October 3, 2023

AP Diaz, Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109
Via email to ap.diaz@seattle.gov

RE: No pickleball courts at Lincoln Park

Superintendent Diaz,

Birds Connect Seattle is an environmental conservation organization, supported by 4,000+ local members, that advocates and organizes for cities where people and birds thrive. We write today in opposition to the addition of pickleball courts at Lincoln Park.

An article from the West Seattle Blog, dated September 25, 2023, quotes Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) representative Rachel Schulkin about the plan:

“The Lincoln plan creates 6 dedicated courts at this location made from an asphalt overlay, with installation set to conclude at the end of Fall 2023. Next, we will evaluate the feasibility of lights at this location.”

Beyond this quote, we are unable to find an official SPR plan or study. We request any such materials to be made available to the public as soon as possible.

Large, mostly natural areas like Lincoln Park are our city’s most significant reservoirs of urban biodiversity. For example, more than 160 species of birds have been reported at Lincoln Park. That’s approximately 64% of all bird species that occur in Seattle from a park that represents just 0.25% of our land area.

Large, mostly natural areas are also where residents and visitors go to experience and connect with nature. This is a critical benefit of urban natural areas, as opportunities to experience and connect with nature can improve physical and mental health and motivate conservation and climate action. Noise and light pollution both degrade habitat quality, and both would be increased by the addition of pickleball courts.

SPR has an obligation and a responsibility to protect the urban biodiversity within its units. Other suitable locations can and should be found for new pickleball courts. They should be kept out of important urban habitat areas.

Please do not site new pickleball courts at Lincoln Park.

Sincerely,

Joshua Morris
Urban Conservation Manager