>

Related Documents:

PICKLEBALL STUDY

[LOPR Pickleball Staff Report 030922 \(the issue\)](#)

[LOPR GRP Pickleball Court and Program Updates 052722 \(remediations\)](#)

[LOPR GRP Pickleball Noise Study P3863 061422 \(the findings\)](#)

[LOPR Front Desk Pickleball Talking Points 120222](#)

COVID REPORTING

[FY 19-20 Parks Annual Report](#)

[FY 19-20 Q3 Q4 COVID Impact Report](#)

[FY 2021 Parks Annual All Compiled Report](#)

\$30M PARK BOND (Approved by Voters May 2019)

[LOPR Bond Measure Language to Council 012519](#)

[LOPR Bond Taking Points 032719](#)

[LOPR 2019 Bond \(post-approval\) Project Priorities Outreach Info Poster](#)

[LOPR Parks Bond Outreach Info Poster](#)

[LOPR Parks Bond Priorities Press Release 061119](#)

INDOOR TENNIS CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT

[LOPR 2009 Golf-Tennis Final Feasibility Study](#)

[LOPR ITC Expansion Project & Results of Comm Input PRNAB \(Parks Board\) Packet 050818](#)

Responsibility/Contacts: Director, Deputy Directors, Project Managers, Administrative Assistants