



Explanatory Statement for Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for Pickleball at GRP

History: Pickleball play at George Rogers Park (GRP) Courts began in 2015 when the GRP tennis courts were relined and repurposed as pickleball courts. The Lake Oswego Pickleball Club (LOPC) was given permission to organize play at the GRP courts 7 days a week from 8am-12pm with the condition that the club would offer lessons to the public and teach interested participants the game of pickleball. In 2020, during Covid-19 pandemic reopening phase, LOPC began to use a scheduling application called Playtime Scheduler to be able to schedule individuals at same levels of play willing to play together during the pandemic and implement contact tracing requirements.

Background: In Summer 2021, the Department received information that there was a fee attached to the use of the George Rogers Pickleball courts charged by the Lake Oswego Pickleball Club. The question of requirement to become a member of LOPC and fee for use of the courts was asked to the leadership of LOPC. The Department was notified that the Lake Oswego Pickleball Club had shutdown operations and posted a notice to refer court use and play time to the Department on the LOPC website. In an effort to continue to keep open play operating at the same levels of service, the Department retained a volunteer to help administer Playtime Scheduler. The Department began an interview and information gathering process to receive information to make the decisions to keep court use continuous and organized. Department staff members spoke with interested clubs, nearby parks & recreation agencies with pickleball activities and attended a nationally presented session regarding pickleball. The Department conducted Request for Information (RFI) process with the two main interested clubs, Lake Oswego Pickleball Club and Columbia River Pickleball Club.

The objectives of the interviews and information gathering process were:

- Identify and correct problems with current court use, on court play, and surrounding neighborhood
- Identify multiple strategies for creating or adding pickleball courts in the community
- Identify and implement multiple strategies to grow the number and variety of pickleball offerings

The Department determined Reserved Court use for club (M-W-F-SUN: 8am - 12pm & Tu-Th-SAT: 4pm- 8pm or sunset, whichever is earlier).

The Department developed request for proposal criteria with objectives of:

- Selection of a non-discriminatory pickleball club open to all player skill levels, residence location, no membership discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Club will provide for scheduled high-use courts for its members including promotion of games, lessons, tournaments and clinics
- A record of successful professional relationship with other parks departments or similar, provision of at least one reference

- Club must have tools for communication and scheduling with its members.
- Club to provide membership contact information to LOPR to directly communicate with Club members regarding LOPR activities including public time on GRP courts
- Club leadership selection process is through member-elected Board of Directors, with at least one Lake Oswego resident member serving on the Board. Officers chosen by Board of Directors or Members.
- Some financial compensation to the City either monthly or percentage of profit on commercial play such as lessons, tournaments.

Materials demonstrating qualifications in response to evaluation criteria can be submitted. In return for accepted proposal, the Department will enter into a permitted use arrangement with a proposer club meeting criterion and willing to work with the Department to provide highest and best use of the GRP courts.