



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 2026 Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy

#### 1. Why is SPR reducing the number of pickleball courts?

The goal of this strategy is to increase the number of dedicated courts, which will ultimately provide more playtime for both sports overall. To do so, a phased strategy is needed that begins with eliminating dual use courts. While this will temporarily reduce the total number of pickleball courts by 32, it will immediately add 58 dedicated pickleball courts. Further details will be provided in the presentations as part of the public engagement.

<b>PROPOSED STRATEGY – PICKLEBALL COURTS</b>			
	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed 2027</b>	<b>Proposed 2030</b>
Dedicated Courts	7	65	90
Total Courts (No SPS Sites)	97	76	90
Total Courts (Plus SPS Sites)	109	98	102

<b>PROPOSED STRATEGY – TENNIS COURTS</b>			
	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed 2027</b>	<b>Proposed 2030</b>
Dedicated Courts (No SPS Sites)	98	114	114
Total Courts (No SPS Sites)	134	114	114
Total Courts (Plus SPS Sites)	150	120	120

#### 2. Why is SPR not expanding the number of pickleball courts?

SPR is expanding pickleball access mainly by converting shared (dual-use) courts into dedicated courts (see Question 1). This approach increases the amount of reliable, usable play time, even if the total number of lined courts temporarily decreases.



Further expansion of new facilities is underway at Magnuson Park and Georgetown Playfield. Magnuson Park is currently in design development for 8 new courts to be built in 2028. See the project page ([Magnuson Park Pickleball Court Development - Parks | seattle.gov](#)) for updates for that location. Georgetown Playfield will complete design development in 2027.

**3. What data did SPR use to support proposed recommendations?**

SPR used ActiveNet reservation data, Placer AI location data, as well as on-site observations to inform use trends at court locations. This data was part of a larger analysis geared towards maximizing the use of existing facilities to provide access to both racquet sports throughout the city for both reserved and drop-in play taking into consideration school use, equity priority areas, historic use, site conditions, previous user feedback, and the differing needs of the two racquet sports. Private facility access was not taken into consideration. These recommendations are not final. Public feedback is a critical part of the process and will be incorporated before the strategy is finalized.

**4. Were noise impacts a consideration for the recommendations of this draft strategy?**

Yes, noise impacts were considered. Only one proposed recommendation was strongly influenced by noise impacts that could not easily be mitigated: Gilman Playground.

**5. Who provided input on the draft strategy?**

Feedback from past engagement efforts, independent research from previous planning work, SPR's general information hotline ([pbs\\_info@seattle.gov](mailto:pbs_info@seattle.gov)), and customer satisfaction surveys helped inform the recommendations.

**6. What are the next steps now that the draft strategy has been released? Will there be additional public meetings?**

SPR will be completing public engagement (see Question #7) through May 11<sup>th</sup>. Following engagement, the strategy will be reviewed in consideration of the



feedback received to determine if additional engagement is needed, which could include additional public meetings. Ultimately, feedback will be incorporated, the strategy will be updated as needed and will then begin implementation. Updates will be posted on the engagement hub ([Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy | Engage Seattle Parks](#)).

## **7. How to provide feedback related to the strategy?**

We want to ensure that all feedback is recorded and accounted for as part of this engagement process. Therefore, we are asking everyone to submit all feedback by either attending an in-person meeting, completing the online survey, or submitting feedback on the engagement hub ([RS - Engage! | Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy | Engage Seattle Parks](#)). Public meetings will be used to present the current proposed strategy and hear feedback. Questions received will be logged and an updated FAQ will be posted to the engagement hub the week of May 25<sup>th</sup> with questions and comments received from the in-person engagement events and additional online feedback received through May 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. How can I participate if I am unable to attend an in-person meeting?**

Individuals who cannot participate in person can review the presentation from the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners' April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to receive the additional context provided at the in-person meetings. The recording will be posted here: [Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners | seattlechannel.org](#). They can then provide comments and feedback via the online survey or engagement hub (see Question #7).

## **9. How does SPR determine distribution of courts to support equitable access throughout the city?**

Capital facility distribution and access are measured by the percentage of people who can easily drive or walk to a specific facility, based on that facility's unique features. This measurement is called the "level of service." The strategy aims to provide the best service to the greatest number of people by spreading facilities across different areas, but public input will help shape the final decisions. SPR will use this feedback to set a new level of service standard, which will guide future planning for expanding or improving facilities in the Parks and Open Space Plan update later this year.

As currently proposed, the below table provides the resulting court counts by council district and SPR maintenance district for insight into geographic distribution:

Geographic Area	Council District	Tennis	Pickleball
		# courts	# courts
SW & SC	1	16	14
SC & SE	2	25	21
CE	3	15	9
NE	4	21	14
NE & NW	5	9	14
NE, NW & CW	6	22	14
CW	7	6	4

**10. Where are all the existing courts in service that are either pickleball, tennis, or dual use?**

[Pickleball - Parks | seattle.gov](https://seattle.gov/parks/pickleball)

[Outdoor Tennis Court Reservations and Costs - Parks | seattle.gov](https://seattle.gov/parks/tennis)

**11. What about courts not identified in the draft strategy?**

Courts not specifically identified or addressed in the draft strategy are expected to continue to operate as they currently do unless this public engagement process results in recommendations otherwise.

**12. Will existing pre-booking be cancelled?**

At this time, approved pre-booked reservations will be honored at least through September 1, 2026.

**13. Why is SPR proposing to eliminate dual use if this results in a reduction in the total number of courts each sport has access to?**



The proposal to eliminate dual-use courts will temporarily reduce the total number of courts available for pickleball and permanently reduce the total number of courts available for tennis. However, feedback and observations show that dual-use courts often lead to many complaints and are only partially available to each user group. By switching to dedicated courts, SPR can better support peak play times, provide more opportunities for free open play, and reduce conflicts between racquet sports and different types of pickleball play.

Under this plan, SPR expects to recover half of the 32 temporarily reduced courts within 3 years and the rest within 2 more years, depending on funding and market conditions. This temporary reduction will allow SPR to make changes that support open play, make individual pickleball courts reservable, reduce staff time spent managing conflicts, and create a better experience for all players.