

In May 2012 Gary and Lynn Lamb introduced their friends Rich and Trish Davega and Jos and Taylor Hilden to pickleball. The Lambs, who were Cambria RV enthusiasts, had come across the game at RV parks and thought it would be fun for all of us. This was the beginning of what became Cambria Pickleball. Play took place at the Coast Union High School tennis courts three days per week for three hours each day. Over time the three families invited their friends and acquaintances to join them and the number of players quickly grew. Before long the Cambria Tennis Club began complaining about sharing the courts with pickleballers, who had the audacity to make noise due to the paddles and balls along with the sounds of fun while playing.

In response to a move by the Tennis Club to get the pickleballers “evicted” from the tennis courts, Coast Unified School District proposed a solution to the conflict. They offered the pickleballers the opportunity to use land at the Old Cambria Grammar School for the construction of pickleball courts, but they had no money for the project. In November 2013 the Davegas and Hildens were joined by Les and Karen Frair in the creation of Cambria Pickleball by the Sea Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Rich Davega took the lead in creating documents, with assistance from Bill Timothy, to form the organization and enter into written agreements with the school district for construction of the courts. The Board then worked on gathering the necessary funding. Phil Allen, a Cambria retired tennis player and philanthropist, and his wife Nan contributed approximately 1/3 of the necessary funds for the project. The three funding families (Davegas, Frairs, and Hildens) essentially matched that amount, and the remaining third was contributed by the remainder of the players, that had now grown to approximately 80 players, along with several fund-raising activities.

Rich Davega took the lead in the design and contracting for the construction of the courts, with input from Bill Timothy, Mary Middleton, Taylor Hilden, and Tori Thompson who were the newly elected Board of Directors. In June 2015 construction began and the project was completed on September 3, 2015.