

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Recieved**

**December 9, 2019**

## Daniel Nakahara

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**From:** Tim <tpshanley@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 8:52 AM  
**To:** Daniel Nakahara  
**Subject:** Deer spring park

Dan  
We strongly oppose the proposed pickle ball courts at Deerspring. We need MORE green space in Deerfield, not less.

What does the board have against East Deerfield? First the ridiculous affordable housing project to be built on a flood plain with no ability to make a left (East) turn on Deerfield Rd, which will undoubtedly cause tragic accidents. Now pickle ball at Deerspring?do these people actually think getting rid of green space will not affect more people than building pickle ball courts? Are these people complete idiots?

We strongly oppose this development.

Tim and Betty Shanley

Sent from my iPhone

## Daniel Nakahara

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**From:** Maggie <maggiehoody@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** Daniel Nakahara; Jeffery Ryckaert; jeff@deerfieldparks.org; Mayor Harriet Rosenthal; rbentor@deerfield.il.us; Trustee Thomas Jester; Trustee Mary Oppenheim; Trustee William Seiden; Trustee Dan Shapiro; Trustee Barbara Struthers  
**Subject:** Deerspring Park Pickle Ball

Dear All,

We are writing to express our dissent for the proposed plan to place pickle-ball courts at Deerspring Park. We moved to Deerfield in the summer of 2018 and chose our home due to its proximity to Deerspring Park. Our boys love to walk, bike, and scooter there on a regular basis. We love the pool, splash pad, playground, and hanging out in the green space off the trail at the entrance to the park. It has been an amazing place to practice baseball skills, observe wildlife, and enjoy all that childhood entails.

Our concern is that the addition of the pickle ball courts will result in:

1. A net loss of green space.
2. An increase in noise for neighbors and those enjoying the pool and park. (We also worry that pickle ball players may be annoyed by the noise of those using the pool and park.)

Some possible alternatives that come to mind:

1. Could the new pickle ball courts be constructed at one of Deerfield's elementary or middle level school sites? This would enable school children to learn the game of pickle ball as part of their P.E. courses and increase the likelihood that pickle ball remains a sport with an interested pool of players on into the future.
2. Could the new pickle ball courts be constructed near the Patty Turner Center (by Brickyards park)? We know there is additional renovation happening at that park and its proximity to the Patty Turner Center seems wise given our understanding of the clientele for the pickle ball courts.

Our schedules will not permit us to attend the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019. If we could be at the meeting, the message above is what we would convey.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Hoody and Thomas Gniadek

## Daniel Nakahara

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**From:** Lucille Pirri <lpirri@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** Daniel Nakahara  
**Cc:** Mayor Harriet Rosenthal; Trustee Bob Benton; Trustee Thomas Jester; Trustee Mary Oppenheim; Trustee William Seiden; Trustee Dan Shapiro; Trustee Barbara Struthers  
**Subject:** Pickle Ball Courts at Deerspring Pool

Mr. Nakahara,

Frank and I are writing to you to express our concern regarding the proposed plan to pave over most of the green space at Deerspring Park for pickle ball courts.

We are urging the Plan Commission to reject this proposal because the loss of ANY green space at ANY park here in the community means a loss of that green space ability to soak up storm waters that have caused much flooding in Deerfield in the last few years. It does not appear that the “retention area” that will be built will prevent this recurring flooding and will create a prime area for breeding mosquitos.

There are several tennis courts in Deerfield that are already lined for Pickle Ball – including the one at Deerspring.

As to the noise level this will cause the neighbors on Margate Terrace, - IF it was wrong at Jewett Park, it is wrong at Deerspring also. The noise level will be just as loud as it would have been at Jewett Park.

We urge the Plan Commission and the Board of Trustees to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Lucille and Frank Pirri  
585 Bent Creek Ridge  
Deerfield, IL 60015-4526  
847-945-1488

## Daniel Nakahara

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**From:** Rebecca Soldwisch <dasras@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2019 2:20 PM  
**To:** Daniel Nakahara; Jeffery Ryckaert; Trustee Barbara Struthers; Trustee Dan Shapiro; Trustee Mary Oppenheim; Trustee William Seiden; Trustee Bob Benton; Mayor Harriet Rosenthal; tjester@deerfieldil.us  
**Subject:** Re Deerspring Pool Pickleball Proposal....

Dear Mayor Rosenthal, Deerfield Trustees, and Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing in regards to the proposed pickleball courts at Deerspring Pool. I plan on attending the meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>, but wanted to share my thoughts in advance. I live at 1009 Meadowbrook with my husband and we have the distinction of owning one of the houses deemed closet to the new courts under consideration. Under ordinary circumstances we would send a single letter, I however am writing my own because I am home during the day and my experience living next to the pool is indeed different than his. We have lived here six years, and in those years we have enjoyed both the spoils and annoyances that living near a park might entail. Our community of Meadowbrook, which has 52 homes, doesn't have sidewalks and like many of my neighbors have relied on the gently sloped lawn of Deerspring for dog walks...and deer watching as they can be found grazing there early in the morning and at dusk. In the warmer months, while gardening on our south patio or lounging in our backyard I can hear kids playing at the pool, lifeguard whistles, the loud music played during the day, and the occasional music in the early evening; the full conversations of people playing tennis, a serve, a volley. In our bedroom which faces south I hear the Coho swim coach encouraging her kids to move it, while blowing a whistle and providing instruction...you could even say she is a second alarm clock because it's definitely an early morning wake –up call before 8am. And I have never, ever complained to the village.

I can tell you Lion's Drive hosts as much traffic as Beverly or Heather as a way to get from Deerfield road to Manor/Margate; headlights shining into our dining room are proof it doesn't taper off after rush hour. From my breakfast table I see the dozens upon dozens of cars that don't stop at the stop sign at Margate & Meadowbrook, or the many cars that use Margate as a the straight away from Oxford all the way to Heather Circle. I see all the kids who bike and the many dogs and their owners out for a walk....in short I am very aware of my surroundings. I know what it looks like after a moderate rain. This proposal has me simultaneously confused, angry and incredibly sad.

I am confused why these courts, which Mayor Rosenthal herself agreed were too noisy for Jewett Park are somehow not too noisy for me and my neighbors who abut Deerspring. Prior to receiving a certified mail notice about this proposal I had very little knowledge about this sport, but upon researching what it is and how it is played it became obvious why the neighbors at Jewett came out in force against courts being placed by them. Which really says a lot because the homes by Jewett deal with constant daily freight and commuter rail traffic; you might wonder how they'd even tell a difference by having these courts nearby. We may have woods running along Margate, but they are not deep, and trees do not absorb sound. When leafed out they create a green curtain that obscures the view...but that changes with the seasons. Not only would we hear players and the signature pop-pop-pop of the paddle and the ball, but we would see the chain link fencing surrounding the courts and the proposed lighting. Pickleball is a noisy sport, and on those grounds alone should be placed in another park with less residential housing nearby.

I've read the flawed audio study Deerfield commissioned *after* the courts got bumped from Jewett; it's terribly curious how the study states there is no adverse impact. If this is true, why not simply move the courts back to their original proposed location? You can't have it both ways, it's either a noisy sport and has to move to a new spot, and be properly soundproofed or it's not and can return to Jewett which has a larger green footprint than Deerspring. However, if this dispute was only about noise it would be one thing. The bigger issue with this proposal being carried out at our park is green space, trees and drainage, drainage, drainage.

We have terrible, preexisting drainage in this area in general, our neighborhood specifically; some of it as a result of Deerfield's actions. The proposal, which would remove all green lawn and trees from the northwest corner of Deerspring, and replace it with impermeable surfaces will not make our situation any better. Deerfield did not install storm sewers along Manor/Margate to move water that already exists and alleviate flooding even though there is a deep need for one. Why would we put our trust in the plans for retention areas to adequately handle what engineers 'think' will happen if these courts are installed, when we suffer from current unaddressed problems several times a year? It is irresponsible to overlook what is already occurring in this area, and not include it in the plans. The land behind the tennis courts is often moist, and the volleyball court's sand surface acts as a rain garden until it can absorb no more. When that is disturbed, and the proposed retention pond fails to accommodate the reality of frequent moderate-to-heavy rainfall that is becoming the norm, our community will suffer worse than it does now. It has gotten progressively worse each season we live here, and when it rained December 2018 it revealed we need to fear more than just spring & summer storms...any appreciable amount rain becomes a torment for me and my neighbors. The main road into our community, Meadowbrook, quickly becomes a running torrent of rushing water. We flash flood several times a year, and just this past summer had a strong enough stream flowing that someone drove onto our driveway and serpentine across the road to the next driveway to manage a pathway home. The pressure pipe Deerfield installed to dump Oxford's water onto the meadow at the corner of Margate & Meadowbrook quickly fills our culvert system overwhelming it and causing water to pond and ultimately rush. If Deerfield saw fit to engineer this, why would we have any belief that the proposed drainage, once implemented as a result of these courts, would be any different? And if not us, maybe it would hurt the homes on Brand Lane. I wouldn't want any of my neighbor's to deal with what we endure, or as frequently.

What we need at Deerspring is a preservation of the green lawn, permeable ground, and tall leafy trees that are cherished and utilized by people and their dogs as a place to play fetch or just stroll catching a good sniff. It's where the deer graze, and kids can run around and play on a soft surface adjacent to the concrete that rings the pool and play lot. At a time when climate change is in the news daily, I cannot fathom how pickleball courts could be considered more precious than open land with mature trees....especially in a park with so little open space. And, more importantly, in an area of Deerfield that has seriously flawed drainage. Equally disturbing would be the addition of more fencing at Deerspring; the tennis courts are fenced, the pool and picnic tables are behind fencing, the last thing our park needs is more fencing. It will look like a minimum security prison set down in Deerfield.

If the park district and village planners truly wish to improve our park and give some love to Deerspring might I suggest they do so by replacing the signage for the pool that has been missing for four years(!) from the entrance on Manor/Margate, supplant the trees we've lost to disease and invest in new landscaping to soften how much of the current fencing we see. Maybe the picnic table area could be reconfigured so people other than those at the pool could enjoy it, especially because the pool is only open for a few weeks each season. The tennis courts at Deerspring are already striped for pickleball –as are those at Briarwood and Mitchell Park, plus the indoor courts at Sachs Recreation Center. If there is a need for more courts, why not place them at Brickyards Park which not only has green lawn to spare, but that is adjacent to railroad tracks and no

residential homes. It hosts no other racquet sports, has an outdoor pavilion, restrooms, and the Patty Turner Center.

It is my deep hope you will consider not only my wish, but the wishes of my neighbors in Meadowbrook and those who reside on the surrounding streets to preserve Deerspring's lawn for our continued recreation and instead seriously consider the types of improvements this corner of Deerfield really needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Soldwisch  
1009 Meadowbrook Ln