



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Stonecrest Invests in Growing the Sport of Pickleball to Promote Health and Community Engagement**

*City officials recently met with ambassadors from the USA Pickleball Association to talk about the importance of the growing sport.*

**STONECREST, GA (Nov. 7, 2024)** – The City of Stonecrest is excited to announce new investments aimed at growing the sport of Pickleball within the community.

This investment is part of the City’s ongoing commitment to promote healthy living and inclusive recreational opportunities for all residents.

“A core value for the Department of Parks and Recreation is health and wellness,” said Kelly Ledbetter, director of parks and rec. “We recognize how Pickleball contributes to that core value. Like Tennis, Pickleball is a lifelong sport that brings people of all walks of life and varying age groups together.”

Recent renovations at Browns Mill Recreation Center included outlining one of the two Tennis courts for Pickleball: This brought the total amount of Pickleball courts at the city’s only rec center up from five to six.

In 2025, the City plans to build four more Pickleball courts at Browns Mill, bringing the total amount of courts available to play the sport up from six to 10.

“We would love for Stonecrest to become the premiere location for people to play Pickleball on the eastside” said Cathy Sims, an ambassador for the USA Pickleball Association.

“Pickleball is a game where a 14-year-old can play against an 80-year-old and both players still have an equal chance at winning.” Said Ray Sims, Cathy’s husband who is a Pickleball coach and ambassador as well.

The City is expanding its existing recreational facilities to accommodate more dedicated Pickleball courts to offer both casual players and competitive athletes a space to enjoy the game.

“Pickleball has rapidly become one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and Stonecrest is eager to be part of that movement,” said Gia Scruggs, city manager. “Investing in this sport allows us to promote active lifestyles while fostering community connections.”

There are five Pickleball courts inside the recreation center and one outside.

Community members are encouraged to call (470) 552-7275 or email [parksinfo@stonecrestga.gov](mailto:parksinfo@stonecrestga.gov) to learn more about Pickleball opportunities.

