



Hunter Park Tennis Court Project

Date: September 24th, 2025 | 5:30pm – 6:45pm

Location: Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Ashland OR

The department presented a brief presentation that reviewed the scope of work and schedule. Staff opened the meeting to questions. The following is a summary of the questions asked:

Project Access

- **Question:** When the courts are finished, will players be able to pass through the **front and back of the courts** (with gates)?
- **Answer:** Yes, access will be maintained.

Project Timeline & Funding

- **Schedule:**
 - Construction will begin **August 2026** and conclude by **November 2026**, scheduled around High School tennis season.
 - Grant funds must be used by **December 2026**.

Construction & Design Concerns

- **Drainage Issue:**
 - A resident noted past reconstruction (approx. 20 years ago) failed to address the **curtain drain**, leading to cracking when water seeped under the courts.
 - Recommendation: Ensure **curtain drain is looked at**.
- **Geo-technical Testing:**
 - Question: Were formal soil/core samples taken before bidding?
 - **Answer:** No formal testing, but Parks staff conducted core samples during the week of Sept 24, 2025, to determine depth.
- **Reinforcement Materials:**
 - Question: Could wire reinforcement be used in the asphalt or concrete?
 - **Answer:** Explored, but cost is prohibitive for concrete surfacing.
- **Shade Fencing:**
 - Question: Could shade/windbreak fencing be added near the parking lot to reduce glare?
 - **Answer:** No plans at this time; concerns raised about blocking spectator



views. Windbreak/shade fencing will be added on the **roadside**.

- **Hitting Wall:**
 - Plans to repair siding and repaint if budget allows; will be done after main construction.
 - Clarified that the wall will **not be removed**, only updated.
- **Handrails:**
 - Resident asked about adding handrails to stairs leading down to courts.
 - **Answer:** Not in current plan. Resident noted holes already exist, and handrails would improve safety for older players.
- **Lighting:**
 - **Question:** Will lights be replaced?
 - **Answer:** Lighting improvements are **being assessed**.
- **Duration:**
 - Ideal construction time is approximately **2 months** under favorable conditions.

Multi-Use & Other Activities

- **Bike Polo:**
 - Question: Will resurfacing prohibit bike polo due to damage concerns?
 - **Answer:** No. One court will remain designated as **multi-use** for bike polo and other activities.
 - Resident noted bike polo users have improved in maintaining the court and managing nets responsibly.

Budget & Financing

- **Project Budget:** \$1.2 million total.
 - \$780,000 from state grant.
 - \$480,000 from City (Capital Improvement Funds).
- **Contingency:** Estimated construction costs currently at \$980,000, leaving \$230,000 in contingency. *Note: project has not been bid yet and construction costs will not be known until the project is bid.*
- **Funding Constraints:**
 - If bids exceed budget, the project scope will be revised, other projects may be delayed, or funds reallocated.
 - Grant funds must be used exactly as specified in the application.



Tennis Season & School Coordination

- **Ashland High School (AHS):**

- Strong request that reconstruction **not interfere with AHS tennis season** (starting March 2, 2026).
- Multiple residents and the AHS coach emphasized the importance of not missing the season, particularly with both boys' and girls' teams poised for championship potential.
- Residents stressed celebrating the success of youth tennis and building back the sport.

- **Alternative Facilities:**

- Question: Could SOU courts be refurbished/used during construction?
- **Answer:** An option to explore. Staff reached out to SOU and the courts have been decommissioned and are not available for use.
- Additional requests for temporary courts to avoid a lapse in play.

Short-Term Concerns

- **Cracks & Safety Hazards:**

- Residents noted dangerous cracks on the courts now.
- **Response:** Parks will assess and determine if interim fixes are possible before reconstruction.

- **Pool Water Seepage:**

- Question: Has pool water leaking under courts been resolved?
- **Answer:** Not a known issue; a new liner was installed, which may have resolved the concern.

Pickleball Concerns

- Resident asked about **pickleball use at tennis courts.**

- **Answer:** No plans to add pickleball at Hunter Park tennis courts as part of this project. The Park Commission has directed staff to complete the project and the strategic plan prior to any policy discussion on pickleball courts. However, we do not know what the future holds and can only speak to this project.

Closing Comments & Community Sentiment

- Multiple residents expressed **thanks and appreciation** for moving forward with this project.
- Emphasis on:
 - Protecting and celebrating **youth tennis.**
 - Ensuring no interruption to AHS tennis season.



- Recognizing the courts and pool as essential recreational assets, especially since Ashland now has fewer facilities than in the past.
- Community members affirmed that the tennis program and facilities are an important part of the **fabric of Ashland's community**.