

Walter Reed Outdoor Pickleball Court Project Engagement #3 Comments

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
5,443	276	1,663	228	62

Thank you for watching the video presentation on the final draft concept for the Walter Reed Outdoor Pickleball project. Please use the space below to share any thoughts to help inform final updates to the draft design.

As this project moves forward I hope the county will continue to preserve the basketball courts for basketball only. One observation as a resident who lives nearby on Walter Reed (and who also plays pickleball and uses the quiet open space of the park) is the high percentage of pickleball players who drive to play on the courts, rather than walking or taking public transit. Often this also includes drivers/players backing their vehicles up to the court fences and "tailgating" with engines running and doors open and stereos playing outside the courts while they wait to play. This is especially common for the pickleball currently played on the basketball courts due to the positioning of the parking spaces so close to the court with only a sidewalk separation. The sidewalk obviously can't be used by other park and rec center patrons when this happens. It would be helpful for the design to passively or actively discourage players from "tailgating" in this way with idling vehicles, by keeping parking sufficiently spaced from the courts and court entrances and putting at least some vegetation and landscaping (bushes etc) between courts and the closest parking spaces.

one month ago

No one wants these courts at Walter Reed, even the pickleballers, who will want more courts after this is done. That said, given that you are moving forward even though everything indicates you should not, you should:

- Use the same hours of the community center + give the neighborhood a couple of days off every week.
- Use automated locks on the gates
- Make all pickleball courts around the county either reservation only or drop in only.
- Distribute demand by striping more courts around the county
- Construct only 4 courts at WRCC - same as most of the other locations
- Use better sound mitigation than acoustical fencing - let's be honest, it barely does anything except reflect the sound

one month ago

This entire process has been ridiculous from the start. You've ignored sound science about the impact of pickleball as well as on the use of the community center. Nice to know that the county cares about its residents.

Limit hours of play to this of the community center, and close the courts entirely for 1-2 days / week

Stripe many more courts around the county and make them all drop in play, or alternatively, make Walter Reed reservation only as well.

Build serious sound mitigation measures - "acoustifence" just doesn't hack it. Spend the money needed to make a real effort.

Engage a professional firm that has designed other pickleball courts in a way to maximize mitigation on the neighborhood.

one month ago

Ridiculous that you're building this facility in literally the worst place given the impact of pickleball on the neighborhood and using Arlington County tax dollars to fund courts that are heavily used by folks from outside of the county - from other parts of VA, from DC, and from MD - I've seen the license plates during pickleball hours. Seems like Arlington County cares more about people playing a game than the mental health and well being of its residents. I guess this really is the Arlington Way now.

one month ago

It's really hard to believe that you're proceeding with this project at Walter Reed given the impact on the use of the community center, the impact that this design will have on the parks ability to be used for other purposes, and the noise impact on the surrounding neighborhood. No one appears to want these courts at Walter Reed, even the pickleballers, who will continue to want more courts after you build this facility. This is a ridiculous waste of public funds and this will not solve the problem, while simultaneously creating a number of issues at/around Walter Reed that didn't exist previously. That said, given that you are proceeding despite all evidence that indicates you should not, I suggest that you:

- Operation of the permanent facility should mirror the hours of the community center, plus you should give the neighborhood a couple of days off from play entirely. Please put automated locks on the gates so that neighbors don't need to continuously call police in order to get people to leave during off hours.

- Pay for more and better sound mitigation. Submerge the courts by a few feet at least and put up thick, sound absorbing walls around the courts. The fencing you're using now just creates an echo chamber that even the pickleball players complain about.

- Make all pickleball courts either reservation only or drop in only. Unfair to limit drop in play to WRCC which results in large numbers of people (as many as nearly 60 at times) lined up to play.

- Stripe more courts around the county. Distribute play by providing greater supply of courts.

- Build only four (4) courts so that this site is no more attractive to players than the others. Having 6 with drop in play will continue to attract most of the players from the county and beyond.

one month ago

As a resident of 16th St. S., a pickleball and tennis player, an involved participant of the 55+ community at WR, and someone who walks and bicycles often in the neighborhood, I have grown tired of many of my neighbors' adamant criticism and unreasonable demands (reservation only use, etc.) regarding the pickleball courts. I am saddened to hear so many unfounded NIMBY complaints. Noise mitigation is important to me; so is having vibrant, well-used public spaces and parks. I like the healthy, new energy infused so close to my home by the uptick in pickleball over the last several years; and would like to see the west basketball courts remain available for pickleball play during school hours. I hope this is a possibility. Also, will there be any option to play tennis at WR? Thank you for all you are doing to thoughtfully consider both residents' and players' needs/wants. I am looking forward to the completed project.

one month ago

I think the park is great the way it is currently. I play pickleball and would prefer you use the 2M on something else.

one month ago

This is absurd why are we tearing down courts when the sport keeps taking off. Especially considering you aren't even leaving the place completely so it's not like all sound is going away. What a waste of gov money this is inventing a project to waste funds on

one month ago

We need MORE pickleball courts. Not LESS. I already wait an hour to play. This will kill the sport. Where did that pickleball budget we passed go?

one month ago

This doesn't seem to do anything to mitigate the annoying noise of the very loud sport. There is also a lack of parking.

one month ago

All courts across the county should either be reservation only (almost all other courts) or drop in only (can play without a reservation). Limiting drop-in play to WRCC continues to drive players to that facility as they prefer not to make reservations; as such, at times there are 40-50 people lined up to play on these courts.

one month ago

Walter Reed is a COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE location for a pickleball facility due to its proximity to nearby residences, its negative impact on the mental, physical, and emotional health of the people who live nearby, and the visual blight of sound barriers blocking views of this pretty pocket park. If the County is going to proceed with this HIGHLY ILL-ADVISED AND HARMFUL project that COMPLETELY DISREGARDS the health of nearby residents: 1) there should be AT LEAST one weekend day when no pickleball is allowed and preferably 2-3 days per week where play is not allowed (i.e., the County should stand by its promise to spread pickleball play fairly around the County), 2) play should only be allowed AT MOST during operating hours of the community center and preferably less, 2) the doors to the courts should lock automatically so that play cannot continue beyond allowed hours, 3) any sound barriers should *completely* surround the courts and *be at least two stories high* to provide a barrier of sound going to higher floors of nearby residences, 4) all court lighting should be placed low to the courts and face inward, 5) trash and bathroom facilities must be plentiful and serviced daily (if the County can't commit to this, it's another reason not to have a pickleball facility there), 6) a sign should be placed on any basketball court entrance stating that no pickleball play is allowed there, and 7) the courts should be striped for tennis so that tennis players who wish to use the courts can do so.

In addition to the above concerns, it is very disappointing that the County is proceeding with this project and investing upwards of \$1 million before any County-wide sports facility study is done. The County is proceeding in a vacuum of evidence-based analysis and planning, including the health effects of pickleball on nearby residents. For what it's worth, I don't live within hearing distance of the courts myself; I am simply a concerned citizen.

one month ago

6 courts is simply not enough. Getting rid of the PB courts on the basketball court will increase wait times to get on the court. Nix the basketball court put dedicated PB courts there too, with lights.

one month ago

6 connected courts would be better for drop-in play and to support social and community aspects of the sport.

Going from 9 courts to 6 makes no sense, the demand for residents who show up and play pickleball is much higher and more consistent than that of the basketball demand on the outdoor courts. Keep the PB courts on the basketball pad for sure and renovate the surface for both sports during this larger renovation.

While under construction, the county should provide an alternative drop-in site with 6-9 courts to accommodate the residents who usually play at Walter Reed.

one month ago

Hello! I live right across from the Walter Reed Community Center along Walter Reed Drive, and I frequently walk through the open field area and around the courts as I go for walks.

While not pretty, the temporary sound barriers really seem to have helped with noise! If more sightly, permanent ones are put in place—and maybe if some tall bushes are also planted around the outside?—I think that would amply take care of the noise problem.

I've lived in our house since 1997, when the baseball diamond was still there, and have already seen the open space narrow to make room for the basketball court. I understand that the proposed design would simply reshape the open space, but I would prefer this not happen, for a few reasons:

- Nostalgia (I'm pretty fond of our little park the way it is, current shape and size and trees and all)

- The current shape of the park allows for 1) a more open feeling, 2) room to share space with a wide view of others also in the space and with few view obstructions (which seems to me nicer-looking and also potentially safer... I'm a woman and frequent walker—I've seen too many local crime reports lately, and I like the current visibility of that section!) and 3) a more uninterrupted view of nature (as opposed to having the courts running all the way along the parking lot, extending the visual real estate of the courts from both the Walter Reed and 16th St. points of view).

- Not wanting construction going on across our street or having activities/paths/leisure activities interrupted during construction (I understand the sacrifice would be temporary but am not convinced enough of the change being an improvement)

Thank you for considering and for the opportunities to give input!

one month ago

While WR is being renovated we will need more courts designated for drop-in play for convenience and for social activity. It also makes no sense to drop the number of courts at WR from 9 to 6.

one month ago

There are many reasons why Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. Seemingly overlooked here is the need for masses of courts in order to best cater to the amazing "drop-in" quality of the sport which differentiates it from any other. Twosies and threesies don't cut it. Nine plus is a decent start.

Why doesn't Arlington get this?

Reducing our court presence here from 9 to 6 with 30% growth in the sport is a travesty to the beauty and value of this game.

There is no compelling reason for eliminating the three lined courts on the basketball pad. These are amongst the most used courts in America. Contrary to rumors, we are completely able to share these courts with basketball players.

My strongest suspicion is that if this policy of de-lining those courts happens, this valuable resource will be dramatically vacant until late afternoon which is when basketball players will generally play. The amount of joy, exercise and social function that these courts provide will be lost to great shame.

Please visit these courts on nearly any morning. See the magic. Please reconsider.

one month ago

Stop this pickleball nonsense, why can't the county spread the courts out further. Like I can't even freely go out to play some b-ball cause most likely there are lickeballer there. Like come on how does it get this far when the community's own residents strongly disagree. Who is really behind this and driving this? Who's making the money?

one month ago

This is America, so we can fight this pickleball frenzie. Then again since it's America, who really is making the money here...?

one month ago

I support the increased distance between the nearest residences on 16th Street south and the proposed pickleball courts, because it meets the distance minimums recommended in the Centennial, CO study. I also support increasing the number pickleball opportunities County wide, as well plans to increase parking capacity. What is needed at this point is a more effective sound abatement structure than the current one. While decibel readings taken by DPR indicate lower pickleball volume at ground level, the existing "Acoustifence" actually deflects noise into the 2nd stories of the 16th Street South homes. Additionally, limiting days of pickleball play to the weekdays, the permitted hours of play between 9AM and 7PM, and to permit play by appointment only, as long as the existing Acoustifence remains. Also greater crowd management and sanitation measures must be in place to handle increased activity.

one month ago

Nice job incorporating everyone's ideas while balancing competing interests. We're coming down the home stretch and need a few refinements to make this a safe, first-class facility.

1. More shade - Add a roof/shade structure to every court as you have done to the two center courts
2. More space between a court sideline and an interior fence - Increase distance from 5.5 to 7 feet. This slight increase will make a HUGE difference to competitive players.
3. Surround each court TOTALLY with a fence and its own gate entrance. This has a number of important benefits: it prevents balls from leaving the court area, it prevents balls from going on another court which, in turn eliminates the distraction of having others interrupt your game to retrieve their ball.
4. Consider the leaves and provide leaf gates, as you've done at Hayes Park.
5. Access to bathrooms and water fountains. I know this exists when the community center is open, how about when Walter Reed is closed?

THAN'K YOU for the opportunity to contribute and for all your work on this project. NICE JOB!

one month ago

All courts across the county should be either reservation only or drop in only. Limiting drop-in play to Walter Reed Community Center drives players to this facility and as a result, at times there are too many people lined up to play. Continue to stripe more pickleball courts around the county. It is inequitable to have Walter Reed Community Center be the main place for "pickleball central". The county needs to distribute demand by adding more pickleball courts county-wide to divert demand from this single, primary location. The residential neighborhood around Walter Reed Community Center should not bear the burden of increased traffic and noise for the entire county.

one month ago

I am a Walter Reed Community center resident and live across the street from the tennis courts. I strongly disagree with the incessant promotion of pickleball courts in the WRCC facilities. I am writing this comment to implore the county to limit hours of pickleball play in our courts and set grounded rules on who can play and when. Additionally please give the residents and kids like me some days off pickleball play entirely. Sometimes people might just want to play a game of basketball across the street when it's NOT dark or some tennis. Or maybe just a break from the noise and people. Oh let us not forget the unfinished noise cancelation panels around the tennis court. It's just an ugly, black, inefficient, expensive, weird, eyesore! Like come on you probably spend a bunch of money on that then didn't finish or make it look good and it doesn't even really work. Lastly, let's highlight the fact that the vast majority of outdoor pickleball facilities are right here at WRCC. Like there are plenty other communities around the county to spread these out. Why do the residents have to pay and get their street parking taken by these pickle ballers every single day. There are like nine courts here. Please, spread, them, out! 90 percent of the time when I want to go out and play basketball or tennis outside guess who's there, pickleballers! So, as I conclude, please don't go about building more stuff here and make this community a more sport and people equitable and friendly place. Please. Stop. This.

one month ago

1. Love that the walkways will be handicapped accessible. Is DPR trying to attract wheelchair pickleball players? If so, the proposed playing areas are too small for wheelchair play. The recommended total playing area for wheelchair play is 44' x 74'. I've been told that recreational wheelchair players can play in a 34' x 64' playing area. I would love to see people in wheelchairs playing pickleball in Arlington. FYI, the National Senior Games has added hybrid pickleball (wheelchair pickleball) as a sport at their 2025 event.

2. The current concept drawings show 7' from the sidelines to the perimeter fence. That's great!

The drawing shows only 5.5' from the sidelines to the interior fences. USAP recommends a playing area of 34' x 64' for new construction. Please consider enlarging the playing area so that all fences are 7' from a sideline. If my math is correct, that would mean adding 3 more feet to the proposed footprint for each cluster of courts. It's no fun crashing into a fence!

3. Please install a fence around each court and add a gate entrance to each court rather than leaving large open spaces between the baseline and sideline fences. The purpose of a fence is to keep balls on their proper court. The openings in the fences in the current design will ensure that balls leave the court and may be a safety hazard to unsuspecting spectators outside the fence. That design will be disastrous when Enjoy Arlington pickleball classes (6 students per court) are taught on those courts. Coaches may use up to 40 pickleballs during a class. Many of those balls would end up outside the court using the current design. Adding a gate entrance to each court will also eliminate distractions from people walking to other courts.

4. Consider adding leaf gates to the design. It looks like there will be debris from nearby trees that will need to be cleared periodically.

5. I am a sports management/recreational professional. I love seeing people use public recreational space. Removing the pickleball lines on the basketball court at Walter Reed will mean that space is not used - by anyone - most of the day. Full court basketball is never played there - people go there to shoot baskets. No basketball players use that space during morning hours (kids are in school and most adults are working). Please reconsider the recommendation to remove the pickleball lines. The current designated hours for pickleball is working and supports an amazing community of players. The vast majority of pickleball players adhere to those hours of play.

6. Please advise about access to bathrooms and a water fountain.

7. Please advise about the plans for lights at the courts.

8. When the new courts are available, please restore the hours of play on weekends and holidays. I assume the courts will not need to be locked and the hours of play will no longer need to be aligned with the hours of operation for the WR Community Center.

Thank you for all your work and for your consideration.

one month ago

This plan is an improvement, but not perfect. Please continue to consider the ongoing inconvenience to the residents in the closest proximity to the community center and that this site is indeed a COMMUNITY CENTER, it should NOT be a dedicated pickle ball facility. It needs to have amenities for ALL members of the community, not just one subset. I'm disappointed to see that all tennis courts are taken away, you should leave at least 1-2 dedicated tennis courts. Please confirm that the basketball court will NOT be available for pickleball even without striping the court. It would be best if the County will limit hours of play to coincide with the community center operating hours. Please also confirm no pickle ball will be available on all election days so parking is available for voters. Please continue the noise mitigation measures and studies in partnership with the residents who are most impacted along 16th St S. Visit with them during peak play hours and witness their experience. Please continue to stripe other tennis courts across the county to provide more areas to play, so players aren't all using this site. Please limit drop in hours and encourage reservation only. Please consider parking constraints for Saturday morning youth basketball leagues and other indoor programs and limit pickleball play during those peak times.

one month ago

Flesh out the noise mitigation solutions - if the county is assuming that they'll 'eventually' receive written/verbal feedback after the project has been completed, this will cause bigger problems down the road. Many members of the Walter Reed Community are minorities/ESL, who are not accustomed to providing feedback online and will get the short end of the stick as they will feel unheard and helpless. Additionally, if the county considers the fact that the minority population in Walter Reed does not play pickleball, it would be in the county's best interest to create more pickleball facilities in northern neighborhoods so that the Walter Reed center isn't overcrowded/inaccessible to this community.

one month ago

I do not know why DPR continues to be tone deaf about pickleball in Arlington and insists on spending 2.4million to turn courts 90degrees. What a waste of tax payer money that could be better spent on activities for young marginalized youth in this community that seems to have plenty of time to draw graffiti all over. This project helps the white and privileged that seem to have time to play pickle ball all day and evening. I am grateful for the current hours of play. Please DO NOT expand the hours. We could actually use more time of respite from the sound. Please spread the pickleball love across the county, to include north Arlington. Everyone should be subject to the noise, not just south Arlington neighbors.

one month ago

How is this project friendly to those who play tennis??? This was missed in the decision-making process.

one month ago

We need more courts for drop-in play. Can Hayes Park be converted to drop in play during weekday mornings if the county reduces the number of courts at Walter Reed from 9 to 6 for drop in?

one month ago

I like the added seating with shade, and separating the courts so we don't impact other's play as much!

one month ago

The concept is very disappointing . It seems by trying to meet all needs, it doesn't meet any. It shows no or at least little understanding of senior pickleball at Walter Reed, or any where. Why is pickleball popular with the seniors? Walter Reed's current community reflects the welcoming, supportive, engaging activity that pickleball has become known for. Your video did give voice to the health and social benefits of pickleball, yet your plan will destroy the community at Walter Reed in many ways. All the top themes from comments on your project seemed to be ignored. First there are fewer courts. Competitive and often younger players now play on the basketball courts. By removing them from play, those players will intimidate seniors as they move their play to the area of the six courts. Socially they want to play more competitively with those on their level. The present group has a reputation of welcoming all levels of play, including working with beginners. The hair brain idea of separating the six courts will dramatically cut the socialization which currently happens. When the health of seniors is given importance, how can you even draft a concept which would negatively affect the seniors getting out, getting active , and actively being a part of a vital community.

one month ago

Okay times shall reflect and not exceed community hours so there is public bathroom access.

one month ago

All Arlington pickleball courts should be by appointment only or all only drop in. WRCC should not bare the brunt of drop in play.

one month ago

I object to continuing destruction of green spaces.

one month ago

The basket ball area should remain available until the renovation is complete. Instead of touting the waiting area, provide more courts. I liked 6 courts together rather the 3 and 3. The other 'new' areas have drawbacks, not enough parking, restricted times for school use, 2 hour parking limits. You are doing the same thing as school construction, too small from day one. You are ignoring the sport's growth. I'm ok with maintaining the limited hours if you build more than 6 courts, if you only have 6, full access.

one month ago

Limit the hours of operation so neighbors can have peace and quiet. Listen to them rather than users. It's not an indoor activity. They invested in homes that were close to the rec center pre pickleball. Give them quality of life.

one month ago

I think this is a great project! Excited for it. No changes needed.

one month ago

Can't wait for the final product. Not related but another turf soccer field would be amazing in South Arlington.

one month ago

(1) Allocate funds for a small monument with a memorial brass plaque, to be placed at the basketball court, commemorating the vibrant and welcoming drop-in pickleball community that flourished for five years, but was exterminated by DPR. "BEHOLD THESE EMPTY, UNUSED COURTS - FORMERLY A VIBRANT, WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF WELLNESS AND VITALITY." The plaque should also reiterate that DPR will continue to stamp out drop-in play wherever it tries to take hold. "LET IT BE KNOWN HENCEFORTH THAT ANY PICKLEBALL COMMUNITY THAT IS WELCOMING AND ACCESSIBLE IS AN ABOMINATION AND SHALL BE DISPERSED".

(Alternatively, keep pickleball on the basketball courts, since basketball players don't use them from 8am-noon on weekdays.)

one month ago

Looks very nice

one month ago

Looks great. Pickle on!

one month ago

Looks really nice, hopefully the central deck helps to schedule games for drop in on either side

one month ago

Instead of spending tons of dollars on moving courts and - by the way - reducing the number of courts, why not just increase the sound proofing and repair the courts that are already there. There are more and more people playing pickleball and Arlington is reducing the courts at WR. Why, when the bball courts are rarely used during the day, can't the courts stay there?

one month ago

County Board member Tannia Talento's emphasis on the importance of reviewing the current program at the Walter Reed Community Center, particularly about the impact of pickleball, is a valid concern. Community centers serve as vital spaces for various activities and community engagement. A thoughtful examination of how the introduction or expansion of activities like pickleball may affect the center's primary functions and accessibility is essential.

Furthermore, recognizing the Walter Reed Community Center as a venue for Arlington County elections underscores the significance of ensuring accessibility for voters. Voting is a fundamental democratic right, and any obstacles, including issues related to parking, should be carefully considered and addressed. It's crucial for Arlington County to support and prioritize accessible voting locations to encourage maximum civic participation.

Moving out the Tennis is an issue:

Tennis is the perfect social-distancing sport—and the numbers continue to prove it.

Tennis participation in the U.S. increased by 22% in 2020, with 21.64 million people hitting the courts, according to recent data from the Physical Activity Council's Participation (PAC) report produced by Sports Marketing Surveys. The survey and report monitor more than 120 different sports and activities participated in by Americans.

Of the more than 21 million Americans saying they played tennis last year, 6.78 million were either new or returning/lapsed players. Nearly 3 million of those were first-time players, a 44% increase over new players in 2019. Additionally, the 3.82 million Americans who returned to the sport after time away was a 40% increase over the same measure in 2019.

one month ago

I don't understand why Arlington is spending all this money to reduce what it provides to the community. No one plays basketball. But even if they did, it's a fraction of the number of people who want to play pickle ball. Why don't you make a small court for basketball and still retain the 9 courts for Pickleball. Even having 9 courts isn't enough to meet the demand. Are those making the decision counting the sheer numbers from the community who are now thriving at this facility? You could save a lot of money and maximize use by just keeping it the way it is resurfacing the courts and putting up a giant wall with a big beautiful mural to reduce the noise. No one is ever ever ever ever there playing basketball. Even when the restrictions on pickleball are on. It just sits empty. Such a waste. Please reconsider what you are about to do.

one month ago

What are the hours available to play? There should be firm limits placed on this.

one month ago

Demand is so high and consistently many people waiting for pickleball verses no one or very few playing basketball - downsizing from 9 courts to 6 is very frustrating. Please keep the PB courts on the basketball court for use at specific times

one month ago

* we want 6 continuous/connected courts for good drop-in play (drop-in play is what makes PB special - diverse and social!)

* demand is overflowing (and still growing!) - downsizing from 9 courts to 6 is not a good idea - keep the PB courts on the basketball pad

* while WR is under construction, the county should provide an alternative drop-in site with 6 courts

one month ago

Feedback from an Arlington Pickleball Player:

Need 6 continuous/connected courts for good drop-in play (drop-in play is what makes PB special - diverse and social!)

Demand is overflowing (and still growing!) - downsizing from 9 courts to 6 is not a good idea - keep the PB courts on the basketball pad.

While Walter Reed is under construction, the county should provide an alternative drop-in site with 6 courts.

one month ago

1. Do not support elimination of dedicated tennis courts. 2. Distance is improved significantly for 16th St residents; but appears significantly worse for Walter Reed residents? 3. Decking area needs actual seating - benches. 4. If there's such a demand for courts, why are you eliminating 3 by bringing the total down to 6? 5. The only solution is to create INdoor courts.

one month ago

You clearly know nothing about Open Play in Pickleball: there is essentially ONE line of players to use the courts; after players finish their ONE game and leave the court, the next four in line play...having the six courts separated is WEIRD.

It should go without saying that a city/town/county the size of Arlington needs MORE dedicated courts; there is room for at least 9 courts in the area. I've played in several different states ..and no one has a "waiting area" -- once again, this seems like an idea from someone who doesn't know pickleball.

one month ago

I'm still concerned that we're going from 9 courts to 6. This place is going to be great, but it's going to be PACKED. Will it be first come, first served? Will there be a reservation system?

one month ago

This is a waste of taxpayers' money when other cities such as Washington DC are drawing in businesses to provide spaces for the Pickleball players (commercial, not municipal funds are used to provide space) and their local players. Why aren't we soliciting retail providers for the sport like DC while we have a short fall of commercial real estate tax proceeds? My understanding is that Arlington wants to tax its residence more to make up for the shortfall instead of looking for new industry to compensate for the shortfall. Instead you're having Arlington county taxpayers foot the bill and forgo using these proceeds to improve other services for actual taxpayers in the community. Your plan also results in destroying old trees, such as the beautiful magnolia tree and the green space area to put slabs of concrete down for a fad sport that earns no revenue for the county.

Many of the players that currently come out here take away parking from residence in the local area and they leave litter on the ground from food and other things which also attracts rodents and many are not even Virginia residents. Independent analysis should be conducted.

It's convenient to have the same people who installed the rubber mats on the fence also test the decibels for comparison. I'm sure the product works real great while my own ears hear the sounds very well spilling out of the sides of the current tennis court area. Additionally, there is very little parking. No consideration has been taken for those people using the community center for other services, such as the elderly during the day who play other sports at the community center, etc. the addition of courts with only four parking spaces is absolutely ridiculous. If you want to put the pickle ball players somewhere and make no money on it, it should be in a field somewhere away from all other houses with ample parking. Finally, it is ridiculous that you aren't weighing the views of people who live here more heavily than that of those people living 10 miles away (that's Maryland and DC) by the way!

one month ago

6 pickleball courts are not enough. Most of the primetime hours, Arlington county allows reservation to 2 courts for pickleball classess, that will leave only 4 courts to play for 100+ players.

one month ago

I play pickleball 3-4 days per week at Walter Reed in the mornings during the week. I also play on occasion at lubber Run and Arlington Mill. Spending a lot of money to delete 1/3 of the courts at Walter Reed makes no sense. Why not leave the courts on the basketball court? It doesn't cost anything and accommodates a large number of people. At least allow pickleball play there during the day during the week. Putting the pickleball courts side by side is ok, but separating them with a sitting area between them with separate paddle racks is contrary to the "drop in" style of play in pickleball. By separating them, you are really creating two distinct play areas where one is more conducive to play and the most efficient in reducing wait times. It's like having separate lines that serve tellers/cashiers at the bank/grocery store rather one line that feeds into the next available window.

one month ago

I am not in agreement with proposal. The sport is growing therefore there the demand keeps increasing. Why decrease the number of courts from 9 to 6? If it cannot be increased, definitely it should not be decreased. Please keep the 9 courts including using the basketball court at least on weekends when the demand is higher. Also, having the 6 courts separated is disruptive. Since the game is players "drop-in", 6 continuous/connected courts are needed for quicker playing and substitution of players. Finally, it is imperative that the county provides 9 alternative courts while Walter Reed is under construction. Please take into consideration keeping 9 courts. This is a very social and fun sports that attracts players of all ages and whole families together. As the sport continues to growth, there will be a needed for additional courts. Why decrease the amount now when all the 9 courts are being used?

one month ago

You've cut the existing pickleball capacity by one-third when the demand for the sport continues to grow rapidly. If you are bent on keeping dedicated basketball space for a seniors community (and younger users who are almost always going to be late afternoon or evening), then at least remove the "courtyard view" (which supplies a view of just part of 2 courts not covered by the noise barriers) to make a seventh court. The "view" meets no real need, is severely limited, and consumes needed compensatory space (obviously not making up for all 3 lost courts in your design, but reducing the damage by 1). Finally, why have you not at least explained how Bluemont is used (e.g., some real data on intensity of use) and why it could not be converted to either a dual use facility, or even a dedicated pickleball facility, given (a) the ample availability of other tennis court space in the County, and (b) the different culture of play (essentially reserved vs open and therefore constantly changing player culture)?

one month ago

The concept looks great, with a lot of thought going into it. I support the preservation of existing trees in the construction. Also, keeping potentially tall trees away from the courts is a good idea, since it will mitigate leaves and other material from falling on the court and allow for faster court drying after rains. Finally, on the sides of the courts facing the houses, I would focus on two layers of lower profile, well foliated shrubs and/or small trees. This should help with noise mitigation.

one month ago

Eliminate the courts please!!!! Seniors have nowhere to park and many users fo not even live in Arlington!!!!

one month ago

How can you justify going from 9 courts to 6 courts when they are regularly so busy that there is a 30-40 min wait. Also disconnecting the courts is not a great idea because pickleball is built on community and it's breaks up the ability to play pickup games easily.

one month ago

Keep the pickleball lines on the bball courts that are rarely used for bball. While the new courts are great, they're going to be even more over crowded than they are now if you're taking away 3 courts. There will be more complaints and issues especially with the county wanting to do lessons on these courts.

one month ago

-
1. there was no mention of using the basketball courts for pickleball. let's PLEASE continue using the basketall courts for pickleball. you could restrict hours, if helpful. basketball players are in school so don't allow pickleball after 3pm on weekdays. basketball players are less likely to play early. allow pickleball until 11am on weekends.
 2. i didn't see where the water fountains are located. please plan on installing
 3. the design of the center circle looks very uncomfortable for sitting. white elephant alert!
 4. PLEASE PLEASE designate another drop in court in arlington. reservation courts reduce usage and would be a financial burden to me.

one month ago

Please maximize capacity at Walter Reed. Having more places to play is also wonderful, but a major benefit of pickleball is its inclusive nature, and having a place where much of the pickleball community can gather is really key

one month ago

-
1. Original purpose was to increase pickleball court space to meet growing demand. Final result is reduction in pickleball courts at Walter Reed from 6 to 9, which undermines the purpose; please maintain temporary nets on the basketball courts.
 2. Reduced total number of courts, spreading the courts out, and increased noise reduction areas offset the need to reduce operating hours; please increase operating hours to start time at sunrise.

one month ago

First, let me say that reducing available courts from 9 to 6 does not feel like progress. If we truly think we are a world class community, moving backwards with expanding activity does not support the community's demand for this activity. Further, I suggest that construction proceed in a phased manner where 9 courts are taken offline for an extended period of time. If the first set of three, closest to Walter Reed Drive were constructed, leaving the other existing courts active, disruption to this activity would be minimized. I also suggest the basketball court remain active for pickleball until the project is completed. Lastly, I suggest for future development to address the demand for this sport that courts in the Bluemont Park be targeted for conversion to pickleball for a North Arlington presence. This location would be ideal based on its setback from housing, minimizing any noise issues.

one month ago

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing causes of injury in the United States. The problem is you have 50 and 60 year olds thinking they are 30 or 40 again. As an Orthopedic doctor I want to thank you for going forward installing these courts. I will never be without business.

one month ago

I hope it comes to be!

one month ago

Like the expanded parking, preserving green areas, and that you've considered noise. This looks amazing!

one month ago

This plan is terrible. Going from 9 courts to 6 is awful. When schools get overcrowded would you build more or close one? Just making a few nicer courts isn't the answer. Earn your salaries and find s better solution.

one month ago

Please develop or keep the three courts at the basketball area. Eliminating them will put undo pressure on new courts. the sport is increasing in popularity and participants and needs to accomodate that.

one month ago

I find it hard to believe that we've spent so much time talking about what the community needs and yet the county did not listen and went ahead with their own plan. We need more courts, not less, but that is what we're getting, less. And you're going to make them reserve only, which ruins the availability of drop-in play for many people. I'm sorry my tax dollars support this.

one month ago

Looks incredible. So appreciative of the efforts of the County to make this happen.

one month ago

Hi,

My name is Adam Polon. My email is adam@modernsignal.com and my phone number is 703 508 7561. I play frequently at these courts and think the new plan has issues.

* The total number of courts is decreasing as the popularity of the sport increases... unless you will keep the basketball courts striped with the re-design.

* The layout of the courts will not work well for open play. The current layout on the tennis courts is much better designed for waiting for a game and jumping in when one ends.

I believe my opinion is shared by almost all the folks who regularly use the courts.

Feel free to contact me to discuss further,

Adam

one month ago

Arlington used to be a nice place to play tennis. It no longer is. Pickleball has taken over and I have stopped playing tennis on local courts. Happy my tax dollars are supporting pickleball players though....

one month ago

This is Terrible. Please stop this project. Don't waste the money. Please invest in your schools and county infrastructure!

one month ago

Please stop this project. This is a tragic waste of money on a fad supporting the further gentrification of south Arlington. Please consider the community first and respect the other sports played at Walter Reed.

one month ago

You just forgot about all the kids that used children and teens who live in area. Why didn't you find space in Northern Arlington where most of the players live.

one month ago

[1] Pickleball players are losing three courts with the elimination of dual-use at the outdoor basketball courts

[2] Though the selected plan provides are larger buffer between courts and houses, it isn't conducive to seamless drop-in rotations as six courts within one fenced area would be.

[3] No dividers between courts to manage ball migration.

one month ago

This isn't going to solve any of the problems impacting local residents. Please move this plan to a commercial location.

one month ago

Please pause this project. As usual Arlington is following a fad and not listening to the local residents!

one month ago

I love seeing people use public recreational spaces. Removing the pickleball lines on the basketball court at Walter Reed will mean that space is not used - by anyone - most of the day. Full court basketball is never played there - people go there to shoot baskets. No basketball players use that space during morning hours (kids are in school and most adults are working). Please reconsider the recommendation to remove the pickleball lines. Since the fencing is working, the hours should go back to what they were. There is no reason to lock the gates. The vast majority of pickleball players will adhere to the designated hours of play.

one month ago

The salient feature of the plan seems to be a 33 percent reduction in courts at Walter reed. The demand for courts is there, particularly the inclusive organized system at Walter reed, and the county is giving classes to teach more people the sport. Why reduce capacity?

one month ago

We need pickleball and with clear hours we can satisfy all groups. We have many people who want to play all sports and we should adjust with all the space the opportunity for all to play their respective sport.

one month ago

I am a resident of Arlington Village, a community adjacent to the Walter Reed Community Center. Although my condominium is far enough away from WRCC that I don't hear pickleball noise I am concerned about the well-being of my neighbors who live along 16th St. S. across from the pickleball courts. As such I offer the following comments to address their concerns about the Pickleball Projects.

1. Continue to limit the hours of operation of the permanent facility to those (AT MOST) of the community center. Play is already allowed for ~ 80 hours/week and a report presented to the county board by DPR on 4/25 made it clear that limiting hours and locking the courts was part of its efforts to "find solutions that are measured and responsive to the community's needs" and that the intent was to "Reduce impact of intense play on neighbors."
2. Give WRCC some days/nights off from pickleball play at WRCC entirely - this would be appropriate and would make this somewhat more palatable.
3. ALL courts across the county should either be reservation only (almost all other courts) or drop-in only (can play without a reservation). Limiting drop-in play to WRCC continues to drive players to that facility as they prefer not to make reservations; as such, at times there are 40-50 people lined up to play on these courts.
4. Implement improved noise mitigation solutions - if the county is going to spend well in excess of \$1 million on these courts, they should build more appropriate, free-standing, sound absorbing walls in order to give nearby residents at least some relief.
5. Continue to stripe more courts around the county - at present, WRCC continues to be "pickleball central" and this is inequitable. The county needs to distribute demand by adding more courts in order to divert demand from this single, primary location.

one month ago

Like the concept. Would look to see if you could create another basketball court next to the one you have if you are doing all this construction.

one month ago

We live on South Glebe, approximately one block south of WRCC. Our son, 12, plays basketball and we have frequently wanted to walk to WRCC to practice. Currently, however, the pickleball players are taking up the entire outdoor basketball court and we can't play. We keep having to drive to Penrose Park to practice. It's incredibly annoying. It looks like the concept presented here restores the basketball courts to their intended use. That would mean our son could practice again close to home. That would be a big deal for us. Thanks.

one month ago

Nice to know that this is how Arlington County treats its residents. A simple Google search shows that the county plan will leave this neighborhood in dire straits from oppressive pickleball noise. I've heard the "mitigated" sound from your acoustical fencing and it is lacking to say the least. Since you won't move the courts to a more appropriate, non-neighborhood location or reduce the number of courts, which is what you should really be doing, the very least that you can do is.

- limit the hours of the permanent courts to those of the community center.
- provide neighbors with some relief by having some days/nights off from pickleball play at WRCC entirely
- stop this nonsense that some courts are reservation only and some are drop in. All courts should be all drop in or all reservation only.
- build more appropriate sounds absorbing walls than your currently have. acoustic "fencing" isn't doing the job.
- stripe more courts around the county - no reason for 40-60 people to be stacked up to play at WRCC on afternoons / evenings. Not fair to other users of the community center or neighbors. Take this issue seriously and build significantly more courts around the county so that play is spread out.

one month ago

A pickle ball court would be fantastic. I think it would be especially beneficial to some of the youth that are on the wrong path. The more offering for youth causing trouble the better! Trying anything sports related is worth the commitment and funds! TY.

one month ago

1) All courts or no courts should allow drop in play—currently there is a great inequity with regards to drop-in play. 2) Play should also be limited to accommodate other uses of WRCC and the quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood.

one month ago

Love the plan and thanks for making it move forward.

one month ago

Walter Reed has the most courts at a single location for pickleball in Arlington. If Arlington is not dedicating a different space to have 9+ courts, reducing the number of pickleball courts at Walter Reed is a huge mistake. Rehabing a reduced number of courts does not support the constantly growing pickleball community's needs and loses opportunity to provide a desirable, useful community resource.

one month ago

The basketball court area should continue to include pickleball courts since any slight noise from pickleball play would be minimal, especially compared to the loud bang of a large basketball slamming against the court.

one month ago

I live about a mile from Walter Reed Community Center and I am a frequent user of the pickleball courts.

The plan looks great. I only have two comments/suggestions.

#1 - The final plan moves from the current 9 shared use courts to 6 dedicated courts. The County should try to maximize the number of courts installed until it runs into hard constraints.... physical space, parking, sound, people, etc. It would appear that more courts could be reasonably added in the area towards Walter Reed or by utilizing the basketball court (this court will be very much underutilized for basketball). To spend the amount of money required to implement this plan and wind up with 3 fewer courts at WR does not seem at all prudent. The #1 attraction of Walter Reed is play capacity in a single location. It has generated something that simply won't be replicated elsewhere in Arlington.

#2 Incorporate a Capital Bike share Station as well as bike and scooter parking. EV charging facilities might also be considered. Quite a few people get to the courts via means other than internal combustion vehicles. It would be great to encourage more of that.

Thank you for listening and thank you for all the effort that has gone into this.

Sincerely,

Robert Thompson
ret921@gmail.com
571-275-2814

one month ago

The noise needs to be better mitigated

one month ago

I do not believe the changes to the design address the noise concerns at all. I live 6 blocks away and here the pop sound - I can't imagine the stress it brings to those that live on 16th st. You need to limit the time and hours of play and consider repurposing indoor spaces like abandoned strip malls and office buildings

one month ago

Would like to see pickleball on the basketball courts

one month ago

This is not an appropriate place for so much pickleball.

one month ago

It's a waste of money.

one month ago

Looks great!

one month ago

I like the new design from many of the benefits outlined in the video; however since there is a net reduction of capacity, I feel like it is imperative to continue to allow Pickleball play on the basketball court with a shared schedule.

one month ago

Public involvement in Arlington County is severely lacking. I participated in some of your sessions at the Walter Reed CC and was embarrassed that you considered that public engagement. Given that you are proceeding despite real opposition from the actual residents of the neighborhood, I suggest that you:

1. Limit the hours of operation of the permanent facility to those of the community center (and even a bit less would be better) and further give 1-2 days/nights off from play so that people can enjoy their homes.
2. Make all pickleball courts either reservation only or drop in only. Unfair to limit drop in play to WRCC and have 50+ people stacked up at the site at peak times.
3. Spend real money on noise mitigation. The fencing you have now is ludicrous and only makes the noise worse in a number of ways. Pay for real sound mitigation designed by engineers who really understand pickleball noise and how to address it.
4. Build significantly more courts around the county - unfair to residents that most play from across the entire county (and from folks coming from surrounding areas) occurs at this one location. Distribute demand by building more courts across the county.
5. Reduce the number of courts down from 6. That's too many at one location given the noise being generated.

one month ago

I live several blocks away on 19th Street and can still hear the pops from pickleball. Seems like what I am experiencing is not in alignment with your sound checks. Seems disingenuous to make updates to please a small number of pickleball players. Would like to see the costs associated passed on to players and not taken on by the community as a whole.

one month ago

Feel that the concern over reducing courts from 9 to 6 was largely ignored, users fall into two distinct levels of play. Overall, the expensive cost differential between Option 1 and 2 was not adequately addressed. The existing stormwater treatment was a requirement for the WR Comm Center rebuild project and the new court/seating runoff needs to be addressed independently for capacity and flow (not just run onto field). Elevations not provided for review, and sound reverberation from new elevated court will be louder than the existing dual use BB court play. Pls address extreme loss of existing mature trees and the impact of construction on their roots adjacent to parking area. Feel my taxpayer \$\$'s would be much better spent on resurfacing existing courts; improving acoustical fence; and even improving acoustics at neighboring residences with a window/insulation credit.

one month ago

It is a huge disappointment that the number of courts is being reduced from 9 to 6. I don't think there is any need to eliminate the current shared use of space and designate only basketball use on the existing court.

one month ago

Pickleball is a great way for people of all ages to exercise and socialize. Reducing the number of pickleball courts will increase wait times. It's already difficult to find places to play Pickleball in Arlington. Currently, the more advanced players use the courts on the basketball court. The separation of skill levels reduces player stress and creates more enjoyable games for all involved. Splitting the courses into two sections will make it harder to know who is up next and to socialize.

one month ago

Will time restrictions continue with the new design? Could you provide 6 feet and 7 on the ends? Please do not eliminate courts on Bball court, share usage. If it must go, wait until new courts built. Did you consider moving the playground to the new green area next to 16th street and build 3 courts in the playground area so that capacity remains at 9 courts?

one month ago

Hoping that with the noise reduction measures that hours of play will return to early morning availability (~6:30 to 7am opening). We're not all retirees who play. The restrictions on play hours has eliminated opportunities for full-time workers. Design otherwise looks great!

one month ago

I really dislike this concept because it does not take into account the way drop in pickleball works. It is also problematic that the courts that are currently on the basketball courts will no longer be there. This is all about caving to the few neighbors who complain about noise. There were no neighbors complaining about any noise on the basketball court. And there is no basketball play during weekday mornings so the court is wasted. DPR had promised to replace the six quarts on the tennis courts with eight pickleball courts. Now instead of the current nine pickleball courts, we will be left with six. DPR does not care about the camaraderie and close ties that have built up among the people who currently play on the tennis courts. All they want is to disseminate us among all the other courts in Arlington so that they can stop hearing complaints from the few neighbors who have complained about the noise.

one month ago

I realize Arlington County Government is pressuring DPR to increase capacity for playing pickleball. However, in the history of mankind, no mania (currently pickleball) has persisted forever. For at least three reasons, please as numerous commenters have urged soberly decide to retain the courts' dual capacity (for playing both tennis and pickleball): retains flexibility for when the pickleball craze subsides; provides approximately the same (possibly more) capacity for pickleball compared to converting the three tennis courts into dedicated pickleball courts; appeases the neighbors of WRCC who keep urging the County not to create a dedicated pickleball facility at WRCC.

one month ago

Having less than existing courts and separating them is not listening to the feedback of existing court users. More courts are needed and the ability to move among the courts is critical. Disappointing that after all this, less pickleball space (without pickleball courts on basketball).

one month ago

I would urge the county to continue to keep the 3 courts on the basketball courts, since that has been an important part of the pickleball community and means we would lose those courts. It seems like the hours for basketball and pickleball are working or could be reinforced but to remove them completely doesn't make sense for the WR community center.

one month ago

I think the pickleball on basketball courts should still be there! There is always sooo much waiting all the time

one month ago

The design is thoughtful and fair to all parties. I look forward to seeing the final results and playing at Walter Reed.

one month ago

As a neighbor who will be impacted by this design as it brings the courts closer to my house on Walter Reed, I would like to bring up my consistent concerns about hours, traffic, parking, and trash. First, I am hoping that the current hours will not increase after this project is completed. The hour reduction had the greatest effect on noise reduction. I walked to the rec center to vote in November and noticed no parking. Could we please shut down pickleball on Election Day? Could we reduce the speed limit on Walter Reed and make every crosswalk a light up crosswalk? I observe the players, and they all drive. It's not just a sound issue but also impacting the safety of residents who walk around the neighborhood. Pickleball players drive and tailgate at the park for hours. The players typically back their cars into parking spaces with their tailgates up with tents which blocks the sidewalk along the basketball court. Finally, pickleball players increase the amount of trash left at the park. This is not specific to trash that does not make it to cans and is left in the grass, but also comes in the form of objects they leave behind for the their own use. As of 7:58AM on 12/1, there are 2 plastic chairs sitting on the basketball court, and 12 chairs plus a rolling cart on the tennis courts. At any time could these items be disposed of? Lastly, this is the 3rd time I've received an email update on this project from the county sharing upcoming dates for meetings that have already happened. Please try to ensure that email announcements are sent out prior to meeting dates. I am happy to speak with someone from the county who can share the additional plans beyond the design which addresses my concerns. Mary Ruth Findlay, maryruth@alumni.unc.edu, 703-944-6272

one month ago

I live on 16th Street South. I have not noticed a decrease in pickleball noise since the ugly black acoustic walls went up. I do not understand why the pickle ballers have so much influence that they can outweigh the quality of life of the community center neighbors. Nor do I understand why so many courts have to be concentrated at the Walter Reed center and why we have to lose beautiful green space to more parking spaces. I would like to see demographics about who plays pickleball at the courts compared to the demographics and interests of the community around the Walter Reed center.

one month ago

we want 6 continuous/connected courts for good drop-in play (drop-in play is what makes PB special - diverse and social!)

demand is overflowing (and still growing!) - downsizing from 9 courts to 6 is not a good idea - keep the PB courts on the basketball pad

while WR is under construction, the county needs to provide sn alternative drop-in site with 6 courts

one month ago

Support the project.

one month ago

Terrific presentation. Fully support the final design option and look forward to its implementation

one month ago

I want 6 continuous/connected courts for good drop-in play (drop-in play is what makes PB special - diverse and social.

Demand is overflowing (and still growing!) - downsizing from 9 courts to 6 is not a good idea - keep the PB courts on the basketball pad.

When Walter Reed is under construction, the county needs to provide some alternative drop-in site with 6 courts.

Come on people!

one month ago

Thanks for this clear presentation and proposed solution. Could the courts also be clearly marked w/#s, big enough to see from a distance, from either side? Seem to need more trees shading the circular "resting area" and perhaps some kind of benches/chairs w/back. Where are the water fountains? Restroom? On pkg spaces, we do not need more spaces if the re-stripping results in narrower widths of the spaces. With more SUVs everyday, the accidents and difficulty in backing out get worse, especially when the spaces are narrowed. Thanks for listening!

one month ago

Going from 8 courts (currently) to 6 if terrible idea. Demand is growing, not shrinking. Keep the pickleball courts on the basketball pad.

Also, dividing the new courts into sections of 3 is at odds with drop-in pickleball where you need at least 4- but ideally PB 6 - courts to support a drop-in at busy times. Having separate paddles racks in these two court spaces will create division rather than social cohesion. The 6 courts should ev connected

one month ago

Disappointed that the number of courts drops from 9 to 6.

one month ago

Sound barriers are hideous

one month ago

The footprint is still to big. The courts do not need to have 10.0' of space North and South of the playing area. Please try to minimize the area.

one month ago

You need to wrap the entire courts with sound abatement material. The courts need to be locked. Seating should be moved to the south/other side.

one month ago

Acoustic fencing shall be installed ENTIRELY around all new courts. Baffling as to why the county would not need to wrap the whole court area. This is a sound abatement measure. All courts shall have automatic locks placed on all entryways to the courts. Players routinely attempt to play outside designated hours. Residents are tired of calling the rover to enforce county rules. This is a sound abatement measure. On the south side of the courts, hills shall be formed and trees planted to mitigate sound. This is a sound abatement measure. Seating and benches for the courts must also be placed on the south side so when the pickle bros are yelling and cursing it will be muted by the parking lot. This is a sound abatement measure. A sign with court hours shall be placed at the entryway to all pickleball courts. This is a sound abatement measure. Hours shall remain as they currently are which give homeowners, residents, and community center visitors respite and ensures players have access to restrooms. This is a sound abatement and public health measure. A sign shall be placed on the basketball court saying at no time is pickleball allowed EVEN if the basketball court is empty. Neighbors have no problem enforcing this via the rover, My Arlington app, and visits to the community center. Our kids deserve to have their space back! Multiple trash cans shall be placed directly near the courts and cleaned immediately when full. The county cannot allow a surge in players without committing the proper resources. This is a pest prevention measure. All LED court lighting shall be placed low to the courts (as proposed its too high and will cause light pollution) and shall only face inward as not to disturb neighbors. Had the county actually engaged with the neighbors you would have heard the need for shade and benches along 16th St South for our children's bus stop. If you're going to force this on our community, at least be respectful of how our children also use this space.

one month ago

I really like this design, especially the deck area in the middle with existing trees. But this seems like a lot of work for no gain in quantity of courts. Technically, 2 courts are lost since the basketball court will lose its striping.

Why is there only one canopy over the center court waiting area at each set of courts? I think there should be shade structure at all 6 court waiting areas.

one month ago

The existing basketball courts house advanced players. By eliminating this, there will be more conflict and potential injuries to less experienced players.

one month ago

Providing comments is welcomed, however, the draft concept shows a lack of understanding of the nature of PB and a concomitant profound empathy with the community that keeps complaining about PB as a sport. Over the years, DPR's approach of choice is to appease the squeaky wheels, those Arlingtonians whose voices carry the farthest, either because they complain the most or because they are savvy and well-connected. The impromptu response to the complaints @Old Glebe is an example of the latter. The concept for WRCC is an example of the former.

My overall suggestion is to not move forward with any changes @WRCC until the county-wide review of all open spaces is completed. We should conserve our funds until such time as we have a good understanding and strategy about the changing exercise and outdoor needs of our communities. Should you elect to do that, perhaps in the interim you could patch the cracks at the courts (which was done 2 years ago, so maybe choose a different contractor this time, so that our taxes are not wasted...).

If you insist on moving forward with remodeling WR courts, perhaps you could take into account the following:

-- WR courts no longer function as a beacon for PBers across the metro region. After the strict and sudden imposition of the new hours of operation, people have consistently sought other places to play and to socialize, both in and outside of Arlington. The vibrant PB community @WRCC is no longer, and if DPR believes this is a positive outcome, you are mistaken. We have a significant youthful population, which we ought to nourish instead of placing barriers against their appreciation of our county. We are not Vienna nor should DPR aspire to follow that city's approach to community sports.

-- We have 9 courts @WRCC right now. The new plan cuts courts by 33% to 6 for reasons that are unclear. Given the scarcity of open spaces in Arlington, DPR should embrace multi-functional courts instead of single sport. Every sports player and fan wants their own turf. But we don't have this luxury - this is not Arlington, TX after all. Given the county's commitment to access and equity, "multiuse" should be the norm. The basketball courts are shared between PB and BB, with specific hours for each sport. What are the reasons for reverting the court to only BB? As there is not enough demand for BB throughout the hours of daylight, an obvious conclusion is to drive PB players away from WRCC.

-- The noise reduction wall has succeeded in significantly reducing the noise affecting the houses across S. 16th Street. Why not embrace this successful solution that has improved the neighbours' quality of life instead of moving forward with a plan that will segregate players and result in fewer people playing @WRCC? It is time to respect the PB community's needs and the increasing number of players drawn to this sport. Even though sports medicine studies on PB (especially on younger populations) are still few, there are enough publications to date that show PB's significant improvements on overall health, mental health and stress, social comport and friendships of middle-aged and older adults. Below I place links to a number of them, assessing PB not only in the US but also in other countries:

- <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1137047/full>

- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/15588661231156139>

- <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/16/8374>

- <https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/japa/30/5/article-p885.xml>

- <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/7/6137>

- <https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/japa/aop/article-10.1123-japa.2023-0009/article-10.1123-japa.2023-0009.xml> (specific to Black communities)

- <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/7066/>

-- The success of the noise reduction wall begs the question of when will the playing hours be extended? In the summer early morning is crucial to avoid the heat (6-9am). The weekend remains a time when more people are available to play, thus extending the hours of both days is key. Why not have a schedule that reflects not only seasonal and light changes but also attention to players' needs?

It would be nice to keep this layout but have 4 not 6 courts. That way more open free space is preserved. This takes away shady green space. A shame to do all this to appease some complaining neighbors. I would prefer to see more privatization/ indoor facilities for pickleball. Increased tax revenue, occupy empty office space & makes for happy players by having weather friendly options

one month ago

Great! Excited to see more pickleball dedicated courts in Arlington! I might have missed it, but will it include sensors so people can determine when courts are open?

one month ago

I do not support the conversion of a LOCAL community center to a REGIONAL pickle ball facility. Pickle ball noise affects all areas of the park, displacing other users who are more likely to be residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

If Arlington moves forward with these courts, please increase the height of acoustic fencing and install acoustic fencing on ALL sides of the court. The current design has no acoustic fencing along the north side nearest to the Commons of Arlington and the sensory garden.

one month ago

I oppose the loss of 67 trees and scarce greenspace that would be the result of adding more water-shedding, heat-trapping impervious surfaces to this community center's "park." The neighborhood is totally opposed to adding more pickleball courts at this location. Given the obsessed nature of the pickleballers and their rudeness to neighbors, I cannot say that I blame them: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/residents-accuse-pickleball-players-of-bullying-children-in-arlington>. Also given the County Manager's dire predictions of a significant budget shortfall in FY2025, this significant capital expenditure (and use of scarce bond capacity along with the debt service impact) seems at odds with what the Manager states will require significant belt-tightening and likely reductions in staff: https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20STAFF%20PRESENTATION%20-%2026125828.pdf?meetingId=327&documentType=Agenda&itemId=32838&publishId=2793&isSection=false. Many of those using the courts live outside Arlington, and threatening Arlington residents with a tax-rate increase while still spending as usual on non-essentials like pickleball courts doesn't lead any reasonable person to conclude that staff is serious about reining in its spending. With all the empty commercial space available in Arlington County, I would think that utilizing some of it to provide year-round pickleball courts would be a lot more economical and enable greater use (rain or shine). An old Macy's department store location in Richmond, VA, is being converted into pickleball courts — a location that is far less likely to disrupt local neighbors with noise, parking and other problems: <https://www.businessinsider.com/pickleball-courts-taking-over-dead-mall-stores-macys-big-box-2023-5?op=1>. Austin, TX, is repurposing parking garage space for pickleball courts. And it just so happens that the county's struggling Ballston parking garage has space that could be repurposed for pickleball: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2024/fy-2024-adopted/other-funds/13-fy24a-ballston-garage-1-7-fund.pdf>. Remember bocce? No one is talking about it any more. My guess is that the pickleball fad will similarly fade. Why invest in permanent, very expensive courts at the expense of the environment and limited capital funds, when there is already empty space that could be utilized for this purpose with greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness?

one month ago

Please be specific about how many existing trees you are taking down and how many new trees you are planting. This would appear to be intentionally vague... Not a good look for DPR.

one month ago

Do I have this correctly? You are going to remove 67 trees and replace them with 4 trees?

one month ago

I watched the entire presentation and I understand the concept you all are going for but I think the county is completely out of touch with the pickleball community at large. Pickleball is a pickup community where you can come and put your paddle on the powder rack and find people to play with you, not a reserve a court kind of community. You've already done it wrong with those courts that you have recently lined for pickleball and made them reserved courts because there aren't people out there that always have a partner or a foursome to play. You are forcing people to somehow find others to play with when Arlington is a place where it's hard to meet people.

In this project you are taking away three courts that were previously pickleball courts that a minimal amount of people use for basketball, thus creating less space for pickleball play when it is needed in the area more than basketball. I believe that Arlington county thinks that pickleball is just a trend/fad that is going to go away and it is not. It has been going strong for at least 6 to 7 years now and is only getting bigger by the day.

By shutting down all of Walter Reed for over a year you are also now forcing all of those players to find another place to play for that time period. Upon cutting hours for WR courts, you have forced players to come to Lubber Run where the space is already very congested because there are only four courts that need to be shared by pickleball players and basketball players, when the amount of basketball players is again minimal. At Lubber Run, you could also easily in minimal days repaint the entire area and make this 6 courts and do away with the basketball courts and give money to the public school across the street to redo their basketball courts of which they have at least six that could use some proper lighting and repaving and be repurposed for the school and the community at certain hours. There is a constant struggle for enough space to play pickleball at Lubber Run and Walter Reed and things are only going to get worse in the year of Walter Reed shutdown because all of the Walter Reed players will be playing at Lubber Run. I don't think that the county is actually thought about this. Keeping the basketball courts open for pickleball play during the construction. Would only make sense to me so that there is some kind of play at the Walter Reed facility and not create overcrowding in other areas of Arlington.

In your project you have a separating courtyard space between the six courts which also makes no sense because again the pickleball community is a drop-in community and now you are going to have more congested courts and you can only wait for 3 courts at a time by putting your paddle in one rack

one month ago

The crucial component in successful pickleball court design is having a large number of courts at one location. This allows the social interaction that is frankly one of the main attractions. It's why Walter Reed with its nine courts is so heavily used, and the couple of courts here and there distributed around the County as not as popular. By cutting down the number of courts at WR from nine to six you dilute the main attraction. Landscape design, shelter design, etc., are but without have no idea of the importance of having a large number of courts at one location. I'm sure you've heard this from others---- please take it seriously and don't cut down the number of courts at WR.

one month ago

I'm disappointed that the total number of courts is reduced from 9 to 6 and that the basketball court will no longer have a dual basketball/pickleball use. I play in the mornings and there is NEVER anyone looking to play basketball. However, there are long waits for pickleball players as the three courts are oversubscribed.

one month ago

What I dislike the most about this concept is that you are closing the basketball court pickleball courts, which have engendered no noise complaints. I don't play on those courts myself, but the people who do will probably be taking over 3 of the six planned courts. This will cause terrible overcrowding. Two weeks ago, there were 40 people on the 6 courts and 24 on the 3 courts. This plan seems to be all about bending to the will of the few residents who have actually complained and not caring about the huge number of people currently enjoying the courts.

one month ago

Especially during fall and winter it would be good if there were lights on the basketball courts. If there are lights on the pickleball courts what is the rationale for not having lights on the pickleball courts?

one month ago

Dear APR,

I am an avid Walter Reed pickleball player and wanted to share my feedback on the proposed redesign project. Based on the redesign, it seems clear that the interest of sound reduction has outweighed the interests of the pickleball community.

Unlike tennis and other sports, pickleball is generally an open play community sport. This means that players come to the courts by themselves, put their paddle on the rack, and start playing with like minded players. For this to work, more courts in the same location encourages more open play and a more vibrant community. While we recognize and appreciate the availability of additional courts striped across the county, a few courts here and there does not support open play.

That's what makes Walter Reed so special. There are currently 9 courts, all of which are actively used during peak hours, and ensure that players have ample opportunity to play. This is in contrast with Lubber Run, who's 4 courts are often overcrowded and much less accessible.

At this point, it seems that the redesign is likely to move forward. To help minimize the impact of the reduction in courts, I suggest the county relocate country-led classes - which take 2 of the courts during peak play hours for much of the year - to courts other than Walter Reed. With all the newly striped courts available across the county, this would go a long way to ensure that the reduced number of courts are fully available to the playing community.

Thank you in advance and I am happy to discuss this feedback at bpolon@gmail.com.

Brian Polon

one month ago

It is a terrible idea to go from 9 courts to 6. Put up higher sound netting. A better idea would be to build 20 courts at Bluemont Park and redo the tennis courts at Walter Reed.

one month ago

This design looks great. I have not used these courts but it seems that you have really taken into account concerns from all parties. I think 6 courts is perfect and I like the designated basketball court. I like the progress that is been made to reduce noise. Keep up the good work the plans look beautiful.

one month ago

Looks good

one month ago

Please do not make this change. I use this park nearly everyday and the current sound barriers and steps to reduce the noise have made a HUGE difference. Moving the courts slightly further away from the houses is not worth the cost and time of a project of this size. It is not going to make the pickle ball players any happier as it is the same # of courts as before. Y'all should spend money on making the current soundproofing more permanent and attractive and NOT move the courts. Please!

one month ago

I play pickleball on weekday mornings at WRCC. While Concept 2 was not my 1st choice, I believe this can work for 'our' group. HOWEVER, I do not understand why pickleball lines are not staying on the basketball courts for multi-use purposes. If designated times are posted for each sport, I'm sure players of both sports would abide by the times. With pickleball being so popular, combined with this new concert which reduces the number of courts, at least having pickleball lines drawn on the basketball courts would maintain the same level of courts there are now. PLEASE consider this option since it wouldn't impact the 16th St neighbors and seems like a win-win situation. Thank you for your consideration!

one month ago

This actually will be worse for me as I live in the condo units on 13th Rd S.

one month ago

Pickleball is very noisy. I feel sorry for the people in the neighborhood. There is no need for the County to endlessly spend money on every fad sport that comes along. Thanks,

one month ago

Please add pickleball Cory lines to the basketball area. This will help ensure that there are more courts to meet the demands of the increasing number of people playing pickleball. Plus, encouraging play at the basketball court area will move more play away from 16th St. the County can still designate priorities times where basketball and pickleball have their own priority times.

one month ago

Why weren't burms considered to block the sound? Noise IS an issue in Arlington as were all packed in so tight. Our homes should be a refuge for peace and quiet.

one month ago

In general the design looks attractive. I do not play pickleball, but I am supportive of those who do, and I think the complaints from neighbors are mostly unreasonable and selfish.

one month ago

Will there still be picnic tables in the surrounding park area?

one month ago

Thank you for not removing basketball courts! Might we add a fenced in dog park area in the new space opened up by moving the courts?

one month ago

This is an absolutely absurd use of county resources. There are countless places to play pickleball in this area - why are you doubling down to inflict this on South Arlington?

one month ago

I love this draft. The only question where are going to install the bathrooms outside?. I don't see on the draft and we needed them?

one month ago

Can we ensure that picketballers don't set up their owns chairs and tables outside of the allotted area? I'm glad the basketball court is returned to its original use, though it is sad to see the tennis courts go.

one month ago

Please keep select hours and pickleball existing lines on the Walter Reed basketball courts. This will prevent a net loss of 3 courts in this approved project, preserving the status quo of a total 9 pickleball courts. We have shown pickleball can peacefully coexist with (the very limited) basketball use/demand there. Thanks for what looks like a great project.

one month ago

This is the dumbest plan/project I've seen in a while, and I'm a pickleball player. We're going to spend all that money to actually DECREASE the total number of pickleball courts at this location?? Just leave them the way they are and find another place to build courts (VA Highlands?). Way to take a good idea and actually make things worse instead of better.

one month ago

Not even one tennis court?

one month ago

Please keep the three pickleball courts as dual use on the basketball courts at Walter Reed. We are happy to share. The wait times are already very long and will make it longer without the extra three courts during peak times. Thank you!

one month ago

The three pb courts on the basketball court should be kept.
You have been very kind to residents in the neighborhood. The noise level from pb is surprisingly low.

one month ago

The number of courts should be doubled, plenty of space to do this.

one month ago

There are not nearly enough courts in Arlington as it is, and this REDUCES the number of courts in Arlington. The comments on the last draft all mentioned this and yet nothing has been done to address this. What is great about Walter Reed is the COMMUNITY it build, which grows to the surrounding areas of the Walter Reed community. Reducing the number of courts here is a mistake.

one month ago

The circular gathering space around the tree will absolutely kill the tree/trees in the near future. Plus there is a ton of root disturbance with the walkway surrounding the ugly circles around the poor tree/trees. Design a more tree friendly space because this concept is awful. Get rid of the split-rail fencing along 16th street. It is not needed and does nothing to enhance design. Instead add lots more trees in the entire site plan. Evergreens all along the pickle ball acoustic fencing on the Walter Reed and 16th side. 10 trees is not nearly enough. Put in at least 50 trees in your plan. It is kind of insulting that the county will now charge residents for run-off and your own staff will not reduce runoff or decrease the amount of impervious surface in your design. In short according to your own decibel measurements the noise levels will still be too loud.

one month ago

Same problem that is not being addressed. The county is reducing the number of pickleball courts available for drop in play.

one month ago

So glad to be getting the basketball court back, but I have yet to hear about the cost of this project.

one month ago

Everything looks well-designed, carefully thought out and responsive to community input. Thank you

one month ago

The horrid concrete circle in not needed. Just grass is fine. It looks like heavy and chunky and borrows much 1970's HUD style design. Also, it affords a poor view of pickle ball play. Real players would watch other players from a closer distance to see the details of play. Lose the big soon-to-be filthy and defaced cement disc. Try some grass and some flowers instead of imprisoning one poor tree trunk in the center of this monstrosity. I mean really?

one month ago

The decision to remove pickle from the basketball courts, along with the decision to separate the 6 pickle courts into 2 sets of 3 courts, seems to run counter to the desires of the large group of 55+ users of the tennis/pickleball courts. The likely outcome is the advanced players who currently use the basketball courts will assume that one set of 3 courts would be "theirs" while the other 3 would be available for the 55+ group. That effectively cuts in half the number of courts available for a much larger group of players. Even if that wasn't the outcome, the physical separation of the courts into 2 sets of 3 changes the social dynamic of pick up play that has been the hallmark of this group. You might want to have someone from your staff go out on a weekday morning and observe how the player rotation and social dynamic work. I'm very disappointed by this design which I consider to be the worst combination of the variables that were presented.

one month ago

There should be no pickleball courts at Walter Reed! Keep the tennis courts for tennis. You are trying to serve people who don't live in the areas surrounding the Walter Reed Community, but people who travel south to use our facilities for unintended purposes! I live in Green Valley and walk to the CC for tennis and for my kids to use the playground. We don't want pickleball.

one month ago

I hope the Rec center is well insured. Considering the projected \$377 million of unexpected injuries related to Pickleball. Please keep the tennis courts.

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2023/06/27/business/pickleball-injuries-cost-health-care/index.html>

one month ago

It is unfortunate that the chosen alternative reduces the number of courts at a location which is very popular among drop-on Pickleball enthusiasts. This, and the separation of the courts, will significantly diminish the social experience as well as the amount of playing time available for this popular and growing sport. You cited gave easily added three more courts, also separated from the others.

one month ago

After reading the comments, I would like to second that it's a shame that the community center will no longer be a community center. It will be a Fad Center. Please spend the money on infrastructure and education instead of a joke.

one month ago

An empty basketball court between 8:00am - 1:00pm on weekdays is not good use of community facilities or taxpayers money. Additionally, many Arlingtonians that play Pickleball at Walter Reed Basketball courts will be disenfranchised - did you know we have many pensioners; some on the cusp of homelessness and many that cannot afford or navigate the online res system for other courts, in addition to the many young people that drop in on weekends and those that pop over during work breaks? We are a large and very diverse community that came together organically - if you think it's just a bunch of white retirees, then you have not been paying attention. I ask, at the very least, to reconsider the decision to make the courts single use and if all else fails, that you monitor court usage and when you realize the Basketball courts at Walter Reed are far underutilized, you will have the ability to admit your mistake and correct the situation by restriping for multi use. Seriously, who is responsible for this "concept"? I could never get an answer from APR or County Board Members. Pitiful. Thank you. Kathleen Murray, a disgruntled citizen and VERY concerned voter.

one month ago

I live closest to the basketball courts. Will they cease to support pickleballing? If not there needs to be sound shielding.

one month ago

The most favored feature, keeping the same or increasing the number of courts, is not being implemented. How can spending this much money while taking away courts possibly be justified? This is not a solution! How did this project get so far off track?

one month ago

We definitely need multi use courts on the WR basketball courts. They will be empty for most of the morning and early afternoon if it is only basketball. Please use your real estate wisely. I really don't think Arlington County has any idea the importance of Pickleball to the 55+ community. I think history will show that you didn't do enough to make this an age in place community.

one month ago

Reducing the number of pickleball courts at Walter Reed by removing access to the basketball courts is totally NON-responsive to the wishes of the citizens.

one month ago

Quit killing the tennis options.

one month ago

Designers still don't seem to understand the Pickleball community. Separating the six courts goes against everything you have been told about how the community works. And why should you be so proud of this design when you are taking away three courts? Keep pickleball on the basketball courts. Also...where are the portapotty's going to go?!?

one month ago

This plan does not include space for tennis players. Tennis courts are needed in this area! They were used very frequently by others in the area and by me before pickle ball players invaded the courts. The county should not be spending money on this project when the money should be used for other, more important issues that affect residents near the community center (such as helping the homeless people/people with mental health issues who hang out in front of the community center). The pickleball players who play at the courts do nothing to help these people. I live across the street from the community center and would like to enjoy the serenity of the sensory garden but I can't because of the noise and profanity from the pickleball players as well as the smell of marijuana smoke from the people who use the garden and outside area of the community center to smoke. I have brought this to the attention of rec center employees. Money should be used to upgrade the playground at the site. It's lame. The pickleball players and county are treating this like the rec center is going to be a pickleball sports arena. If the county and players want that, then the county needs to build a separate complex elsewhere, away from homes. The community center should provide the opportunity to play a variety of sports, and it should offer programs that appeal to a variety of ages. Right now it doesn't. For example, not many programs are offered there for the preschool population. I don't think the people who reviewed the feedback and coming up with a "solution" are really even listening to the public. Oh, and the ugly noise mitigating fences that were installed over the summer don't do much to cut down on the noise, so I am doubtful that any new plan that the county develops will reduce the sound.

one month ago

Arlington needs more pickleball courts. Every court has a wait

one month ago

why are there less pickleball courts proposed if that is one of the main problems?

one month ago

I believe the county has recognized a difficulty and worked hard to solve the problem. Let's learn from the situation and use the results on future pickleball courts.

one month ago

There is no need for fencing between courts, the whole idea is that people are playing collaboratively and rotating in and out!!!! There should be benches in between courts not gates - foolish design. Are you just taking away tennis courts or new tennis courts adding elsewhere ?

one month ago

It seems crazy that the new plan results in fewer courts as well as reduced hours than the existing space. Separating the courts will make it harder for people to rotate in and will negatively impact the transition between games. Since the courts are already being moved away from neighborhoods AND they are getting sound mitigation walls, AND reduced hours, the neighbors will be getting improvements across the board while the players are ending up with significantly less court time. And, the sport is continuing to grow. My input: Don't separate the courts and squeeze in at least 2-4 more. It will not take away from the neighbors' benefits and will greatly add to player benefits.

one month ago

I would argue that a double baffled 8' wall would limit noise in the neighborhood. I would also wish consideration had been given to a cover for the courts. Not only for days of rain, but the ever increasing heat during the summer. The uncovered courts during the summer make them almost unusable when the temps get into the 80's,90's. Also the factor of 'less is more' is not a positive consideration. Less courts? This is bound to make no one happy at all. I appreciate that all may not be pleased, but this last consideration is sure to chap everyone's hides. The last thing I would add, is a couple of good water fountains. I understand these have fallen out of favor. With the inundation of stupid plastic containers everywhere these would be a real addition.

one month ago

NOT ENOUGH PICKLEBALL COURTS. To go from 9 to only 6 is a travesty for the players who commonly gather as a community to play. This is insufficient for the need to the community. Let the basketball court continue to be used for pickleball.

one month ago

This will be done once , so make sure there the number of courts are maximized- we need more than 6.

one month ago

I am not sure why neighbors who bought property next to a park are now complaining that the park generates noise. That is a natural result of having outdoor court spaces and of living in a highly urbanized area.

one month ago

Why not convert the courts at the Central Library for pickelball and reserve Walter Reed for tennis?

one month ago

How many trees will be removed? Will they be replaced appropriately elsewhere in the area?

one month ago

Beautiful design and reallocation of green space

one month ago

This seems an acceptable compromise between pickleball enthusiasts and residents. I hope it works.

one month ago

The draft concept looks very nice. If this design was for a pickleball space that was additional to a pickleball center for Arlington, it would be a home run. However, if the Walter Reed facility is intended to be the primary pickleball center for Arlington, then it comes up well short. The design reduces the number of available courts (by taking away the basketball court area), it makes the flow between the court areas problematic - also ensuring that less play time will be available, and it does not address the already onerous impact of restricted weekend hours at this location. This is a good design but it should only go forward in conjunction with the expedited identification and build of a separate pickleball center at one of many viable candidate locations that have greater proximity from SFH's and are in central Arlington County locations.

one month ago

I am so frustrated with this new design! You have greatly decreased my quality of living by bringing the pickle ball courts closer to my house. You are moving me from frustrated to angry. I am going to make it my goal to vote everybody out of office this is a colossal waste of money For a project that does not benefit the community. Pickleball is a fad. I bought my house because it was across the street from tennis courts and now I have to drive my kid elsewhere to learn tennis every day. I have to put up with the monotonous noise and while you've taken readings, 5 dB decreases doesn't change my quality of life.

one month ago

Taking out more trees, reducing courts thereby eliminating areas of pickleball recreation for multi generations of Arlingtonians. What a lousy plan. Where is the county adding courts to accommodate pickleball? What about all of us who want to be healthy and play? Indoor pickleball comes with bad lighting in the gyms- can you at least fix that? Doesn't the county care about the physical and mental health of all of us. Not just the 3 basketball players?

one month ago

It's a nice looking project but this would be sufficient as the sole County facility in 2018 not 2025. Reducing the number of dedicated courts from 9-6 when you're only going to have one location with dedicated courts is simply not acceptable. Taking 3 years to go from idea to completion is not acceptable. Additional dedicated courts are needed now and should be created immediately at several locations throughout the county so county staff can monitor use leading into the 2024 reevaluation of parks and rec facilities. Glebe Park could be converted immediately to 4 dedicated pickle ball courts and 1 dedicated tennis court. There should be several additional sites as well modified immediately to similar usage. Residents should have 4-5 different locations with dedicated pickle ball courts to choose from today, not in 3-4 years.

one month ago

I like the design a lot. It's beautifully designed for the sport itself, with a north/south orientation, shaded waiting areas for players, and short fences between the courts (huge amounts of time are now spent chasing balls from other courts -- the fences will greatly increase the speed of play and thus the holding capacity of the courts). I particularly like the tiered and raised decking, which is a very welcoming signal to player and an acknowledgement of the highly social nature of pickleball itself. I am concerned that the loss of the 3 courts now located on the tennis courts (and informally designated for play by advanced players) will cause the 6 remaining courts to be over-crowded (and sometimes over-crowded with beginner and lower intermediate players that, unfortunately, are sometimes shunned by the advanced players. But that's what drop-in is all about really -- folks having to work it out informally in recreational pickleball. I also appreciate everything the County has done to reduce noise -- I do wonder whether the average 10 dB noise reduction forecast is indeed achievable in practice and I hope that the County will take post-construction noise readings to confirm the effectiveness of noise mitigation.

one month ago

Very nice!

one month ago

So, it is my understanding that Walter Reed will now have fewer courts than it did before? How is this helping meet the demand by having fewer courts? It seems incongruent.

one month ago

Noise barriers do not work and eye sore. Move pickle ball courts to non-residential area. Too noisy.

one month ago

I think this is a nice compromise solution and kudos to the county staff for working through it

one month ago

I don't see any traffic or street improvements to help aid with the increased visitors this will bring. It's already difficult to find parking in the area and I don't see any mitigation efforts in this proposal. Additionally, the basketball court could really use sound barriers also, you can hear it all the way down 14th Street to S. Glebe.

one month ago

Stop giving these pickleballers everything. This is a fad sport that will be gone in 10 years and we'll have spent millions. Build more field space and multi-use courts.

one month ago

How long is pickleball expected to be this popular? Is this a reasonable long term fiscally responsible plan? The noise mitigation fabric is awful. Choosing to reside next to a park, highway, concrete plant, music club, comes with the associated sound. And while pickleball pop is a new noise, there will be more noise activities in the future. Reacting with additional courts being built, big black noise reducing fabric and barrier fences in the middle of the courts seem rather excessive both fiscally and environmentally. Certainly the very unattractive black noise reduction fabric is heinous. PS: the pickleball pop sound in the background of the presentation video is unfair, how about a serene bird call and focus on the large black fabric swaths at the parks???

one month ago

The reduction from 9 to 6 courts at the most popular drop in location in the County is a terrible disservice to Arlingtonians. The addition of a smaller number of courts at parks throughout the County does not make up for the reduction because these other locations are not suitable for the drop in community, which is what makes pickleball special. The County should reconsider the decision to capitulate to a handful of residents who complained about noise that was below the county decibel limits to the detriment of hundreds of players, including many seniors. The County decision makers should be ashamed of themselves.

one month ago

this is stupid and embarrassing, you're going to destroy recreational areas for multiple REAL sports just bc of a stupid craze game people are starting to play? this will be a waste of money when pickleball becomes less trendy in a few years. spend elsewhere, pickleball is a scourge upon tennis and greater parks and rec

one month ago

The Black exterior shielding looks-terrible.

You have consistently transformed our incredibly beautiful center into a sports arena.

This project needs to be transferred to another community,.Are you a tax payer in this neighborhood? I am

one month ago

Compromise is sometimes difficult. It looks like you've done a nice job at taking in a lot of data, and creating a space that works well for the most folks while improving the space. Nice job.

one month ago

This is unbelievable. Somehow you got rid of even more green space. Wow.

one month ago
