

Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: June 9, 2025

Subject: Terrace Park - Court Striping

The City Council, at its June 2, 2025 meeting, authorized staff to obtain quotes for the resurfacing of the Terrace Park Tennis Court and Basketball Court. The City Council wished to further discuss striping of the tennis court (tennis court, pickleball court, etc) at a future work session.

Pickleball is a fast-growing sport that blends elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. It is played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes, similar to a whiffle ball, on a court about one-third the size of a tennis court. While pickleball started out as a retiree sport, it has exploded in popularity across all age groups. Part of its appeal is that it is easy to learn, highly social and good exercise without being too hard on the body.

Currently, one of the two existing tennis courts at Terrace Park is striped for pickleball, though it utilizes the tennis net rather than a dedicated pickleball net. While this allows for recreational use, it does not provide an ideal playing experience.

The biggest drawback to pickleball is noise. Pickleball generates a distinctive and sharp “pop” sound that is much louder and more percussive than tennis. This is due to the combination of hard paddles hitting a plastic ball with close court proximity. The noise generated from pickleball courts is in the 70-85 decibel range (comparable to a loud conversation or a vacuum cleaner), versus the 58-65 decibel range for tennis.

The City has not received any noise complaints since the East tennis court was restriped to accommodate pickleball.

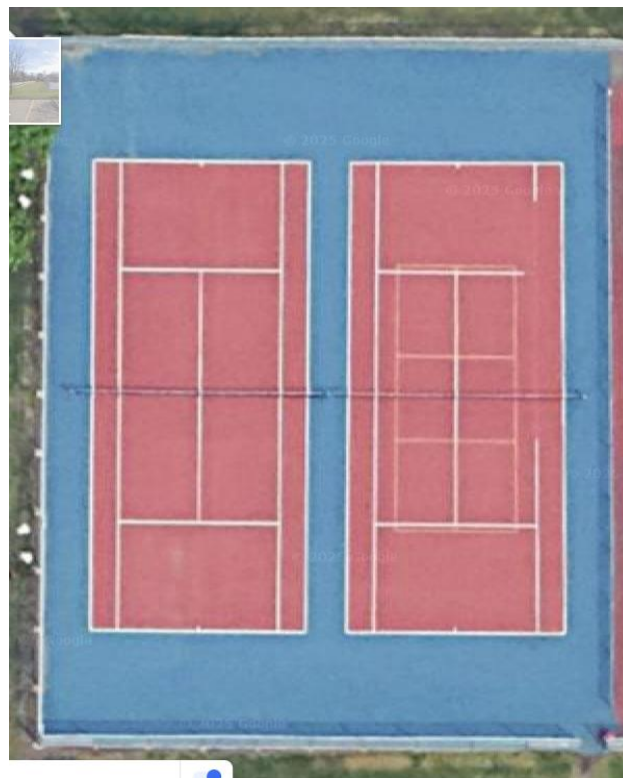


FIGURE 1 - TERRACE PARK TENNIS COURT

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the tennis court resurfacing and recommended converting the two tennis courts into four pickleball courts. This recommendation was made with the understanding that twelve tennis courts remain available for public use at Spring Lake Park High School outside of school programming.

Staff is seeking City Council direction on how to stripe the courts – should they retain the tennis striping, be converted to pickleball, or be striped for dual use.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.