

Recent Responses to Public Inquiries About Lincoln Park Pickleball

Subject: Update About Solstice Park Dual Striping

Dear Community Members:

We greatly appreciate the robust feedback received about dual striping at the Solstice Park tennis courts.

The Department is pleased to announce the creation of a dedicated pickleball court at Lincoln Park, keeping the Solstice Park tennis courts intact as a dedicated tennis site with no dual striping.

In the Department's [2021-2022 Outdoor Pickleball plan](#), Lincoln Park had been considered for a dedicated pickleball site, but lacked sufficient funding, opening the dual-stripe proposal at Solstice. However, thanks to recent funding allocations, SPR can now create a dedicated pickleball court at Lincoln without alterations to the Solstice courts, which will allow opportunities for tennis and pickleball to occur at their respective sites.

We will make every effort to post updated information about the Lincoln Park pickleball project on this [project page](#) so that you may follow the project's progress.

Thank you.

Subject: Court development at Lincoln Park

Thanks for reaching out regarding the pickleball project at Lincoln Park.

As you are aware, we selected Lincoln Park as an alternative to the dual striping at Solstice Park after we heard from both tennis and pickleball players that separate courts were preferred, and we found an opportunity to make that happen.

Through work with a consultant and community engagement, Lincoln Park was considered as a potential location for dedicated courts in SPR's [2020-2021 Outdoor Pickleball Plan](#). At that time, it was not included as one of the top candidates due to size, lack of funding and its current use as a grounds crew storage facility. However, since then, SPR received a grant enabling us to build these courts for community use and to relocate the maintenance storage site away from the Lincoln courts.

The pickleball courts will be developed on an existing concrete court that once served a tennis court within Lincoln Park. The court will consist of an asphalt overlay, and SPR may add a top coating down the line should funding allow. Additionally, we are evaluating if lighting is feasible or appropriate for this site.

Additionally, we plan to move quickly to develop these courts, with the goal of the courts be open for play in late fall 2023.

This is an existing court, and the work is categorically exempt from threshold determination and environmental impact statement requirements under SEPA (Washington State Environmental

Policy Act) as maintenance of an existing facility. A landscape architect has been assigned to the development Lincoln Park tennis courts, and they have reviewed the site and will be using best management practices to implement courts here.

We plan to offset bringing another active use to Lincoln Park by relocating the SPR grounds storage facility to the crew headquarter location. This will remove trucks, along with their emissions and traffic, driving in and out of this actively used part of Lincoln Park.

We are committed to communicating our plans for pickleball courts in Lincoln Park frequently. While there are no opportunities for public engagement, we can answer any questions you have and share any concerns you may have with Parks and Recreation leadership. In addition, we'll install a project sign near the site to share project and contact information.

Subject: Regarding Wildlife Impact

Thank you for reaching out regarding the pickleball project at Lincoln Park.

We understand your concern that the placement of a pickleball court at this location may negatively impact the wildlife that inhabit Lincoln Park.

While Lincoln Park is home to a large old-growth forest and wildlife habitat, it's also home to two ballfields, two play areas, a public swimming pool, a wading pool, two grounds crew facilities, and over a dozen small event spaces.

This park was constructed back in the 1920s and in its earliest iterations as a park it held an area for concerts, a saltwater pool, and a play area. From there amenities have steadily been added to Lincoln Park every few years to become the beloved park it is today.

The new pickleball court will be constructed on the site of a decommissioned tennis court that was actively in use since the 1920s (including used with lighting in the 1960s).

Since the courts were decommissioned, this site has been used as a storage facility for the maintenance crews that service all West Seattle's parks. Meaning that several times a day, vehicles and large trucks are pulling into this site to load and unload equipment and materials. When this site becomes a pickleball court, SPR will consolidate our maintenance facilities into one location in a different part of Lincoln Park.

In our view, any disturbance to wildlife the pickleball court will bring will be equivalent, and potentially lessened as we are removing vehicle emissions from this location.

Thank you.

Subject: Project Pause

Over the past few weeks, we have heard from many community members about resurfacing the court in Lincoln Park to enable pickleball play. Some comments expressed concern about noise, lack of a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) analysis, assertions of tree removal and disruption to wildlife, while other comments expressed support for the project and excitement for adding more recreational opportunities in West Seattle.

Please be assured that Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) is working hard to cultivate a park system that balances our varying points of view, which includes our mission to build *healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community throughout* the entire Seattle city park system.

At this time, we can respond to some of these concerns:

1. SPR reiterates there is no tree removal being done to support this project.
2. Consistent with other court resurfacing projects, SPR is not conducting a SEPA analysis as the existing court is being repurposed with already defined recreational uses.
3. SPR will not pursue lighting at this time.
4. We will be pausing project construction for two weeks, to talk with experts on Seattle's bird populations on how we can properly study the potential impact pickleball noise may have on wildlife. We welcome this dialogue and will share our plans more widely after that discussion as we strive to find a collective and beneficial approach to the stewardship and management of our parkland.

Thank you for your commitments to our park system. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about this project: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/projects/lincoln-park-tennis-court-conversion>.