



Pickleball Recycling Program Progress Report

July 2026

Reporting Period: April 15, 2026 – Present

Program Overview

The Tri-Valley Pickleball Club (TVPC) launched its Pickleball Recycling Program on **April 15, 2026**, with the goal of reducing waste by collecting worn-out pickleballs and diverting them from local landfills through recycling.

Since the program's launch, **approximately 850 used pickleballs** have been collected and shipped to our recycling partner BounceBack Pickle for processing and repurposing into new products. The strong participation from players throughout the Tri-Valley demonstrates the community's willingness to support environmental stewardship when convenient recycling opportunities are available.

Collection Results

To date, the program has collected approximately:

- **300 pickleballs** from the **Downs & May Nissen** Pickleball Courts in Livermore (majority from Downs)
- **550 pickleballs** from courts in **Pleasanton, Dublin, and San Ramon**

These collection numbers represent an encouraging start for a volunteer-driven program that is still in its first year of operation.

The Importance of the Collection Bin at Downs

The blue recycling bin installed at the Downs Pickleball Courts—with the approval and support of **Livermore Area Parks & Recreation**—has been instrumental in the program's success.

The permanent collection bin provides several important benefits:

- Makes recycling simple and convenient for players.

- Serves as a highly visible reminder that pickleballs can be recycled rather than discarded.
- Increases awareness of the recycling program among both regular players and visitors.
- Has enabled consistent collection without requiring volunteers to be present.

One concern expressed prior to installation was that the collection bin might become a trash receptacle. Fortunately, that has **not** proven to be a significant issue. While an occasional piece of litter has been found in the bin, misuse has been minimal and has not affected the success or maintenance of the program. The experience at Downs demonstrates that players have respected the intended purpose of the collection bin.

Opportunities at Other Facilities

At the **May Nissen Pickleball Courts in Livermore**, pickleballs are currently collected on an ad hoc basis by volunteers rather than through a permanent collection bin.

May Nissen hosts significantly more pickleball activity than the Downs Courts. Installing a permanent recycling bin would likely increase participation by providing players with an easy and convenient place to recycle worn-out balls.

A visible recycling bin would also help educate players about the program and serve as a continual reminder to recycle rather than discard used pickleballs.

Similar opportunities exist at courts in Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon, where permanent collection bins could further expand participation throughout the Tri-Valley.

Recommendations

Based on the program's performance during its first several months, TVPC recommends the following:

1. **Continue the recycling collection bin at the Downs Courts.** The installation has proven successful, with minimal misuse and strong participation from the pickleball community.
2. **Approve additional recycling bin at Livermore's May Nissen pickleball facility** building on the demonstrated success of the pilot installation.
3. **Work with the Parks & Recreation Departments in Pleasanton, Dublin, and San Ramon** to install similar collection bins at their busiest pickleball facilities.
4. **Continue monitoring each collection site** for participation levels and maintenance needs, documenting both the number of pickleballs collected and any instances of misuse. This information will help guide future expansion of the program.

5. **Promote the recycling program through signage and club communications** to increase awareness and encourage participation throughout the Tri-Valley pickleball community.

Conclusion

The Pickleball Recycling Program has demonstrated that a simple, low-cost initiative can produce meaningful environmental benefits while engaging the local pickleball community.

In the first three months, **850 pickleballs** have been diverted from landfills and sent for recycling. Equally important, the pilot collection bin at the Downs Courts has shown that players will use the bin appropriately, with very little misuse for trash.

Expanding the program to additional facilities represents an opportunity for local Parks & Recreation departments and TVPC to work together in promoting environmental sustainability while providing a convenient service that players have embraced. Based on the results achieved thus far, the program has established a successful model that can be replicated at pickleball courts throughout the Tri-Valley.

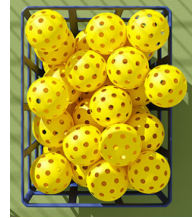
Summary

- **The program works** (850 balls collected in just a few months).
- **Players participate** (collections from four communities).
- **The partnership works** (balls are being shipped to a recycling partner).
- **The concern about misuse has not materialized** (the Downs bin has remained largely free of trash).
- **There's a logical next step** (expand to additional high-use courts).



TVPC Pickleball Recycling Program Update

July 2026



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Program Overview

- Launched April 15, 2026
- 850 pickleballs collected to date
- Strong player participation demonstrates support for this environmental initiative
- Balls shipped to recycling partner
- Diverts waste from landfills



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Collection Results

- 300 collected at Livermore Courts (majority at Downs facility)
- 550 collected in Pleasanton, Dublin & San Ramon Courts
- Average 280+ balls/month



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Success at Livermore Downs

- Blue recycling bin approved by Livermore Area Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Makes recycling simple & convenient without TVPC volunteers being present
- Highly visible & increases awareness
- Minimal misuse for trash
- Strong community participation

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Growth Opportunity

- May Nissen collections are ad hoc by TVPC volunteers
- Eight courts & higher player volume suggests greater potential
- Permanent bin would improve convenience & awareness, increase collection of used balls



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Recommendations & Next Steps

1. Continue Downs bin
2. Add bin at May Nissen Courts
3. TVPC to partner with Pleasanton, Dublin & San Ramon
4. TVPC continue to monitor collections and maintenance
5. Promote program through visibility of bins and TVPC communications

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Summary

- **The program works** – 850 balls collected in just 3 months
- **Players support** & participate in this simple, low cost initiative
- **The partnership works** – balls shipped to BounceBack Pickle for recycling
- **Concern for misuse of bins** has not materialized
- **Logical next step** – replicate bins at other high-use courts



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