

BURNS PARK TENNIS COURT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Thank you for participating in our recently released survey regarding the renovation of the Burns Park tennis courts. We received a tremendous amount of responses, further highlighting the value that the community places in its parks system! Your input is greatly appreciated and helps us to better understand community ideas, concerns and priorities.

The survey, open from June 26-July 15, asked community members to vote on one of three options for the future configuration of the Burns Park courts. We received 219 survey responses from the community and 69 comments. The survey was advertised on NextDoor, GovDelivery, Facebook, Twitter and via mail to residents who live within 1/4 mile of the park.

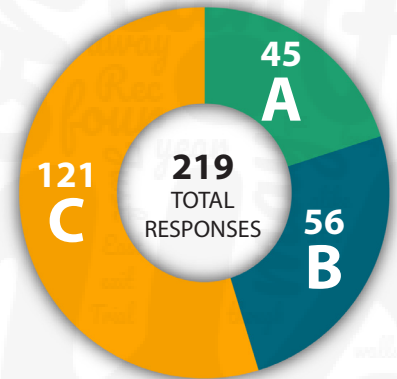
Based on survey results and comments received, the community strongly favored incorporating permanent pickleball infrastructure in the redesign. Option C which proposes creating two pickleball courts and keeping three tennis courts received the majority of votes. The city's park planners will present the community feedback and recommend moving forward with Option C at the next **Parks Advisory Commission meeting, currently scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m.**



Parks & Recreation
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

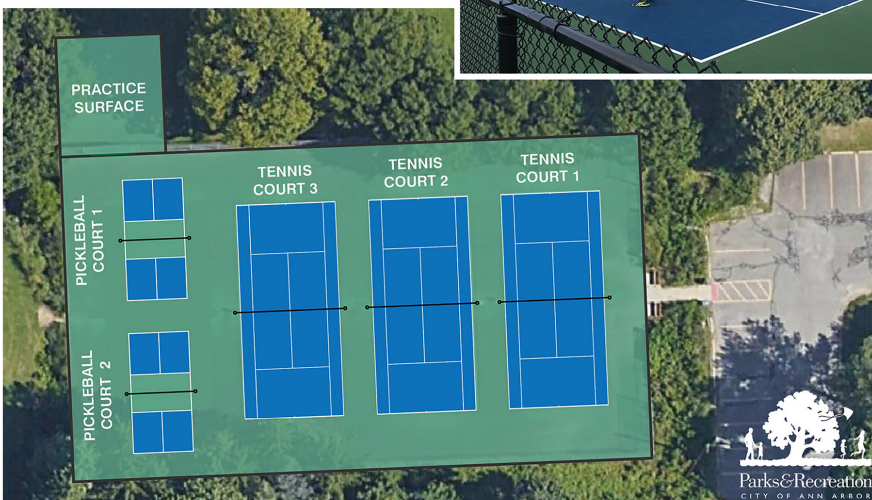
If you have any additional questions, please contact:

Adam Fercho,
Parks Planner and
Landscape Architect at
afercho@a2gov.org or
734.794.6230 ext. 42549



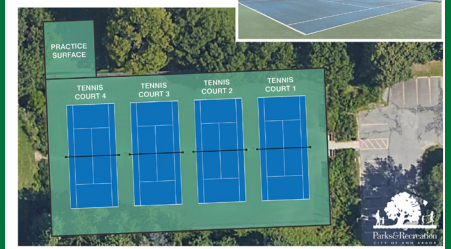
BURNS PARK COURTS OPTION C

Three Tennis Courts /
Two Pickleball Courts



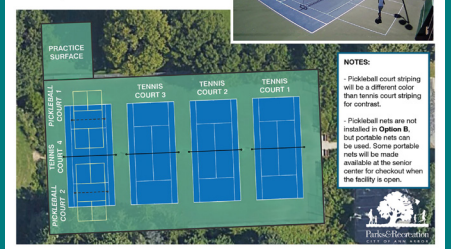
BURNS PARK COURTS OPTION A

Four Tennis Courts
(Current Layout)



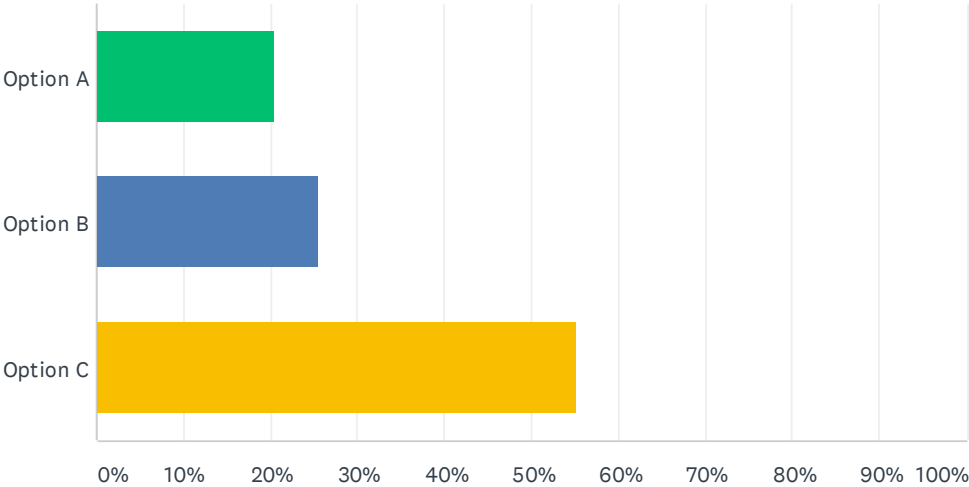
BURNS PARK COURTS OPTION B

Four Tennis Courts /
Overstripe Two Pickleball Courts



Q1 Choose Option A, B or C.

Answered: 219 Skipped: 0

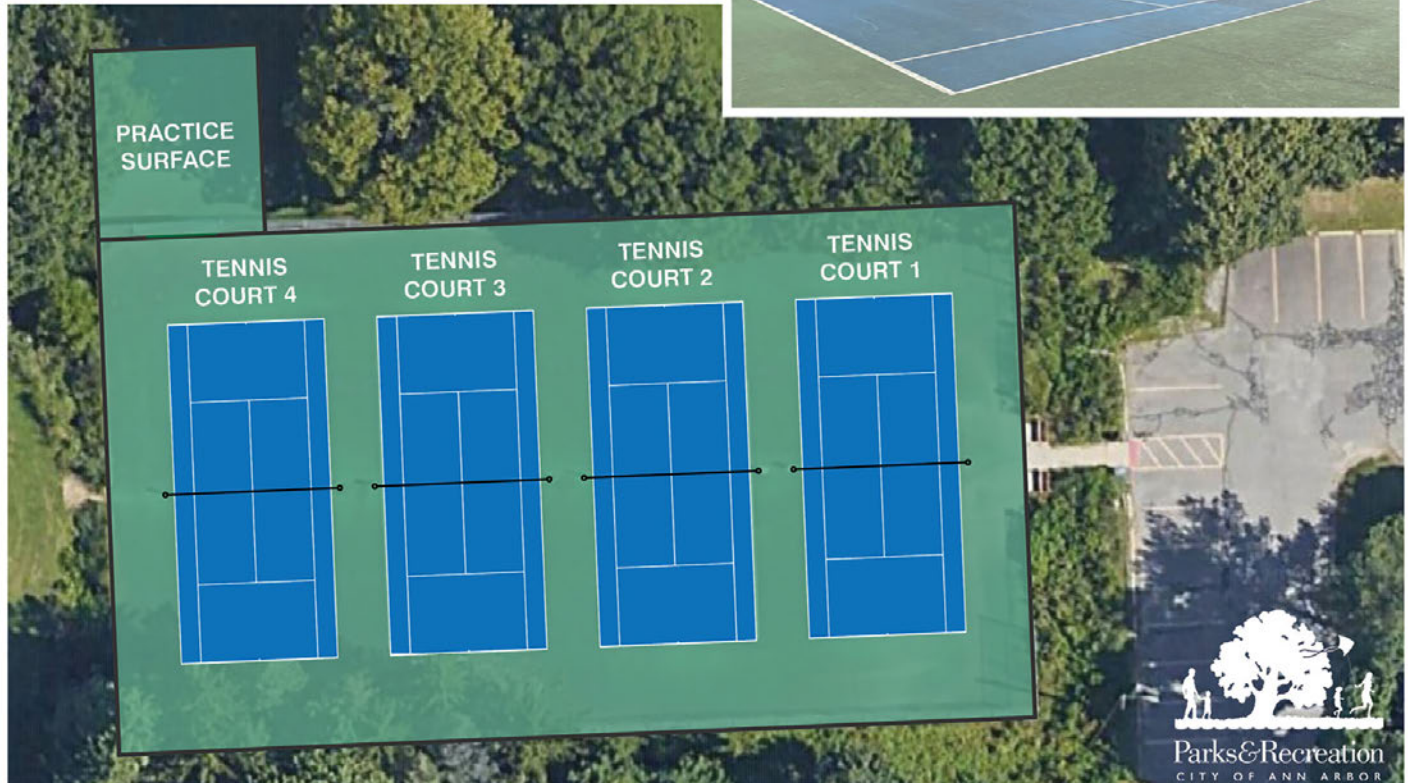


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Option A	20.55%	45
Option B	25.57%	56
Option C	55.25%	121
Total Respondents: 219		

BURNS PARK COURTS

OPTION A

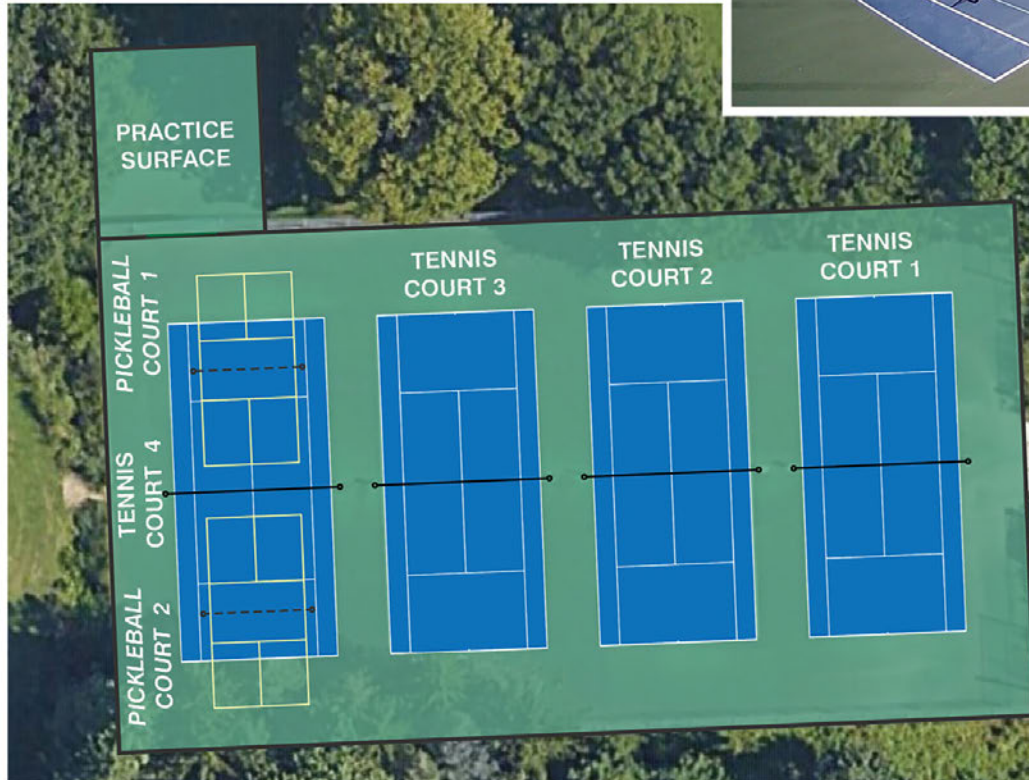
*Four Tennis Courts
(Current Layout)*



BURNS PARK COURTS

OPTION B

*Four Tennis Courts /
Overstripe Two Pickleball Courts*



NOTES:

- Pickleball court striping will be a different color than tennis court striping for contrast.

- Pickleball nets are not installed in **Option B**, but portable nets can be used. Some portable nets will be made available at the senior center for checkout when the facility is open.

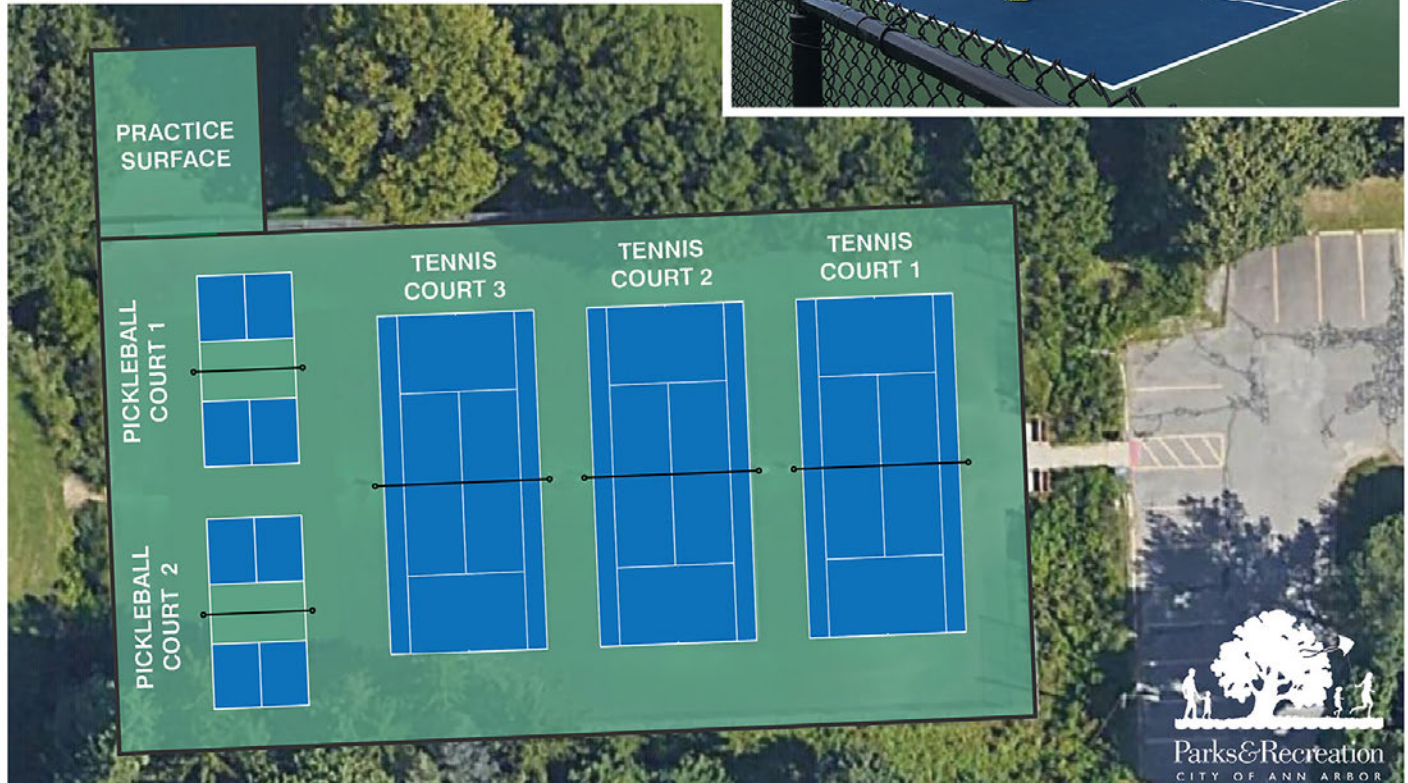


Parks & Recreation
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

BURNS PARK COURTS

OPTION C

*Three Tennis Courts /
Two Pickleball Courts*



Burns Park Tennis Court Survey

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	The courts don't need much renovation. Just clear out the weeds and tar one crack in the surface. I never see more than two courts in use at a time. ALSO, why not put PICKLE BALL courts where the BOCCE courts are located? I have never seen BOCCE players there this year, and seldom in the past, except the first year when the donaters played there.	7/15/2020 12:12 AM
2	It would be great to have this here. Leslie Park was a terrific success and ready for your expansion to Burns Park. We have a good base here. And, believe me, some of us have grumbled that we have to get over to Leslie to play one of the fastest growing sports that keep us healthy as we age. And will save carbon footprints from driving to the northeast side! Bonus. Thank you, planners!	7/14/2020 2:16 PM
3	My first choice - hands down - is to take the money and fix the @\$%\$#@ roads! Sorry, but I bike in the city and the roads are a bigger threat to my health and safety than careless drivers. If the money is committed to this purpose, C makes most sense. I live near Burns Park and pass the Senior Center all the time and I can't remember ever seeing people waiting for a tennis court. The courts are used to be sure, but we seem to have more than enough tennis courts. But . . . PLEASE FIX THE ROADS FIRST! Thanks.	7/14/2020 11:49 AM
4	If there were pickle ball courts after working hours, I would definitely be using them	7/13/2020 7:41 PM
5	Thank you for offering 2 designated pickleball courts. We have to drive to Leslie Park to play PB at this point and it is such a hike. Being able to walk down the street to play PB would be a HUGE WIN.	7/12/2020 10:28 PM
6	It seems as if Option C provides the broadest choice for the satisfaction of both pickleball players and tennis players.	7/12/2020 7:46 PM
7	We have been waiting for dedicated Pickleball courts. Thank you!	7/12/2020 7:38 PM
8	I favor option D, 4 permanent pickleball courts, 2 tennis courts. Arguments in favor of this: A. Pickleball is a rising sport, tennis declining. At other combined pickleball/tennis locations in other communities, the pickleball players are more numerous than tennis. B. This option accommodates more players, adding spots for 8 pickleball players, taking away spots for 2 tennis players (assuming singles tennis, which is the usual). C. Tennis has many locations around town. There are NO pickleball locations near the center of Ann Arbor. D. Tennis is generally played by preset groups, usually 2 people. Pickleball is played by a community of people who intermingle. 4 courts is far better for creating a critical mass. [REDACTED]	7/12/2020 12:50 PM
9	More Pickleball courts will keep this area in line with trends. Ann Arbor is behind of other viable communities and natural areas on Michigan. Let's do this! Thanks for your efforts.	7/10/2020 8:33 PM
10	I would be SO EXCITED to get a pickleball court!!	7/10/2020 1:36 PM
11	I only chose option C because it had the most pickleball courts with permanent nets. Checking out portable nets is not a good option as it limits play to only the hours that the senior center is open. Actually, I think another option should be to add 4 pickleball courts and keep two tennis courts.	7/9/2020 12:36 PM
12	I'd be okay with Option B also, but please don't lose a tennis court. They are often all full with people waiting to play!	7/8/2020 10:31 PM
13	Nice to have two options in one area! I think this is a great idea!	7/8/2020 4:24 PM
14	I would not have minded adding pickleball courts (Option B) if there was some sort of separation between tennis and pickleball courts. I am concerned about tennis balls inadvertently hitting pickle ball players. Thanks!	7/8/2020 2:33 PM
15	thanks for letting us weigh in.	7/8/2020 10:21 AM
16	The courts are getting so heavily used during this time. Lovely to see so many people out playing. Thank you for the work you do to keep things maintained!	7/8/2020 7:13 AM
17	The four courts are regularly in use. I would not want to lose a court to pickleball. Would be nice to add a screen to the top of the fence to cast a little shade on the courts.	7/7/2020 8:42 PM
18	More walls to hit tennis balls against on outside of court area.	7/7/2020 11:12 AM

Burns Park Tennis Court Survey

19	Great idea to offer PickleBall, a more inclusive social activity!	7/6/2020 6:58 PM
20	Sounds like a good idea. Let's see if people really use the pickleball courts before we change everything.	7/6/2020 4:56 PM
21	This option provides the best for all circumstances. I primarily go there for tennis, but i understand that these courts are next to a school with younger children who may like this new and exciting game. I play tennis with my kids, but i would definitely like to play with them another form of tennis. The courts are not uses to the fullest capacity also. If seniors you play more on these courts, I think pickle ball courts are more than justifiable.	7/6/2020 4:08 PM
22	Will there be extra space between the two picklball sort, allowing for both to be in use safely at the same time? Is part of the renovation, regardless of which option, resurfacing the courts and replacing the nets?	7/4/2020 2:14 PM
23	Courts are not always maintained well, especially in fall when lots of leaves accumulate and trap water. It would be nice if there were brooms or sponge rollers available, but maybe this is not possible because they may get stolen.	7/4/2020 12:14 PM
24	B first because we can utilize it the most. C is the second option so we will have Pickleball court for sure. Thanks for doing this. Th best option is do both Pickleball courts in the tennis courts too, it's the most utilize the space.	7/4/2020 11:26 AM
25	Thanks for asking for our opinion. I like the way you solicited our input though it would be better if it could all be done electronically in the future.	7/4/2020 7:22 AM
26	Thanks for asking.	7/2/2020 7:44 PM
27	It would be nice if you added a third pickleball court by removing the practice backboard. The practice surface area could be slightly extended so you could add a third Pickleball court. The practice surface with backboard is rarely used but a third pickleball court would be filled regularly. Thanks for considering this additional pickleball court option.	7/2/2020 3:55 PM
28	All four tennis courts are frequently in use, so I think getting rid of one of them would be silly; there is obviously demand. Option B is nice for flexibility, but extra lines on a tennis court make it difficult to make in/out calls. If there really is significant demand for pickleball, option B is certainly better than C, but I do think it would diminish the experience of tennis on that fourth court, which, as I said, is often in use.	7/2/2020 11:01 AM
29	Trial period, then if demand is sufficient, go to Option C	7/2/2020 10:38 AM
30	Option C does it right to add legit pickle ball courts and would create an exciting new addition to Burns Park and the racket sport area. Pickle ball is a sport people happily do year-round, conditions permitting. STRONGLY OPPOSED TO OPTION B. Having all that striping is annoying for tennis players and pickle ball players alike. Even more importantly, if pickle ball nets aren't installed permanently that is a major deterrent to use. Go with A or C but don't compromise with B which is a lousy solution for both sports.	7/2/2020 10:15 AM
31	This presents an opportunity to make long-needed improvements to the access to Burns Park to provide safety to park users. Specifically, the East side of the Park needs a sidewalk for the entire distance from Wells to Granger so that park users (youth and adult sports, animal walkers, etc.) and school children are able to enter and exit the Park from the SE without having to cross a narrow street with parked cars and considerable traffic. Seniors and other users of the Senior Center are endangered by the same lack of a safe crossing. Grading also needs to be done at the point where the driveway behind the Senior Center enters the street as water and ice always accumulate there, endangering the pedestrians who are forced to walk to and from Granger.	7/2/2020 9:06 AM
32	Though it would be great to add pickleball, these tennis courts are often fairly full, so its a bad idea to decrease the number of tennis courts (from 4 to 3 as in option C), for pickleball, which may or may not be heavily utilized. If the goal is to increase access to permanent pickleball, then the court area should be expanded or the pickleball should go in the practice court area (which is rarely utilized)	7/2/2020 8:47 AM
33	We don't play tennis, but we would be more likely to try pickleball, knowing the option is there.	7/2/2020 8:42 AM
34	Don't reduce the tennis courts - all 4 of them are often used. Defined pickleball hours for usage. (I don't play either sport, but have many friends who do.)	7/1/2020 8:07 PM

Burns Park Tennis Court Survey

35	I am not a tennis player, but I appreciate these courts being there for those who do, and I have seen increase usage and demand which I think will be part of the new normal, so I would argue against reducing to 3 tennis courts. There is also a huge demand for more places to play pickleball so I like the option of making court 4 dual use if this can be done by time-zoning and sign-up boards if necessary. I also really wonder about the viability of the Petanque courts on the Wells side. I know they may have been given to the City but some Petanque fans, but truth be told those courts are VERY rarely used and could make a nice spot for pickleball courts. Also, although all our kids played Rec Dept baseball in years past, are these diamonds used as much as they used to be? I'd prefer they remain, but if usage figures show one diamond would be enough for both Rec Dept and family/kid usage, then perhaps one of these could be pickleball space.	7/1/2020 7:53 PM
36	I don't play pickleball. But if there is an interest, I am supportive.	7/1/2020 5:24 PM
37	option a all day	7/1/2020 4:20 PM
38	I am a tennis player. I have played pickle ball but tennis is my choice. If you are going to have pickle ball courts I think it would be nicer to provide permanent pickle ball nets. Debris from the pine trees is a particular problem in the southwest corner of the courts where the pickle ball courts would be. The hitting wall for practicing tennis is used from the practice surface and also on the court side. It might be better for pickle ball players if, in option C, tennis court 1 and the pickle ball courts were flipped. The switch would also alleviate the problem with the debris from the pine trees since the tennis court has more room between the baseline and the fence.	7/1/2020 3:21 PM
39	The city should either cut down the pines on the west end of the courts because 1) the make the west end court too slippery to play on due to shade issues and pine droppings or 2) include clean up of the two west end courts on a bi-annual basis in the budget. I have personally removed wheelbarrows full of pine needles from the courts to alleviate the situation but regardless of my efforts the condition persists. It is often dangerous to play on the SW end of those courts because of the slippery surface condition.	7/1/2020 1:29 PM
40	Please do not add pickle ball courts. No one plays it anyway	6/29/2020 2:27 PM
41	Not many folks have their own pickleball net- probably need to add a little fencing in between the 2 pickleball courts to keep the balls from straying into the other pickleball court	6/29/2020 1:43 PM
42	No one will use pickle ball	6/29/2020 1:38 PM
43	Why not 2 pickle ball courts and 2 tennis courts?	6/29/2020 1:22 PM
44	Thank you for the options! Lines can be a point of confusion/contention so a set of courts appointed for pickleball would be nice!	6/29/2020 1:08 PM
45	There is high demand for tennis courts, with many having to wait for courts to open during peak times. Taking a court away to add pickleball would be disappointing to the tennis community and the courts are being utilized with the current set up.	6/29/2020 12:24 PM
46	Pickleball is the fastest growing sport, yet the west side of Ann Arbor has very few options and there are no designated PB courts on the west side. Lining an existing tennis court is ok, but not optimal. You really should make at least four PB courts and keep only 2 tennis courts. Alternatively, have someone go to the courts for a week or two during prime time (5 - 7 PM) to see how many tennis players are using the courts. If nobody shows up or very few, you know what you need to do. I think it would be a sure thing that PB courts will get far greater usage than will tennis courts, as there are many retired persons playing PB even during the day.	6/29/2020 12:06 PM
47	If only providing 2 pickleball courts, this option makes the most sense for both tennis players and pickleball players.	6/29/2020 9:02 AM
48	Please encourage everyone who is doing anything with tennis courts to add pickleball striping. Also, add more courts on the west side. Thanks.	6/29/2020 8:55 AM
49	Even more flexibility is available if you put a second set of pickleball lines on each of the tennis courts so they can be used for either sport.	6/29/2020 8:37 AM
50	What a great idea!	6/29/2020 8:21 AM
51	1/2 the area should for Pickleball. It's a much more inclusive game than tennis for all ages. Also Need an entrance to pickleball courts because turnover is frequent.	6/29/2020 7:58 AM
52	Love playing pickleball. Would appreciate the extra opportunity at Burns Park. Thanks.	6/29/2020 6:26 AM

Burns Park Tennis Court Survey

53	Ann Arbor absolutely needs more dedicated pickleball courts, therefore option C is the best of the three but only if a barrier fence or even an old tennis net can be placed between the two pickleball courts (as shown in option B but without the tennis lines...otherwise play would be constantly stopping on nearly every point as the ball from one court would roll onto the other pickleball court (dangerous for injuries if the ball is unseen until tripped on).	6/29/2020 5:46 AM
54	Dedicated nets make the Pickleball much more accessible	6/29/2020 4:44 AM
55	With option B , the tennis court can be used but in option C, no tennis is possible .	6/29/2020 4:12 AM
56	No doubt those courts will get plenty of use!	6/29/2020 2:06 AM
57	If you do option C you need a net to stop balls between the courts.	6/29/2020 12:54 AM
58	Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the country. Today at Leslie park there were 50 people playing pickle ball. You should have more pickle ball courts than tennis.	6/28/2020 10:39 PM
59	I trust the backboard will be repaired -- it's in bad shape!	6/28/2020 3:32 PM
60	We mostly play tennis, and would greatly appreciate resurfacing those courts. We might play pickle ball once in a great while, and would approve of the option B to give it a try. Thanks for asking! [REDACTED]	6/28/2020 3:29 PM
61	Adding the lines for two pickleball courts seems like they would really be cramped in there. Primarily a tennis player (age 35, female), I do play pickleball with my parents and in-laws. When we play, one player is often standing at the back service line and often returning balls that bounce several feet behind the service line. In either B or C, you would be pushed up against the tennis net or more likely in the other court. It just doesn't feel like enough space for 2 courts unless all participants are hardly moving. Could you instead add just one set of pickleball lines that would use the tennis net as the net for both pickleball and tennis? I know the net is technically too high, but the tennis nets in burns park are often left up all winter and leave some level of care to be desired - I don't see anybody out there measuring for proper height for either sport. Or, perhaps you could turn the "practice" surface into a pickleball court? Because of the spacing issues presented with adding 2 pickleball courts, I have voted for option A.	6/28/2020 2:50 PM
62	Can someone please look into fencing in an are for dogs in Burns Park? There are SOOO many dogs in the area...just give them a space to play!! Everyone has their dogs off leash anyway (whether we like it or not...and I live on the park)...so, just give the people and their dogs a space! When the remnants of the unused hockey rink were up it became the perfect defacto dog run and I was thankful that the dogs were contained in a nice, open space. There's space in the park and I would say the number of dogs needing a space to run is more than people needing pickle ball. Just a thought!	6/28/2020 8:29 AM
63	If you resurface the courts, you will increase the demand for those courts. So, please do not reduce the number of available courts from 4 to 3. Please consider an alternate location for pickle ball courts. Also, please do what you can with regard to drainage of the courts. Thank you.	6/27/2020 2:40 PM
64	I could be in favor of an option B for all the courts if there was some clear way to convey priority of tennis versus pickle ball or if it's first come first serve for all. I don't play pickle ball but would support some arrangement that both sports got priority in an orderly way.	6/27/2020 1:29 PM
65	This would be a great addition to Burns Park	6/27/2020 6:05 AM
66	Tennis courts are in high demand. Please do not reduce number of courts.	6/26/2020 10:36 PM
67	Is there enough clearance between the Pickleball courts to prevent collisions?	6/26/2020 10:36 PM
68	Water drainage after rains has been a problem. Much better at Buhr where courts have a slight decline. A bench on both ends would be nice as well as a porta John	6/26/2020 9:09 PM
69	option B blends options A and C - why would you not use that last court as a multi-functional court?	6/26/2020 2:56 PM

From: [Adam Bickersteth](#)
To: [Fercho, Adam](#)
Subject: Burns Park Tennis Courts
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:37:17 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Fercho,

A member of the Ann Arbor Area Community Tennis Association (AAACTA) recently came across an online survey courting opinion about the development of the Burns Park tennis courts. Two of the three options presented in the survey involve converting one of the four courts into two pickleball courts.

I would be grateful to know where this survey was advertised (or to whom it was sent)? What is the outreach you have done to consult with the local tennis community?

There is growing concern within Ann Arbor's tennis community that the pickleball community appears to be intent on expanding the number of public pickleball courts at the expense of reducing public tennis courts (two of the three tennis courts at Vets Park have already been defaced with crudely applied pickleball lines). It would be a grave strategic mistake for the city to go down this path, and especially so during the current pandemic. Outdoor tennis is the number one social distancing recreational sport (along with golf) and I'm sure you are aware that there have been queues of people waiting to play on the Burns Park courts, not only at weekends but also at peak times during the week. The local demand for playing on city tennis courts has never been higher.

The tennis community in Ann Arbor is aware of the recent uptick of interest in pickleball, and there are tennis players who enjoy both sports. We sympathize with the pickleball community's desire to have more outdoor playing spaces. However, there is no need to achieve this by taking away tennis courts: plenty of public space exists in our parks to create dedicated pickleball courts without degrading the city's tennis facilities.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to working towards a solution that works for everyone.

Kind regards,

Adam Bickersteth
Treasurer, AAACTA
ajbickersteth@hotmail.com

Fercho, Adam

From: Elizabeth Stern <elizabethstern@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Fercho, Adam
Subject: Burns Park courts

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Adam,

I took the survey about the Burns Park courts and am very interested in the outcome. I wonder if the city would consider adding 4 pickleball courts and reducing the tennis courts to 2. I feel pickleball is a game that more and more people are playing. It is easy to learn to play and the equipment needed is inexpensive. It is also a game that more folks are able to play. Please let me know if this is an option.

Thanks,
Elizabeth Stern