

23 Overlook Drive  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
April 17, 2025

Robert Hendrick, Chairman  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Town of Ridgefield  
400 Main Street  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

Dear Sir:

I believe that by putting pickle ball courts in the forested area south of the parking lot and north of the river you would be degrading one of Ridgefield's prime natural resources.

The noise and lights of courts would not only be disturbing to the bird and animal life, it would not be good for the many Ridgefielders who walk and run the paths. Right now they are quiet places to hear bird song, enjoy nature, and share discoveries with other walkers. These paths are very popular and I see a large number of users. Also please keep in mind that the asphalt path is the only level nature path in the town accessible to those with strollers and walkers and much favored by them.

Since 2020 I have been collecting data through the ebird application along the paths (wood chip, grass, and asphalt) around the Recreation Center. The first few years of collection were part of the Connecticut Bird Atlas project. I have noted 70 species of birds from these paths. At least 17 species were exhibiting breeding behavior— on nests, feeding babies, recently fledged babies. Most of the birds were seen in the southern half of the trail that contains the forested area in question. A list of bird species is attached.

This wooded area is an important habitat. It needs to stay quiet and undisturbed. The high trees attract some bird species (Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Kingbirds, Warbling Vireos, woodpeckers, etc.) whereas the scrubby, shrubby areas attract others (Veery, Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Morning Doves, Northern Cardinals, etc.). My favorite observation was a female American Woodcock crossing one of the grassy path with 3 fluffy, tiny chicks on June 10, 2024.

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APR 29 2025

PLANNING & ZONING  
COMMISSION

Please don't degrade our walking experience and the animal and bird habitat by putting courts in the forest.

Sincerely,  
Marianne Loomis  
203-604-5754

Attachment: Birds Seen at Recreation Center from e-bird lists 2020 to 2025

Birds Seen at Recreation Center from e-bird lists 2020 to 2025  
70 Species , 17 Breeding Behavior

*American Woodcock (with recently fledged young)	*Northern House Wren (on nest)
Eastern Phoebe	White-breasted Nuthatch
Black Vulture	American Goldfinch
Turkey Vulture	Bald Eagle
Blue Jay	Coopers Hawk
American Crow	Red-shouldered Hawk
Northern Cardinal	Red-tailed Hawk
*Cedar Waxwing (carrying nesting material)	Barred Owl
*Gray Catbird (carrying fecal sack)	*Veery (territorial defense)
*Tree Swallows (nest with young)	*Baltimore Oriole (on nest)
*Barn Swallow (feeding young)	Great Crested Flycatcher
Black-capped Chickadee	Eastern Bluebird
Tufted Titmouse	*Eastern Kingbird (on nest)
*American Robin (on nest)	Eastern Wood-Pewee
*Red-wing Blackbird (feeding young, on nest)	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Rusty Blackbird	Chimney Swift
*Common Grackle (feeding young)	Morning Dove
House Finch	Downy Woodpecker
*House Sparrow (feeding young)	Hairy Woodpecker
White-throated Sparrow	Red-bellied Woodpecker (feeding young)
Dark-eyed Junco	Pileated Woodpecker
Song Sparrow	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Chipping Sparrow	Northern Flicker
European Starling	Bald Eagle
Brown-headed Cowbird	Belted Kingfisher
Common Yellowthroat	*Canada Goose (on nest)
*Yellow Warbler (feeding young)	Great Blue Heron
Palm Warbler	Green Heron
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Great Egret
*American Redstart (same location for 7 days)	Common Merganser
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Hooded Merganser
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Wood Duck
Warbling Vireo	Mallard
*Carolina Wren (with fledglings)	American Black Duck
	Ring-necked Duck
	Solitary Sandpiper