



# PICKLEBALL IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Virtual Public Comment Meeting — September 14, 2021 7:00 pm



# Virtual Public Meeting — How to Participate

Watch/comment via web: [publicinput.com/C8847](https://publicinput.com/C8847)

Participate via Phone: **855-925-2801** Meeting Code: **2345**

Review the Draft: [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/pickleball-study](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/pickleball-study)

-or- <https://bit.ly/3DQZ8pL>

Comments to: **G4274@publicinput.com** -or- **Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov**

# Pickleball Study Scope and Presentation

## Scope

 Study purpose

## Findings

 Key Findings

 Existing Facilities

 Park Authority Survey and Player Preferences

## Draft

## Recommendations

 Site Selection Criteria

 Design & General Recommendations

 Location Guidance

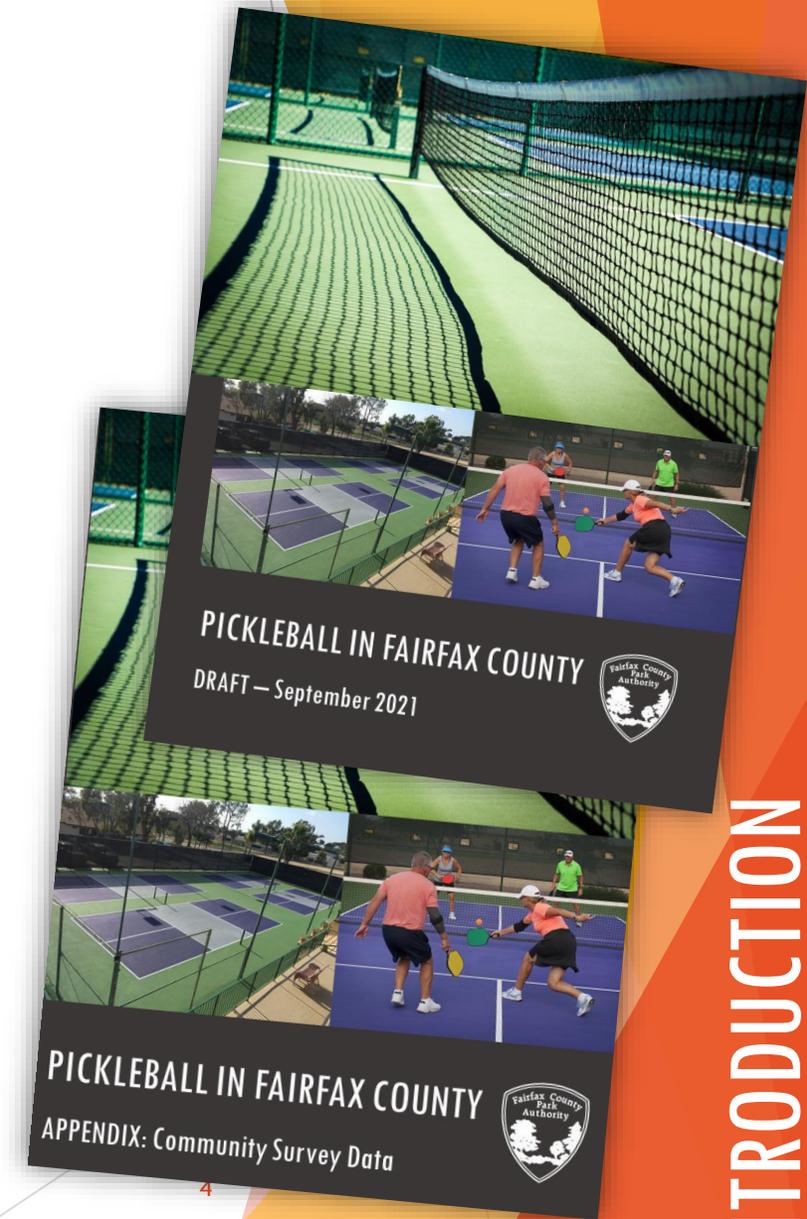
# Draft Report Contents

## Main Report

- Executive Summary / Background
- Key Findings and Recommendations
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Existing Conditions
- Industry Trends
- Planning for Pickleball / Site Selection Criteria / Strategies
- Design Best Practices / Standards

## Appendix

- Community Survey — PublicInput.com data output



# Pickleball Study Scope



**Strategically respond to community requests for pickleball**

**Guide in evaluating and designing suitable pickleball locations**



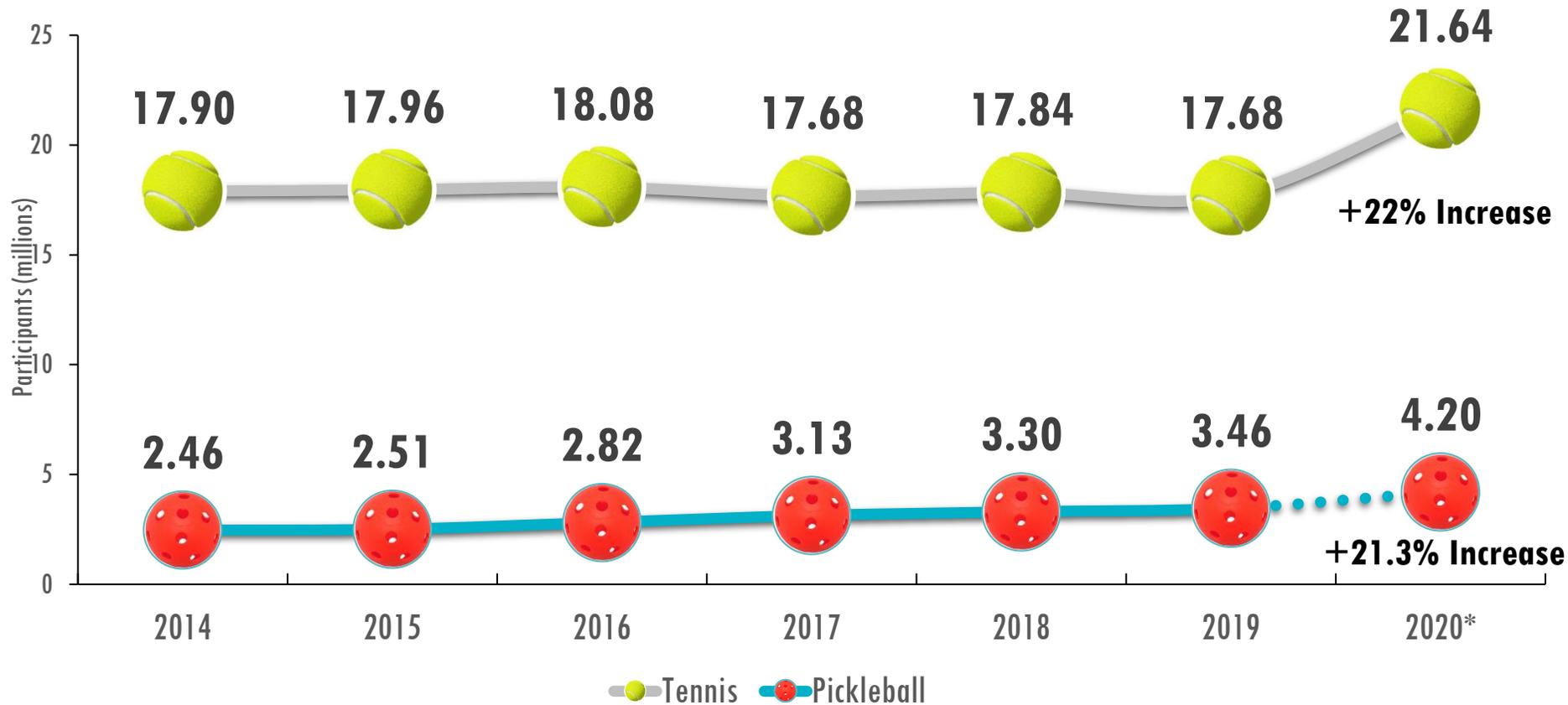
**Recommend locations for future pickleball courts**

# Key Findings

- Use of outdoor courts is on the rise.
- The Park Authority's pickleball offerings are similar to comparably-sized jurisdictions.
- 19 courts were added to tennis in the past year — a 68% net increase.
- 77.3% of County residents are within a 10-minute drive of FCPA or NCS pickleball venue. 96.5% are within 15 minutes, and 99.8% are within 20 minutes. Current court configurations generally suit small groups (65% of surveyed players) and casual use; but options are limited for large group/club play (35%) and pickleball-only courts. Just putting down lines won't solve this.
- Provision of pickleball-only facilities will require planning, construction and capital funding for courts and supporting amenities.

# National Participation Trends

## National Participation (in millions)



**7.1%**

Tennis Participation Rate, 2020

**1.1%**

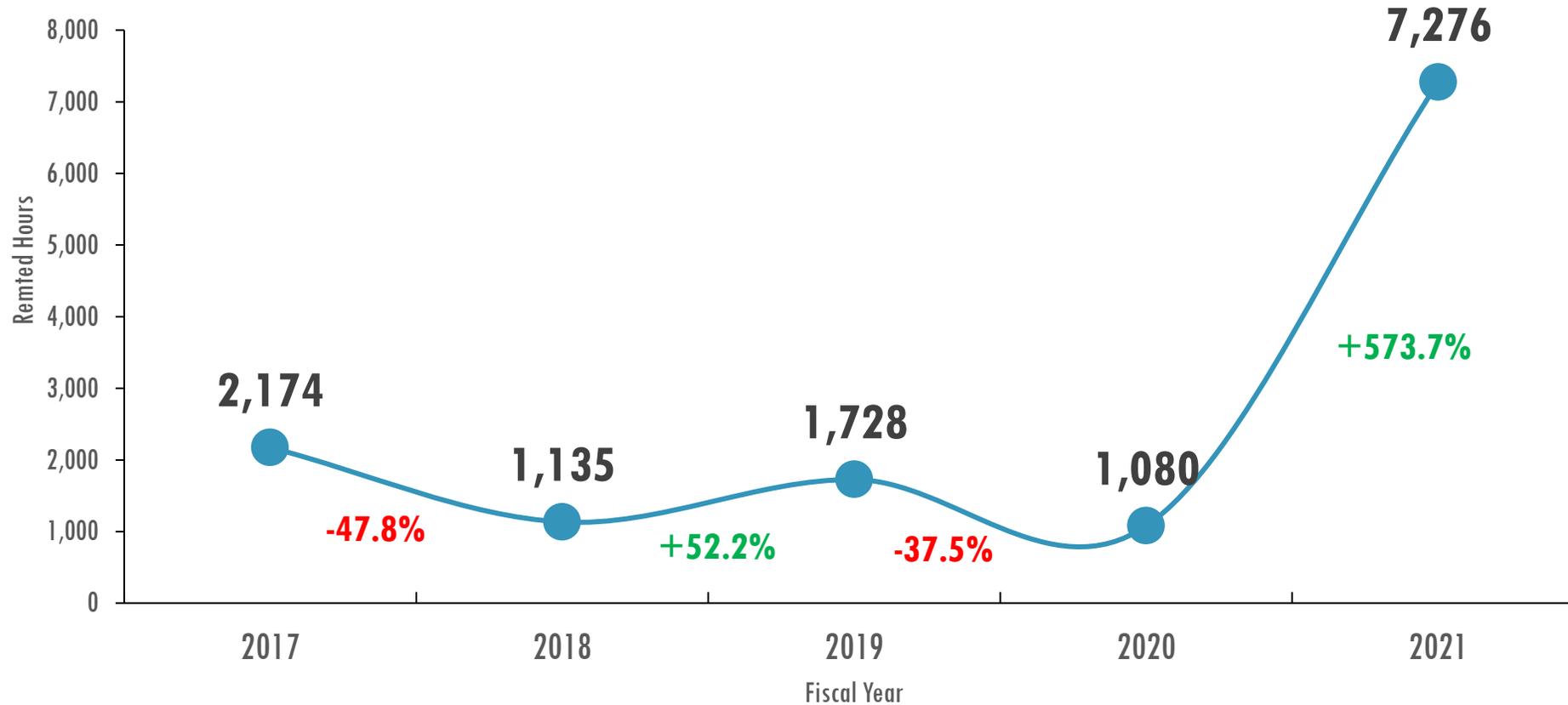
Pickleball Participation Rate, 2020\*

Sources: Sports and Fitness Industry Association; Sports Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report, 2020 and U.S. Pickleball, 2021.

\* 2020 Pickleball data projected from U.S. Pickleball as of April 29, 2021, citing 2021 SFIA data. The 2021 SFIA Pickleball Participation Report has not been released as of June 2021.

# Local Participation Trends — Park Services Court Scheduling

## Number of Hours Rented, Park Authority Courts (all sports)



Source: Fairfax County Park Authority, Park Services Division, Central Services, July 2021. Data do not include limited reservations handled by Audrey Moore or Jefferson RECenter, which are reserved on site. Data does not reflect actual sport played and is an indication of general demand only.

# Existing Pickleball Facilities — July 2021

## In the County ...

### The Park Authority:

- **46 outdoor courts shared with tennis** across **23** parks or schools
- **6 indoor courts** between Lee District and Spring Hill, Programming at Providence
- **6 dedicated pickleball courts** planned for construction across **3** parks (2 courts/site):  
(Hogge, North Hill, and Wakefield)

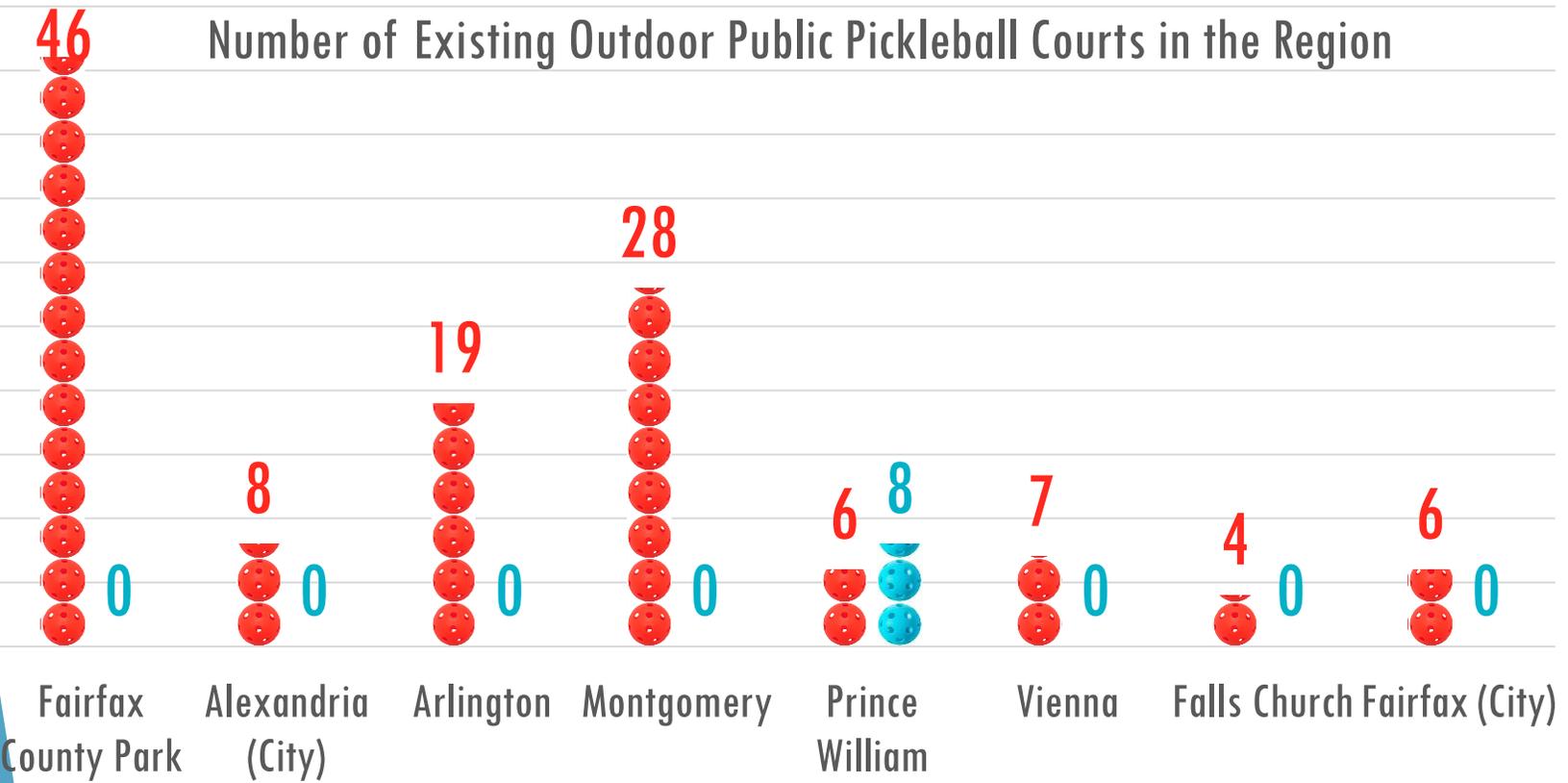
### NCS Community Centers:

- **8-10 shared courts** between **5** Community Centers
- **5 shared courts planned** between Gum Springs CC & South County Teen & Senior Center

# Existing Pickleball Facilities — July 2021

## ... and the Region

Number of Existing Outdoor Public Pickleball Courts in the Region



● Shared Use with Tennis    ● Dedicated Pickleball

\*\*Montgomery County follows a phased approach to introducing pickleball, discussed later. Some of the 20 courts may be tennis courts temporarily used for pickleball.  
Sources: Fairfax County, USA Pickleball (Places2Play.org), and respective providers as of July 2021.

## Total Pickleball Courts per Capita:

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Arlington                            | 1 per 12,465        |
| Alexandria (City)                    | 1 per 19,928        |
| <u>Fairfax County Park Authority</u> | <u>1 per 24,700</u> |
| Prince William                       | 1 per 33,595        |
| Montgomery (MD)                      | 1 per 37,536        |

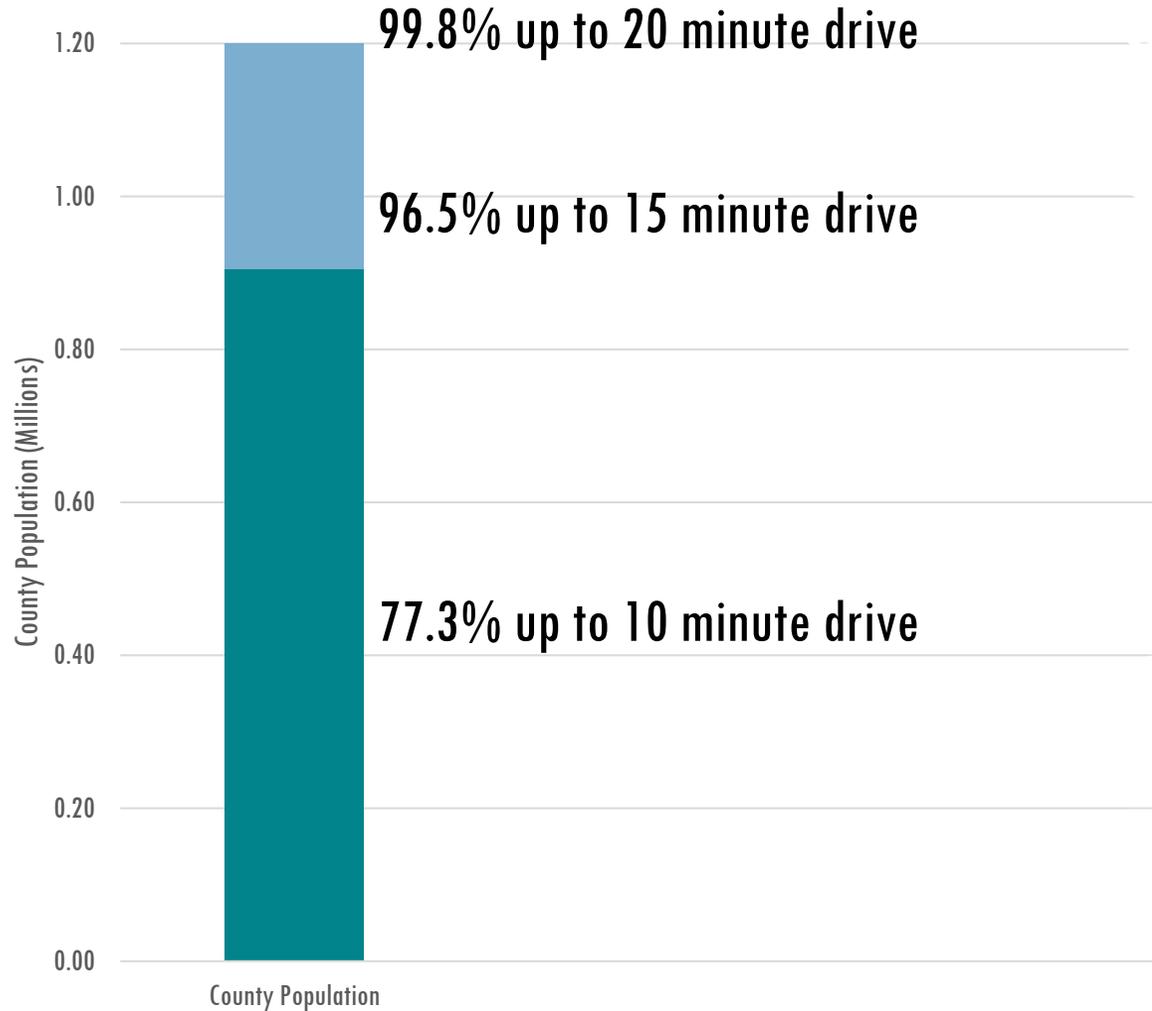
## Smaller Jurisdictions:

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Town of Vienna | 1 per 2,355 |
| Falls Church   | 1 per 3,654 |
| Fairfax (City) | 1 per 4,003 |



# Drive Time Access

Can County Residents Drive to a FCPA or NCS Pickleball Court?



## Key Survey Findings:

- 🌐 88% of surveyed players drive to play
- 🌐 62% are willing to drive 20+ minutes

## The Takeaway:

Nearly all county residents have a pickleball court within a 20-minute drive — but the court may not meet players' preferences, particularly for larger groups and pickleball-only courts.

# FCPA Public Survey Findings

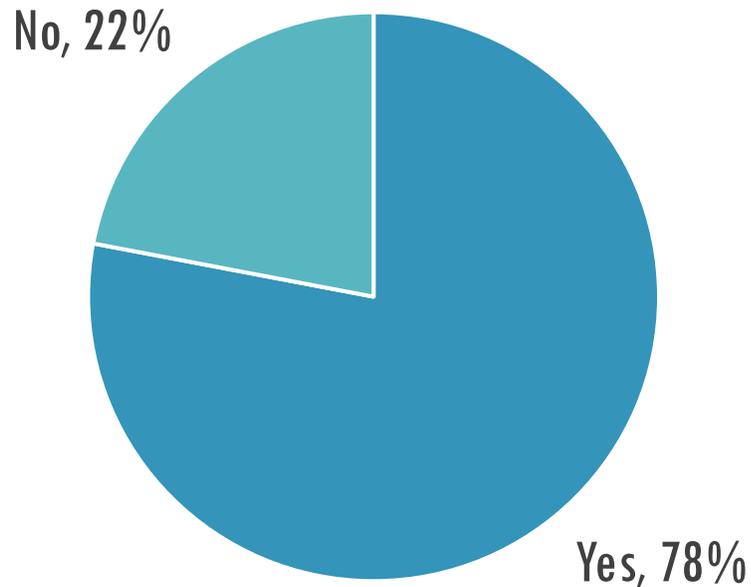
1,803

50,673

Participants

Responses/Data Points

Have you played pickleball in the past year?  
1,700 respondents



## Participant Preferences:

- 83% play pickleball 13+ times/year
- 35% prefer pickleball groups of 4+ (and 28% prefer 16 or more players, thus desiring more courts at a site)
- 64% have experienced conflicts on shared courts
- All playing times popular — day & evening

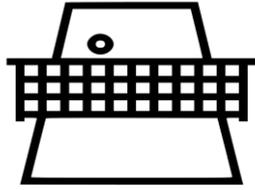
## Important Factors:

- Number of courts available (87%)
- Parking availability (79%)
- Proximity to home (72%)
- Pickleball nets available (70%)
- Fees (68%)
- Indoor courts (67%)
- Dedicated pickleball-only courts (64%)

# Draft Recommendation - Adopt Site Selection Criteria



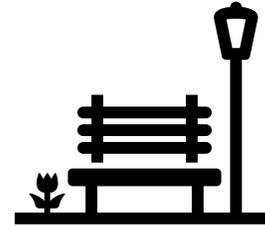
Tennis Use &  
Court Demand



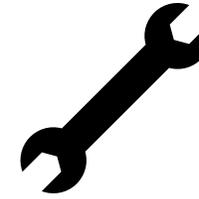
Layout/Spatial  
Considerations



Available Parking



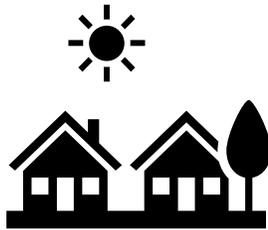
Park Activities



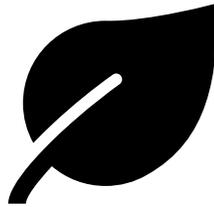
Operations, Cost &  
Maintenance



Geography  
& Access



Neighborhood  
Impacts



Environmental



Lighting Potential

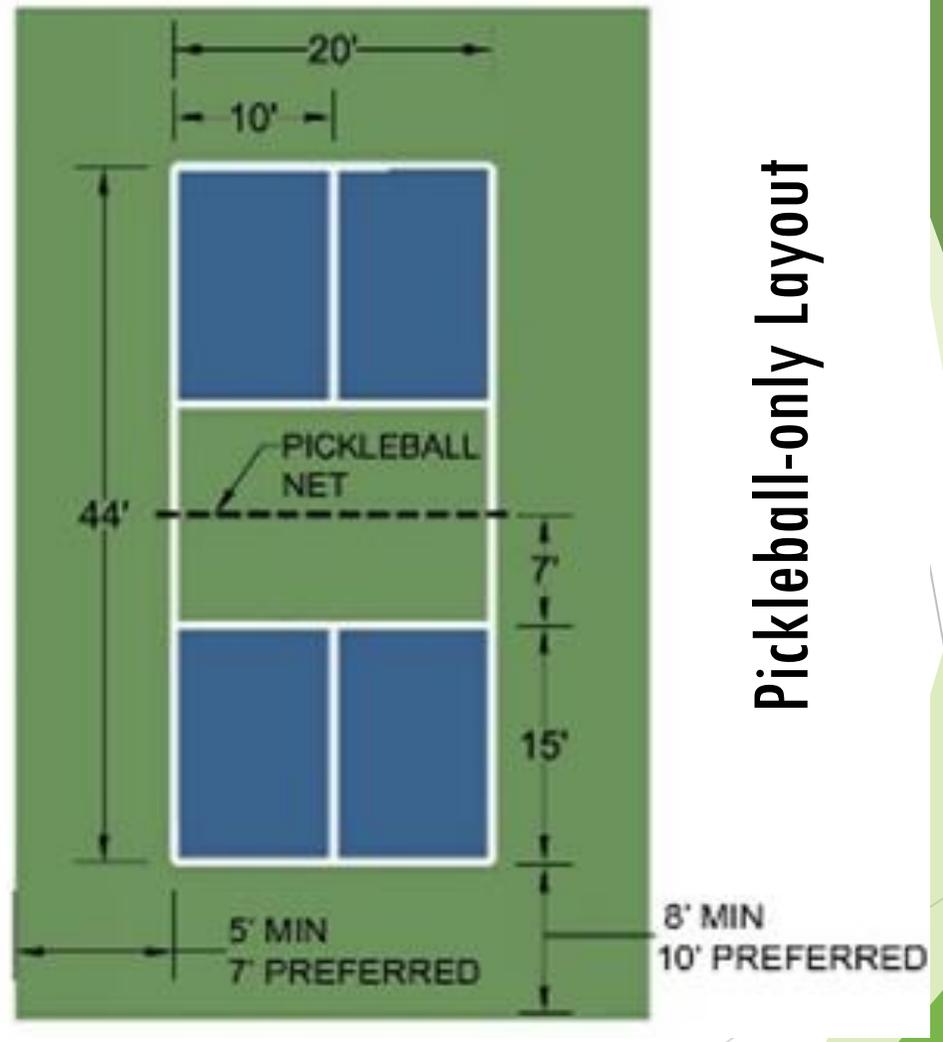
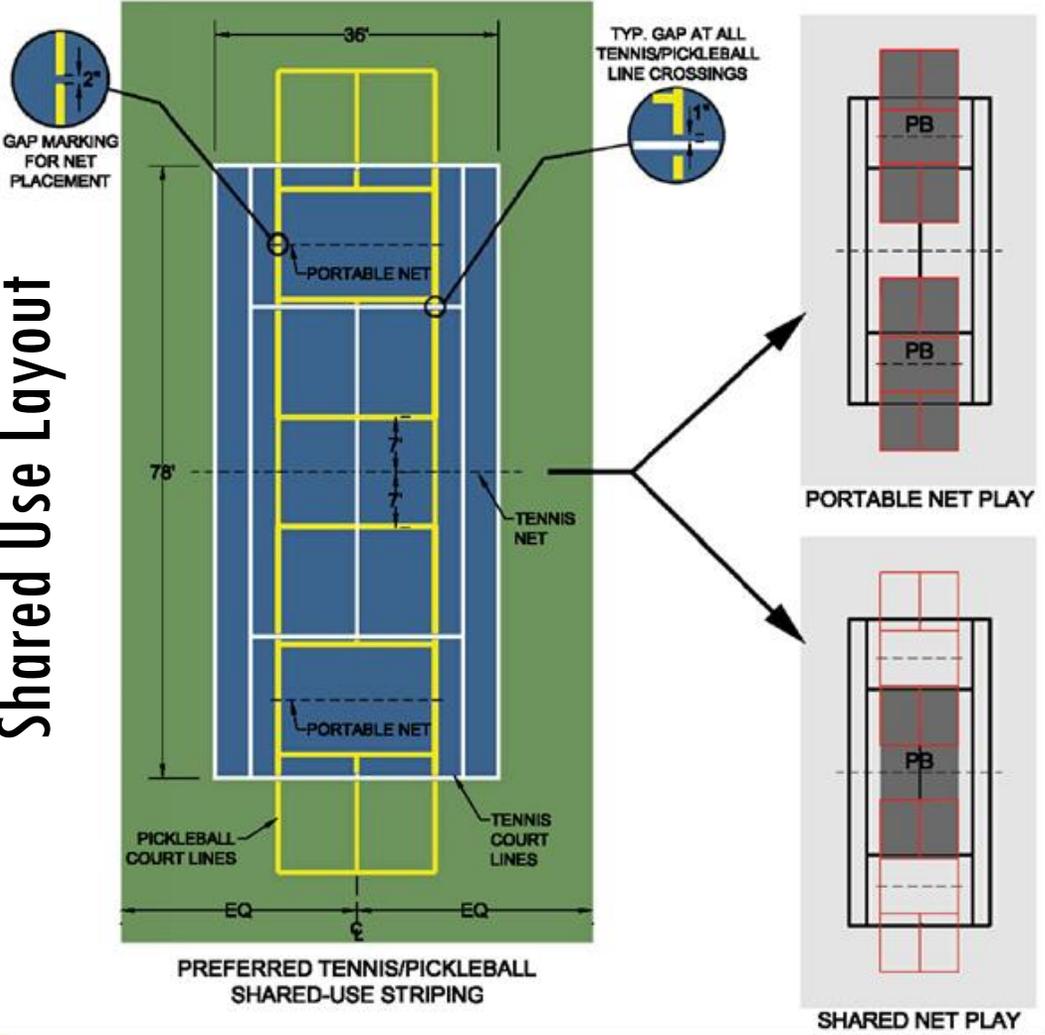


ADA Compliance

- Evaluate compatible sites for pickleball
- Identify any needed improvements/conditions
- Target locations for site-specific analysis

# Draft Recommendation - Adopt Court Layout/Design Specs

## Shared Use Layout



# DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS — DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

# Draft Recommendation — Location Guidance

- Starting in FY 2022, include potential for pickleball as a factor in prioritizing court maintenance and renovation. Using a defined process, assess courts' potential for conversion from tennis-only or shared-use to pickleball-only, using the site selection criteria.
- In the 2024 park bond or other funding sources, consider the design and construction of at least one pickleball-only facility suitable for large groups and tournaments (6+ courts). FCPA Board will need to determine how many facilities are funded based on all needs throughout the park system.
- In the 2026 Needs Assessment, consider whether a countywide pickleball service level standard, based in demand analysis and statistically valid survey, is justified.

# Next Steps / Schedule

- September 1 — Public Comment Period Opens
- September 14 — Tonight — Public Comment Meeting
- October 1 — Public Comment Period Closes
- October — Revise & finalize report based on comments received
- November — PAB to consider endorsement
- Implementation — Court Evaluations (ongoing)  
Court Maintenance Program (annual)  
Capital Improvements Program (annual)  
Park Master Planning (ongoing)  
Park Bond 2024 & Needs Assessment 2026

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