

Valley County offers pickleball club new site for eight courts

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Eight pickleball courts proposed to be built in Lake Fork are back on track.

The Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission approved a proposal in December 2020 for the Valley County Pickleball Club to build the pickleball courts on county property at 50 East Lake Fork Road. The club was required to build and maintain the courts, but would not be charged a fee by the county.

In March, Valley County Pickleball Club representative Hope Ayres told commissioners that soil tests at the site were too low in the water table.

The county has allowed the group to move the courts to higher ground directly to the east of the first proposed location on the same property, Ayres said.

The area is part of a larger 55-acre site owned by the county that houses equipment for the county's road and solid waste departments as well as the Valley County Recycling Center.

The proposed facility would be free to the public and include a chain-link fence, parking, toilet facilities and storage shed on 2.5 acres.

Developing the site is estimated to cost about \$400,000, which would be paid for by the club through donations and grants, Ayres said.

Construction would likely start in 2022 with the courts as the first part of the complex to be constructed.

The Valley County Pickleball club's goal is to provide a fun, healthy, recreational activity for locals and visitors by growing the sport of Pickleball in Valley County.

The club also works with government agencies to develop dedicated places to play.

The Mountain & Meadows Pickleball Club and City of McCall Parks and Recreation have teamed up to bring pickleball lessons for ages 6 and older in late June and early July. Visit <https://mccallrec.com> for more details.

The Valley County Pickleball Club will be giving lessons to the Cascade Summer Day Camp program through the Cascade Afterschool Program June 28-29 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Cascade outdoor pickleball court at 105 E. Mill Street in Cascade.

The club will also work with the campers to repaint paint the lines on the court June 25.

For more information about the Lake Fork courts project, visit <https://valleycountypickleball.com>.

