



NEWS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 710 Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 202-2700/ fax (213) 202-2716

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2011

Media contact:
Andrea Epstein, (213) 202-2690, or cell, (323) 816-6712

NEW PADDLE TENNIS COURTS *VENICE BEACH RECREATION CENTER*

LOS ANGELES –Saturday, December 10, 2011 the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks will officially open eleven newly resurfaced paddle tennis courts for public use at Venice Beach Recreation Center. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning and a special “December To Remember Paddle Tennis Doubles Tournament” will take place December 10th and 11th to kick off the opening of the new courts.

The City’s court resurfacing project completely transformed the paddle tennis courts and included all new surfaces, new fencing, and net posts. In addition, an area that was used for storing maintenance equipment next to the courts was removed to allow players to enjoy the ocean view. “We’re thrilled with what the Department of Recreation and Parks has done to make the courts safer and feel we now have the best tennis court complex anywhere. I hope people who like paddle tennis come try these new courts or come watch the best players in the world who are down here playing daily,” said Steve Gumplo, President of the United States Paddle Tennis Association.

The eleven newly resurfaced hard courts overlooking the ocean and located on the Venice Beach Boardwalk are green and blue and are modeled after the colors of the hard courts at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships. This has been the first time they have been resurfaced since their installation in 1970’s.

Paddle tennis is a form of tennis played with tennis balls and paddles on a court roughly a third the size of a tennis court. The game is easier to learn than tennis and tennis players are drawn to it because of its exciting fast style of play at close range. Play is free and paddles can be rented at the Venice Beach Recreation Center. For more information about paddle tennis and the tournament, visit the United States Paddle Tennis Association at www.theuspta.com.

– 30 –

For more information about Department of Recreation and Parks events, activities, services, programs, and facilities, go to www.laparks.org, or call 311, or (213) 202-2700.