

OCPR Grant Program Application



For the 2023 Oakland County Parks and Recreation Park Improvement and Trailways Grant Program, \$650,000 is available for trail and park improvement projects. This program is designed to assist local Oakland County communities with planning, preliminary engineering/design, and construction costs directly related to park improvement and trail projects located in Oakland County. For full program guidelines refer to the 2023 Community Grant Program Guidelines found on the [Oakland County Parks web site](#).

We are not using Laserfiche this year but changing to this fillable PDF application. Please submit attachments and supporting documents along with this application as ONE PDF document if possible.

A. Applicant Information

1. Project Title:

2. Oakland County City, Village or Township Name:

3. Census Tract:

4. Name of Primary Grant Contact:

Address:

Primary Contact Phone:

Primary Contact E-Mail Address:

5. Please list any project partners:

6. For which type of funding are you applying (please check one):

☐ Pre-development grants minimum request \$5,000, maximum request \$25,000 (design, engineering, planning, etc.) 25% Match

☒ Development grants minimum request \$5,000, maximum request \$100,000. 50% Match

B. Financial Information

Grant Amount Requested:

Match Amount:

☐ 25% minimum match for pre-development projects

☒ 50% match for development projects.

Certain communities may be eligible to have the match requirement waived – if your community is struggling to provide a match, please reach out to OCPR grants planning staff

Match Source(s):

Madison Heights General Fund \$275,000, SMPA \$1,000

Southeast Michigan Pickleball Association has agreed to partner with the City ensure utilization, visibility and programming across the region can take place on these courts. They will also partner on on-going upkeep including splitting the cost of future sealing of courts.

Projected Budget (if more lines are needed, please attach as additional document):

Scope Item	Quantity	Total Amount
Engineering	1	35,000
Construction, base, concrete,surfacing	1	315,000
nets, windscreens, paddle racks ect.	1	1,000

Total project budget:

C. Grant Application Requirements

1. Indicate how and where this project is addressed in relevant community planning documents, which may include: 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Park Master Plan, Community Master Plan, Complete Streets Plan, Trailway Master Plan, Pathway Plan, etc. Provide links to relevant online planning documents or add relevant pages to application PDF document. (100 word maximum)

The city will be updating our Parks and Recreation Master Plan this year with all projects in our current plan completed. We have had numerous residents request pickleball courts in addition to a very active association with over 500 members in the Madison Heights/Royal Oak area.

2. Proposed Project Dates

Anticipated Start Date:

Anticipated End Date:

3. Select the type of site control the applicant has over the site where the project is to be completed:

- ☒ Fee simple
- ☐ Less-than-fee-simple (explain):
- ☐ Lease
- ☐ License
- ☐ Easement
- ☐ Other (explain):

4. Final Report & Reimbursement

The OCPD Trails and Park Improvements grant program is a reimbursement program. If awarded a grant, the community will have an opportunity to request reimbursement on a quarterly basis. A final report will need to be submitted and approved by OCPD grant management staff prior to the release of the final 20% of grant funds.

- ☒ Please check here to acknowledge that this is a reimbursement grant and that a final report will be required to release the final 20% of grant funds.

D. Project Description

1. Describe the physical location of the proposed project and ownership of the property. (250 words max)

Rosie's Park is a 26.5 acre park in Madison Heights with walking trails, baseball, trees. The location identified is an existing basketball court that is in need of refurbishment. The distance from this location to the nearest residential neighbor is 150 feet. There is a large densely wooded areas to the southeast and some mature trees surrounding the courts which may provide minimal sound adsorption. The budget also does include additional landscpaing for sound abatement. These courts are being proposed adjacent to a parking lot for easy access.

2. Describe the project design and why it was chosen. (250 words max)

The project design of 8 courts instead of 4 or 6 was chosen to allow us the ability to offer social league to promote the sport and make sure the courts are utilized. With 8 courts we can also offer future tournaments to offset future maintenance cost. This location was chosen because as a City we are attempting to bring opportunity to those tracts in our community that have been identified as Justice 40, this area is also located near the area we are working on making more walkable with streetscape designs.

3. Provide a relevant history/background information (including any environmental concerns). (250 words max)

Based on Oakland County Parks Research Summary focused on pickleball. This study revealed several items regarding location and the need for noise abatement as well as the desire to install more courts to help meet demand, the need for organized play at various levels from beginning to advanced. Courts were reported to be utilized frequently or almost always by over 75% of respondents, with a few reporting about half-time usage. Player demograph ranges from 8-80 with most frequent users in age 55-74 and 35-54 second.

4. Describe the community need for the project. (250 words max)

Investing in pickleball courts in this area will promote physical activity, foster community engagement, and boost the local economy. Pickleball is a sport suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels providing a low impact way to stay healthy. By providing courts in Rosie's Park residents in this disadvantaged part of the community have convenient access to recreational opportunities, encouraging them to adopt a more active lifestyle. Moreover, hosting leagues and tournaments can attract people from across the county and southeast Michigan region.

5. Project Alignment with most recent OCPR Community-Wide Needs Assessment.

Please select all categories in which your proposed project falls:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain-biking trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-use trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe & kayak launch sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball and softball diamonds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking areas and pavilions | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery range |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers Markets | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterparks and Waterslides | <input type="checkbox"/> Off-road vehicle areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating and fishing areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer and cricket fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pads and spray parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor equestrian facilities/trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor amphitheaters | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pickleball courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/> |

6. Does the project positively impact equity and justice and/or provide parks and recreation services that feel safe and welcoming to everyone? If so, please summarize here. (250 word max)

Yes pickleball is a social sport that fosters connections and camaraderie among players, enhancing community cohesion. This is a strategic investment in public health, community well-being, and economic development. The sport is easy to learn and doesn't require a large investment in equipment to participate.

7. Does the project consider sustainable design/construction practices and help build community resilience and adaptation to climate change? If so, please summarize here. (250 word max)

Erosion control measures shall be installed to prevent any sediment entering the existing storm drainage system. In addition, a trench drain/trench will be installed to assist in the storage of stormwater at a reduced release rate. The existing asphalt at this location will be removed and replaced with concrete that will not retain the heat as much. The removal of asphalt will reduce the Solar Reflectance Index (SRI) of this area. In addition, additional landscaping will be provided to remove additional stormwater and also reduce the noise decibel level at this location.

8. Does the project increase access to spaces and experiences that promote physical, mental, and social health for all? If so, please summarize here. (250 word max)

Pickleball provides an inclusive and accessible way for residents to engage in physical activity. The sport can be adapted to various skill levels and ages, making it suitable for individuals of all fitness levels. By providing residents with access to pickleball courts, the city is promoting mental well-being by offering an outlet for stress relief and relaxation. Additionally, the social aspect of pickleball encourages social interaction and support, which can further contribute to positive mental health outcomes. Pickleball also provides an avenue to meet new people, build new friendships, strengthen social bonds, and sense of community. Overall, these courts will create a more vibrant and inclusive community.

9. Has any public engagement been done around this project yet? If so please summarize here.

Specific targeted community engagement has not been done around this project however, we are in the process of creating the community engagement. We have contracted with our engineer for design, cost and location details and will be sharing that with the community to gauge their interest and feedback.

10. Describe how the project will be managed and maintained long-term, including any equipment or staffing needs and how they will be addressed.

We are partnering with the Southeast Michigan Pickleball Association to make sure the courts are utilized. They will host leagues open to those across the area to promote use. They will also be partnering with us to ensure the courts are maintained and are built and maintained as premier courts in the area.

11. Describe how the project will meet or exceed ADA guidelines. Describe any Universal Design principles that will be incorporated into the project.

As part of this project, all sidewalks leading to the new pickleball courts will be upgraded to meet ADA requirements including detectible warning. In addition, new van accessible parking space will be added directly adjacent to the new courts along with an accessible walkway.

12. Select whether or not the park or facility has any required entrance fees – annual, daily, non-resident, etc.

- ☒ No fees for park use
- ☐ Non-resident annual or daily fee
- ☐ Annual or daily fee for residents and non-residents
- ☐ Other (explain):

13. Select the ways in which people can access the site:

- ☐ Automobile only
- ☒ Automobile
- ☒ Bicycle on-street
- ☐ Dedicated bike lane
- ☒ Sidewalk
- ☒ Nearby bus stop (within ¼ mile)

E. Attachments

If possible please use the “Combine Files into one PDF” tool to combine your application materials into one PDF document. If you don’t have the ability to do so, individual files will still be accepted. Email all attachments to Kate Layton at laytonk@oakgov.com. Put your community name in the subject line of the email.

Required Attachments:

1. Project location map
2. Site plan or site map
3. Optional letters of support
4. Optional Other Materials
 - a) Design drawings/specifications
 - b) Photographs with captions that indicate the relevant content of the photo

Submission

Completed applications should be e-mailed to Kate Layton at laytonk@oakgov.com.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail within 48 hours indicating that we received your application. If your application file size is too large to e-mail, reach out to Kate or Donna for file-sharing options.

Applications should be submitted by April 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Information:

Donna Folland
Supervisor – Planning and Resource Development
(248) 736-9087
follandd@oakgov.com

Kate Layton
Community Liaison
laytonk@oakgov.com



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PONTIAC, MI 48342-5032
TEL. (248) 332-7931
FAX. (248) 332-8257
WWW.NFE-ENGR.COM

SEAL

PROJECT
Rosie's Park -
Pickleball Courts

CLIENT
City of Madison Heights

PROJECT LOCATION
Part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$
of Section 13
T. 1 North, R. 11 East
City of Madison Heights,
Oakland County, Michigan

SHEET
Preliminary Site Plan



DATE	ISSUED/REVISED
00-00-00	REVISED PER

DRAWN BY:
R. Johnson

DESIGNED BY:
B. Brickel

APPROVED BY:
B. Brickel



DATE:
March 6, 2024

SCALE: 1" = 20'

NFE JOB NO. SHEET NO.
0011 **1 of 1**



PAVING LEGEND

 PROPOSED CONCRETE PAVEMENT
 PROPOSED ASPHALT PAVEMENT

LEGEND

Diagram illustrating symbols for various utility features and their corresponding labels:

- MANHOLE**: EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
- HYDRANT**: SAN. CLEAN OUT
- GATE VALVE**: EXISTING WATERMAIN
- MANHOLE**: EXISTING STORM SEWER
- CATCH BASIN**: EX. R. Y. CATCH BASIN
- GUY WIRE**: EXISTING BURIED CABLES
- UTILITY POLE**: OVERHEAD LINES
- GUY POLE**: LIGHT POLE
- GUY WIRE**: SIGN
- C.O.**: EXISTING GAS MAIN
- HYDRANT**: PR. SANITARY SEWER
- GATE VALVE**: PR. WATER MAIN
- INLET**: PR. STORM SEWER
- G.B.**: PR. R. Y. CATCH BASIN
- MANHOLE**: PROPOSED LIGHT POLE

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Oakland County Parks Pickleball Research Summary

Pickleball locations in southeast Michigan were identified using a variety of search methods. Those locations were pinned on an [interactive map](#), displaying 42 unique locations representing 26 organizations. Oakland County Parks (OCP) contacted these organizations and was able to collect information about their courts and programs from over a dozen organizations, as well as information about the sport overall from a variety of online sources.

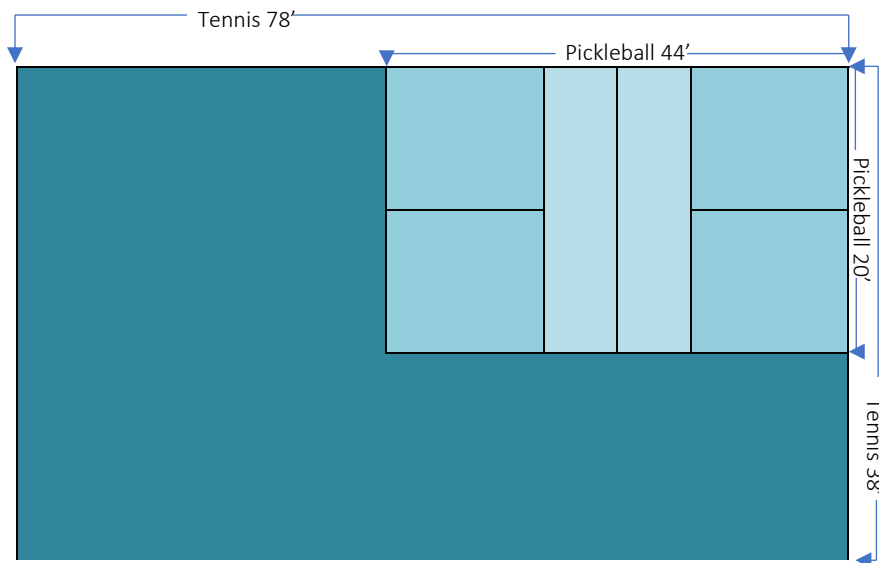
Recommendation

After evaluating the information provided by local area organizations, information provided by USA Pickleball and other sources, OCP does not recommend the installation of outdoor pickleball courts within residential areas as the noise from the game has a negative impact on quality-of-life for neighbors within 500 feet.

Summary of findings

Pickleball court information

Pickleball courts, which are 20'x40', are slightly more than a quarter the size of tennis courts, which are 38'x78'.



Many tennis courts are being converted into pickleball courts, which allows for more simultaneous users as many existing tennis footprints can accommodate four pickleball courts to each tennis court. Outdoor courts should be oriented so that players will be facing north and south to avoid looking directly into the sun in the mornings and evenings.

Pickleball noise

The impact of a ball hitting a pickleball paddle has a frequency reported between 1,000 – 2,000 Hz and an average of 65-70 dB. These figures vary depending on the environment, external noise, humidity and other factors.

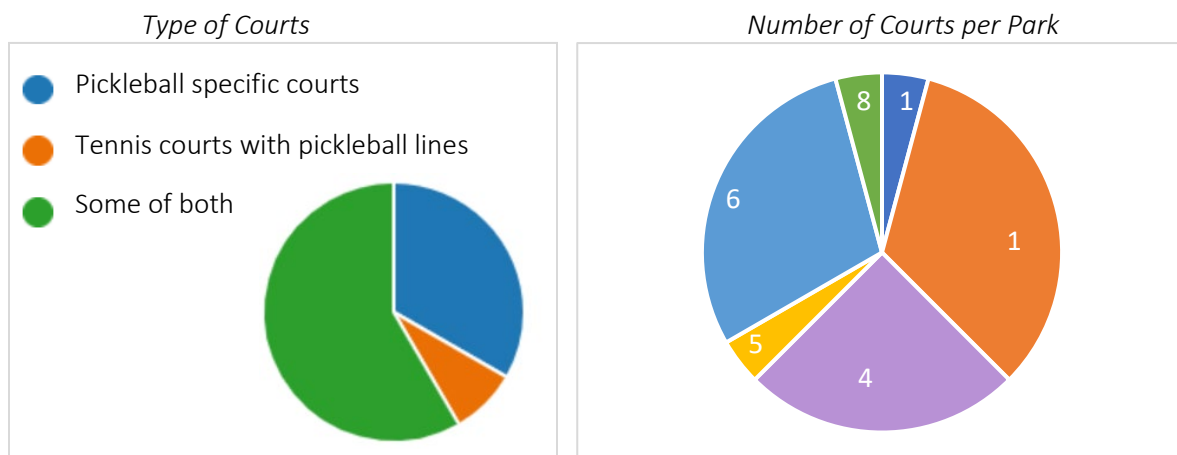
There are many sound abatement options available, both natural and manufactured, with varying claims of efficacy, but the three major categories found were:

- Natural barriers- hedge rows or tree rows
 - [Noise attenuation provided by hedges](#) reports a reduction of 2.7 dB for hedgerows with a porosity less than 4.6%
- Walls – varying materials and construction complexity
 - [AcoustiGuard](#) is a manufactured wall that claims a reduction of around 40 dB
- Curtains - manufactured sound-barrier to be hung on existing fence
 - [ACOUSTIBLOK](#) claims 11 dB reduction which results in more than 50% reduction in perceived sound
 - [FENCE SCREEN](#) claims 32 dBA sound reduction and an 8-10 year life expectancy

Local pickleball organization feedback

Courts

Slightly more than a quarter of all respondents reported having courts that are specific to pickleball, while most have a combination of both pickleball and tennis courts. The majority of respondents have two, four or six courts per park. Only one respondent each reported having one, five or eight courts.



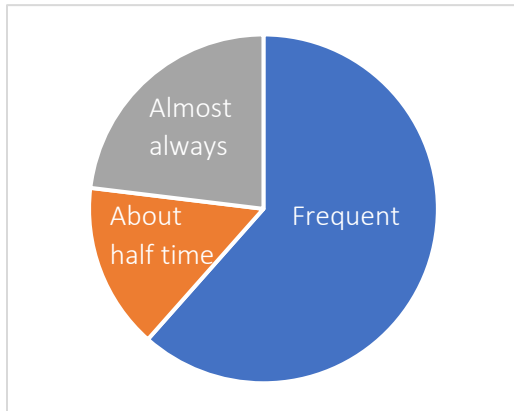
When asked what, if anything, organizations have learned since opening their pickleball courts or what they would have done differently, the following themes were identified:

- A desire to install more courts to help meet demand
- Ensuring that courts are enclosed and that wind and sound barriers are in place
- Experienced players were identified as potentially difficult as they often make inexperienced and beginner players feel unwelcome and have high expectations and demands for the courts

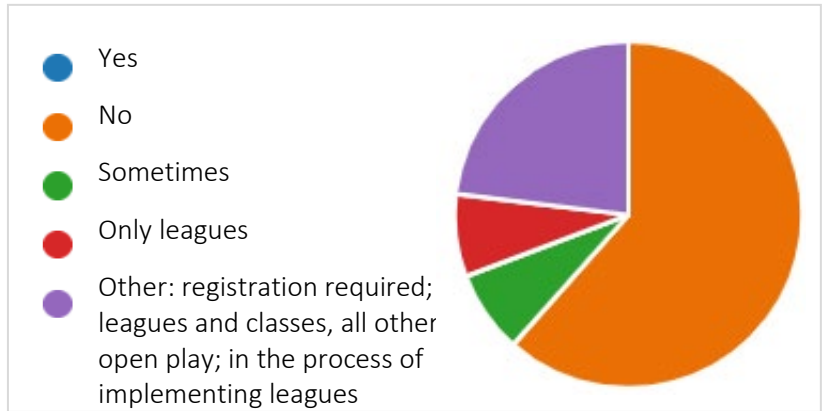
Operation and Management

Courts were reported to be utilized frequently or almost always by over 75% of respondents, with a few reporting about half-time usage. None of the organizations who responded noted accepting reservations for individuals, while some allow for league reservations. Most courts are open from sunrise to sunset, while a couple are open until after dark, and a few have specific hours. Very few organizations have pickleball equipment available.

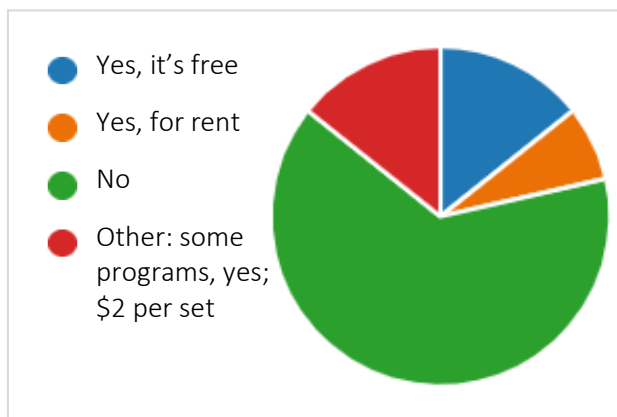
Court utilization frequency



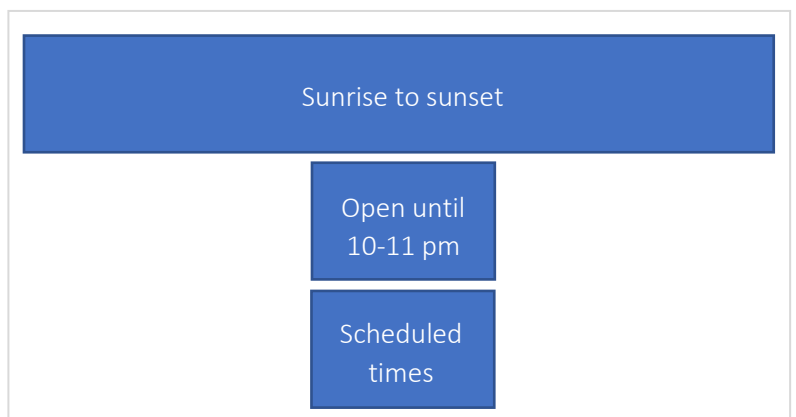
Reservations accepted



Equipment available



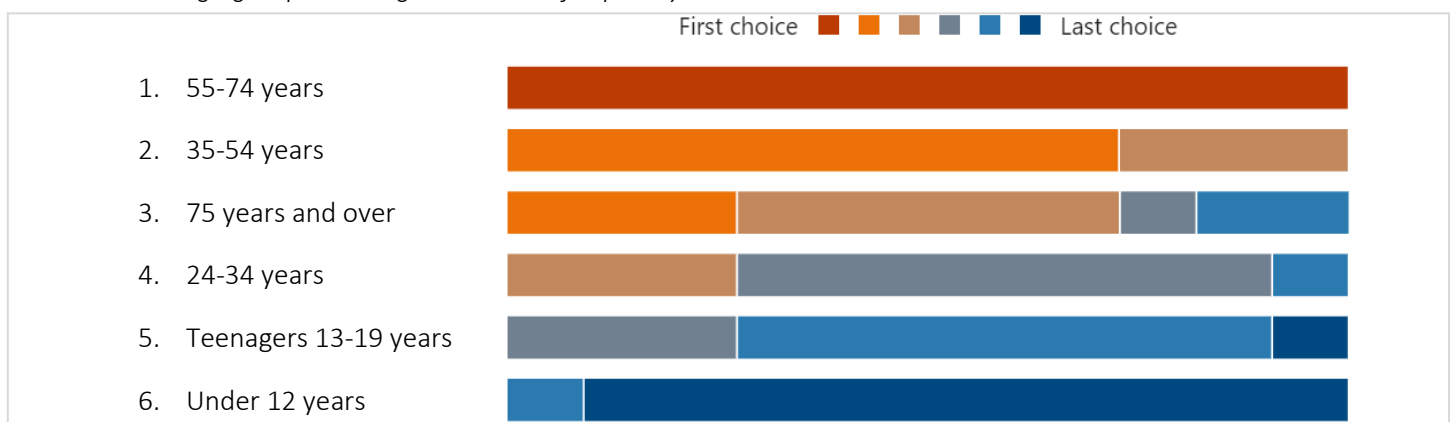
Hours of operation



Player Demographics

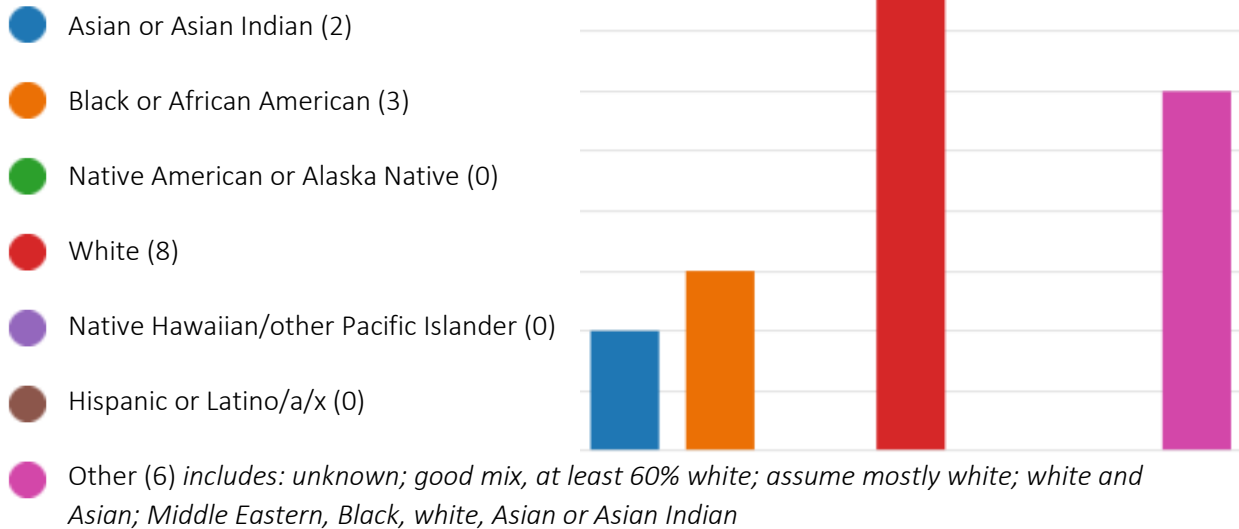
The demographic information shown here is what was reported from the local organizations who responded to our pickleball inquiries. USA Pickleball also reported demographic findings in 2022 that support these findings and can be found on their 2022 Fact Sheet. Of the local respondents to our inquiry, 100% reported that their courts are most utilized by adults ages 55-74, with most reporting users 35-54 years of age the second most frequent users. Children are widely reported to utilize the courts the least. According to USA Pickleball, the top age group below represented core players who play 8 or more times annually, while the second age group below largely represented casual players, playing 1-7 times a year.

Age groups utilizing courts most frequently



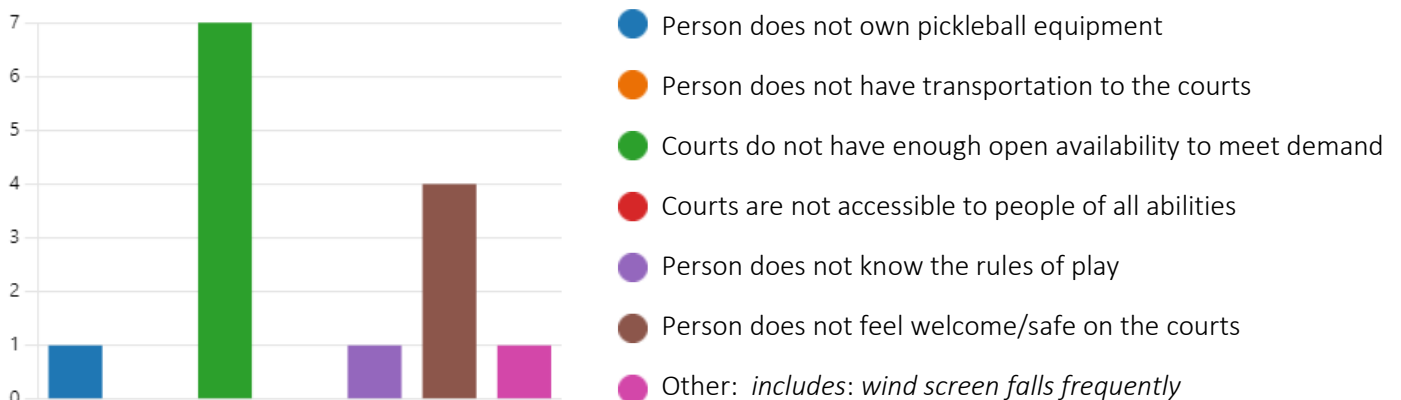
Respondents were asked to report the race and/or ethnicity of their primary pickleball users and largely reported users being white, or selecting white along with other races. Of all provided options, no organizations reported users who were Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander or Hispanic/Latino/a/x.

Race/ethnicity of pickleball players reported by local organizations



When asked if there were any barriers, either observed or reported, that prevented people from playing pickleball, the most selected response was that the courts do not have enough open availability to meet demand, with the second most selected response being a feeling of being unwelcome or unsafe on the courts. The other given options were infrequently or not identified as being barriers by any organizations.

Barriers to play, reported or observed

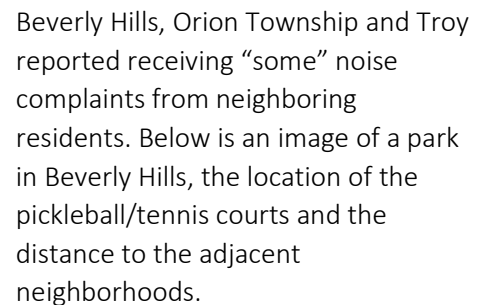


Feedback on pickleball noise

Reports of noise complaints varied among respondents based on location of courts and surrounding neighborhoods. West Bloomfield reported that in a 40-acre park, pickleball “ruins” any quiet areas.

Ann Arbor operates courts at 4 parks and report receiving noise complaints often, stating “We do get complaints from noise complaints regarding pickleball from various community members.

Leslie Park (and Leslie Park Golf Course)



Beverly Park (Beverly Hills)



ITC Community Sports Park - Novi



“They [the pickleball courts] are at the community center and not near any homes.” *-Dearborn*

-Dearborn

"Our courts are located in one of our largest parks and does not neighbor any homes or businesses." *-Ypsilanti*

-*Ypsilanti*

“indoor courts- [noise abatement] not needed”

-Springfield Township

"Both sets of courts are set back in our parks where there is plenty of tree cover which limits sound from spreading too far."

-Novi

Ambassador Park Recommendations

Due to the extremely close proximity to neighbors on both the east and west park boundaries, OCP does not recommend the installation of outdoor pickleball courts at Ambassador Park.

Ambassador Park is a seven-acre park on the south side of 13 Mile Rd., between John R. and Dequindre. There is a residential neighborhood of single-family homes on the west side of the park with homes as close as 120 feet from the existing tennis courts. There is also a residential apartment complex on the east side of the park with units as close as 140 feet from the courts.

Ambassador Park tennis courts and proximity to neighbors



Many of the local organizations who host pickleball courts in neighborhoods reported receiving noise complaints from their residential neighbors, all of which were located in parks where the closest neighbors were at least 300 feet away, more than double the distance from the neighbors at Ambassador Park.

The City of Madison Heights does have noise ordinances that game play may violate. If pickleball courts were to be installed, sound testing from the park boundary would have to occur to ensure compliance. There are sound abatement options that are available which should reduce the perceived sound to the neighbors, though none would ensure compliance and all would block sight lines to the courts, creating enclosed spaces where monitoring would need to be closely considered.

Alternative Ambassador Park Proposal

As an alternative to the tennis court conversion to pickleball, OCP proposes a destination gathering hub that will include spaces and activities that appeal to seniors, children and people of all ages and abilities. Unique features draw people in, activate the area and encourage intergenerational engagement.



Unique shade / pavilion



Built in game areas/ ping pong



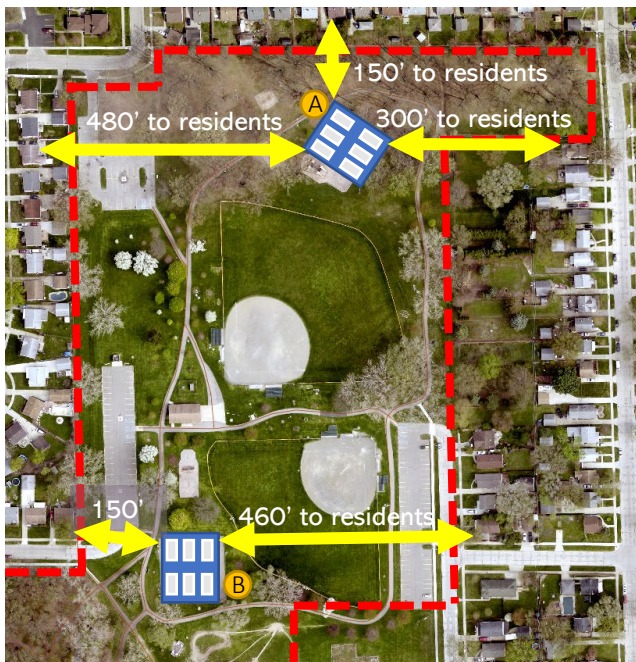
Natural play elements

Rosie's Park Recommendations

Rosie's Park is a 26.5 acre park in Madison Heights with walking trails, baseball diamonds, basketball courts and many mature trees, including a heavily wooded border on the southeast edge of the park. The entire northern portion of the park shares its border with residential neighborhoods while the southern portion of the park is neighbored by two school properties.

Oakland County Parks has identified three potential locations where pickleball courts could be installed, with the understanding that the noise from the game could be a disruption to the residential and educational neighbors. Professional sound testing should be administered to ensure compliance with applicable Madison Heights noise ordinances before any decisions for installation are made. See maps below for proposed locations and distance to bordering neighbors.

Northern portion- Rosie's Park



Southern portion- Rosie's Park

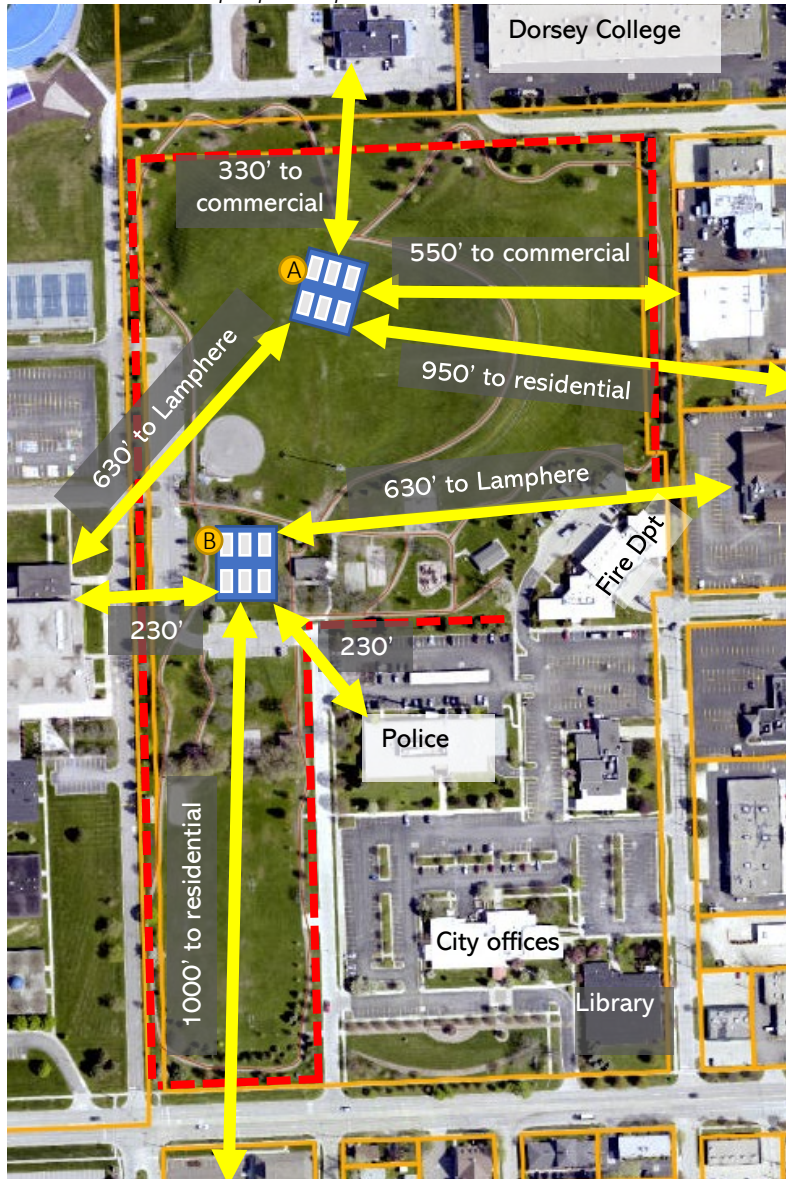


- A. This northernmost location is within 150 feet of the nearest residences but is separated by woods and has many surrounding trees. This location is adjacent to the existing playground and accessible by path to the northern parking lot. This location would require some tree removal and would not conform to the recommended court orientation of north to south.
- B. The existing basketball courts could accommodate six, or perhaps even eight, pickleball courts. The distance from this location to the nearest residential neighbors is 150 feet and has little vegetation between the two to serve as a sound buffer. There is, however, a large, densely wooded area to the southeast and some mature trees surrounding the courts which may provide minimal sound adsorption, however OCP would recommend alternative sound abatement in this location. These courts are adjacent to a parking lot.
- C. This southernmost proposed location is surrounded by schools within 190 feet, which may require more stringent noise compliance, but almost 600 feet from residential neighbors. This location is not easily accessible from the park.

Civic Center Park Recommendations

Civic Center Park is a 34.4 acre park on 13 Mile Rd. in Madison Heights and is the largest of the city's parks. Civic Center Park shares a border with municipal buildings such as police, fire, library and the city offices. The entire western edge of the park borders Lamphere High School, and the remaining neighbors are classified as commercial, with the nearest residents at least 950 feet away and separated by other buildings, trees and open space. Oakland County Parks has identified two potential locations for pickleball court installation.

Civic Center Park- proposed pickleball locations



- A. This proposed location is on the walking trail but is not adjacent to the parking lot and would need a connector route. It is situated between two sloped areas (see map with contour lines and proposed walking path below). The nearest neighbors are commercial, with Lamphere High School and municipal buildings over 600 feet away.
- B. This location is easily accessed from the parking lot and is near the playground, basketball courts and other park amenities. It is about 230 feet from both Lamphere High School and the police station.

Both locations provide very little vegetation for sound absorption.

Topographical map of Civic Center Park



Oakland County Parks recognizes that noise from pickleball play could be a disruption to the residential, commercial, municipal and educational neighbors. Professional sound testing should be administered to ensure compliance with applicable Madison Heights noise ordinances before any decisions for installation are made.