



Trail to the Past. Road to the Future.

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

21 5th STREET E

MANTORVILLE, MN 55955

TUESDAY

August 27, 2024 6:30pm

- 1) **Call to Order**
- 2) **Adopt the Agenda:**
- 3) **Approval of Minutes: 6.25.34**
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) Pickleball in Mantorville - Tracy Lee
 - b) Park Board Wish List
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) Hockey Rink/Basketball Court
 - b) Band Shell
 - c) Grants
 - d) Riverside Park
 - e) Campground
 - f) Bergmann Park
 - g) Slingerland Park
 - h) Mantor Field
 - i) K-M Dog Park
 - j) Denneson Field
 - k) Community Gardens
 - l) Community Tree Management
- 6) **Next board meeting is 6:30pm Tuesday September 24, 2024.**
- 7) **Joint Venture Updates:**
- 8) **City Staff Updates/Reports:**
- 9) **Adjourn –**



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21 5th STREET E
MANTORVILLE, MN 55955
TUESDAY
June 25, 2024 6:30pm

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairman Brad Germundson called meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - a) **Members Present for Quorum:** Brad Germundson, Lyle Hoaglund, Matt Wohlenhaus, Don Hofsted, Brandy Ramer, Martha Vrieze
 - b) **Members Absent:** Henry Blair
 - c) **Guest Present:** Joe Adams, Stephanie Arnold
- 2) **Adopt the Agenda:**
 - a) Member Lyle Hoaglund wanted to add additional discussion for Band Shell and Joint Ventures. Stephanie Arnold mentioned Band Shell is to be talked about in section 5.B and Joint Ventures is discussed in section 7.
 - b) Notes regarding Band Shell is found in section 5.B, Joint Ventures notes are found in section 7 Joint Ventures Updates.
 - c) Member Lyle Hoaglund moved to adopt the agenda as is. Member Brandy Ramer seconded.
Passed. 6 yay / 0 nay
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) 5.28.2024 – Member Don Hofsted moved. Member Matt Wohlenhaus seconded.
Passed. 6 yay / 0 nay
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) Selection of Chairman
 - i) Brad Germundson accepted the role of Chairman.
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) Hockey Rink/Basketball Court
 - i) Discussed during 7) Joint Ventures.
 - b) Band Shell
 - i) Member Lyle Hoaglund states during last Council Meeting the final design for Band Shell was presented. Member Lyle Hoaglund will be attending the MRA meeting to approve Band Shell design. The plan is to start construction as soon as the design is

- approved. The size of the Band Shell is 35X20. Aaron Thompson volunteered his time to draw up the design.
- ii) Member Don Hofsted states Klause Elberts is donating his labor and asking for a plaque to be placed honoring his father on the Band Shell. Member Lyle Hoaglund states that has been approved.
 - iii) Martha Vrieze asked who is in charge of landscaping around it. Joe Adams states they are talking to John Olive regarding Lime Stone.
 - iv) Member Martha Vrieze request City Staff look into Austin's policy on Band Shell instead of Stewartville as they have used one for over 20 years.
- c) Grants
- i) Joe Adams will meet with Will on Thursday. They are sending out the final information for the EAB grant. They will be discussing more grants.
 - ii) Member Martha Vrieze asked if Joe Adams and Will are going after any grants for the Hockey Rink/Basket Ball Court. Joe Adams states they are working on some grants but nothing is official.
- d) Riverside Park
- i) Joe Adams states only a little much was misplaced during the flooding. It has been replaced since. Joe Adams states they planted five trees, all in the EAB grant. Member Martha Vrieze asked where the trees removed for construction went. Joe Adams states they are secure and will be replaced after construction has completed. Joe Adams spoke with Jason Wiliker regarding the Maple Tree near the Band Shell, he states he should be able to remove that tree. Joe Adams will be getting a quote regarding.
 - ii) Member Lyle Hoaglund states they are received two benches from the Lions for the Band Shell. Member Lyle Hoaglund reinitiated the pollinator project Dodge County is trying to get for Goat Island.
- e) Campground
- i) Campers have been camping in. Xcel should be stringing their lines soon, but no confirmed date at this time. Unsure if campers would need to move during this time. Unable to block the camping schedule as Xcel will not confirm a date.
- f) Bergmann Park
- i) 3 Maples have been added. Joe Adams states it looks really nice now.
- g) Slingerland Park – Nothing New
- h) Mantor Field
- i) Joe Adams states he will be placing trees soon. It's been too wet at this time. Baseball has been going strong.
 - ii) Member Matt Wohlenhaus ask if it's been really sloppy due to the rain, Joe Adams confirms it has been.
 - iii) Joe Adams states they are going to regrade the field after the last game this season.
- i) K-M Dog Park
- i) Joe Adams put 9 trees in the Dog Park. He put Buck-Eye, Maples, Ginkos, and more.
- j) Denneson Field
- i) Ash trees have been removed. Joe Adams will plant more in other areas as the current trees were hard to mow around.
 - ii) Joe Adams states it's been busy. He can tell it's being used as the garbage cans have been full. The kids have been good at picking up after themselves.

k) Community Gardens – Nothing New

l) Community Tree Management

i) Had to remove Oak on corner of 9th and 57th. It was rotten. The project got extended a little as they would not replace the sidewalk until the tree was removed. Joe Adams went straight to Council for approval. It cost \$1,400.00 to remove. This should be the only tree needed to be removed.

ii) Joe Adams states the grant we received was very helpful. We received \$36,000 and the city only had to kick in \$12,000. Joe Adams states he could only spend \$5,000 on equipment. He received an auger and a chainsaw.

iii) Joe Adams will go around this Fall and see which other trees might need attention.

6) Next board meeting is 6:30pm Tuesday July 30, 2024.

7) Joint Venture Updates:

a) Joe Adams states Joint Powers is Kasson School, City of Kasson, and City of Mantorville together. Mantorville contributes \$5,000.00, City of Kasson and Kasson School both contribute \$7,500.00. This is used for projects and equipment between the school, and both communities. They are willing to donate towards the hockey rink once Mantorville invest more money into the Hockey Rink. We are unsure if they are donating dollar for dollar. Joe Adams will ask at the next Joint Ventures meeting. Joint Ventures did donate \$15,000.00 to Denneson Park.

b) Member Lyle Hoaglund states Mayor Bradford mentioned Joint Ventures is looking for more ideas. Joe Adams confirmed they are always looking for more ideas, but something smaller. Member Lyle Hoaglund asked if they would be willing to chip in for the pickle ball court. Joe Adams said it seems like something they would be willing to chip in for.

c) Member Martha Vrieze states Mantorville should have a fund raiser to show we are trying to raise money for the Hockey Rink. Joe Adams states they are what they are wanting to see. There is \$10,000.00 put aside by Mantorville over the last two years currently. Joe Adams is still looking for grants, but hasn't seen any as of yet. Joe Adams states he thinks the total project would be \$75,000.00 if not higher. Joe Adams has been adding 15% to the project due to inflation every year.

d) Member Martha Vrieze asked if the Park Board wants to be in charge of fund raising for these projects. Joe Adams stated the Park Board cannot be in charge of the fund raising. Member Martha Vrieze asked if any members of the Park Board would be interested in making/joining a new committee for fund raising. Member Martha states the Friends of Mantorville fund raises for this exact reason. Due to a lot of things happening this past year, there hasn't been many activities this year, but there will be. Member Martha Vrieze and Brian, the head of Friends of Mantorville, have committed to making sure the pickle ball court happens. The Frisbees golf has been put on hold for the Band Shell. She is looking for a group of ten people for this fund raising committee. Member Martha Vrieze is hoping to have a first Friends of Mantorville meeting during the third week of September, but this is not a solid date as of yet.

e) Martha Vrieze states the Friends of Mantorville will be more than happy to help fund raise for the courts, but we need to confirm who the courts are going to be for. Joe Adams confirmed the Park Board has already agreed the court will be for the City of Mantorville and will be used. Member Matt Wohlenhaus states he has been people in their driveway setting up courts. Member Brandy Ramer states the sport is getting really popular in town.

- f) Martha Vrieze states she will bring this up to the Friends of Mantorville the next time they meet. She states they will defiantly be able to raise \$5,000.00 to get \$10,000.00. Joe Adams confirms at the next meeting he will ask how much they would be willing to donate compared to what we raise. Joe Adams states it's been slow moving with Joint Ventures due to the Superintendent getting replaced. Member Martha Vrieze wants Joe Adams to ask if they will do a, "two for one." Member Lyle Hoaglund states the new Super Intendent will start in July.
- g) Member Martha Vrieze wants to confirm if Joint Ventures helps with this, will the court turn into a "school court" instead of a "communities" court. Member Matt Wohlenhaus states this will be for the community. Member Martha Vrieze wants to confirm they would not be using it for practices or holding ownership over it where the community would not be able to use it. Member Matt Wohlenhaus states that is now how this was presented and to the best of his knowledge this would be for the City of Mantorville, not Kasson-Mantorville School.
- h) Initially this Hockey Rink seemed to be heading in the direction of being solely for school use under the previous Super Intendent. This is when Friends of Mantorville stepped away. Martha Vrieze states if we can confirm this rink would be for the City and not only for School use, she is confident Friends of Mantorville will assist again.

8) City Staff Updates/Reports:

- a) **Joe Adams request Park Board get ready for the Wish List. He ask for Park Board to be ready to discuss the Wish List that needs to be approved in August.**
- 9) **Adjourn** – Member Matt Wohlenhaus adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm. Member Brandy Ramer seconded.

Pickleball in Mantorville

Mantorville Park Board Meeting
August 27, 2024

Our goal tonight is to compel the Mantorville Park Board to consider adding pickleball courts in our community and to engage experienced pickleball players during the planning and design process. We will do this by sharing information about existing courts in Kasson, sharing national and local statistics about pickleball, and demonstrating how adding pickleball courts in Mantorville will improve community engagement.

As you are aware, Mantorville does not have any public pickleball courts currently. There are two pickleball court locations in Kasson, with a total of six courts. There are pros and cons to each location.

Lion's Park:

- There is one fenced in asphalt court.
 - This is the court preferred by experienced pickleball players in the area, the court is busy from 6:00am until dark most days of the week with multiple people playing.
 - This is a nice court surface.
 - The court is not near homes, preventing noise complaints.
 - There is enough space at the service line.
 - Not quiet enough space along the sides of the court, too narrow for around the post (ATP) shots
 - No lights for early morning or nighttime play
- There is one painted court on the basketball court.
 - Players must bring their own net.
 - If the basketball court is in use, you cannot play pickleball on it.
 - No fencing, end up chasing balls.

North Park:

- Courts are lighted for morning and evening play.
- Four courts with a sport court surface. Having more than one court in the same location is ideal.
- Sport court surfaces are known to have high and low spots that create fall hazards and cause the ball to not bounce properly.
- Only have portable nets at this court rather than high quality permanent nets. Pool or other city staff store the nets away nightly and move them out later in the morning. Therefore, the nets are not always out when people want to play.
- Fenced on only two sides, so you chase the ball a lot.

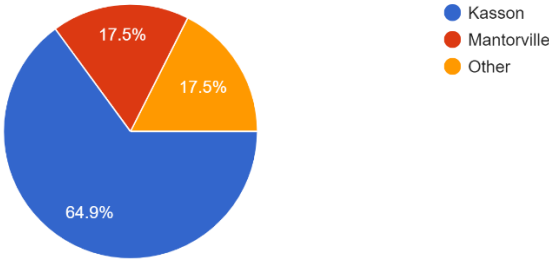
The Park Board can learn valuable information regarding designing and planning courts from what pickleball players like and do not like about specific courts, such as:

- It makes the most sense to build two courts in one location, rather than just one.
- Avoid plastic sport court surfaces due to risk of injury and unpredictable ball behavior.
- Fences are necessary.
- If portable nets are to be used, they should be provided and not stored away (recognizing there is a risk of vandalism), not providing nets creates a barrier to court use.
- Build courts away from homes, if possible. Use sound curtains, if near homes.
- It is ideal to light the courts, but we will take a court without lights over no court at all.

It is hard to watch TV or social media without hearing about Pickleball. The sport is experiencing a meteoric rise in popularity across the country. The 2023 report by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) states that pickleball has grown 87.5% year-over-year and 158.6% over three years. The report also states that 8.9 million people played pickleball in 2022 and the number of new participants in 2022 exceeded the total number of pickleball players in 2021.

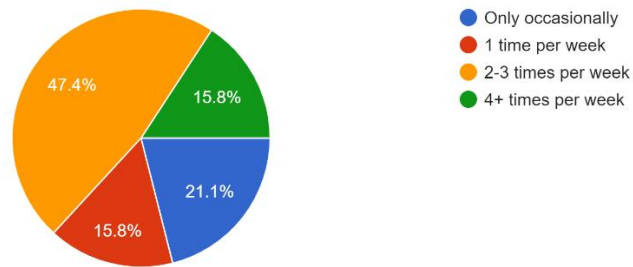
Pickleball in the Kasson-Mantorville communities is growing just like the rest of the country. Our Facebook page “Kasson-Mantorville Pickleball” has more than doubled to 135 members in the last 2 months. To gather data about the individuals playing the sport in our community, we surveyed the members of the Facebook group and encouraged them to share the survey with members of the community. The results are below.

Do you live in?
57 responses



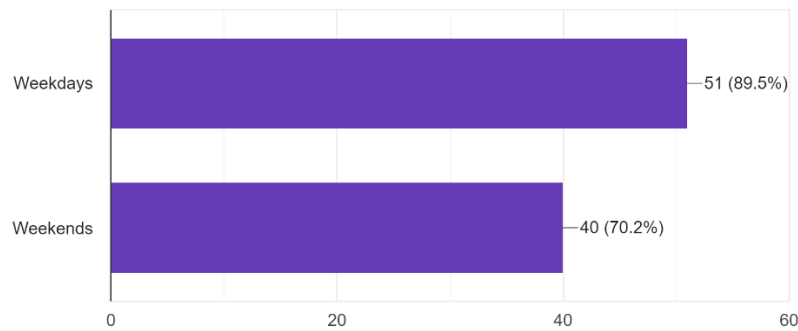
How many times per week do you usually play pickleball?

57 responses



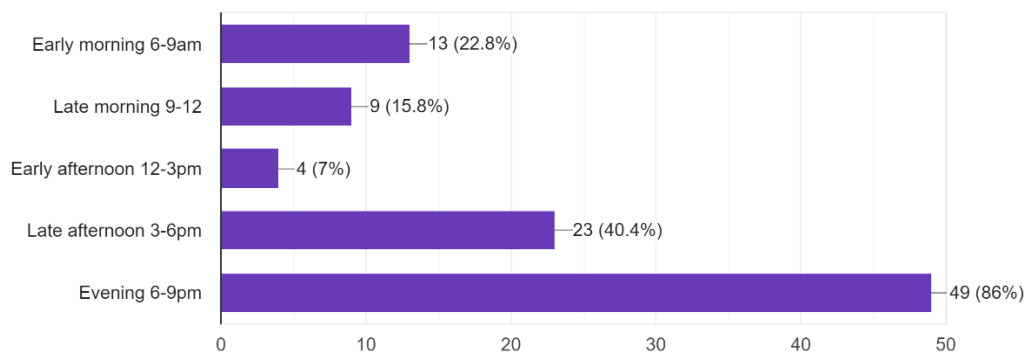
Which days of the week do you usually play (select all that are applicable)

57 responses



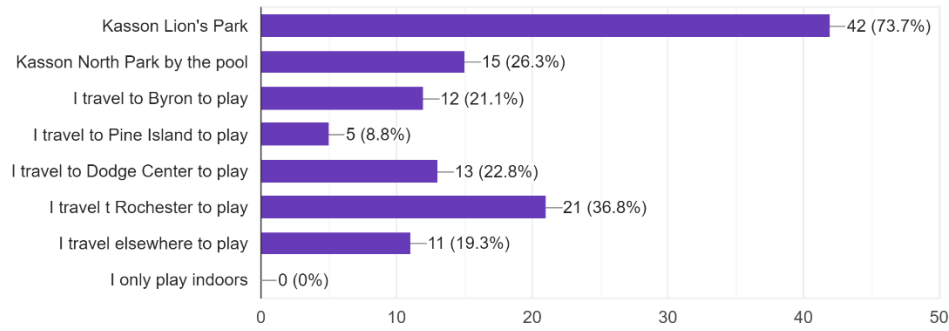
What time of day do you usually play pickleball? (select all that are applicable)

57 responses



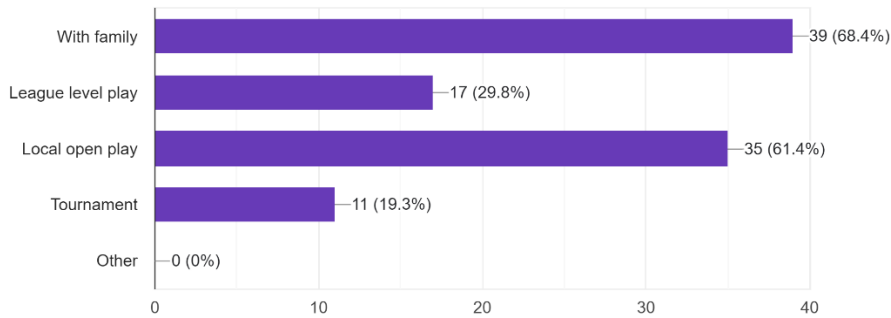
Where do you usually play pickleball at? (select all that are applicable)

57 responses



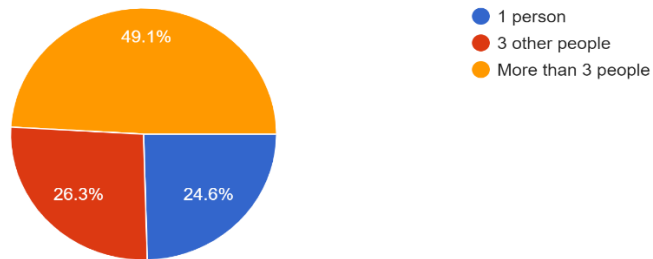
What type of Pickleball do you prefer to play? (Select all that are applicable)

57 responses



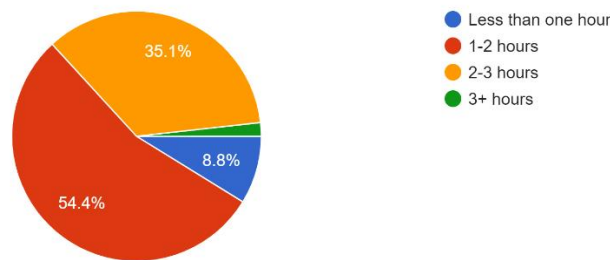
How many people do you most often play pickleball with?

57 responses



How long do you typically spend playing pickleball in a single day or session?

57 responses



From the data gathered, we learned the following:

- Over 60% of respondents are playing 2-4+ times per week.
- Over 50% are playing for 1-2 hours, with large numbers playing for up to three hours.
- The K-M Pickleball Community has grown to a welcoming, supportive, and fun group of people that are drawing people from other communities to play. I know in our group alone we have people from K-M, Hayfield, Kenyon, Owatonna, and Racine.
- We also lose people to other communities that have more developed courts.
- Pickleball is both a family and social activity that is for a wide range of ages.

Pickleball is a sport that players can participate in all year. For the last three years, K-M Community Education has held indoor sessions in the middle school and elementary school gyms. These winter season sessions have experienced tremendous growth year over year. Since the program inception there have been eighty-six unique people enrolled, many of them returning each session. The last sessions in 2023 and spring of 2024 were full and had approximately ten people on a waiting list. This does not account for those who log into the Community Ed website, see the class is full and then decide not to sign up for the wait list. There were participants from K-M, Byron, Kenyon, Racine, Rochester, and Dodge Center. The program is an adult only program and because of that, Community Education denied program access to thirty teenage students last year. It broke my heart when I learned that we had to turn away kids that were looking for a healthy and social activity that does not involve staring at a screen simply because we do not have the court space for them to play.

Recently in the Dodge County Independent there was a new “doing business as” posting for a new pickleball equipment sales business in Kasson. It is unknown when this business will get off the ground, but it shows the growing popularity and interest in pickleball. Byron has a business that runs out of a large pole shed with two indoor courts and they provide instruction along with equipment sales. There is also a similar business in Pine Island.

The local statistics, the at-capacity indoor program, and the number of pickleball businesses in the area are proof of the need for court space in our community. Just imagine what we could do with courts in Mantorville! We envision a K-M Pickleball Community that:

- Runs women's, men's, co-ed, and youth leagues and open play for all age groups, further building community connections and engagement.
 - Youth leagues and open play
 - Young adult and working-aged leagues and open play in the mornings and evenings.
 - Daytime leagues and open play for seniors and retirees.
 - Mixed age leagues and open play
 - Leagues and open play by skill level, as interest and utilization grow.
- Marigold Days could consider hosting a tournament to add to the weekend activities.

Currently, none of these things are possible without pickleball courts. These types of programs will draw people to our community where they feel welcomed and spend money with our local businesses.

We hope this information helps you to see the need to add pickleball court space in Mantorville and hope that you support adding courts to our community. If the park board decided to move forward with building pickleball courts, our group of experienced players would like to offer our insight into court design and location. We are also in the very preliminary stages of organizing as an association and it is our goal to begin raising money for courts in the Kasson and Mantorville communities.

We would like to close by inviting the members of the Park Board and City Council to join us to play Pickleball on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 PM at Lion's Park in Kasson. We hope to show you what the game is about, why we enjoy it so much, and how adding quality pickleball courts would be a great asset for our community.