

## Central Park Pickleball FAQ

Q: Why is pickleball a hot topic of conversation at Central Park Tennis Club?

A: Recognizing the growing popularity of pickleball nationally, in the Seattle area, and in our own neighborhoods – especially among tennis players – the Central Park Board of Directors has appointed an ad-hoc committee to explore pickleball. Under the Board’s guidance, the committee will:

- gauge club-member interest and participation at each phase
- research pickleball implementations at other clubs
- define a “test” program
- explore options for a permanent implementation at Central Park Tennis Club
- anticipate costs of implementations of each phase

Q: I don’t play Pickleball. Are these efforts of interest to me, or targeted at the pickleball community?

A: Central Park is, and will remain, a tennis club. Pickleball – much like fitness, swimming, and social events before it – has the potential to enhance the club’s value to members without unduly affecting tennis programs. Maintaining our top-notch tennis offerings is our first measure of success and the input of all members is essential to achieving that goal.

Furthermore, nationwide, pickleball continues to grow among tennis players who value the social, competitive, and athletic attributes that it shares with tennis. If other clubs’ experiences are a guide, Central Park is likely to create pickleball devotees from members who, currently, have no familiarity with the sport.

Q: What are the Pickleball Committee’s current actions?

A: At this early stage the committee is focused on an online survey of club-members and their families to gauge interest in a pickleball pilot at Central Park. This four-question survey requests input from all members and their families and addresses general interest in pickleball, the possibility of a “test” program, and a potential long-term offering. Using its results, the board will determine next steps.

Q: Is this survey the same as the petition circulated in the fall?

A: No. The petition was crafted by club members to demonstrate the timeliness of a board-driven examination of the potential of a pickleball offering and led to the appointment of the Pickleball Committee. The survey is the first club-wide action of that committee.

Q: I didn’t receive my survey. How can I access a copy?

A: The survey was distributed by email on Friday, February 25, 2022 with the subject line “Pickleball at Central Park”. Anyone unable to find this email is encouraged to contact [Pickleballfeedback@centralparktennisclub.com](mailto:Pickleballfeedback@centralparktennisclub.com) and a new email will be sent. Each member may forward the survey link to members of their family, and each family member may complete a separate survey.

Q: What are the next steps? When will I hear from the Pickleball Committee again?

A: The next step is for each member to complete the survey. The Pickleball Committee plans to close the survey on Friday, March 11, 2022, compile the results, and provide a report to the Board soon thereafter. The board will determine next steps, and the Committee will convey those results and plans to the club members as quickly as possible.

Q: What would the pilot program mentioned in the survey look like?

A: Assuming survey results in favor of pickleball at the club and board approval to proceed, a trial program would include the allocation of several timeslots per week on court 18, the purchase of moveable nets and temporary lines to support pickleball, and the creation of pickleball social events to introduce pickleball to non-playing members, forge member friendships through pickleball, and measure the actual participation of our members.

Q: The survey covers options from a temporary reuse of a single tennis court all the way to a brand-new construction of dedicated pickle ball courts. Does the committee have a preferred implementation in mind?

A: The committee's mission is to determine how the club members would like to pursue pickleball. It is too early for the committee to have a preferred implementation. The broad range of alternatives is referenced in the survey to remind us that, unlike many other clubs in the area, Central Park Tennis Club has ample resources of leadership, financial capacity, and (perhaps most importantly) available property to support pickleball at whatever level the membership desires – without compromising our tennis offerings. In the future, any pursuit of a permanent pickleball offering will be preceded with ample opportunities for the entire membership to receive information and offer comment.

Q: I have additional questions, comments, feedback, or suggestions. Who can I talk to?

A: An email [Pickleballfeedback@centralparktennisclub.com](mailto:Pickleballfeedback@centralparktennisclub.com) has been established to field any input you'd like to provide. Additionally, reach out to any member of the pickleball committee with your ideas:

Elizabeth Graves, Pickleball Committee Chair

Ari Balkan

Carolann Castell

Mary Czerwinski

Jack Goldberg

Colleen Grobstok

Carly Oberg

Tom Werner

Fred Wurden