

Bring Pickleball Buchanan

I want to present to the Buchanan Commissioners some facts regarding Pickleball and the need to bring Pickleball to Buchanan. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. You can see noted below, courts are being installed all over the Michiana area and we badly need them in Buchanan as well. Others and I have been actively gathering information on some of these courts. Commissions and people on Area Recreation boards have been instrumental in getting funding for courts; at least two that I know of have been able to use Government Covid funds to help build these courts.

- 1) Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and can be seen on TV as much as Tennis.
- 2) **PADDLETEK SPORTS** - located in Niles Michigan is one of the largest Pickleball Paddle manufacturers in the US. They offer a full line of Paddles, Equipment and Apparel.
- 3) **TMPR SPORTS** – located in Buchanan Michigan also has a full line of Pickleball Paddles, Equipment and Apparel as well.
- 4) Court Size is roughly half the size of a Tennis court measuring 44’ Long x 20’ wide. For starters I would like to see 4 courts in Buchanan. There are several sites within the city that would fit very nicely.
- 5) We have several certified instructors in the Michiana area. There are even more people that are willing to help promote this sport to others that are interested in learning about this great game. The Pickleball Community is a very tight knit group. New friends are made daily.
- 6) Michiana Pickleball Club (MPC) has more than 400 members. This organization has several free mixers that are offered each year to help introduce the sport to the community. MPC offers several social mixers each year where they offer free meals, lessons, and play.
- 7) I have run Ladder Leagues for 5 years in the Niles – Buchanan area, and we frequent local businesses to enjoy meals with our Pickleball friends.
- 8) Very little funds are required after the initial investment.

Local Communities with Players

Niles – Buchanan YMCA – 162 Players

Red Bud Fitness – 105 Players (est.)

Berrien Springs – 184 Players

St Joseph YMCA – 435 Players

Lincoln Township – 247 Players

New Buffalo – 297 Players

Coloma – 173 Players

South Bend Mishawaka – 642 (est.)

*Most of these numbers were gathered from a free site called TEAM REACH, a code is given for site, people can join this site and learn when and where Pickleball play will be taking place.

Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Niles North – Plym Park – 10 Lined Courts

Niles South – Fireman’s Park – 6 Lined Courts

Berrien Springs – 12 Lined Courts

St. Joseph – 8 Lined Courts

New Buffalo – 8 Lined Courts

Coloma – 6 Lined Courts

South Bend / Mishawaka – 8 – 10 sites with 4 – 10 courts at each site