

**From:** Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org,

**To:**

**Cc:** Chris.Hinds@denvergov.org, cpnboard@congressparkneighbors.org, mayorsoffice@denvergov.org, happy.haynes@denvergov.org, Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org, Yolanda.Quesada@denvergov.org,

**Subject:** Closure of sport courts in Congress Park

**Date:** Fri, Apr 7, 2023 2:46 pm

**Attachments:**

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Hello Congress Park Neighbors,

I had promised you I would keep you informed of how we are moving forward related to pickleball in Congress Park and wanted to provide you with the messaging we have been sending out to constituents that are contacting the department regarding pickleball in Congress Park. Have a nice weekend.

### **Thank you for reaching out—we appreciate your interest in Congress Park.**

The pickleball courts at Congress Park were built in 2017, renovating a tennis court that was in poor condition. Due to the location of pickleball courts in the park, there have been ongoing noise violations due to the loud nature of pickleball play. Since the public process to redesign the sport courts in 2020 was conducted, pickleball play at Congress Park has drastically increased resulting in numerous park conflicts.

The proposed redesign of moving pickleball courts farther from residences might address noise violations, however, the redesign's addition of courts would increase park conflicts due to the increase in pickleball usage. With a lack of perimeter parking and several facilities within Congress Park such as an outdoor pool, athletic fields, playground, maintenance shop and other sport courts, pickleball parking has overflowed into the adjacent alley and neighborhood. In addition, pickleball play routinely spreads onto nearby tennis courts which violates park rules and regulations, producing sound that exceeds the city noise ordinance. Due to these reasons, pickleball courts will not be rebuilt in Congress Park.

### **Next Steps:**

DPR currently has [six parks with outdoor pickleball courts](#) and recognizes the demand for additional pickleball facilities. Next steps include exploring other park locations that are appropriate for pickleball facilities, along with the formation of an advisory committee to collaborate on various challenges surrounding the sport such as noise mitigation, permitting, operations, snow removal and other maintenance issues.

### **Standards for Future Pickleball Locations:**

With rapid growth of pickleball in recent years, several challenges have surfaced that has required Denver Parks and Recreation to further examine proposed or future pickleball court locations. To minimize potential conflicts, each pickleball court location should be individually evaluated and designed with these parameters in mind:

- 1. Park Size & Location:** Pickleball courts should be located in parks or athletic complexes that can accommodate heavy usage and allow for adequate separation from residences. Pickleball courts should be at least 350 feet away from the nearest residence, and 500+ feet away whenever possible.
- 2. Sound Studies:** All new pickleball court locations being considered within 350-500 feet from a residence should have sound studies conducted prior to full-scale design to ensure that noise violations do not occur in the future.
- 3. Existing Amenities:** Pickleball courts should generally be constructed as standalone amenities and should not be placed adjacent to tennis or other sport courts in order to prevent conflicts with other park users. This is to prevent the scenario in which pickleball play extends onto other courts that may not have sound mitigation which could possibly cause noise violations.

4. **Other Possible Conflicts:** Existing amenities both within and outside the park should be considered to evaluate potential conflicts related to parking, other park uses, and impacts to adjacent neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Denver Parks & Recreation



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**Scott Gilmore | Deputy Executive Director**

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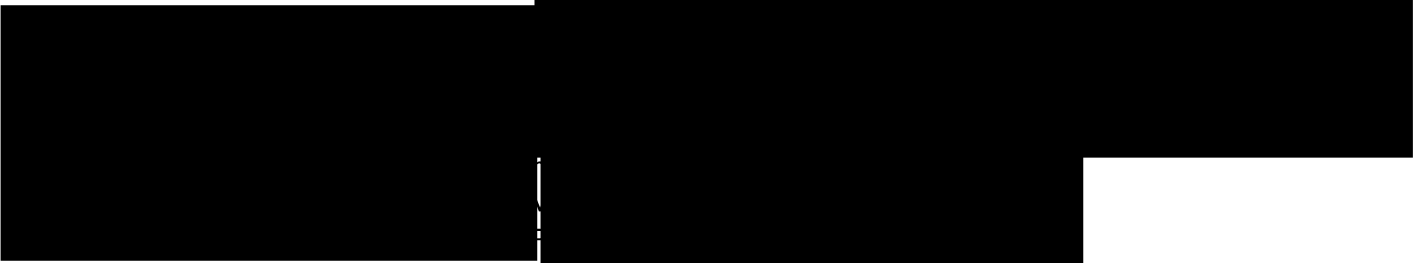
[Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org](mailto:Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org)

**From:** Gilmore, Scott M. - DPR CA2951 Deputy Manager

<[Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org](mailto:Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2023 7:28 AM

**To:**



Hello Congress Park Neighbors,

Now that I have announced Denver Parks will not be rebuilding pickleball courts in Congress Park, Denver Parks is receiving quite a few e-mails from the pickleball advocates fighting to keep the courts in Congress Park. They are e-mailing the Councilmembers and the Congress Park RNO whose e-mails are below. Councilman Herndon is an avid pickleball player and really needs to hear from you the impacts to the quality of life that pickleball has had on your community. I would strongly encourage you to reach out to these Councilmembers and organization to express your support on not having the pickleball courts in Congress Park and the issues (noise, conflicts with players, parking) you have had to endure for the past three years.

Thanks

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**From:** Gilmore, Scott M. - DPR CA2951 Deputy Manager <[Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org](mailto:Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 5:07 PM

**To:**



**Cc:** Karvaski, Cynthia A. - DPR Marketing Commun Splst <cyndi.karvaski@denvergov.org>; Gilmore, Scott M. - DPR CA2951 Deputy Manager <Scott.Gilmore@denvergov.org>; Haynes, Allegra R. - DPR Mgr Dept Parks And Recreation <happy.haynes@denvergov.org>; McDonald, Robert M. - DPHE Mgr Env Health <Bob.McDonald@denvergov.org>; Williams, Emily - DPHE CA3053 Marketing and Communications Director <Emily.Williams2@denvergov.org>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Closure of sport courts in Congress Park

Hello Congress Park Neighbors,

Below is a version of the message that has been sent out to City Council Members, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Pickleball Advisory Board. I have included some additional members of the neighborhood that have e-mailed me in the past few days.

Hello Pickleball Advisory Group,

I am sending you this e-mail to inform you of changes to the scope of work for the Congress Park and Sloan's Lake sport court projects. I know our first meeting of the DPR Pickleball Advisory Board is in a few weeks where we can discuss a positive way forward to design and build outdoor pickleball courts that will not violate the city noise ordinance or cause conflicts with other park user groups or adjoining neighbors of these facilities.

**Project Scope Update: Congress Park & Sloan's Lake Park Sport Courts**

After careful review, it's been determined that the sport court renovation projects at [Congress Park](#) and [Sloan's Lake Park](#) will no longer include the construction of pickleball courts. This is due to the close proximity to residences that would result in consistent noise violations that could cause the need for future closures and/or limits to hours of operation. To support the growing, popular sport of pickleball while being respectful of park neighbors, other sports court users, and department resources, Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR) is evaluating other suitable locations for pickleball courts. DPR is also assessing existing outdoor pickleball courts and possible solutions to help remediate noise from play.

Beginning Monday, April 3, the Congress Park sports courts (except for the south tennis courts) will close in preparation for construction. [Learn more and find project updates as they become available.](#)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks

**Scott Gilmore | Deputy Executive Director**  
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