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4/27/2022

## PICKLEBALL FACT SHEET

Pickleball is the Department's fastest growing program, with hundreds of players. Players have increased dramatically over the last three years. Clinics and programs quickly reach capacity. Dozens show up together for drop-in play sessions.

### Pickleball Revenue – Programming

Account	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 YTD
A81261-44010	ADMISSIONS-PICKELBALL	-1,300.00	-905.00	-1,635.00	-5,735.50	29.00	44.00
A81261-44300	INSTRUCTION-PICKELBALL				-2,000.00	-9,078.50	-6,453.00
A81440-44300	INSTRUCTION-PICKELBALL	-2,000.00	-2,450.00	-2,625.00	-4,404.75	-18,162.50	-10,853.00
A81439-44010	ADMISSIONS-PICKELBALL				-975.00	25.00	-31.00
A817-44010	ADMISSIONS-PICKELBALL	-5,516.00	-6,208.00	-8,467.00	-13,130.84	-150.00	-3,634.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>-8,816.00</b>	<b>-9,563.00</b>	<b>-12,727.00</b>	<b>-26,246.09</b>	<b>-27,337.00</b>	<b>-20,927.00</b>

FY20, FY21, and start of FY22 were limited in programming capacity due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. Organized play (programming) for Pickleball has increased significantly, even during COVID. YTD as of 4/6/22.

### Enrollments in Pickleball Programs (run at Loughlin Park Courts)

- FY19: 51
- FY20: 140 (Spring clinic cancelled – COVID)
- FY21: 297
- FY22: 349

*For context, programming enrollment for tennis clinics in FY22 was 532.*

### Pickleball Revenue – Tennis Cards for Reservations

Annual resident Tennis Card is required to reserve tennis courts. In FY21, the Department required a Tennis Card to reserve courts for pickleball too.

- FY18 Tennis Card Revenue: \$71,612
- FY19 Tennis Card Revenue: \$65,990
- FY20 Tennis Card Revenue: \$74,490
- FY21 Tennis Card Revenue: \$135,344 (Required for Pickleball)

	Courts FY21	Sum of Hours
Tennis	BINNE	4,889.50
Tennis	BRUCE	2,217.25
Tennis	BYRAM	656.50
Tennis/Pickle	CHRIS	478.00
Tennis	CMS	2,269.34
Tennis	EGCC	1,546.50
Tennis	EMS	2,799.50
Tennis	GHS	2,229.00
Tennis/Pickle	LOUGH	2,061.50
Tennis	MISC	14.00
Tennis/Pickle	WMS	152.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>19,313.09</b>

Binney Park, Eastern Middle School, Central Middle School, Greenwich High School, and Bruce Park are heavily utilized tennis court locations. They are not viable multi-use locations. School courts are also off-limits to public when school is in session.

Loughlin Park courts are at capacity with pickleball striping. Parking is a primary constraint at this location.

### Public Pickleball Locations

There are only two dedicated public pickleball courts in town, both at Christiano Park. The Town has been utilizing tennis court conversions (can be used for both sports) to meet surging demand. Tennis courts striped for multi-purpose include:

- Four courts at Loughlin Park
- 1 court at Western Middle School
- Indoor play at the Civic Centers (EGCC now closed for 2 years)

This Spring (2022), the Department added striping at:

- Western Middle School (3 tennis courts = 6 pickleball courts)
- Byram Park (1 of 2 tennis courts = 2 pickleball courts)

Although the courts are striped for both uses, in order to play pickleball at these locations, players must bring their own portable pickleball net systems (\$200+). This fall, depending on construction staging setup, we may add striping to the court at EGCC to help that end of town.

### FY23 Budget Proposal

Pickleball players have approached the Town for years about funding for dedicated pickleball courts. For two fiscal years, the Department has requested funding for dedicated courts, but it has been deferred by the Town through the budget process.

In January 2022, the Town received a petition from 150+ pickleball players expressing need for more dedicated courts in FY23. In the FY23 Proposed Capital Budget before the RTM, there is \$116,000 to fund the construction of new pickleball courts in Town. This request was originally to convert 1 basketball court at Bible Street to pickleball. Through coordination with the BET & Department, the request was amended, and Bible Street was removed as the sole and primary location. The funding was also conditioned with the following requirements:

*Subject to release by the Board of Estimate and Taxation upon: 1) The identification by the Parks & Recreation Department of a specific site or sites for the construction of or repurposing of a site for pickleball use; 2) Parks & Recreation holding at least one public hearing to gain input from the public as to the proposed location(s) for the court; and; 3) Presentation by the Parks & Recreation Department to the Board of Estimate and Taxation of the final location and to provide any supporting budgetary or other information relating to the construction or repurposing of the final site chosen.*

Please note, project sheet in current posted budget does not reflect changes made by BET on April 19, 2022.

The Department cannot access these funds until all three conditions have been satisfied and released by the BET. The Department expressed support for the amendment and condition because there is a very real need for more dedicated pickleball courts, but this allows the Town to make the decision outside of the rapid pressure of the budget process timeframe.

The Department is committed to a transparent process. The public hearing will be held in the same RTM district that the courts are proposed in. Stakeholders, including the RTM District Members, will be notified of the public hearing.