



DRAFT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Highlights indicate updates from prior version on website, based on questions from engagement.

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.

April 6, 2026 STRATEGY – PICKLEBALL COURTS			
	Existing	Proposed 2027	Proposed 2030
Dedicated Courts	7	65	90
Total Courts (No SPS Sites)	97	76	90
Total Courts (Plus SPS Sites)	109	98	102

April 6, 2026 STRATEGY – TENNIS COURTS			
	Existing	Proposed 2027	Proposed 2030
Dedicated Courts (No SPS Sites)	98	114	114
Total Courts (No SPS Sites)	134	114	114
Total Courts (Plus SPS Sites)	150	120	120

UPDATE June 17, 2026

The table above inadvertently contained minor inconsistencies with the April 6 released strategy. A detailed breakdown by location of the April 6 draft strategy can

be found on the [engagement hub](#). See file “**April 6th Existing and Proposed Immediate and Final States by Location 6-15-2026.pdf.**”

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 (<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/projects/magnuson-park-pickleball-court-development>) 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.

UPDATE June 17, 2026:

The data used to develop the original recommendations is now posted on the [engagement hub](#). See file “**April Draft RSS Background Data_copy.pdf.**”

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 be easily 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 (pks_info@seattle.gov), and customer satisfaction surveys helped inform the recommendations.

UPDATE June 17, 2026:

See Question 3.

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 11th. Following engagement, the strategy will be reviewed in consideration of the 2 Updated 4/24/26 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](#).

UPDATE June 17, 2026

Additional public engagement has been scheduled, please see the [engagement hub](#) for the schedule and venues of the next meetings and how to provide feedback online if you are not able to attend (see more in update to Question 7).

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](#). 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 25th with questions and comments received from the in-person engagement events and additional online feedback received through May 11th.

UPDATE June 17, 2026

You can find a comprehensive report on feedback received via email, letters, the engagement hub, and email received by the department through May 25th on the engagement hub. See file “**Comprehensive Engagement Report 6-5-2025.pdf.**” We will also continue to log questions and feedback posted to the engagement hub. Additional public meetings have been scheduled where community members will be offered an opportunity to provide in-person feedback. See the [engagement hub](#) for the schedule and venues of the next meetings.

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 23rd 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).

UPDATE June 17, 2026

See the [engagement hub](#) for how to provide feedback virtually for the additional in-person public engagement meetings that have been scheduled.

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	21
SC & SE	2	25	21
CE	3	15	9
NE	4	21	14
NE & NW	5	9	13
NE, NW & CW	6	22	14
CW	7	6	4

UPDATE June 17, 2026

The table above inadvertently contained minor inconsistencies with the April 6 released strategy. A detailed breakdown of the April 6 draft strategy by location and council district can be found on the [engagement hub](#). See file “**April 6th Existing and Proposed Immediate and Final States by Location 6-15-2026.pdf.**”

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

[Pickleball - Parks | seattle.gov](#)

[Outdoor Tennis Court Reservations and Costs - Parks | seattle.gov](#)

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 38 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.

NEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – JUNE 17, 2026

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

Next steps include additional public engagement, revisions to the draft strategy, potentially additional engagement after revisions are made, review by the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and, if approved, implementation.

15. What is SPR's annual funding available for resurfacing outdoor sport courts?

Since the beginning of Cycle 2 of the Seattle Park District in 2023, SPR has programmed approximately \$250,000 for planning, design, and implementation of



resurfacing outdoor sport courts each year. This funding is used for resurfacing *all* outdoor sport courts, not just racquet sport courts and includes improvements beyond resurfacing such as relining courts, as well as net, fence, and equipment repairs.

16. Why does the Strategy propose preserving tennis courts when you can double the number of pickleball players per the same size footprint?

SPR aims to provide a balanced mix of recreational opportunities across the city, including tennis, pickleball, basketball, soccer, passive recreation, and other activities that serve different community interests and needs. If facility planning focused only on maximizing the number of users in a given space, the park system would prioritize only the highest-capacity activities.

17. What is the resurfacing schedule that is referenced in the Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy and when will my court be resurfaced?

Courts are planned for resurfacing based on asset management plans that take into account court condition, distribution, cost, equity, available resources and use factors. The current asset management data for resurfacing can be found on the [engagement hub](#). See file “**AMP Court Resurfacing Due Dates 6-16-26.pdf**.” This is subject to change based on opportunities for coordination with other projects, conflicts with other projects, evolving needs of the City, and to align with decisions made with any final racquet sports strategy, as well as other factors.

18. What will happen at the Seattle Public School (SPS) sites after the Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy is finalized and implemented?

The counts presented in the draft strategy do not include or propose changes to the SPS-owned courts. SPS-owned courts are expected to continue to operate with their current use.

19. Will you post the presentation from the public meeting?

Yes, the presentation from the first round of engagement can be found on the [engagement hub](#), and materials used in future meetings will have a link posted on the engagement hub within a few days of the last public meeting in June.



20. Why did engagement not take place prior to drafting the 2026 Racquet Sport Strategy?

Since 2017, SPR has conducted significant engagement related to racquet sports through citywide outreach, stakeholder meetings, project discussions, and ongoing public communication. SPR used that feedback, along with research and operational analysis, to develop an initial draft strategy for public review and discussion. Public feedback will help shape the final recommendations.

21. Did USTA provide input on the draft Strategy?

No, SPR developed the draft Strategy based on prior feedback from many sources, see Question 20. USTA completed a citywide court condition assessment in 2023, and they were not involved in the development of the draft strategy.

22. Will ActiveNet be updated so individual pickleball courts can be reserved?

Yes, for dedicated pickleball courts proposed to be reservable in the final implemented strategy.

23. What is the strategy for future investments in the courts, both tennis and PB?

The Draft Strategy proposes “hubs” as locations for targeted investments for items such as lights, covers, and other park amenities to support these sites targeted for higher use. These investments could be supported by grants. Additionally, as stated in the strategy, SPR will continue to review and pursue opportunities for expanding the footprint or density of existing locations and identifying new locations for adding courts to our system, such as the current project in design at Magnuson Park.

24. Will the end of dual use result in a net gain of reservable tennis courts?

Under the April 6th draft strategy, it would not (see Question 1).