



Public Buildings & Parks Committee Agenda

November 7, 2022 at 5:15 PM

Public Buildings & Parks Committee

Keely Paul, Chair
Ben Hunt
Dara Wood

Staff Liason

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Wes Brown, Zoning and Project
Administrator
Chris Fritsch, Zoning and Project
Administrator

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes: August 31, 2022

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. Proposal from Cory Christopher, Cincinnati Nature Center regarding Amberley Green Prairie
2. Pickleball on the tennis courts

ADJOURNMENT

Amberley Village Council

Public Buildings & Parks Committee -- Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2022 at 4:00PM



Attendance

Committee

Keely Paul, Chair
Ben Hunt
Dara Wood

Staff Liaisons

Scot Lahrmer, Village Manager
Wes Brown, Planning and Zoning
Administrator
Tony Chesney, Maintenance & Fire Dept
Supervisor

Guests

Prior Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting on August 1, 2022 were unanimously accepted without corrections.

Handouts

Agenda and past Meeting Minutes
Proposal from Beckman Services/ Jansen Heating & Cooling, replacement of an AC unit at Municipal Building

AC Unit

Amberley Village Municipal Building has 3 rooftop AC units. The NW AC was replaced in 2021. The SW Admin side and NE Police side units are original from about 1999.

The SW Admin side unit has two coils and one has failed. It is not capable of maintaining temperatures. We are currently altering the usage of some rooms and moving air from the 2 northern units to the affected area.

A new unit is \$24,870. It is more expensive than the previous replacement due to inflation and system bottlenecks still affecting us from COVID. The new unit will have to be ordered and we do not have an installation time window. It will not be here before autumn.

Repairing the one coil and leaving the existing 20+ year old coil at \$13K is slightly more than half the cost of replacing the unit. Repairing half, when both sides are older and newer units are more efficient wasn't considered.

Keely motioned to approve the Beckman Services bid to replace the AC unit. Ben seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

PlayCore Addition for Municipal Park

Not installed yet

Prairie on the Green

Tom wasn't present to give an update

Salt Barn repair

Scheduled for October

Sign for North Site entrance

No update

Follow Ups

Adjourned

4:05PM

Prepared by: Keely Paul, Committee Chair

Amberley Prairie

7801 Ridge Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45237

PREPARED BY
Cory Christopher
Director of Conservation
cchristopher@cincynature.org
513-965-3352



SUMMARY

The following proposal outlines the reclamation of a portion of a former golf course and its conversion into a native prairie with abundant forb (flowering) species that support a robust native pollinator community. Also included are recommendations for a new prairie trail as well as 4 seating areas that could be used for the planting of memorial trees for people in Amberley Village.

If properly maintained until it is established, reconstructed prairies require little maintenance relative to turf. However, because each ecological restoration project is different, and because much of the work is weather dependent, it is incredibly difficult to predict the precise installation and maintenance protocols or timelines. Thus, patience during the installation and during the first two growing seasons will be important for long term success.

TIMELINE & PROCESS

Prairie | Work is expected to begin in fall 2022 or spring 2023. This will include treatment of the existing vegetation with herbicide (aquatic safe glyphosate), and potentially mowing the area prior to herbicide application, depending upon conditions of the area at the time. Depending upon the results from the herbicide application, a second application may be necessary. In many cases, two applications are required.

After site preparation, a conservation seed drill will be used to seed the prairie with a custom mix of grasses and forbs (flowering) specifically chosen for the site. Seeds typically germinate from April through May. Several species in the seed mix are annuals that regenerate from seed each year, and these can be expected to bloom in the first year (May to August 2023). However, most of the flowering species will not bloom until the second growing season after planting (May to August 2024). Depending upon weather, irrigation may be necessary until seeds have germinated and plants have become established. Irrigation is the responsibility of the landowner, but we can provide guidance on when or if irrigation is necessary.

Seating Areas | The incorporation of seating areas along the newly installed prairie will provide not only seating, but more private, secluded areas in which visitors can relax or meditate. Our suggestion is to plant four Bottlebrush Buckeyes (Fig. 1) and two Northern Red Oaks (Fig. 2)

We recommend getting the community involved by giving them the opportunity to contribute *financially* to the seating areas. Specifically, we recommend offering the trees and shrubs as memorial plantings that people can purchase to memorialize or honor a loved one. Once planted, a public gathering at the site would give the community a chance to socialize and learn about the prairie.

Optional Recommendation: Informational signage placed on one of both ends of the new trail would allow visitors to learn about the project while providing needed wayfinding. These signs can be easily landscaped with low-maintenance plantings (Fig. 3 and 4). We are happy to provide an estimate for these plantings if signs are incorporated in the future.

If seating areas are desired, we recommend planting trees & shrubs in fall 2022 or *early* spring 2023.

ESTIMATED COSTS* | \$13,045

Prairie | Approx. 6.25 acres | \$10,400

Installation (includes seed)	\$ 7,500
Herbicide Application	\$ 2,760
Mileage & Transport (assumes 3 trips)	\$ 140
Sub-total	\$10,400
Tax	\$ NA
Total	\$ 10,400

Seating Areas | \$2,645

Red oaks - 2 @ \$800 (<i>includes installation & mulch around trees**</i>)	\$ 1,600
Bottlebrush buckeye - 4 @ \$250 (<i>includes installation & mulch around shrubs**</i>)	\$ 1,000
Mileage & Transport	\$45
Sub-total	\$2,645
Tax	\$NA
Total	\$ 2,645

*Costs are subject to change based on price of materials at time of acceptance of this proposal.

**This does not include installing mulch throughout the entire seating area.

ON-GOING MAINTENANCE

The Cincinnati Nature Center can provide post-installation maintenance, and we can provide an estimate of those costs if desired. After planting, we will revisit the site in June 2023 to assess the performance of the prairie and other plantings and develop final maintenance recommendations based upon these post-planting observations. These recommendations will include a mowing schedule intended to reduce the growth of unwanted weeds.

If you have any questions or concerns about this proposal, please feel free to reach out to me via email (cchristopher@cincynature.org) or by phone (513-965-3352). I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



Cory C. Christopher
Director, Conservation
Cincinnati Nature Center

PHOTOS & SPECIES LIST

Table 1: List of species included in the CNC Prairie Seed Mix, organized by grass/forb, and in approximate order of the amount (in grams) of seeds included.

GRASSES			
Scientific	Common	Scientific	Common
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side-oats Grama
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Nodding Wild Rye	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass		
FORBS (FLOWERING)			
Scientific	Common	Scientific	Common
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Stiff Goldenrod
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	Prairie Dock
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox Eye Sunflower	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	White Wild Indigo
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Sweet Joe Pye
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian Blanket	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	<i>Aster azureus</i>	Sky Blue Aster
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>	Ohio Goldenrod
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazingstar	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue
<i>Monarda citriodora</i>	Lemon Mint	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Bushclover	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Lobelia
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow Coneflower	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup Plant	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo		

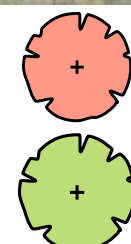
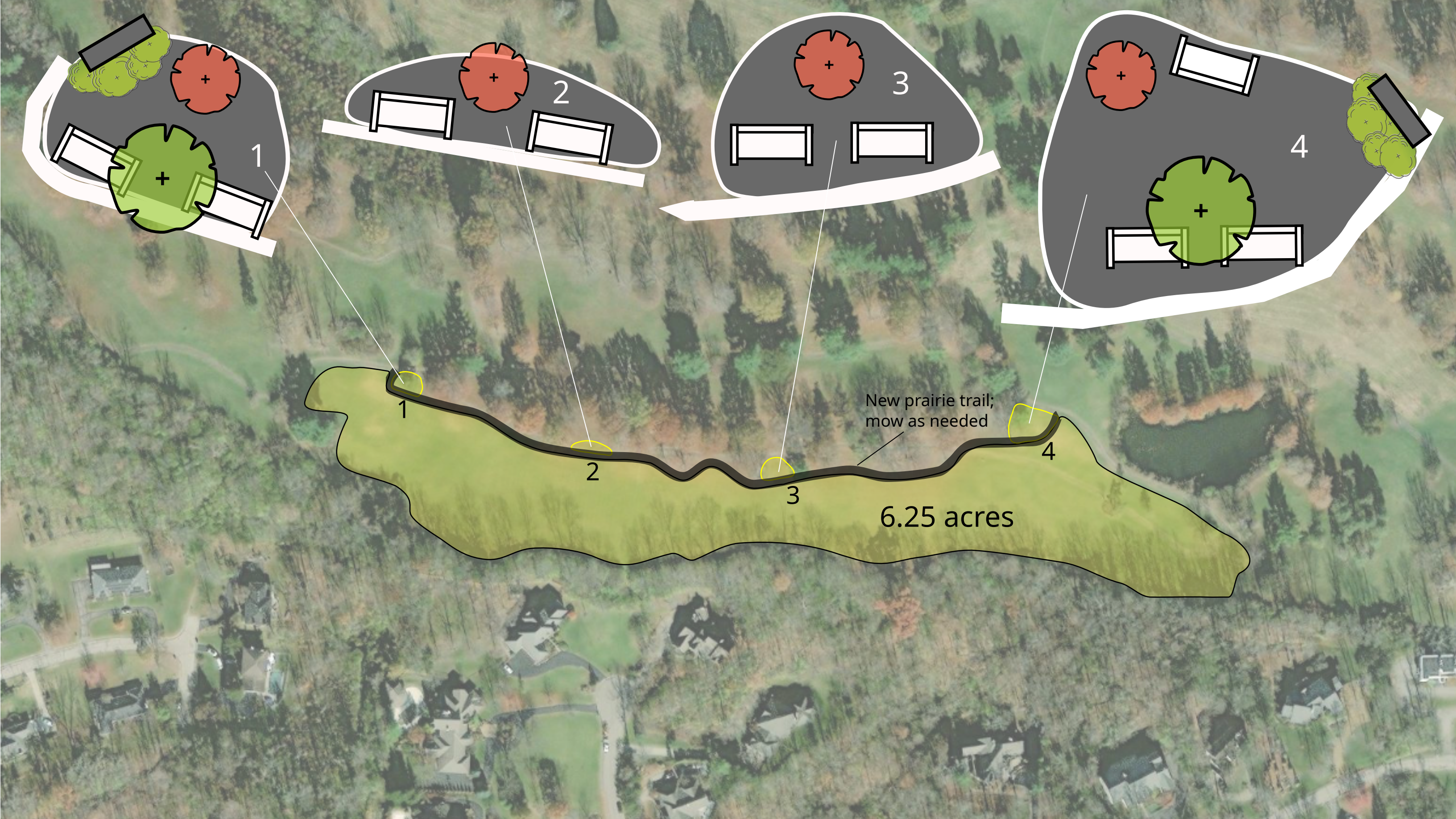


Fig.1: Bottlebrush buckeyes are shorter members of the buckeye family but make up for it with 12" long white blossoms. Great as a natural screen.

Fig. 2: Red oaks are one of SW Ohio's iconic oaks and are among the most important trees for wildlife.

Fig. 3 & 4: Mass plantings of prairie dropseed (below left), interspersed with blazing star (below right) are low maintenance and are important for wildlife.





Large flowering shrub; Bottlebrush buckeye



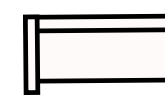
Shade tree; Bur Oak or Red Oak



Plant massing around sign; e.g., Prairie dropseed and Blazingstar, others as available



Informational Signage



Bench



Background

The Health and Wellness Committee began sponsoring Pickup Pickleball on Tuesday evenings this past May-August after getting support from the Parks and Buildings Committee last March.

Over the course of the summer:

- Over the 13 dates from June 7 – August 30, 2022, there were 9 dates that weather permitted play
 - At least one new player each week
- In total, 29 people showed up to play at least once.
- Averaged 10-12 players per week

See attached survey data from pickleball players that was given to all Pickleball players the week of October 24 regarding the past season.

Recommendations and Requests

The continued promotion of Pickup Pickleball in the future consideration of the reservation rule.

Lining the other two tennis courts for Pickleball.

- Possibly adding two courts with temporary nets

Investigate purchase of dedicated Pickleball nets.

Create signage at the court to promote pickleball.

Resurfacing/updating existing equipment at tennis court.

Submitted by Council Member Ben Hunt

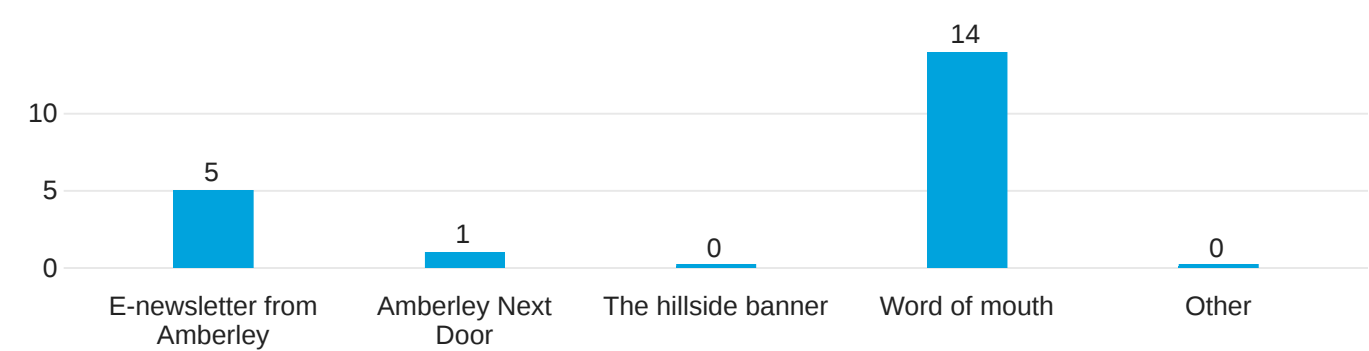
Current Images of Courts/Equipment



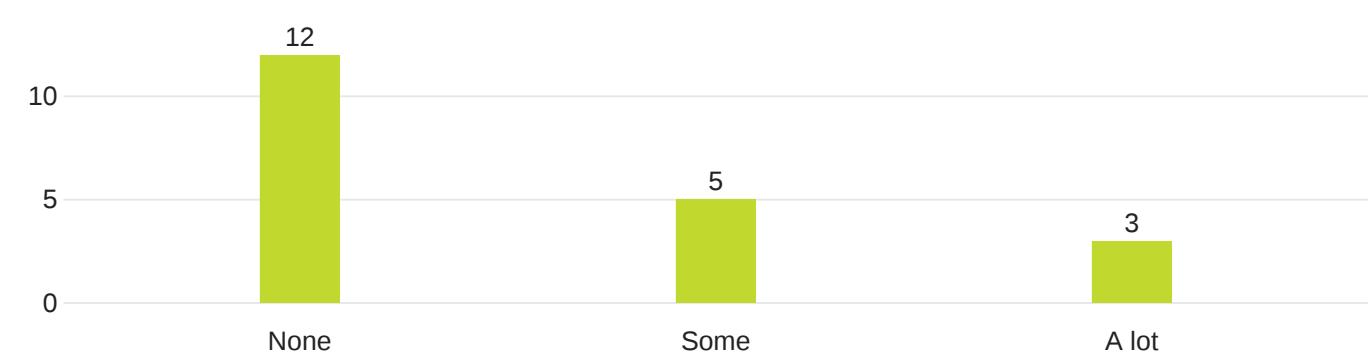




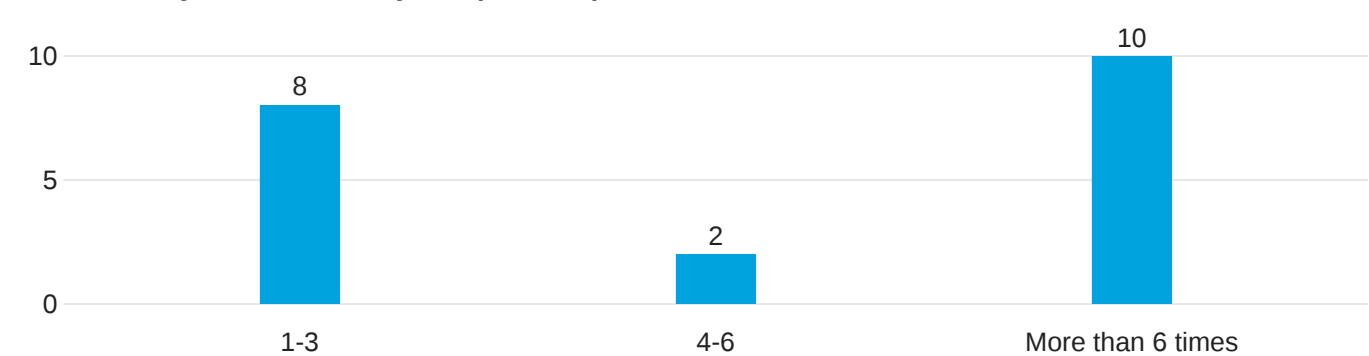
How did you hear about pickup pickleball?



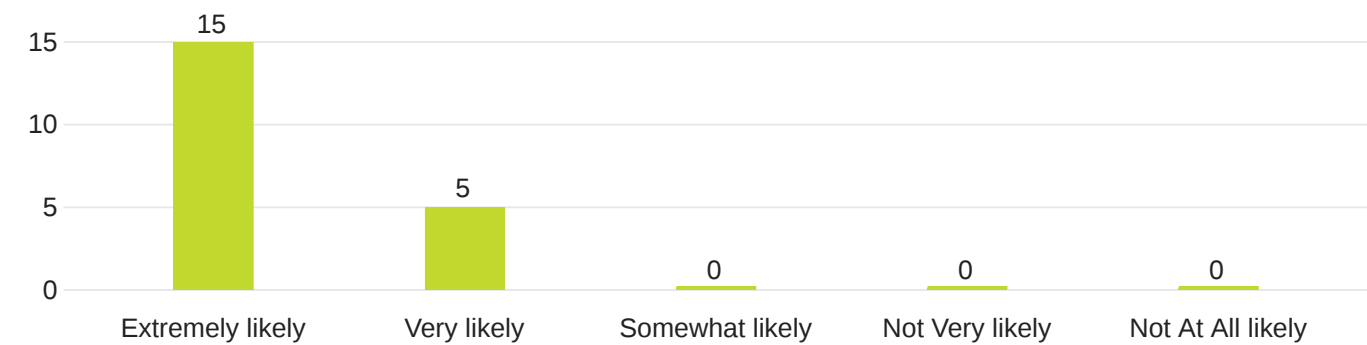
What experience did you have playing pickle ball before this summer?



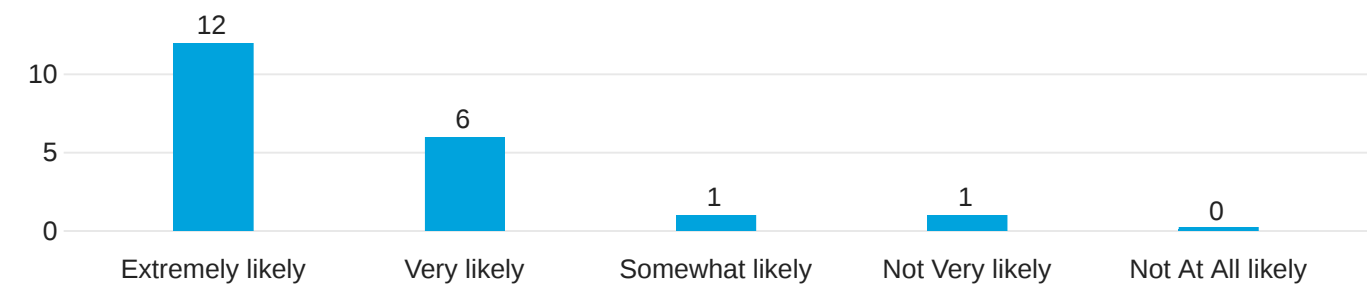
How many times did you participate?



How likely are you to participate in the program next spring or summer?



If it can be arranged, how likely would you be to participate in a winter session of pickleball for members and non-members held at the JCC?



What improvements would you like to see in the pickup pickleball program?

More courts with lines for p ball. Lights for night time play.

Court improvements:

- Adding more temporary pickleball courts
- Creating dedicated pickleball courts with pickleball nets
- Finding an indoor facility for partnership to keep this program going all year
- Adding court lights so we can play later

More courts for pickleball

Better nets, actual courts to see lines better. Less cracks. Evening lights. A way to play in winter! Thank you

Lights on the court to play later would be fantastic! Adding more lines would be nice. We were at capacity a handful of nights. Finding an indoor place to play year round would be nice too!

Lights to play longer
More pickle ball lined courts
Pickle ball regulated nets

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Line the other 2 courts.

Pickleball nets

Regulation height nets and more pickleball courts and fewer tennis courts.

Better courts, regulation net.

More properly lined pickle all courts.

More available courts

Nets in better shape

More pickleball courts, official pickleball net