



Dear Pickleball Community,

We know that many of you are already dreaming of blue-sky days, T-shirts, and being on the courts with your friends.

One of the things we really admire about Aspen's pickleball and tennis community is your passion and dedication to the sport and advocating for the best courts and playing environment as possible. This letter is to transparently communicate with you the status of upgrades to Aspen's pickleball facility.

Before Covid-19 the City of Aspen was on a path to address improvements at the courts. Funds were set aside for repairs and a design process. However, with the uncertain economy and pandemic related shutdowns in 2020, all capital projects at the City were halted.

In the summer of 2021, the Recreation Department revived the project, which included robust engagement with the community. We heard from you in surveys, open houses, emails, phone calls, correspondences with Council, and at public meetings. We had more than 350 individuals visit our Aspen Community Voice page on the topic.

To date, we have accomplished several key tasks to move from ideation to implementation.

The City is assembling alternatives, working toward the proper land use approvals with the Community Development department, and we are working with cost experts and construction companies to get the best result for the funds we have available.

As you are likely aware, Covid-19 and other economic factors have created a perfect storm of high construction and materials costs and labor shortages. The pickleball and tennis court upgrade project is unfortunately impacted by the same economic conditions that are affecting the rest of our country. This means that construction of the improved facility is delayed until after summer 2022. In the meantime, staff is working diligently to prioritize the best realistic options for temporary upgrades this summer and we will execute what is possible to improve players' experience on and off the courts.

We will keep you informed and look forward to your feedback when we have design options to share. We expect to have those around mid-May 2022.

Thank you for being part of the pickleball and tennis communities.

Sincerely,
Cory Van Der Veen
Recreation Director, City of Aspen