

Wakefield Tennis and Pickleball Redevelopment Project

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
2,279	196	0	151

I oppose conversion of tennis courts at Wakefield Park to pickleball without adding parking to the site. The parking lot is shared by Audrey Moore RECenter, a lighted synthetic turf rectangle field, a lighted skatepark, three lighted outdoor basketball courts and mountain biker trails that allow night riding. Parking is difficult weekday evenings and Saturdays mornings - early afternoon in Spring and Fall. Further stressing the parking threatens to reduce opportunities for existing park users and negatively impact revenue at the RECenter. The Park Authority should prioritize access for revenue generating programs and groups who contribute to the Park Authority mission (MORE maintains and constructs trails at Wakefield and elsewhere, BRYC adopts fields at Lake Braddock Park and Winterset Varsity, adaptaed aquatics is a program that only works with volunteers). Adding pickleball should only be done after the Park Authority confirms it isn't cutting off its nose to spite its face. A parking study should be conducted and feedback should be solicited from stakeholders who contribute to recreation programs at Wakefield or who use Wakefield and contribute elsewhere (ex. Adopt-aField or Friends of the Field participants who use the synthetic field at Wakefield). Please also consider that skating and basketball are at least as underserved as pickleball.

2 months ago

If you notice all the existing Tennis Courts and Pickle Ball Courts are oriented North South not East West. This is in order to keep the sun out of the players eyes as much as possible. The proposed design with East West orientation will create unfair advantages to one side based on the angle of the rising or setting sun.

2 months ago

Please orient the new courts in a north-south direction to keep the sun out of players eyes on one side of the court. Thank you.

2 months ago

Please change court orientation to match other pickleball courts & tennis courts otherwise we'll be looking into the sun!

2 months ago

I'm not in favor of the East-West orientation. This will cause a significant issue with the sun. I have a vision disability, and this would impact my ability to play later in the day.

I'm believe this would be in violation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -- Section of the ADA: Title II, Subtitle A

2 months ago

South-West for pickle ball courts is preferred as other directions would cause sun be towards your face. The added pickleball courts is exciting and wanted!

2 months ago

If you notice all the existing Tennis Courts and Pickle Ball Courts are oriented North South not East West. This is in order to keep the sun out of the players eyes as much as possible. The proposed design with East West orientation will create unfair advantages to one side based on the angle of the rising or setting sun.

2 months ago

I am thrilled to see Wakefield adding dedicated pickleball courts. I have one suggestion though. Instead of the east-west positioning of the courts, which would have the sun facing you all day, could you position them north-south to minimize sun in the eyes? My husband, who plays and coaches tennis, says tennis courts are always positioned north-south if possible.

Also, a dedicated port-a-john down by the courts would be great!
Thanks for considering. Fairfax Co. has a great parks system.

2 months ago

Currently all of the tennis and pickleball courts are set up north/south. However, the proposal for the 6 new pickleball courts has them set up east/west. There is a good reason that the current courts are set up the way they are. Courts set up east/west always contend with sunrise and sunset. Please redesign the 6 new pickleball courts north/south. Thank you.

2 months ago

So glad County is doing this, we need more pickle ball courts! 3 suggestions:

- 1) Can you orient courts North/South to avoid direct sun?
- 2) Can you add a bathroom?
- 3) In the meantime, can you make/keep tennis courts as dual use? That way BOTH tennis and pickle ball players can use them. I think we need to share resources, not fight over them. Thanks

2 months ago

Place the courts north/south for better sun exposure. Add a dedicated restroom as well.

2 months ago

The current proposed pickleball configuration would present challenges due to the proposed EAST WEST court layout. According to USA Pickleball association "Whenever possible, a north-south orientation should be maintained to minimize the angle of the sun in player's eyes" Courts oriented East West will more often then not affect players on one side of the court giving the disadvantage to the side that is blinded by the sun and will present significant quality of play issues. I understand having the East West direction will allow more courts to be placed and hence more players to play. However I strongly believe the courts should be placed North and South to allow for quality play and should take precedence over quantity of courts. I predict that if the courts are placed East West the quantity and quality will suffer because less people will want to or be willing to play specifically due to the inability to have a fair pickleball games. The only time the sun will be less of an impact is when it is in the middle/hottest parts of the day when most professionals are working. I strongly recommend to place less courts in a configuration that allows for quality games and the best experience.

2 months ago

I welcome the plan to add new dedicated pickleball courts at Wakefield.

I would like to suggest that all could have a north/ south orientation which would mirror the existing picked& tennis courts. I believe this would help substantially with glare.

And, with this many active courts, I think the complex merits a dedicated, in ground bathroom vice a single Porto potty shared with the skate park.

2 months ago

Phase 1 changes 1 tennis court into 4 pickleball courts. I am happy to have more courts but they should check with an architect regarding keeping the sun out of our eyes and the impossibly tight space between courts and the fence. Can they be rearranged better? Please reevaluate.

2 months ago

Oops— re comment just previously submitted. Preferred alignment for courts is North/South rather than East/West. East west poses more daytime “Sun in your eyes” challenges.

2 months ago

Could the pickleball courts be realigned to be east/west as opposed to north/south? From drawings it appears that the court size could work equally well both ways. So court 11 would have 2 sets of side-by-side courts rather than a full row of side-by-side.

2 months ago

The courts are proposed as east-west. That means a lot of sun in your face. A north-south approach would be more beneficial (similar to the current alignment). My eyes thank you for consideration to align north-south.

2 months ago

The current east-west alignment for the new pickleball court is not favorable as the sun will be directly in the face of players. This is not only inconvenient but creates a safety hazard as well. I strongly recommend a north-south alignment that is consistent with all the other tennis and pickleball courts.

2 months ago

I am in favor of the north/south proposal . The original proposal of east/west puts it in direct sun for many many hours . Thank you for your consideration.

2 months ago

Please do not build the new pickleball courts with an East-West orientation. That will drastically decrease the usability of the courts due to the sun's orientation.

2 months ago

Please build the courts facing north-south and not east-west. This diminishes having the sun in your eyes. Thank you.

2 months ago

The courts should be aligned north/south just like the tennis courts. What is FCPA thinking!

2 months ago

Upon further investigation, this fall FXA Sports has 34 pickleball leagues scheduled throughout the County and only 7 tennis leagues scheduled for the entire county at Nottoway Park in Vienna. One third of the pickleball leagues are played at Wakefield. This is a pretty strong market driven indication that court 11 should be converted to pickleball courts and courts 9 & 10 should not be restriped at this time.

2 months ago

The generally east-west orientation of the new courts is undesirable. In contrast all of the existing courts have a north-south orientation.

2 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

2 months ago

Hello,

I would like to supplement my earlier comments about the loss of revenue and disruption to the pickleball community if the Restriping of Courts 9 & 10 occurs before all the work is complete on the Conversion of Court 11.

FXA Sports has numerous pickleball leagues planned at Wakefield which means they and Wakefield will lose significant income and/or the Pickleball Community would lose the open use of if Courts 9 & 10, if they are not available. It appears that on Mondays and Wednesday's FXA is planning on using Courts 12 & 13 and all or a portion of the courts on Courts 9 & 10.

The FXA leagues are six weeks long plus at least one week of playoffs which is extended if sessions are cancelled for weather, which would extend the time. The leagues start 9/8/24 and run thru October without any extensions.

Sessions:

Sunday 8am-12pm 6pm-10pm

Monday 7pm-11pm 7pm-11pm

Tuesday 8pm-11pm

Wednesday 10am-1pm 8pm-11pm 8pm-11pm

Thursday 10am-2pm 8pm-11pm

Friday 7pm-11pm

Saturday 8am-1pm

No FXA tennis leagues are scheduled for Wakefield. All FXA tennis leagues play at Nottoway Park.

2 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting NORTH/SOUTH.

2 months ago

You need to replace the two multiuse tennis courts with 6-8 pickleball courts. Replacing the single court with 4 courts is not a good option. It is much better for open play to have all the courts together, much like Walter reed in Arlington or Hellwig park in Woodbridge.

2 months ago

As a tennis player who doesn't always have somebody to hit with, the wall is very helpful. I try to go every single day to practice at the wall. This plan will take away the good side of the hitting wall, as the other side is too short to play on. Since I don't have a larger network of people to hit with I will have to find another wall that is farther away and less convenient as this one. If there is a way to preserve the hitting wall so that people who don't always have somebody to hit with can still enjoy tennis at Wakefield park.

2 months ago

Why not leave the two pickleball courts and add more??? We're behind the curve currently, the money and works been paid for, and evaluate adding the additonal ones and see the result? I'm in favor of helping the community obtain more dedicated pickleball courts. How often do you see a line of 10+ individuals waiting to play tennis... anywhere??? I began as a tennis player and play both. However, I see so many unused tennis courts and upwards to 15 individuals waiting to play pickleball consistently.

2 months ago

So while I applaud the part 1 of this improvement the second part is my concern. You are removing the more favored side of the hitting wall and creating less spots. This is a feature that is not found at every park or in the same quality. When solo or needing to warm up it's ideal to have that wall. As a female, some days it's nice to just have a spot I feel comfortable going to knowing there will be space. This would cut the spots in half and again... the less optimal (shorter) side remains. I'm NOT in favor of that. Please reconsider where adding in pickleball courts.

2 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

2 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

2 months ago

Summary

Kudos to the FCPA for restoring two dual-use courts to tennis only courts.

Proceed slowly and cautiously, if at all, to convert any tennis practice walls to additional pickleball courts.

Returning Dual-Use Courts to Tennis Only Use

Eliminating dual usage of tennis courts 9 and 10, and rededicating them to use solely for playing tennis, makes sense for numerous reasons.

--It would consolidate playing of pickleball along Wakefield Park's eastern border. This would provide a centralized place at which pickleball players can congregate.

--It would confine to one section of Wakefield's tennis court area the noise pickleball makes.

Because the tennis community is fragmented into many different ages, demographics, organizations, etc., the FCPA may not hear from enough tennis players like me. Let me, therefore, supplement the foregoing comments.

Consistently, on all days, and at all hours of the day, Wakefield is heavily used and in-demand for playing tennis. I generally play tennis at Wakefield mornings, but I have visited the courts at various times of the day. Upon every visit, I observe more citizens playing tennis compared to pickleball.

We who passionately play tennis perceive a tendency to assume no one any longer wants to play our sport and everyone wants instead to play pickleball. That's an inaccurate impression. During the depths of the COVID 19 pandemic, participation in playing tennis rebounded to its highest level in many years. Although the rate of growth has slowed since then, as working hours have rebounded, participation has not significantly declined. Statistics available from organizations such as the Tennis Industry Association ("TIA") and the United States Tennis Association ("USTA") confirm this growth.

I ask the FCPA, in making changes at Wakefield and otherwise considering usage of our public tennis courts, to maintain the perspective that players of both tennis and pickleball need and want adequate, quality venues at which to pursue their passions.

Tennis Practice Walls

The FCPA should proceed solely and cautiously, if at all, to convert any of the tennis practice walls at Wakefield to additional pickleball courts. Once Phase One of the project has been completed, carefully monitor the use of the increased number of dedicated pickleball courts by visiting Wakefield on various days and at varying times of day. Unless empirical evidence proves Wakefield clearly needs additional capacity to meet demand for playing pickleball, the FCPA should leave the tennis practice walls alone and undiminished.

I urge this for two reasons. First, proceeding deliberatively would carry out my recommendation above to balance appropriately the needs of tennis and pickleball players.

Second, the tennis practice walls at Wakefield are woven into the fabric of the Park's tennis "culture." Tennis players know they can visit the practice walls at Wakefield not only to practice their strokes but also possibly to meet other solo players. I myself have met at Wakefield's practice walls new tennis players, some with whom I continue to play.

The practice walls, therefore, play a vital role connecting tennis players. In today's fragmented world, it's more important than ever to safeguard opportunities to connect. I've read numerous summaries of psychological studies confirming that increasing numbers of human beings feel alone and do not benefit from being socially isolated. The tennis practice walls at Wakefield enable otherwise solo tennis players to connect and not feel alone.

And so for the foregoing reasons, I urge the FCPA not to eliminate this vital component of Wakefield's tennis DNA unless empirical data, carefully collected over time, clearly supports any need further to expand capacity for playing pickleball at Wakefield Park.



2 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south. Thank you.

2 months ago

Please be sure to orient new pickleball courts so they face north-south. Measurements have been made to verify that this is feasible, with 6 ft between courts.

Making courts face e-w would negate a good part of the day. This might be why current courts are all facing north south!

2 months ago

Glad to have more Pickleball courts. Would suggest orienting north/south.

2 months ago

Please change orientation of courts to north south for less sun interference

2 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south.

2 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

This phase 1 proposal just replaces dual use courts with dedicated courts. it does nothing to address the primary issue that Fairfax County needs much more pickleball courts available for open play whether they are dual use or dedicated. A better solution would be to also retain the dual use courts in addition to the new pickleball courts so as to help meet the ever growing demand for more pickleball courts

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

Not sure what information is requested but more pickleball courts would be wonderful

3 months ago

Pickleball is a social sport. Do you remember your childhood days when you would show up unannounced at the local ball park and you and your friends would divide up into teams to play a sport? Pickleball is exactly the same way. Single players show up unannounced looking to play and then re-group for another game based upon the rules set by the court. Players look for multiple courts as there is a greater chance of having multiple players. Conversely, tennis players typically have a scheduled set group and do not play with strangers. Therefore, splitting pickleball into two separate areas is not a successful model. There should be at least six pickleball courts in the same location to have a successful open play. Pickleball players want to switch up playing with many players in order improve their skills. Please use [REDACTED] proposed layout

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south."

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south."

3 months ago

Please create the pickle ball court's here

3 months ago

Hello I just wanted to bring to attention that you guys want to face the courts east west and not the traditional way of north south. If it is facing east west people playing will have the sun in their field of vision all day which won't be fun for the players

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south.

3 months ago

I support the proposal for pickelball courts.

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax county advocate's pickleball design concept for Wakefield Park with building 6 courts in tennis courts 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south. It is so important to orient the courts in this direction because of the safety issue and not looking into the sun when playing during the day. Please consult our FCAP committee to give good and accurate information for this project.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

Many thanks for your continued support!



I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west. Thank you for taking this project on.

3 months ago

Yes to more pickleball courts . And you should restripe 1 other tennis court to both tennis and pickleball, and add portable PB nets.

3 months ago

I also support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

3 months ago

Support more Pickle Ball courts! More people will be able to enjoy. Thank you.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south. I am a resident of Fairfax County.

3 months ago

This is an amazing idea! Can't wait to play

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south."

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3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

I support the building of the six courts oriented north-south. The county needs more courts

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

I also wish the number of courts are equally divided between tennis & pickleball. I hope that there will be movable pickleball nets available so that the tennis courts do not stay vacant while the pickleball courts are over crowded with too players waiting.

We all pay our share of taxes, so why are the tennis courts given more than PB courts?

Thank you.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

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I also wish the number of courts are equally divided between tennis & pickleball. I hope that there will be movable pickleball nets available so that the tennis courts do not stay vacant while the pickleball courts are over crowded with too players waiting. Thank you.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south.

3 months ago

It is folly to take away the tennis practice wall which is used frequently by players. The side you propose to keep is way to short for meaningful stroke practice. Please reconsider this as the wall is a vital part of the tennis community at Wakefield.

3 months ago

Please rotate the courts to be north/south facing rather than east/west. The sun in the eyes would interfere with playing at most times of the day!

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

Many thanks

3 months ago

The tennis courts are in terrible shape. Additionally, they are also often reserved for lessons, limiting space even more. I will say that they are one of the only spaces with great lighting for night play. But why light up terrible courts?

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south."

3 months ago

Let's do it!

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south.

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

I support the proposed concept of Wakefield pickleball courts

3 months ago

Pickleball courts need to be oriented in a north south direction just as the tennis courts.

3 months ago

As a long time fairfax resident I consistently see the lines of people waiting at wakefield for pickleball while tennis courts aren't always full and no one waiting. Please do add more pickleball courts or replace tennis courts with multiple pickleball courts that take up much less room than tennis courts.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building *all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting them north-south*.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

There are at least 4 tennis courts with big cracks in the middle of the court. These courts have NOT been playable for years. Is there no plan to fix them? These tennis courts are frequently used. When you prioritize pickleball, please don't ignore the fact that there is a large tennis community and there are tennis courts.

3 months ago

yes we need these dedicated outdoor pickleball courts! North / South !

3 months ago

I support this action

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north south."

3 months ago

I support the concept

3 months ago

I support building 6 dedicated pickleball courts facing east/west at Wakefield in place of tennis courts 9&10

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting north-south."

3 months ago

We need your help!

Please send an email or go on-line to the Park Authority stating you support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park.

Have you heard of the butterfly effect? "The flapping of the wings of a butterfly can be felt on the other side of the world." This can also be true for Pickleball Courts! The addition or subtraction of pickleball courts can affect us all!

We have an opportunity to build six dedicated pickleball courts at Wakefield with \$300,000 earmarked for pickleball by the Board of Supervisors. Fairfax County has presented a design which splits the courts into two locations and orients the courts east-west. <https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/wakefield-project>

Our Braddock Pickleball Advocate, [REDACTED] is proposing an alternative which places six courts together oriented north-south.

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six dedicated courts in the current tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

Please do this. I am in full support.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

While I am very much in favor of building more pickleball courts, the county also has to consider how they will be used. While some courts can be 8used a first come, first serve basis, and a couple for classes, the majority should be available for open plan. Open Play is considered the standard in pickleball. This means that a rotation is set up and monitored to all play.

3 months ago

I support this proposal adding pickleball courts.

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

we want the pickleball courts to face north and south not east to west. that is wrong- no one wants to play with the sun in their faces.

3 months ago

 "I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

3 months ago

Pickleball is huge and will continue to grow. We need this, we need more courts. Especially in this area.

3 months ago

"I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west."

3 months ago

I support Fairfax County Advocate's Pickleball Design Concept for Wakefield Park with building all six courts in tennis court 9 & 10 orienting east-west.

3 months ago

As a resident of Annandale, who has played tennis for many years and frequented Wakefield Park often, I would like to provide two comments here. 1. My instincts tell me that it could be a bit too premature to invest heavily in renovations for pickleball. It is a fast growing sport, yes, but still quite novel. I still wonder if the trend will last. There is also another rising racquet sport called Padel that is swiftly gaining popularity and who knows that everyone wants to play that before long. It may be prudent to wait another year or two to invest in the renovation. 2. Secondly, I see that the additional courts will come at the expense of part of the hitting wall. There is a part of the hitting wall that remains but that side is no use to tennis players because it is too short. It would be a shame to lose that option because Wakefield Park tennis courts have always been a great place to players to "just show up" looking for a game. The hitting wall gives those players the option to warm up and get moving if there isn't immediately a group to join. Losing that option might discourage players for continuing to show up and would thus hurt the community and chances to form groups of pickup players.

3 months ago

Hello, I'm a tennis player and have used the courts at Wakefield. I don't play as often as I used to but I do love to use the practice wall to warm up and to get my swings back whenever I start playing again. Since 9 years old, I have used the practice wall to sharpen my skills. I'm now in my 50s and still consider it the 1st place to go use. I enjoy hitting/using the wall more than even a match with another person.

In seeing the plan to take away the larger practice wall area, the first thought is someone who made that decision does not play tennis. The smaller side was never really used for 2 reasons, the ball flies over the fencing to the courts and the bounce of the ball doesn't simulate the distance of the actual court. The only use for that area is if you wanted to practice what it would be like if you were standing near the net.

Please do not take away that space and to redesign the wall spaces to give that same amount of distance of a half a tennis court and then some for both sides of the wall. Additionally, a more logical solution is to add more pickleball courts to the upper 4 courts while enhancing the wall area for tennis players who have lost 2 tennis courts and have never been able to utilize the 2nd side of the practice wall.

3 months ago

Change the dual use courts back to tennis ONLY. Please don't waste the money on this when the Rec center is literally falling apart.

3 months ago

With the antiquated facilities inside Audrey Moore Rec center this is Ridiculous. when I take my young children to other rec centers and see these wonderful newly renovated facilities (usually in more affluent areas- Oakton, Centreville, it pains me to see us putting money to add pickle ball courts. I am a lifelong Democrat and all I have to say is what a waste of money. Can we focus on structural and more pressing needs inside the rec center Instead of just following a fad.

3 months ago

It's great that more pickle ball courts will be created. It's a popular sport and very conducive to increasing social connections and fitness. However, I've been disappointed that no courts at Wakefield Park are set up for community drop in play, which is the standard for many communities. Typically, courts are set aside for about 3 hours in the mornings and/or afternoons when players of all levels can drop in and rotate into games. Because Wakefield has been prioritizing classes and leagues, there are few to no opportunities for the drop in players. It would be ideal to have at least 2-4 courts designated as community drop in play courts during morning hours and afternoon and evening, as differentiated from class courts or reserved private group courts. This would help ensure opportunities for all players, including those who cannot afford to pay to reserve courts or join leagues, thus increasing the potential for diversity and equity at the courts.

3 months ago

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Redevelopment Project of the Wakefield Tennis and Pickleball courts. I greatly appreciate the time and effort that went into the July 9 presentation, and understand that any evening outreach program impacts the tenuous work/life balance of County employees. Thank you for your efforts in keeping us informed.

I am glad to see that there will be work done on Court 11. That court occupies valuable space at the Wakefield complex and it is underutilized in its current state. Will the concrete seating remain when the court is converted to pickleball courts? If so, this will be an especially good use of the court space, allowing for seating for future league/tournament or exhibition play (and an additional source of revenue for FCPA). My specific comments about the redevelopment project concern the areas of safety, permits and fair access.

Safety

The proposed dedicated pickleball courts seem dangerously close together, far closer than any adjacent tennis courts. The USA Pickleball Rule Book states that "a total playing surface 30'X60' is the minimum size that is recommended. A total size of 34'X 64' feet is preferred." The actual playing lines measure 20' x 44'. This recommended size of a court would provide seven feet on either side of the court and ten feet behind each baseline. Additionally, USA Pickleball recommends that whenever possible, a north-south orientation should be maintained to minimize the angle of the sun in player's eyes. Will the new courts meet these dimensions? Will there be any sort of netting between the courts to reduce cross court ball traffic?

I have personal knowledge of injuries sustained on the current Wakefield dedicated pickleball courts due to limited space around the playing area. The configuration of the current dedicated courts impedes a player's ability to make plays outside the court playing surface without either colliding with the chain link fence or retaining wall. I suspect that additional injuries will be incurred if the space between the new courts is shared with other players, and visibility is impaired due to the east west orientation of the courts.

Permits

During the July 9th presentation it was mentioned that the dedicated courts could be reserved via the parks permit program. I am very familiar with the permits office and have had nothing but good experiences with the staff there. Cindy Jordan has been particularly helpful to me, and has been quick to find alternative sites for pickleball play when our preferred court location is not available.

Currently when obtaining a permit for a shared use court, we pay a set fee for one tennis court (which provides for two pickleball courts). This "two for the price of one" arrangement seems fair because the tennis court takes up so much more space than a pickleball court. Since there is limited overall space at the Wakefield complex, when a larger facility is being used, a greater permit fee should be charged, so the permit cost of a tennis court should be twice as much as a pickleball court.

What will the permit pricing be for the dedicated pickleball courts? When I had previously reserved two dedicated pickleball courts at Wakefield, the cost was \$13 per hour for each court (\$26 total for one hour of play). When I have obtained a permit for a shared use court, the cost was \$15 per hour, but provided for the use of TWO pickleball courts, a cost differential/savings of \$9 per hour. Can I expect a similar price increase when requesting a permit for the additional dedicated courts (from \$7.50 per court per hour for each shared use pickleball court; total \$15 versus \$13 per court per hour for each dedicated pickleball court; total \$26 per hour)?

Fair Access

The presentation alluded to the perception that the shared use courts (9 and 10) were primarily used for pickleball, thereby depriving tennis players of fair access to the two tennis courts. Is there any data that identifies what percentage of that pickleball play is associated with FCPA pickleball lessons or use of the courts by FCPA for camps? Is there data stating when (time of day/ day of week) the tennis courts are requested but unavailable for use due to pickleball? It seems a little disingenuous to revert the courts back to tennis only courts when a significant use of those two shared use courts is for FCPA pickleball lessons or FCPA/FXA sponsored league play.

While perhaps outside the scope of this redevelopment project, I am concerned that there is an effort to increase the availability of tennis courts at Wakefield. The Wakefield complex meets the FCPA requirements of having

the availability of tennis courts at Wakefield. The Wakefield complex meets the FCPA requirements of having pickleball courts significantly away from residential areas. Tennis, apparently, does not raise the same noise concerns in residential settings as pickleball does. If tennis courts are not available at Wakefield, there are an abundance of tennis courts in residential park settings for tennis players to access. This is not the case for pickleball. Increasingly pickleball players are being referred to smaller courts, packed more closely together and further away from their neighborhoods. This proposed redevelopment plan benefits tennis players by removing an underutilized, poorly maintained tennis court in exchange for sole use of two recently refurbished shared use courts, without any increase in permit cost. By comparison, pickleball players will no longer have use of four full size shared use courts and instead be provided sole use of smaller courts, which are all oriented toward the sun in morning and evening, will likely have limited availability due to lessons and league play and cost more to reserve. In a society where perception is everything, this proposal may actually cause more problems than it solves. I would caution FCPA to avoid removing the pickleball lines in courts 9 and 10 until they are reasonably sure that those two courts will consistently be used for tennis, both day and evening, weekday and weekend. If they are reverted to tennis only courts and yet remain vacant for long periods of time, while the dedicated courts are unavailable because they are being used for pickleball lessons and league play, I can envision a public relations nightmare for FCPA.

3 months ago

These comments were sent to via email to parkmail so the attachment could go be with them and they could be properly formatted.

I think the overall plan is great! Court 11 requires significant work and provides an opportunity to efficiently use funds to meet the needs of the Community. I am however suggesting a caution in the sequencing of the work. I also have a couple minor design comments.

Restriping of Courts 9 & 10 should not be allowed to start until after the Conversion of Court 11 is complete because the risk far outweighs the benefit of doing them any earlier.

1. In the presentation, the County noted a number of the potential risks in the process that could impact the schedule. Attached is a very conceptual schedule showing why those risks are real given the time of the year. In addition, items such as the cracks in Court 11 requiring more time than anticipated and material availability can impact the schedule.
2. The loss of Courts 9 and 10 this fall has a significant financial impact on Wakefield Park.
 - a. Pickleball classes at Wakefield are held on Courts 9 & 10. Even though the eight students typically only require two courts the County instructors require all four.
 - b. The Fall Parktakes has 42 pickleball classes scheduled at Wakefield. Eight students per class with an average fee of \$140.00 per class means a potential loss of revenue of \$47,000.00.
3. The loss of Courts 9 and 10 this fall has a significant impact on the pickleball community.
 - a. Courts 9 & 10 represent 2/3rds of the pickleball capacity at Wakefield. If for whatever reason the work would slide until the Spring of 2025 the loss of pickleball capacity would be very significant to the community since the County is currently reducing pickleball capacity at parks like Kendale Woods Park.
4. If Court 11 does get converted this year, then restriping of Courts 9 & 10 next year will not have a financial or community impact.
5. Restriping of Courts 9 & 10 is a “want” not a “need” to meet the goals of the program. If Court 11 gets converted and restriping Courts 9 & 10 gets delayed, they can be dedicated tennis courts by removing the pickleball nets and posting signage that the courts are reserved for Tennis only.
6. Courts 9 & 10 are functional for both tennis and pickleball now, why take any risk.

This may be beyond the planning groups capacity but due to the risks associated with the timing of the restriping of Courts 9 & 10, I think the work on Courts 9 & 10 should be procured as an add option, to be awarded no later than April 1, 2025, to provide the County the ability to control the sequence.

1. Understandably, the County has been very reticent about dictating contractor scheduling and sequencing. They also recognize they have little or no control on either once the contract is awarded.
2. Restriping of Courts 9 & 10 is a sizeable coating effort, so mobilization costs should not be a factor for the coaters. If desired, the contractor could coordinate the work with the coating work for the New Courts.
3. As noted above, the restriping of Courts 9 & 10 is a “want” not a “need” to meet the goals of the program. If budget issues arise this work can be deferred to another time.

In addition to the sequencing concerns above, I do question whether restriping Courts 9 & 10 at this time is prudent.

Number of Classes Available in 2024 Parktakes

Tennis All Tennis Wakefield Pickleball All Pickleball Wakefield

Summer 42 20 93 34

Fall 78 18 136 42

Figure 1

- With such a differential in the interest between the two sports demonstrated in Figure 1, and the national trends, it would appear that maintaining the potential of four readily available pickleball courts for the future makes sense. Operationally they can be maintained as tennis courts only until required to again be shared with pickleball.
- Wakefield Park is in a non-residential area which makes it a prime location for Pickleball Courts.
- These courts have already been restriped well within the useful life of the coating just to change the color of the

These courts have already been restriped well within the useful life of the coating just to change the color of the lines. Restriping them again well within the useful life of the coatings and then potentially having to do it again in 2-3 years may not be viewed as efficient use of funds.

- I understand that the combo lines can initially be an issue but I can attest to the fact that the issue goes away.

Design Considerations

1. Is the fencing on Court 11 being replaced? Replaced or not, there should be at least two access points between Courts 11 A & B and C & D on both ends of the courts. Players walking behind active games is disruptive. The ones on the side towards courts 9 & 10 can be used to retrieve balls going over the fence so the need is somewhat determined by the height of the fence.
2. The "Tennis" practice wall is in fact used by pickleball players. The side of the wall facing the new courts should be smooth and have a horizontal line at pickleball net height. Every indoor class I have taken uses walls if they have them.

3 months ago

I think the proposal looks great. Outside of the proposal, some of the existing tennis courts have cracks that need to be fixed.

3 months ago

The steps proposed take us in the right direction, but we need even more dedicated pickleball courts.

3 months ago

Please do not take away our tennis courts. It is very annoying that this seems to be the new trend. Doing this pits tennis players against pickleball players. We want them to enjoy their game and we tennis players want to continue to enjoy our courts. Please stop. Locate them as far away from the tennis courts as you possibly can. The equivalent is saying divers and swimmers are the same.

3 months ago

Pickle ball folks can (and do) play on tennis courts, but tennis folks can't play on pickleball courts. If pickleball courts are full, pickleballers end up using the tennis courts reducing the number of courts for tennis users. Priority usage should be for the sport it is intended meaning that tennis should be able to be prioritized if pickleball folks are using the tennis courts.

Someone suggested at the meeting more shady areas for courts, that would be great.

I was at the courts today and it seemed like there was a good bit of flat grass between parking lots 7&8 and the parking lot. Has there been any thoughts on adding any courts there?

3 months ago

This is an unnecessary and ridiculous use and abuse of tax payer dollars. Don't try to justify raising property taxes on residents with this nonsense. Zero budget should go to this.

3 months ago

I've been playing at these courts for almost 20 years now and not until recently have I seen so much commotion and it's mostly because us tennis players no longer have courts to play at and it's always busy. We have kindly welcomed the annual local high schools that come in and literally take every available court and although we complained we eventually saw the benefit. Which was the growth of our sport. It sucked a little bit but at least is within the sport of tennis.

I feel very different about the pickleball issue. Mostly because these people came out of nowhere and just stole two of our courts and put up their little nettings and now have attitudes when the tennis players want to play on their tennis courts. If this does go through I feel this might be the best option because they will have the top part of the park and we would have the bottom. Not too many people use that top court in the corner and it would be nice to have it redone specifically for them. My comment and I feel is the best way to deal with this in terms of being fair is pickleball players should not have any sort of priority over a tennis court after this refresh! If they do happen to be on a tennis court then tennis players get first priority! Also I feel that they should not have their nets being stored on any tennis courts. They would have to utilize the net that we have on our courts until they can get to theirs after whomever is playing. If this rule is enforced then I am a thousand percent for it if not then I guarantee that there will be issues because we will continue to lose and we have been here for years. Tennis players don't want to play and also cannot play on a pickleball court. We gain nothing. At least with this refresh we will gain another two courts however we will lose half of the practicing wall but that is okay because I have noticed that most people would rather use the wall that has more court space rather than the shorter one.

Thank you for reading my long comment. I think that this would be for the best but there has to be some kind of established rule. I'm glad that something is being done as well.

3 months ago

Ms. Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director
Fairfax County Park Authority

Dear Ms. Vosper,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a long-term member of Golden Racquets (GR), a nonprofit representing just over four hundred senior tennis and pickleball players, 310 of which are Fairfax County residents. Consequently, we have a vested interest in the number and condition of Fairfax County pickleball and tennis courts. At the request of the GR President, [REDACTED] I attended the July 9, public meeting regarding the proposed Wakefield project.

During the GR sign up period, conducted twice annually, we ask our members if they would like to designate donations to the FCPA through GR. We have soliciting donations since 1990. Since 2015, our members have collectively contributed nearly \$11,000. As you well know, GR annually obtains seasonal permits for multiple tennis courts at Wakefield. Consequently, our members have an intense interest in the Wakefield project proposal (we also have tennis/pickleball permits for other FCPA facilities across the county). In general, we are extremely pleased with the content of the proposal and congratulate your team on a job well done.

Based on the meeting of July 9, we learned that the Wakefield project proposal originated in a referenced "Pickleball Study" and that study included outreach to community members. As noted above, we are active participants in the pickleball and tennis community, yet we were never made aware of such a study. As residents and taxpayers of Fairfax County, as long-time users of Wakefield, and as contributors to FCPA funds, we are concerned that our organization was neglected in this outreach effort.

We are aware that tensions have arisen between tennis and pickleball players, and we offer the benefit of successfully representing four hundred players of both sports. Moreover, we could be a public outreach force multiplier for FCPA tennis and pickleball as many of us play with friends and family that are not members of GR, enabling us to serve as conduits to their participation in FCPA discussions. We firmly believe our participation could be of intense value to FCPA outreach efforts.

Despite not having been invited to participate in preliminary discussions, we largely agree with the project. In particular,

1. We agree with returning Courts 9 and 10 to tennis usage. We were thrilled a few years back when the courts were repaved, but then taken aback when the courts were striped for dual usage without any prior notice. As was stated in the meeting, dual usage is suboptimal and confusing. Moreover, the courts are not receiving dual usage as pickleball nets are left on the courts creating the impression that the courts are reserved for pickleball. The fact that these relatively newly paved courts will be returned to tennis in a few months is welcomed by our membership as many of the other tennis courts are not in good condition (see below).
2. We agree with the project's creation of six single usage pickleball courts: four on Court 11 and another two on ½ of the (tennis and pickleball) practice "walls." This intelligent use of available space greatly expands opportunities for pickleball players.

Based on the meeting, we understand that there is some thought that funds may be available after project completion. As previously communicated to the FCPA through Supervisor Walkinshaw's office, we are concerned with the numerous cracks in Courts 1, 2, 7 and 8 (particularly Courts 7 and 8). It was my previous understanding, through Supervisor Walkinshaw's office, that the cracks in Courts 7 and 8 would be patched in the near term until a more thorough repaving could be accomplished as funds are made available. We strongly urge that the FCPA use

more thorough repaving could be accomplished as funds are made available. We strongly urge that the FCPA use these funds, or other funding sources, to patch Courts 7 and 8 as soon as possible. Perhaps you can channel the funds we contributed in the last few years to the necessary patchwork.

If capital funding is available, we would suggest adding a few awnings offering shade to tennis and pickleball players. If operating fund monies are available, we would suggest emptying the trash and recycling receptacles on a more frequent basis.

We are supportive of the proposed project and look forward to proactive engagement with FCPA in the maintenance and planning of the County's court facilities. Of particular interest, we are sure you are aware that the Four Seasons indoor tennis facility closed many years ago and that the Arlington Y indoor tennis facility will soon close. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the FCPA to discuss possible longer-term options for creating public indoor facilities somewhere in the County.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider our comments. We look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

cc:

A long black rectangular redaction box covering the list of recipients.

3 months ago
