Seattle
Parks & Recreation



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Supplement to FAQ dated June 17, 2026)

2026 Outdoor Racquet Sports Draft Strategy released April 6, 2026

NEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – August 3, 2026

25. **What are next steps after the second round of public engagement that occurred in June?**
SPR will be diving into the topic areas already identified in the Draft Strategy, as well as those identified through public engagement, with a focus group comprised of pickleball players, tennis players, and residents adjacent to locations with significant items of discussion to update the Draft Strategy. The plan is to share an updated draft strategy with the public through additional engagement that will occur mid- to late-fall 2026.

26. **Why now? What problem(s) is SPR trying to solve?**
This strategy was produced by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) in response to the growing popularity of pickleball and tennis and the need to balance the needs of both users in our park system.

27. **Why propose open play at only certain courts instead of all courts?**
Both types of play (open and closed) are popular among Seattle pickleball players. See Section IV of the Draft Strategy for reasons open play is proposed at certain locations.

28. **Why was there another round of meetings before revising the Draft Strategy?**
Response and turnout to the first phase of engagement in May was tremendous! SPR received numerous requests to host additional meetings and in additional neighborhoods throughout the city. Thus, we scheduled four additional engagement sessions in June. These additional meetings also allowed us to share feedback heard to date to ensure we understood key takeaways and more deeply engage with the community.

29. **What level of involvement did USTA have in development of the Draft Strategy and what level do they continue to provide?**
In 2023, USTA provided the court asset condition analysis for all existing outdoor court locations to support asset management planning and a court resurfacing schedule. The USTA was not involved in the development of the Draft Strategy.

Seattle Parks & Recreation

30. **What does it mean to design pickleball courts that are non-regulation?**
Please see the April 2026 Draft Outdoor Racquet Sport Strategy Background Information and Data (pages 186-421) pages 80-85. This provides information from The American Sports Builders Association taken from regulations put forth by USA Pickleball (USAP). Section 2 of the USAP "Official Rulebook" specifies dimensions, measurements, lines, areas and net for the standard pickleball court:

- Rule 2.A.1: The court shall be a rectangle measuring 20' (6.10 m) wide and 44' (13.41 m) long for both singles and doubles matches.
- Rule 2.A.2: Court measurements shall be made to the outside of the perimeter and non-volley zone lines. All lines should be 2" (5.08 cm) wide and the same color, clearly contrasting with the color of the playing surface.
- Rule 2.A.3: The minimum playing surface area measures 30' (9.14 m) wide and 60' (18.29 m) long. A 10' (3.05-m)

The above measurements produce a 30'x60' sized pickleball court known as a "regulation court." Regulation courts are required for tournament play. However, just as basketball can be played with a hoop at the end of your driveway, there are opportunities to create meaningful recreational pickleball play in a smaller footprint. A good example of this can be seen at the 5th and Taylor courts in Belltown. A reduced footprint may also enable a higher density of courts for a single location with high demand such as Green Lake Park East.

31. **Why has SPR not tried noise mitigation panels at locations where noise is a concern before considering removing access or limiting hours?**
SPR has tested noise mitigation panels at two locations (Miller Playfield and Laurelhurst Playfield). Results show that noise panels are ineffective at dampening sound any time there is a change in elevation between courts and neighboring residences (topography and/or additional stories above a fence line). Additionally, each panel must be specially designed to fit a corresponding fence panel at each location requiring site-specific design, CEPTED evaluations, and cost estimating. This strategy proposes alternative approaches to mitigation for these reasons.

32. **Why did the public engagement sessions not include a question-and-answer public session?**
The engagement sessions focused on providing the public with the maximum amount of allowable time to provide feedback. Opportunities were also provided for individuals to submit questions, either handwritten or electronic. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is designed to provide responses to community questions. If not a frequently asked question, the feedback was still logged in the Comprehensive Feedback Tracker to be evaluated for future strategy updates.

33. **Why is SPR considering dedicating Cal Anderson for pickleball use after designating it a multi-use sport court in 2022?**
One of the areas of the city with the fewest number of pickleball courts roughly aligns with Council District #3. We heard significant feedback about the Draft Strategy's proposal to convert the existing tennis court that is dual striped with dodge ball (the middle court of the three) to pickleball, which will be considered for future strategy updates.