



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

APPROVE REMOVAL OF THREE OF SIX BASKETBALL HOOPS ON WEST SIDE OF CLARK FIELD

(Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Nichols)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council approve the removal of three of six basketball hoops along the western side of Clark Field, and the associated safety improvement measures.

Executive Summary:

The City's risk management team identified (3) non-standard basketball courts located within the service road along the west side of Clark Field and associated safety concerns. Staff brought an item to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (Commission) on February 10, 2026 to solicit input on options to enhance public safety such as removal of some or all of the basketball hoops, and other potential risk mitigation measures. The Commission provided staff with input, taking into consideration public comments, for the desire to restore some or all of the recreation hoops in potentially an alternative configuration to limit the potential for gameplay and improve overall safety.

Staff reviewed the input and comments received and developed a plan for Council consideration that includes the restoration of three (3) of the six (6) hoops (i.e., elimination of one hoop in each court), and modifications to the poles to allow for one 8-foot rim and two 9-foot rims, which are more suitable for younger players, installation of safety signage, and the future resurfacing of the play area.

Background:

The six basketball hoops along the western side of Clark Field are used for leisure and are not designed as recreational courts. The basketball hoops are aligned back-to-back with a three-foot wide area on each sideline. One side abuts the ballfield fence, and the other abuts a retaining wall. The space between each hoop measures approximately 60 feet by 24.5 feet wide.

By comparison, standard regulation dimensions as specified by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for an individual outdoor basketball court are 84 feet long by 50 feet wide for a full court and 50 feet long by 47 feet wide for a half-court, with a recommended

standards buffer zone of at least 3 feet, with 5 to 10 feet recommended for high-traffic or competitive settings.

Following the review of the non-standard basketball courts located within the service road along the west side of Clark Field and associated safety concerns, Public Works crews removed the six (6) backboards on February 2, 2026 and posted notices on the basketball posts with information about the removal and plans for discussion at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (Commission) (**Attachment**). Staff then brought an item to Commission at its February 10, 2026 meeting for further discussion and to solicit input on options to enhance public safety such as removal of some or all of the basketball hoops, and other potential risk mitigation measures. The Commission provided staff with input, taking into consideration public comments, and the desire to restore some or all of the recreation hoops in potentially an alternative configuration to limit the potential for gameplay and improve overall safety.

On, February 25, 2026, staff met with a group of nearby residents and the President of the Hermosa Beach Youth Basketball League to further discuss options and plans to restore some of the hoops with an alternative configuration. Subsequent to this meeting, on February 26, 2026, Public Works staff restored one of the hoops and developed and installed associated safety signage as an interim measure.

Past Commission Action

Meeting Date	Description
February 10, 2026	Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission provided staff with input, taking into consideration public comments, for the desire to restore some or all of the recreation hoops in potentially an alternative configuration to limit the potential for gameplay and improve overall safety.

Discussion:

The area along the western side of Clark Field is physically constrained for basketball play. A short retaining wall borders one side of the asphalt, while a ballfield fence borders the other, leaving limited buffer space between active play and fixed, hard surfaces. The asphalt area also functions as a pedestrian and maintenance access route, resulting in overlapping uses within a confined footprint.

If informal or pick-up basketball games occur in this location, they involve high-energy physical activity immediately adjacent to rigid structures and within a shared circulation corridor. These conditions raise concerns regarding a potential “dangerous condition of public property” under Government Code Section 835. A public entity may be liable where (1) property is in a dangerous condition, (2) the condition proximately causes injury, (3) the risk of injury is reasonably foreseeable, and (4) the entity had actual or constructive notice and sufficient time to take protective measures. Given the proximity of the retaining

wall and fencing, the absence of safety buffers, and the foreseeable risk of player collisions or pedestrian conflicts, it could be argued that a dangerous condition exists particularly if the City knew or reasonably should have known of the configuration and did not take reasonable mitigation steps.

While Government Code Section 831.7 provides immunity for injuries arising from certain hazardous recreational activities, reliance on that immunity may be limited in this context. Basketball is not typically classified as an inherently hazardous recreational activity under the statute, and immunity does not apply where a dangerous condition of public property exists independent of the activity itself or where the public entity creates or maintains a known structural hazard. Here, the placement and maintenance of basketball hoops in a narrow, mixed-use corridor could itself be alleged to constitute the dangerous condition.

In consideration of community feedback following the removal of the basketball backboards, and the Commission's input to restore some or all of the recreation hoops, staff proposes that the City Council consider approval of retaining three of the six basketball hoops along the western side of Clark Field. If the City Council approves retaining three hoops, staff would implement the following measures to reduce risk exposure and clarify the limited recreational intent of the area:

- Restore three basketball hoops, two set at 9 feet and one at 8 feet, all oriented in the same direction to discourage full-court or organized game play and reduce the perception that the area functions as a regulation basketball court. One hoop was already installed on February 26, 2026 and the remaining two hoops would require minor modifications to the posts by City crews.
- Resurface the asphalt in the vicinity of the retained hoops as part of an upcoming slurry seal project (Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project 107), anticipated within approximately four months of this report, to address surface deterioration.
- Install signage clarifying the informal and shared-use nature of the area, such as: "Use at Your Own Risk," "Not a Designated Court," "Area Shared with Pedestrians", "Yield to Pedestrians", and/or "No Organized Games – Casual Play Only." Signage was installed adjacent to one hoop on February 26, 2026; additional signage would be installed adjacent to the remaining two hoops.
- Conduct and document regular inspections, corrective actions, and responses to complaints to demonstrate proactive maintenance, monitoring, and oversight.

If approved, retention of the three basketball hoops would constitute a City Council–approved policy determination reflecting a deliberative balancing of community recreational interests and risk considerations. Such formal action may help demonstrate that the City's decision was a reasoned policy choice, rather than inadvertent neglect, should liability issues later arise.

This approach seeks to preserve limited, casual recreational opportunities while implementing reasonable risk mitigation measures and documenting the City's proactive oversight.

Fiscal Impact:

The modifications of the backboards and installation of associated signage will be completed by Public Works staff.

The resurfacing of the roadway adjacent to the three (3) hoops will be included as part of CIP 107 Slurry Seal Improvements, which is included in the current Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget. The cost for the required crack seal repair and slurry seal overlay will be bid as a separate items part of CIP 107 and is anticipated to cost approximately \$11,000. No additional funding is required as part of the staff recommendation.

Attachment:

Basketball Court Removal Notice – February 2, 2026

Respectfully Submitted by: Lisa Nichols, Parks and Recreation Director

Concur: Joe SanClemente, Public Works Director

Concur: Tyler Cashman, Interim Human Resources Manager

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Henry Chao, Finance Manager

Concur: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Jason Baltimore, Interim City Attorney

Approved: Steve Napolitano, City Manager