

Maidu Sports Court Renovation
Public Workshop – April 9, 2026 at 6:30pm at Maidu Community Center
Approximately 24 residents and 5 City Staff attended.

Introductions:

- Tara Gee, Park Planning & Development Manager
- Joel De Jong, Park Development Project Manager
- Jeff Nereson, Recreation Manager
- Brian Castelluccio, Parks Manager
- Jennifer Adona, Park Development Office Assistant

Project History:

Jeff and Brian discussed operational and maintenance challenges of the batting cages at Maidu Regional Park, which closed in 2008.

- Expensive to maintain, drainage and electrical issues
 - Maintenance is costly
 - Lanes constantly had to be closed down due to malfunction
 - Machines degrade over time (causing safety concerns)
 - Challenge to keep service going
 - At one time, the machines were upgraded, but after time we had the same issues
 - This facility required a specific expertise, which the City does not have
- Challenging to operate (from a staffing issue)
 - Staff are generally 16-18 year olds that do not have the expertise to manage the machines
 - It's cost prohibited to fix because of need to hire an outside, specialized contractor
 - The machine falls out of alignment during use and had to be consistently realigned
- Public complaints
 - Weather closures
 - Lanes closed due to maintenance
 - The type of machines we have which utilize rubber balls
 - More bat and ball players prefer indoor cages to outdoor
 - All this led to low use

The return on investment is not there. The City needs to evaluate whether we should as a public agency spend money to run a specialty-type amenity or should we focus on recreation for the greater community?

Concept Sketch:

Joel shared the proposed compromise (Concept Sketch.) Amenities include 2 pickleball courts and 2 batting tunnels.

Public Comments/ Discussion:

- *Explain what a batting tunnel is.* Answer: They are popular at Mahany Park. At Mahany, it's a concrete slab with artificial turf and these will be similar. One person can pitch the ball to a batter. The "tunnel" is a fenced/enclosed space so balls aren't hit everywhere. It can be used for any hand pitching or small pitching machine.
- *Will there be a net?* Answer: Details like this will be based on funding.
- *When did the batting cages close?* Answer: 2008
- *How many public pickleball courts are there in Roseville?* Answer: 19
- *There are 0 batting cages and over a thousand participants in youth and adult baseball.* Answer: There are at least 7 private companies who offer batting cages. No matter what sport a person is involved with, there is never enough. We need a balance.
- *New batting cage technology/ apps could decrease the need for staff.*
- *Roseville Girls Softball can't get time on the fields due to Woodcreek Baseball use at Mahany.*
- *Is there still consideration for batting cages?* Answer: This depends on the public majority.
- *Many vendors at the recent California Park Recreation Society Expo have various batting cage technology.*
- *What's the average age of a pickleball player?* Answer: 35. It's the fastest growing sport in the nation. Kids and growing families are also involved now. If it becomes an Olympic sport, the popularity will continue to grow.
- *How many more pickleball courts are planned for Roseville?* Answer: 3 more at Gibson, 6 at Pistachio and 2 at Maidu. There is a future bat and ball complex planned for West Roseville as well.
- *Pickleball noise is obnoxious in what we consider serene at Maidu.* Answer: There will be an acoustic noise barrier to mitigate noise. We consider the noise concern and how close the courts are to homes when planning.
- *We live on the other side of Rocky Ridge and we would be able to hear the batting cage noise when it was operating.* Answer: Any activity is going have noise. The traffic on Rocky Ridge will also help mitigate any new noise generated.
- *There's a rise in American Soccer League softball, while pickleball is a niche market. Travel leagues are growing.*
- The City shared that the Maidu Neighborhood Association (NA) overwhelmingly support pickleball. It's a multi-generational sport with more than one demographic.
- *Maidu Regional Park is 24 hours, will the tunnels have set hours?* Answer: Yes, they will have set hours and although there is no entrance gate to the park, Roseville parks actually open at sunrise and close 1 hour after sunset, (except when they are lighted fields).

- *Softball is multigenerational. Baseball and softball is already so limited in Roseville. There's indoor for pickleball but not bat and ball.* Answer: The planned bat and ball complex will have softball and baseball.
- *We feel like (bat and ball) is being taken away since they (the batting cages) have been non-operational for a time.* Answer: In recent years we have added softball fields at Central and Pistachio with more to come.
- *Who makes league allocations for fields? We can't use them (the batting tunnels) if they are being used. How do we set time?* Answer: We don't have an answer for that yet and will be looking at programming if/when we build the tunnels.
- *At Maidu, we already have baseball and soccer, and now we can add pickleball.*
- *How many soccer fields? Acreage?* Answer: 5 fields and about 2 ½ acres (2 acres each field)
- *Did we find more funding to do this project?* Answer: Yes, we have enough funds. To take the cages down is quite expensive. This compromise proposal fits current funding.
- The City shared that grass maintenance is expensive (in regards to field #4 renovation). We had to regrade and install sod due to vandalism (truck driving on the field).
- *Support for pickleball near mature redwoods. It would be an improvement for the park and minimal maintenance. Besides a new net once in a while. Plus, it can serve a downtime sport for those in ball games.*
- *This is a good compromise. Rec ball players can use the tunnels and this is passive for the community.*
- *Why not more batting tunnels than 2?* Answer: We need to consider space constraints.
- *Thankful for the noise.*
- *Has there been infrastructure planning? Baseball is a legacy sport and pickleball is new. We may end up with lots of unused concrete. This is a community of wealth. We should think qualitatively not quantitatively.*
- *Maidu is 152 acres and we only want a small amount for pickleball, in a park that has lots of equity for softball, baseball and soccer.*
- *Where do we have already have pickleball courts?* Gibson, Crabb, Campus Oaks and Roccucci.
- *There 4 baseball fields, but they are allocated to league play.* Answer: There are times where there is no allocation and the general public have opportunity to play.
- *Have you considered tokens for batting cages as a revenue stream? Indoor cages make money, can the City do the same and make enough to maintain?* Answer: Indoor cages do make money, but they also just are maintaining and staffing the 1 facility, while the City has over 90 parks and facilities. We also opened up the conversation to have a third party run the batting cages (with several parties) and when they did their research and they figured out they would be upside down and not worth it.
- *Can the Youth Sports Coalition (YSC) fees be used?* Answer: It might be a hard sell.

Support or Oppose:

By raise of hands, how many support the proposal? 19

Against? 4

Next Steps:

- Evaluate the feedback
- Finalize design
- Develop construction plans

Thank you to those that participated. We appreciate your feedback.

The meeting minutes will be posted on the website

roseville.ca.gov/parksintheworks