

**Central Park Pickleball FAQ, Post Survey April edition.**

Q: Pickleball at Central Park ?!?! What is pickleball at Central Park?

A: Throughout the month of March, a team of club members appointed by the Central Park Tennis Board of Directors has researched whether to add pickleball to the offerings of our club. If you would like to catch up on those activities, check out the March Baseline Newsletter and read the first Frequently Asked Questions document, available on the Members Only portion of our website – Communications – Pickleball.

Q: Is the initial member survey complete? What were the results?

A: The initial member survey on pickleball at Central Park completed on March 11<sup>th</sup>. With over 431 responses from members and people on the wait list, the survey provides a significant insight into our members’ thoughts on the topic.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>
Having pickleball at Central Park is important to me.	50.35%	34.57%
I would participate in socials, events, or clinics.	56.61%	30.63%
I am in favor of temporarily painting lines on Court 18 to provide a dual-sport court.	62.41%	27.15%
I would be in favor of building dedicated pickleball courts in the gravel parking lot.	64.27%	19.72%

Perhaps as illuminating as the answers to the questions are the comments offered by members. Key comments in favor of pickleball include:

- Opportunity to enjoy the club and members in a new and different way, consistent with other tennis clubs in the area.
- Great alternative to tennis for members when injury, tiredness, or age make tennis impractical.
- I already play, or would like to learn, and to do so at Central Park with my club friends is a complement to the club’s other offerings.

On the other hand, important concerns were also raised, including:

- Reserving courts – especially during prime hours – is already a challenge. Using a tennis court for pickleball would increase that challenge.
- Noise concerns regarding pickleball play in close proximity to courts where tennis is being played.
- Adding pickleball lines to a tennis court makes for distraction and confusing play.

- Augmenting tennis with pickleball is likely to create unhealthy divisions in the club membership.

As expected, the respondents also saw long-term opportunities and raised financial and logistical concerns that the survey wasn't designed to explore – but which will be addressed at a later time.

Q: So.....what next?

A: The member survey and the research provided by the Pickleball Committee has given the Board much to consider. The Board has asked the committee to continue to research pickleball implementations and to outline activities that would shed light on whether a pickleball offering is right for the club and its members.

Q: That sounds like the right path, but when can we play?

A: The Pickleball Committee will continue to keep members apprised of the ongoing discussions regarding a pickleball program at Central Park. While decisions are still some time away, the Pickleball Committee is pleased to announce a **Pickleball Social** to be held in the Roberts Building on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. For that night only, courts 9-12 will be transformed into eight pickleball courts for the enjoyment of club members of any age or skill level. The evening will begin with basic instruction for those who are new to the sport, and continue until 9:30 with play at all levels, food and drinks, and fun for everyone. Watch for event details and signups around the middle of April.

Q: The survey item regarding building dedicated courts in the gravel parking lot had the most positive and fewest negative responses of the entire survey. Why aren't we moving directly to that solution?

A: Dedicated pickleball courts would take some time to build. Additionally, while we've learned a lot about pickleball in the past month, we still have much to discover – including:

- expectations of pickleball facility usage,
- impact a pickleball offering would have on our tennis programs,
- implementation details for pickleball courts and programs, and
- cost of those facilities and programs.

Q: How do we stay involved in the Pickleball process?

A: The Pickleball Committee will continue to provide timely updates to all club members through the Baseline Newsletter and, when appropriate, emails on a specific pickleball-related topic. Members are encouraged to discuss any questions and ideas with the Committee members – either directly or via email sent to [PickleballFeedback@CentralParkTennisClub.com](mailto:PickleballFeedback@CentralParkTennisClub.com).

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