

Racquet Sports Strategy Recommendations

May 2026

Seattle Metro Pickleball Association



LET US PLAY

A Call for Equitable Public Court Access



EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC COURTS

Public spaces like playfields and community centers are shared across sports. Pickleball deserves equal access to public courts.



SHOW THE DATA

Decisions impacting our community must be transparent. The data is incomplete. Pickleball usage is not accurately counted in the way the data is represented.



SUPPORT OUR STATE SPORT

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in Washington. Invest in growth – GROW WITH US!

We urge Seattle Parks & Recreation to pause implementation of parts of the Racquet Sports Strategy for 120 days to address critical community concerns.

Equity Between Sports

Equity should account for existing infrastructure and budget allocation—not just court counts

TENNIS

INDOOR

- ✓ 12+ hours per day access to dedicated facilities (Amy Yee Tennis Center) for year-round, weather-independent play

OUTDOOR

- ✓ Large number of lighted courts
- ✓ Large number of dedicated courts with permanent nets installed by SPR

PICKLEBALL

INDOOR

- No dedicated public facility
- Limited access to community centers badminton courts (non-volley zone lines are off by 6 inches)

OUTDOOR

- Primarily shared (dual-use) courts
- Majority of Pickleball nets paid for by community members
- Limited number of dedicated courts
- Limited number of lighted courts

Recommended Implementation Guidelines for the Racquet Sports Strategy (RSS)

Long-term pickleball planning in Seattle should include both dedicated and dual-use courts. To ensure equitable access and responsible implementation, we recommend:

Equity-Based Implementation Principles for RSS

No Net Loss of Pickleball Access

Do not reduce access in any district until equal or greater replacement courts are operational and available to the community.

Equitable Allocation Across Racquet Sports

Allocate public court resources between pickleball and tennis based on demand, access, and community benefit—not legacy use.

Preserve and Expand Lighting Capacity

Replace any removed or converted lighted courts in the same district and add new lighting to address current gaps in pickleball access.

Protect Public Courts for School Use

Maintain dual-use courts to support school athletics. Do not convert shared courts to dedicated pickleball.

Optimize Underutilized Courts

Convert non-school-use courts to dedicated pickleball where appropriate. Only sites that meet minimum standards—bathrooms, water, safety, and accessibility—should be designated for public use.

No loss of access – build first, then transition.

Pickleball Courts Lost by District

District	Councilmember	Area (Courts)	Existing Courts*	Courts Lost	% Court Lost
D1	Rob Saka	West Seattle (Alki, Walt Hundley)	17	8	47%
D2	Eddie Lin	South Seattle (Rainier Beach / Brighton)	26	12	46%
D5	Debora Juarez	North Seattle (Soundview)	15	4	27%
D6	Dan Strauss	Northwest Seattle (Gilman, Magnolia)	24	12	50%

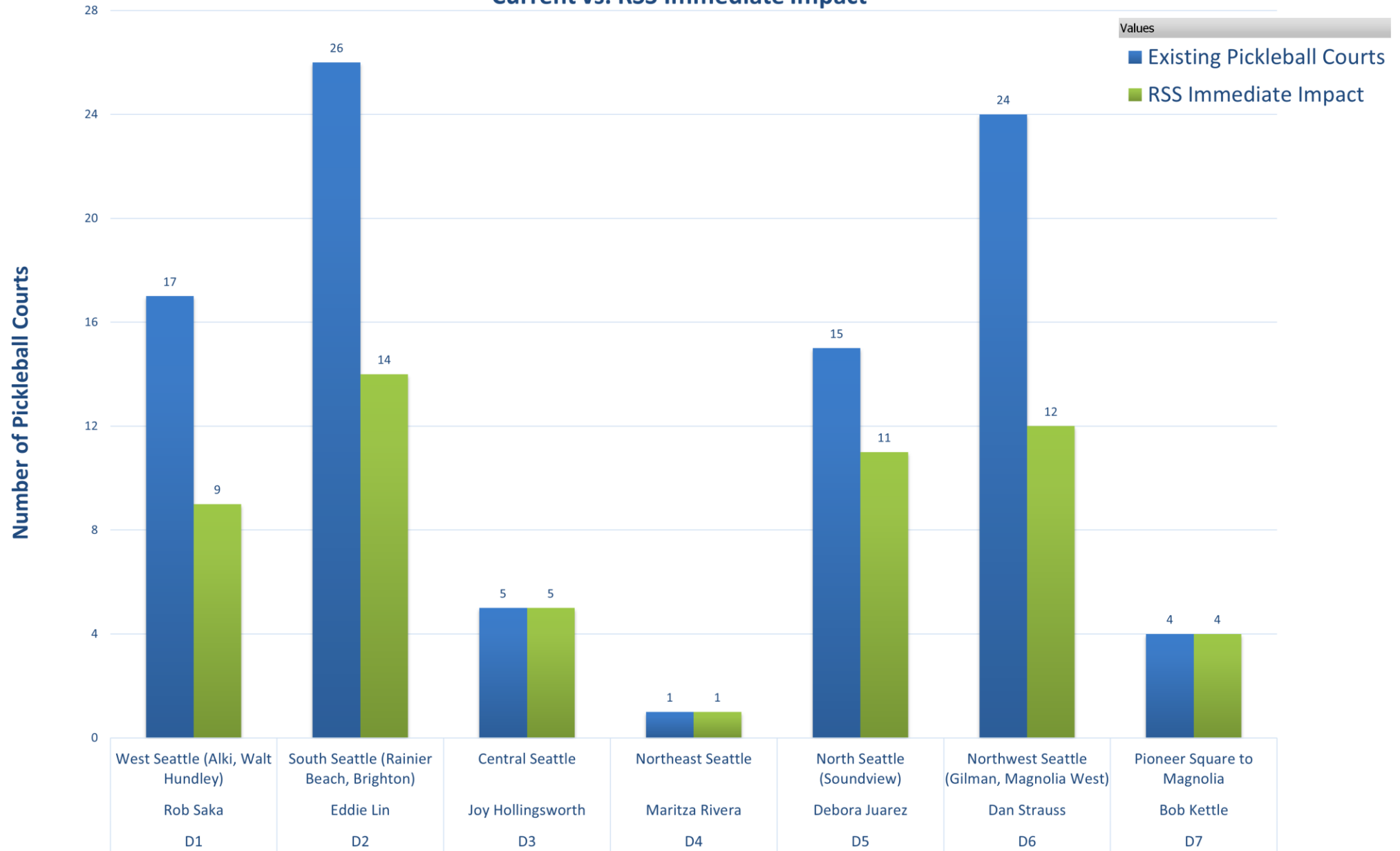
Source: [SPR website](#) as of 5/5/2025.

The SPR website lists only two courts at the Observatory Courts, while SPR claimed there are four. In addition, the two Wallingford courts in District 4 are not listed on the website at all. We have a tennis player confirmed only tennis courts at Wallingford, no pickleball lines.

* Some courts do not have nets and in poor condition

Pickleball Courts by District

Current vs. RSS Immediate Impact



Short-Term Solution for Impacted Districts

No reduction in access without in-district replacement

District 1 – West Seattle

Location	Action
Alki	Keep dual-use until new lighted courts are built in District 1
Delridge	Proceed with RSS expansion and designate as a HUB**.
Georgetown	Proceed with RSS expansion and designate as a paired location.
South Park	Install permanent net
Walt Hundley	Keep dual-use to support school use (Explorer West)
Riverview*	Convert to 6 dedicated pickleball courts
Solstice*	Add 6 dual-use pickleball courts (lighted) per 2023 plan

District 2 – South Seattle

Location	Action
Beacon Hill	Proceed with RSS expansion
Brighton	Keep dual-use until new courts are built in District 2
Dearborn	Proceed with RSS expansion
Lakeridge	Keep walk-on access per RAVE Foundation agreement.
Mount Baker	Proceed with RSS expansion
Rainier Beach	Keep dual-use lighted courts to support school use
Hutchinson*	Convert to dedicated pickleball courts
Amy Yee Tennis Center*	Add dual-use indoor & outdoor pickleball courts until dedicated pickleball facilities are built.

* Sites currently without pickleball courts

** See page 10 for HUB definition

Short-Term Solution for Impacted Districts

No reduction in access without in-district replacement

District 5 – North Seattle

Location	Action
Bitter Lake	Proceed with RSS expansion as a HUB**
Greenwood	Convert to Red Ball Tennis court
Maple Leaf	Proceed with RSS expansion
Soundview	Keep dual-use until new courts are built in District 5.

District 6 – Northwest Seattle

Location	Action
Discovery	Proceed with RSS expansion
Gilman	Retain dual-use until replacement courts are constructed and operational in District 6. Work on sound proofing measures and scheduled time hours of operation.
Green Lake (East)	Dedicated for open play only (no reservations). Retain dual-lined “hub” to support pickleball & school use.
Magnolia (West)	Pilot layout: 2 tennis courts + 6 dedicated pickleball courts, located farther from homes.
Ballard HS Athletic Field*	Add 8 dual-use pickleball courts (SPS partnership).
Lower Woodland*	Add 20 dual-use lighted pickleball courts to activate underutilized winter space. Allow annual 7-day pickleball tournament in the summer.

* Sites currently without pickleball courts

** See page 10 for HUB definition

Magnolia Playfield (West) Design Proposal

Pilot layout: 2 tennis courts + 6 dedicated pickleball courts.

This model is a cost-efficient solution to maximize space without displacing communities.



6 Dedicated Pickleball Courts

Sound Dampening Panels on South and West Fencing of Pickleball Courts

2 Dedicated Tennis Courts



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DESIGNED BY

DESIGNED BY

CHECKED BY

APPROVED BY

DATE

April 29, 2024

REVISIONS

MAGNOLIA PLAYFIELD
RACQUET COURTS

Magnolia Playfield
Seattle, WA



Proposal

A-1.0

Proposal for Magnolia Playfield by Henry Lo, registered architect.

Pickleball Hub Definition Recommendation

Dedicated pickleball hubs (8+ courts) prioritizing high-capacity open play, with limited reservations for community events.

Open Play Model

A rotation-based, drop-in system that maximizes access, keeps games moving, and supports inclusive community play.

- **Drop-in format:** Players rotate onto courts without needing to schedule matches
- **Queue system:** Paddle racks or rotation systems organize play and keep games moving efficiently
- **Inclusive play:** Encourages mixing across skill levels, ages, and groups rather than fixed teams
- **Community-focused:** Supports social interaction and building a consistent player community
- **Organized sessions:** May include posted times, skill-level groupings, or themed play (e.g., beginner, intermediate, advanced)