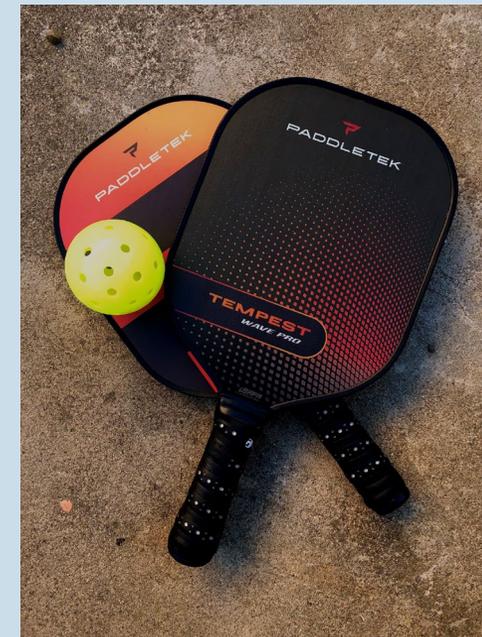


# Bringing Pickleball to Fair Oaks

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Friends of Fair Oaks Pickleball



*“In three to four years, pickleball will be bigger than golf and it won’t even be close.”*

Hank Haney, Tiger Woods  
Former Coach, 2019

# Pickleball has become America's No.1 Sport

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- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, wrote *The Economist* magazine January 30 of this year (Article: Pickleball is the Fastest Growing Sport in America <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2021/01/30/pickleball-is-the-fastest-growing-sport-in-america>)
- The number of Pickleball players has grown 650 percent from 2014 to 2020. ([USA Pickleball Association](#)) By comparison since 2011, tennis has seen an average [growth rate of 0.4%](#). (Tennis Industry Association)
- During the pandemic, Pickleball became the “go to sport” for many. The USA Pickleball Association reports that the sport grew by a staggering 21 percent in 2020. There currently are 4.2 million players in the country.

# Local Enthusiasm is Booming

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Playtime Scheduler.com, a free site that lets you schedule local pickleball games, reports

- From 2019 to 2020 site users in the Citrus Heights, Orangevale, Fair Oaks zip codes nearly doubled despite the pandemic, growing from 178 participants in 2019 to 314 in 2020. Growth continues to climb in 2021 with the latest figure at 355.
- Attendance at games scheduled through the site showed dramatic growth at courts in Orangevale and Citrus Heights. In 2018, 3960 people participated in Pickleball games based on online signups. That figure nearly doubled between 2018 and 2020 reaching 7604 in 2020 as gyms closed driving people to seek physical activity in other ways.

# Surrounding Communities Support Pickleball

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Carmichael Parks and Recreation - indoor pickleball at La Sierra, six relatively new courts at Eastern Oak Park and a pickleball club forming there, two courts at Gibbons being striped for pickleball.

Citrus Heights – 12 dedicated courts at Rusch Park and a pickleball club (Sunrise Pickleball Club) that has several hundred active members. These members assisted the park district in obtaining a grant for additional courts and then raised funds to cover the additional cost. Three new courts opened at San Juan Park.

Orangevale Parks and Recreation- two courts at Pecan Park which are getting activity (based on the Playtime Scheduler developed for local pickleball players). Another tennis court at Pecan Park lined for Pickleball. Two more tennis courts on Hazel near Rec Center scheduled to be redesigned for Pickleball. Also courts on Almond Ave.

Folsom Recreation and Parks District has seven indoor pickleball courts at Folsom Sports Complex, which is open every morning and all day most Sundays. They charge \$5 per session and on rainy days have 40-50 players from all over the area. They also have four courts at Lembi Park and two tennis courts lined to accommodate four Pickleball courts.

# Fair Oaks Lacks Courts

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Only one court currently being planned at Gum Ranch Park

Some Fair Oaks residents drive to Rusch Park to participate in free beginner clinics held every Saturday morning. Clinics attract as many as 30-40 participants.



# Fair Oaks Pickleball Enthusiasts on Lack of Courts

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"The Percent of U.S. adults aged 20 overweight, including obesity is 73.6 percent, according to the [CDC](#). Pickle ball is a low-cost of entry, low-impact and easy to learn sport that thousands of people are embracing. Communities should jump on the bandwagon and encourage participation by building out more courts. Overcrowded courts discourage new entrants to the game."

"I don't want to drive to Rusch park all the time just to find a court, and the amount of people I see signed up for Pecan Parks two courts is crazy."

"I live in Fair Oaks and pay park taxes yet I have to go to other communities to play pickleball. Those areas are getting so crowded I have to drive 1/2 hour each way to get in very few games."

"Pickleball has become so popular and so many people show up to play, that I usually have to wait on the side lines and don't have the opportunity to play that many games."

# Fair Oaks Pickleball Club

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Informally over 30 Fair Oaks NextDoor residents have signed up to participate in a Pickleball Club. Most are new to Pickleball and

- Want instruction
- Don't know where to play
- Would support the creation of a formal Pickleball club once courts become available

We believe we can grow this group to support instruction, tournaments, etc.

# Request to Fair Oaks Parks and Recreation Board

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Look at current tennis courts that can be converted to Pickleball (one tennis court is equal to three Pickleball courts) or at least lined for Pickleball as well.

Allocate funding for 6-8 or more new lighted Pickleball courts in Fair Oaks parks.

Once courts are built, Friends of Fair Oaks Pickleball will look into formalizing club to work with/support Park District:

- Organize events such as round robins, tournaments and other social activities.
- Encourage new players to participate by offering "newbie" clinics to teach them the game.