

Tennis & Pickleball



PARK & REC FACILITIES

Playing Together

The USTA recently issued ‘guidance’ for public facilities looking to accommodate both tennis and pickleball players.

In an effort to provide assistance to decision-makers at park & rec facilities, the USTA, in concert with park professionals, recently created a set of suggested guidelines regarding tennis and pickleball courts.

The information in the USTA’s “Statement of Guidance” below is intended as a resource for park leaders who must make decisions surrounding the utilization and construction of these areas. (For more information, visit usta.com/parks.)

As the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States and in concert with park professionals, we are putting forth a Statement of Guidance for the development, expansion and renovation of public facilities and spaces related to tennis and pickleball. This guidance is presented within the context and understanding that tennis and pickleball are currently experiencing significant participation increases throughout the country and that both have ardent supporters

advocating for their respective sport. We offer the following as a Statement of Guidance:

Participation Statistics

- **Tennis** – The 2021 total of 22.6 million tennis players is a 4.5% increase from 2020 and a 27.9% increase from 2019 (4.9 million additional players over that 2-year span).

- **Pickleball** – The 2021 total of 4.8 million pickleball players is a 14.3% increase from 2020 and a 39.3% increase from 2019 (1.36 million additional players over that 2-year span).

Option 1: Sport-Specific Sites

With citizen participation for both sports at all-time highs and trending toward continued growth, the ideal solution to increased demand is the development and/or expansion of sport-specific public sites. The development of tennis and pickleball facilities as singular-focused sport-specific sites and courts will provide optimum opportunity for use, harmony and revenue generation for each sport that may

be unavailable in shared-use scenarios. These facilities should be offered either as one central facility complex or as separate sport-specific developments to best meet the needs of the citizens.

Option 2: Non-Traditional Spaces

In the event that Option 1 is not possible, both tennis and pickleball can be played and enjoyed by citizens in non-traditional spaces. Look at all public hard surface areas for possible conversion, such as multi-sport court sites and/or vacant parking lot locations. When contemplating any type of conversion affiliated with public facility infrastructure, safety must be at the forefront of all considerations.

Option 3: Shared Use Of Tennis Facilities

In the event that Options 1 and 2 are not possible, in the interest of equitable offerings for both tennis and pickleball, shared usage through blended lines on existing tennis courts is advisable for park locations of two (2) or fewer tennis courts. For park locations of three (3) or more tennis courts, every effort should be made to utilize Option 1 or 2 due to the sustained growth and increasing public demand for both sports.

As you move forward with any decisions, or if you have any questions throughout the process, we would like to reiterate that we are here to serve as a consultative resource to you. ■

For further information, contact the U.S. Tennis Association at Facilities@usta.com