



Pickleball Pilot Project Meeting



Zoom Meeting Platform

March 14, 2024

Clarification
&
Mediation, Inc.



Welcome and Introductions

Department of Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Justin Cutler

Deputy Commissioner, Partnerships + Enterprise, Rachel Maher

Project Manager - Racquet Sports, Luke Burden



Facilitators

Clarification & Mediation, Inc.
Clara Axam and William McFarland

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Pickleball is BOOMING!

Atlanta needs more
Pickleball Courts for residents
interested in playing the sport



The Challenge

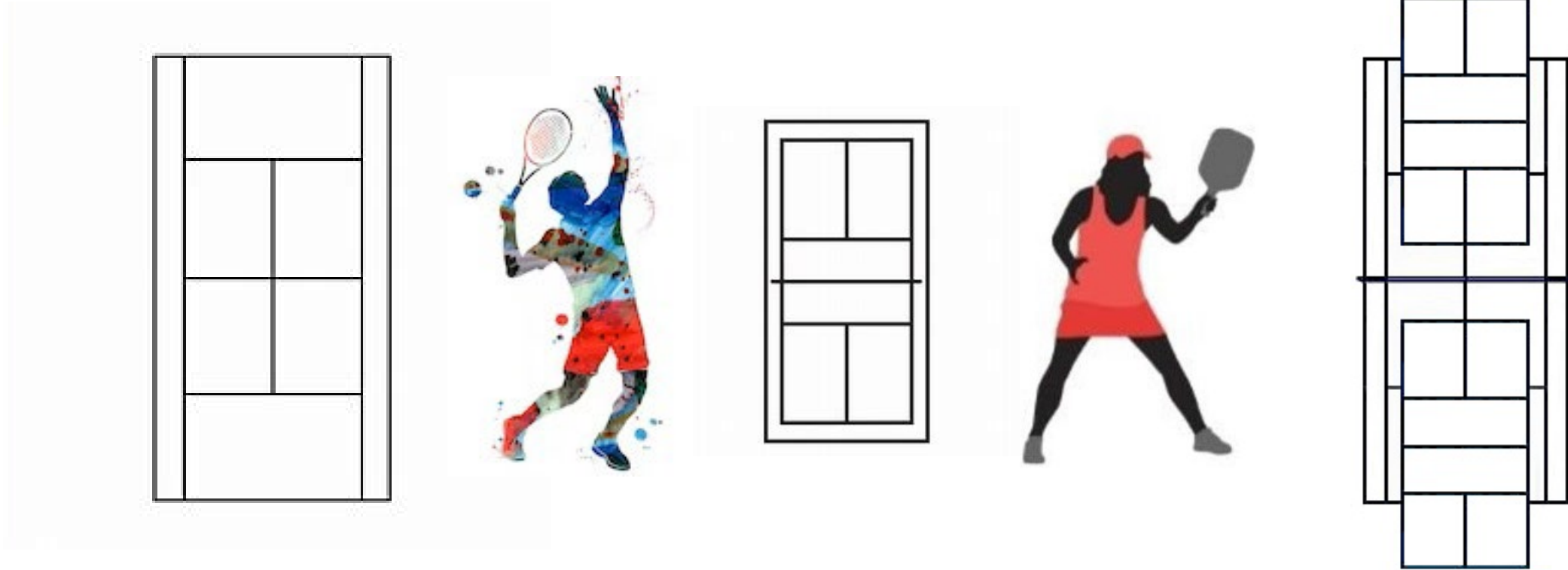


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Balancing competing priorities and passionate communities with limited resources



Solution



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A combination of **dedicated** and **shared courts**



Guiding Principles
For
Siting Pickleball Courts



Foundation for Guiding Principles

Based on review of literature on best practices and lessons learned from other cities

With input from Atlanta Pickleball Club, USTA ATL, USTA Southern, ALTA and DPR Staff

To provide guidance on the siting and development of dedicated pickleball courts and pickleball overlay courts



1. Availability of space

Must accommodate standard 20' X 44' Pickleball court dimensions and have space for access areas and fencing around the court.

2. Proximity to housing

Pickleball courts should not be located closer than 150' from residential areas due to the noise created by the paddle and ball during pickleball games.

3. Adjacency to complimentary developments, streets and roads

Prioritize siting of Pickleball courts in parks along state routes, arterial, and collector streets (see ADOT definitions) given the level of noise generated from vehicle traffic.



4. Underutilized Sites

Assess the feasibility of locating Pickleball courts on sites identified by DPR as underutilized.

5. Ensure availability of courts for USTA & ALTA League play

When siting Pickleball courts at locations with bathrooms and lights, ensure availability of courts for USTA & ALTA league play.

6. Community Engagement

Solicit community feedback during the 2023-2024 Pickleball Pilot Plan, including initial public meetings, mid-year assessments and a platform to submit input virtually.



7. *Cost*

Use/convert existing sports courts (i.e., futsal or tennis courts etc.) and concrete spaces for Pickleball play to help manage the time and cost associated with constructing new, dedicated Pickleball courts.

Pickleball Pilot Project Status Report



Deputy Commissioner, Partnerships + Enterprise

Rachel Maher

Project Manager - Racquet Sports

Luke Burden





Assets Before Pilot Project

Outdoor

- 108 Tennis Courts in Parks
- 63 Tennis Courts at Racquet Centers
- 3 Platform Tennis Courts
- 5 Painted Pickleball Overlays
- 0 Dedicated Pickleball Courts
- Tape and drop-down lines available at Tennis Centers

Indoor

- Pickleball play at Anderson, Thomasville and Grant Recreation Centers



Current Assets

Outdoor

- 108 Tennis Courts in Parks
- 63 Tennis Courts at Racquet Centers
- 27 Painted Pickleball Overlays
- 6 Dedicated Pickleball Courts
- 3 Platform Tennis Courts

Indoor

- Pickleball play at Anderson, Thomasville, Grant and Peachtree Hills Recreation Centers

Not Started
In Progress
Complete
Updated



Pre-Pilot

Pickleball Pilot Project (Updated)

Dedicated
Tennis
Courts

Dedicated Courts

Shared Courts

Tennis

Pickleball

Tennis

Pickleball

Council District / Park

1

Grant

4

1

3

6

1

South Bend

1

1

4

0 ±

0 ±

1

Phoenix II

NA

4 ±

2

Central

NA

4

3

Maddox

1

1

2

3

Washington Pk R.C.

8

5

0

3

8

4

Mozley

2

1

1

2

5

East Lake

2

1

1

2

6


Sharon Lester R.C.


12

9

3

8

		Pre-Pilot		Pickleball Pilot Project (Updated)			
		Dedicated Tennis Courts	Dedicated Courts		Shared Courts		
			Tennis	Pickleball	Tennis	Pickleball	
			Council District / Park		Tennis	Pickleball	Tennis
6	Peachtree Hills	3	1		2	2 4 (Ext.)	
6	Lennox-Wildwood	2	1		1	1 (Existing)	
7	Shady Valley	3	1		1 2	2 4	
8	<i>Chastain Park R.C.</i>	9	6		3	8	
8	Bitsy Grant	25	21 25		4	13 3 (Ext.)	
9	Grove	4	1	2			
10	Collier	2	1		1	2	
10	Isabel W. Gates	2	1		1	1(Existing)	

		Pre-Pilot	Pickleball Pilot Project (Updated)			
			Dedicated Tennis Courts	Dedicated Courts		Shared Courts
		Tennis		Pickleball	Tennis	Pickleball
		Tennis		Pickleball	Tennis	Pickleball
Council District / Park						
11	<i>Joseph McGhee R.C.</i>	9	6		3	6
11	Adams	NA		4		
12	Southside	NA		6		
	Updated Totals	92		24		63
	Original Totals			14		33

DPR has increased the planned number of dedicated and shared Pickleball Courts in the Pilot Project from 47 to 87

Challenges to Project Accomplishments



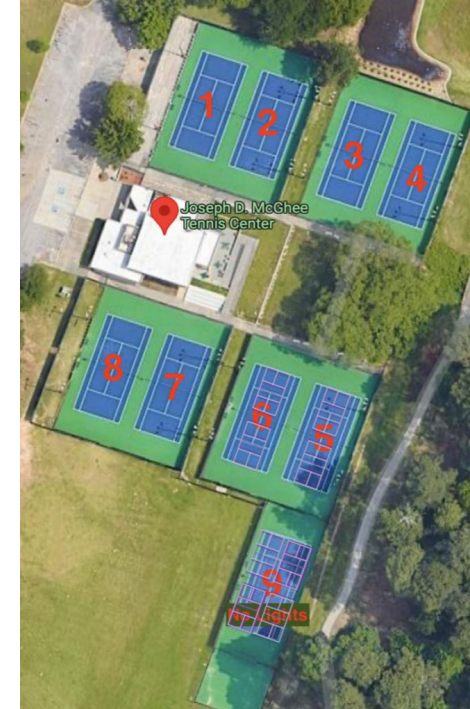
- Weather delays
- Procurement requirements
- Availability of experienced, competent vendors
- Deteriorated court conditions
- Unauthorized painting of Pickleball lines on courts

Racquet Center Pickleball Courts



Sharon Lester at Piedmont Park
8 pickleball courts

Joseph McGhee
6 pickleball courts



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Completed!



Racquet Center Pickleball Courts



Washington Park
8 pickleball courts

Bitsy Grant
13 pickleball courts

Chastain Park
8 pickleball courts



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Coming this summer!

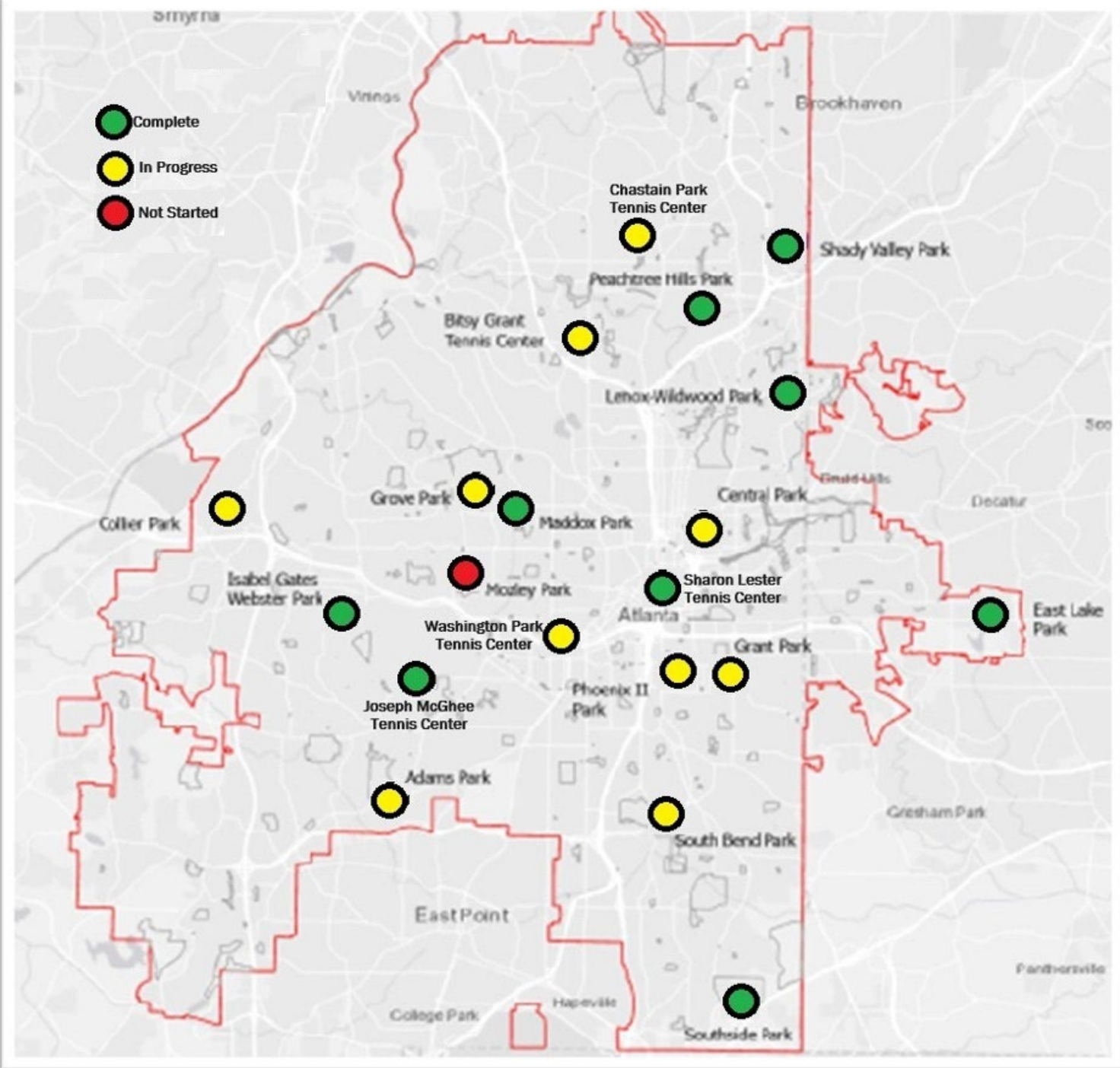




Planned Results of Pilot Project

Outdoor

- 171 Tennis Courts
 - 133 Dedicated Tennis Courts
 - 38 Shared Tennis Courts
- 24 Dedicated Pickleball Courts
- 63 Shared Courts with Painted Pickleball Overlays



Pickleball Pilot Project Sites: Distribution and Status

Southside Sports Complex

Completed

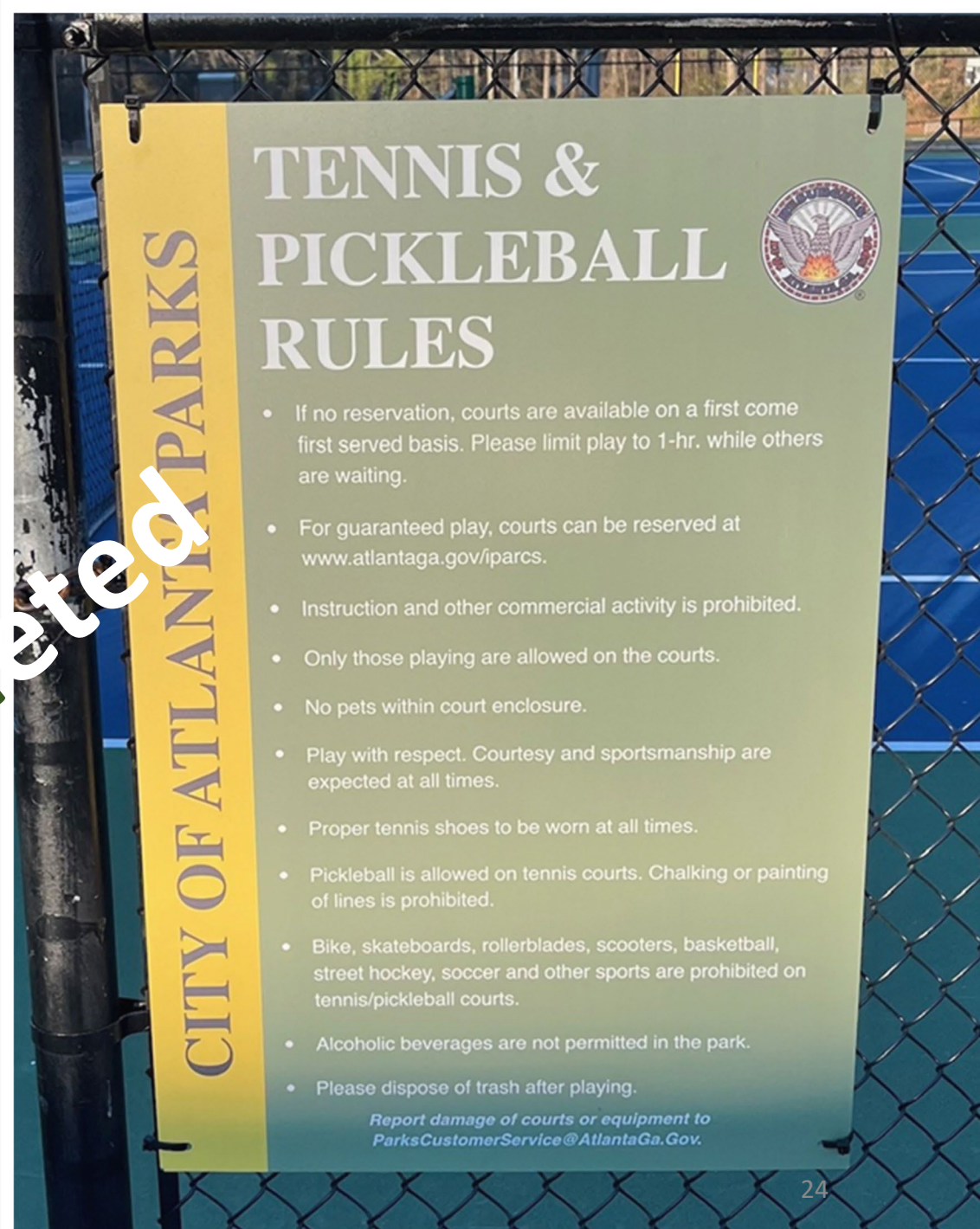
Atlanta Southside Sports Complex Mini-Pitches



Google

Signage and Court Numbering

Completed





Measuring Success

Incorporated stakeholder suggestions to define the following metrics:

- Increase in number of Pickleball courts
- Increase in online reservations
- Increase in park usage
- Public sentiment / assessment
- Number of noise complaints
- Number of user conflicts
- Compliance with court rules

In Process

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Completed an initial survey



Pickleball Pilot Program Feedback Form

Pickleball is rolling out in public parks across Atlanta! The pilot program is currently underway to offer shared tennis/pickleball courts in parks and learn from pickleball, tennis, and paddle ball players, and neighbors, what works well and what needs to be improved to meet the needs of all Atlantans when it comes to this popular sport. Thank you for sharing your feedback.

* Required

Your Information

1. Your Name.

2. Your email address.

3. What's Your Age Range?

4. What Council District Do You Live in? *

5. What is the general nature of your feedback? *

6. Are you a *

Select all that apply.

- Tennis player
- Pickleball player
- Racquetball or platform tennis player
- Neighbor (someone who lives near tennis or pickleball courts)
- Other

7. What is your preferred tennis or pickleball court location to play at? *

8. If this feedback is in reference to a specific park, write the park name below. *

9. Has your use of courts in parks increased since this pilot program began? *

- Yes
- No

10. What feedback would you like to share with us? *

11. Would you like us to follow up with you via email? *

If yes, please make sure you entered your email address correctly above and allow 3-5 business days for a response.

- Yes
- No

Completed

134 people completed the on-line survey, which closed on March 7th

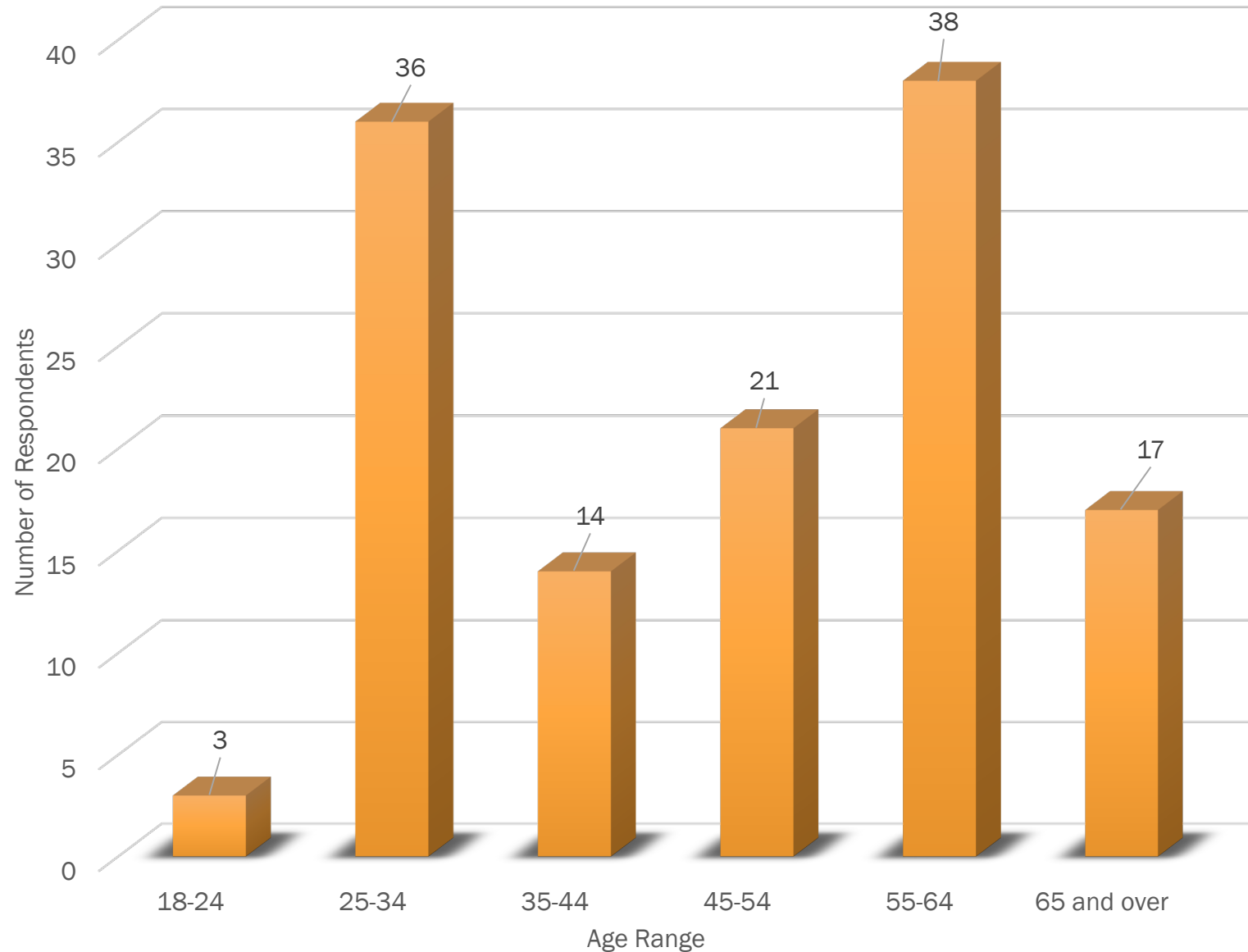


Summary of Survey Results

Survey Respondents' Age Range



43% of respondents are over the age of 55

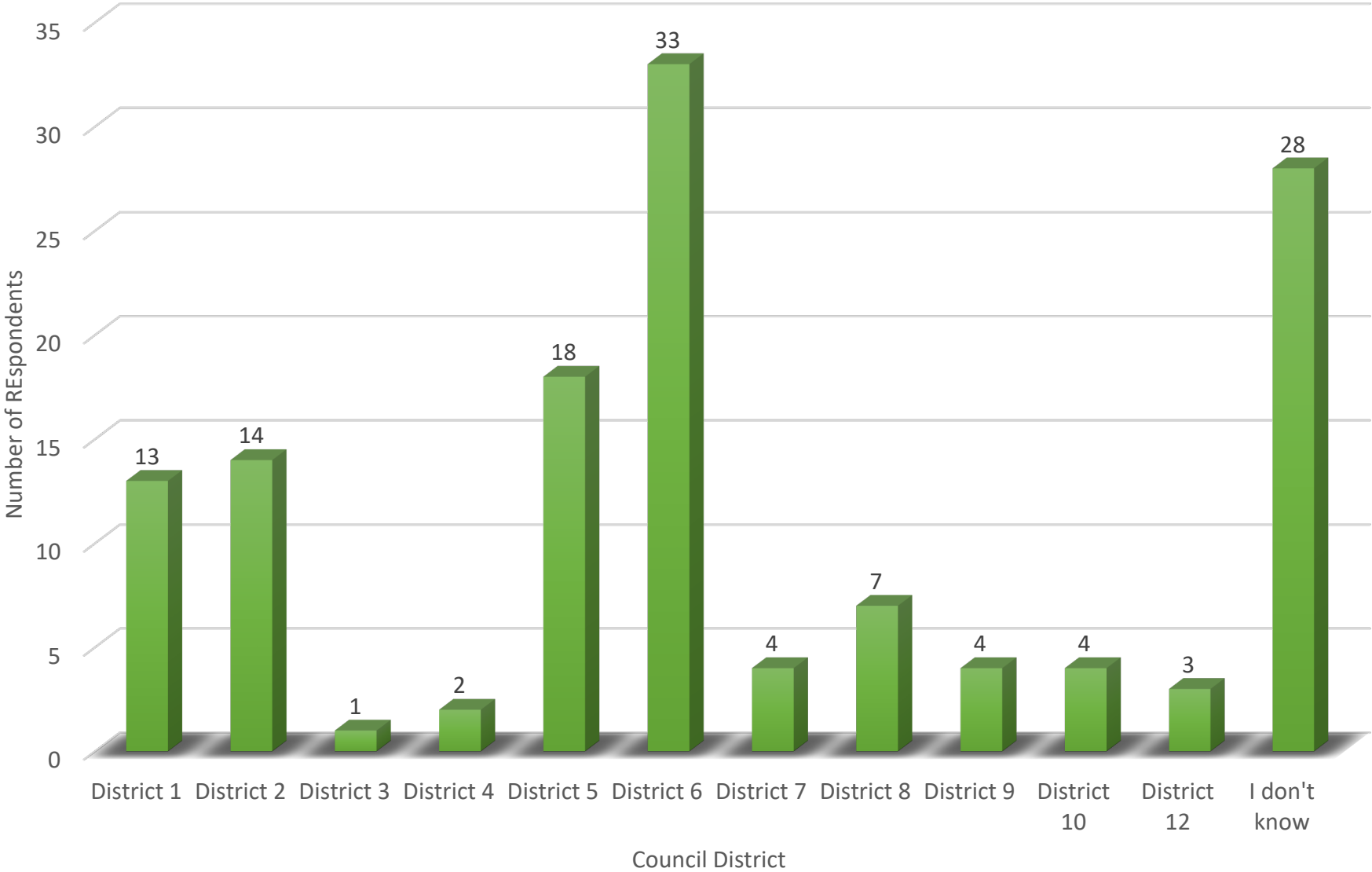


129 Respondents

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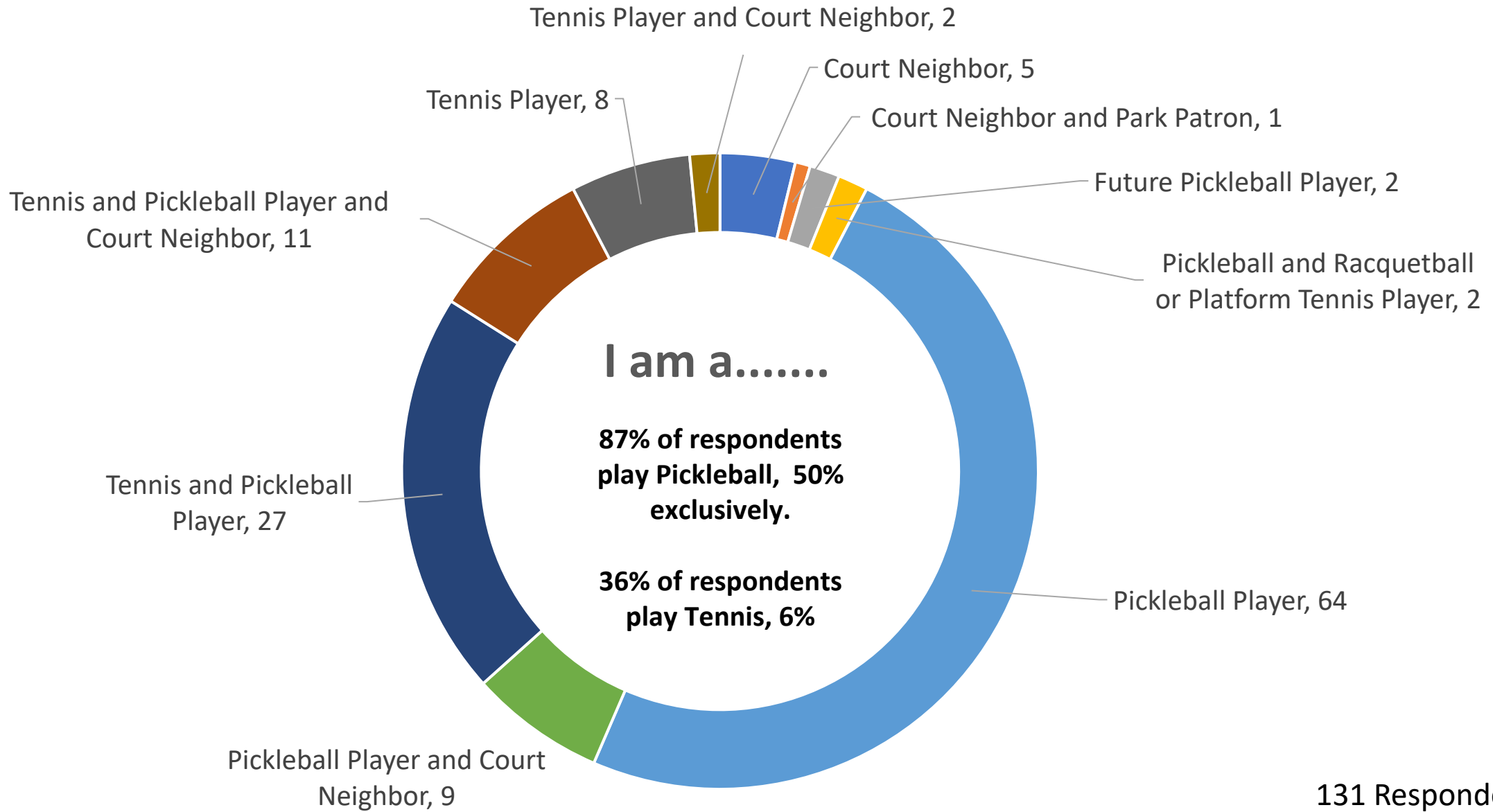
Survey Respondents' Council District



132 Respondents

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131 Respondents

49% of respondents offered ideas to improve the Tennis/Pickleball experience. 31% shared what works well.

131 Respondents

IDEA FOR IMPROVING THE TENNIS/PICKLEBALL EXPERIENCE

64

SHARING WHAT WORKS WELL ABOUT THE TENNIS/PICKLEBALL EXPERIENCE

41

OTHER

16

CONFLICTS BETWEEN COURT USERS

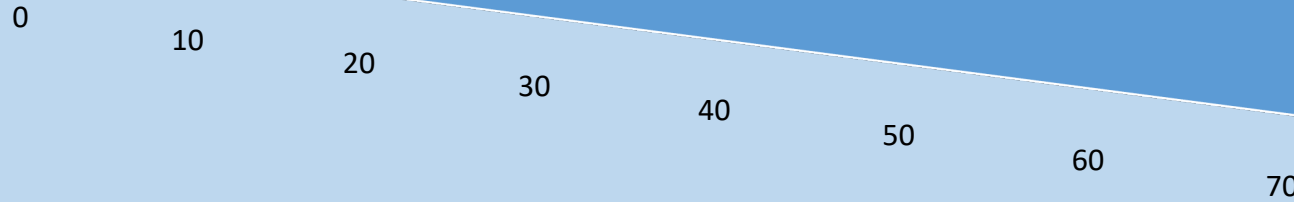
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PICKLEBALL NOISE COMPLAINT

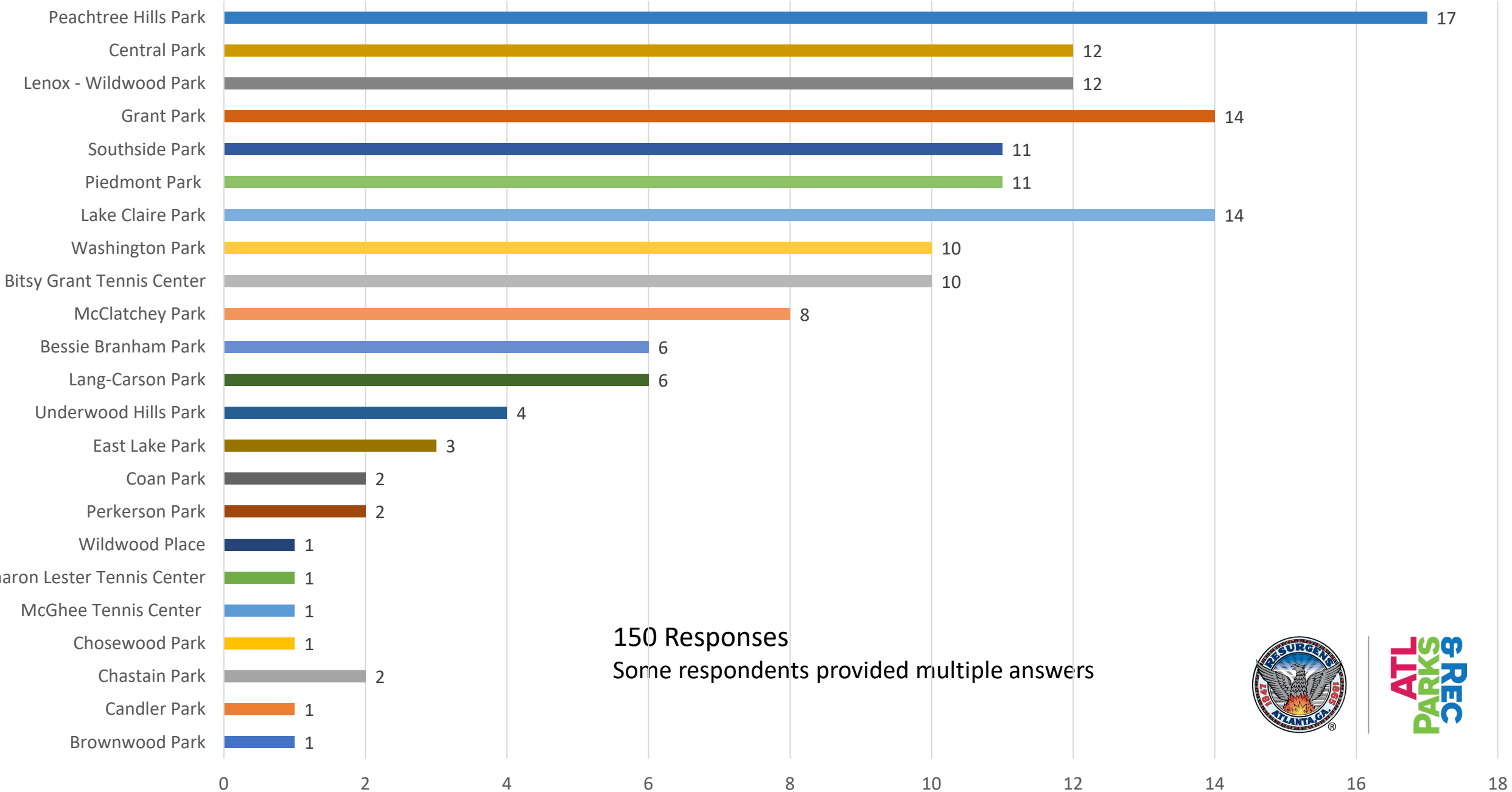
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REPORTING A VIOLATION OF USE GUIDELINES

1



Preferred Tennis or Pickleball Court



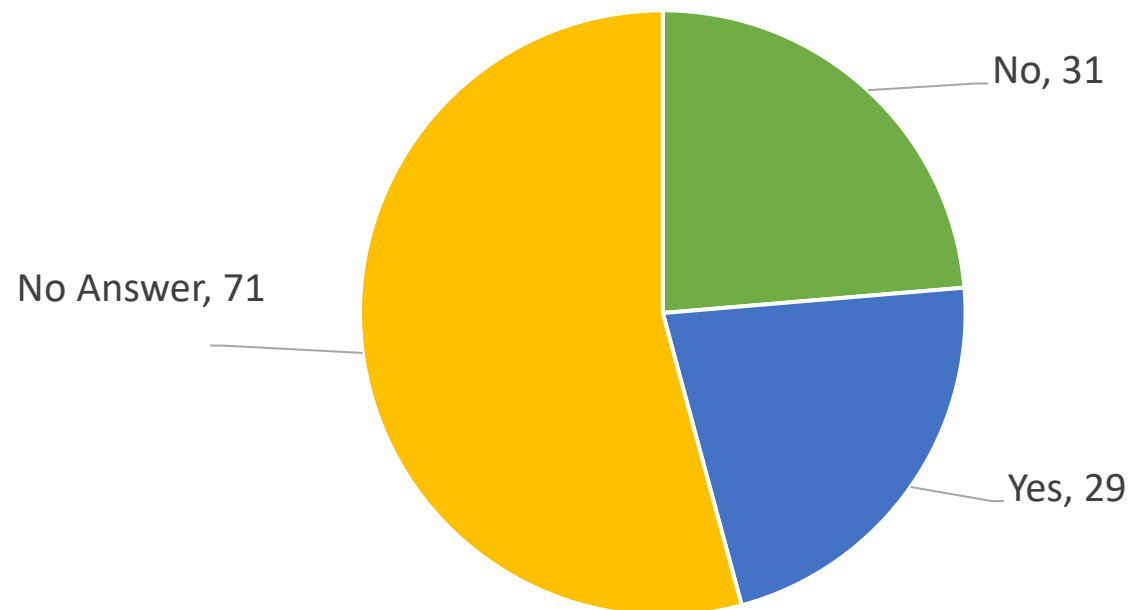
150 Responses
Some respondents provided multiple answers





Increased Park Use Since Pilot Implementation?

48% of respondents answering this question had increased their use of parks since the Pilot began.



60 Respondents provided an answer

Next Steps



How You Can Help

- Share guiding principles
- Promote Pilot Project options and opportunities
- Participate in future Public Meetings and use feedback platforms
- Promote use of reservation system for orderly sharing of courts
- Encourage court etiquette, sportsmanship, and fair play
- Share information on vendors

How You Can Help

Suggest locations for future buildout that meet guiding principles for siting Pickleball courts:

- Not located close to housing
- Near roadways
- Under-utilized spaces/parks

How You Can Help

Support fundraising to supplement limited City resources

Examples

- Phoenix Park community friends group received funding through Park Pride's Grantmaking Program for Pickleball courts, a volleyball court, and improvements to an Olympic monument during the January 2023 funding cycle
- The Atlanta Pickleball Club donated wind screens at Southside Park

Next Steps for DPR

- Share updates to schedule for construction of dedication and shared courts
- Establish timeline for increasing pickleball courts and programming at Recreation Centers
- Identify priority locations for future buildout



Access Information, Feedback and FAQs at
<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation/office-of-parks/pickleball-courts>