



**Public Works
Department
Office of the Director**

Tom Funcheon
Public Works Director

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioner
Thru: Mark LeCouris, City Manager
From: Tom Funcheon, Public Works Director
Date: September 11, 2023
Subject: Possible Pickle Ball Locations

That the Mayor and Board of Commissioner review and approve a proposed Pickle Ball Site for construction.

Pickle Ball has become the fastest growing sport in the USA and demands for courts is growing. I have searched the City for areas that could possibly be used, and I've compiled pros and cons for each site. Below is the recommended site by the Parks & Recreation Board for construction of pickleball courts with other locations in order of preference.

LOCATIONS:

1) Exercise Park

Pros

- Site work minimal \$
- Electric for lighting available
- Plenty of parking
- Trail access
- Close to downtown and Docks
- Minimal affect to residential neighborhood

Cons

- Near Treatment Plant

2) Dorsett Park 3 Courts (if not required for the new location area for the Cops-n-Kids Building)

Pros

- Minimal work \$
- Lights in place
- Parking

Cons

- Loss of tennis court

3) Riverside Field 6-8 courts

Pros:

- Room for up to 8 courts
- Ample parking

Cons

- Removal of 20+ trees
- Noise
- Extensive site work including stormwater
- Residential neighborhood
- High \$\$\$\$

4) Sports Complex 3 courts

Pros

- Noise not an issue
- Plenty of parking most times (see cons)

Cons

- Extensive site work \$\$\$\$
- Can be extremely crowded during Football/soccer season which can limit use of courts.

5) Craig Park 2 Courts

Pros

- Central location

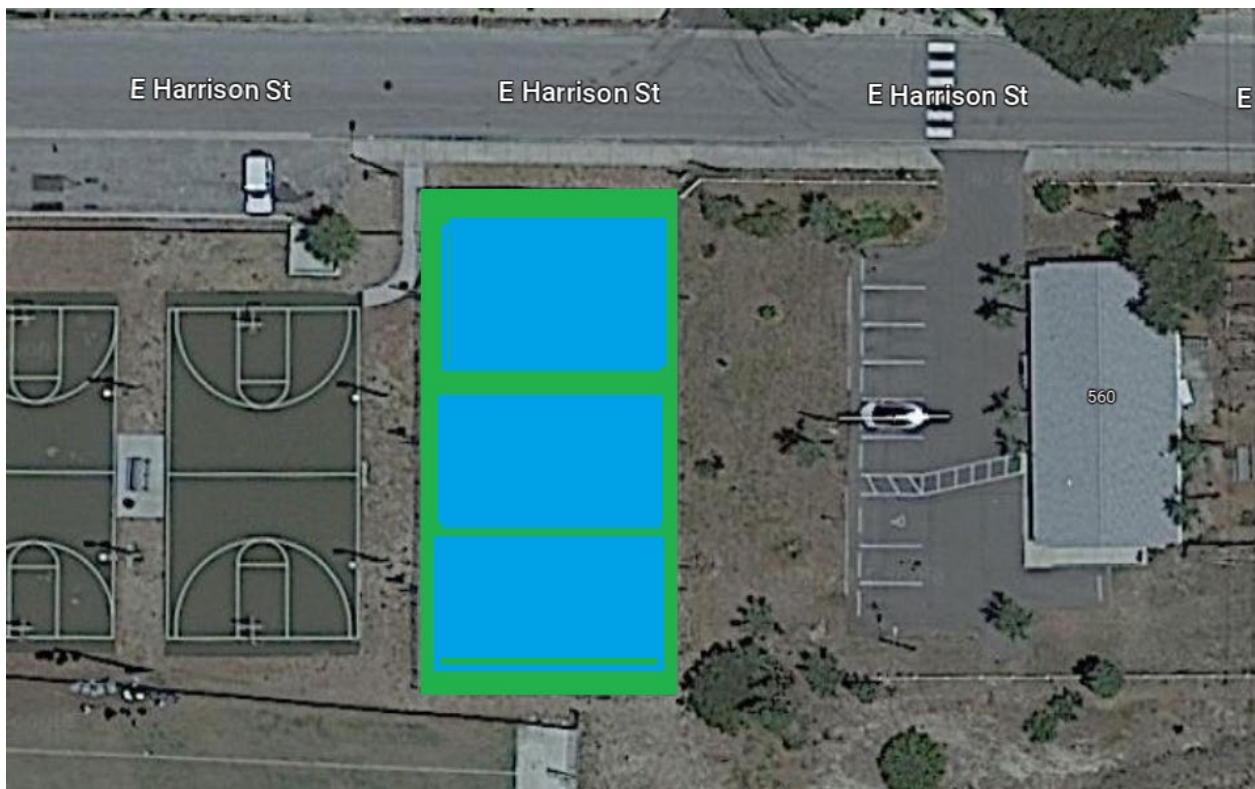
Cons

- Limited parking
- Near residential neighborhood
- Removal of Shuffleboard Court
- Tree Removals for new concrete deck
- May need to remove/change practice wall.
- Noise?
- Take-up open space
- \$\$\$\$

Exercise Park



Dorsett Park



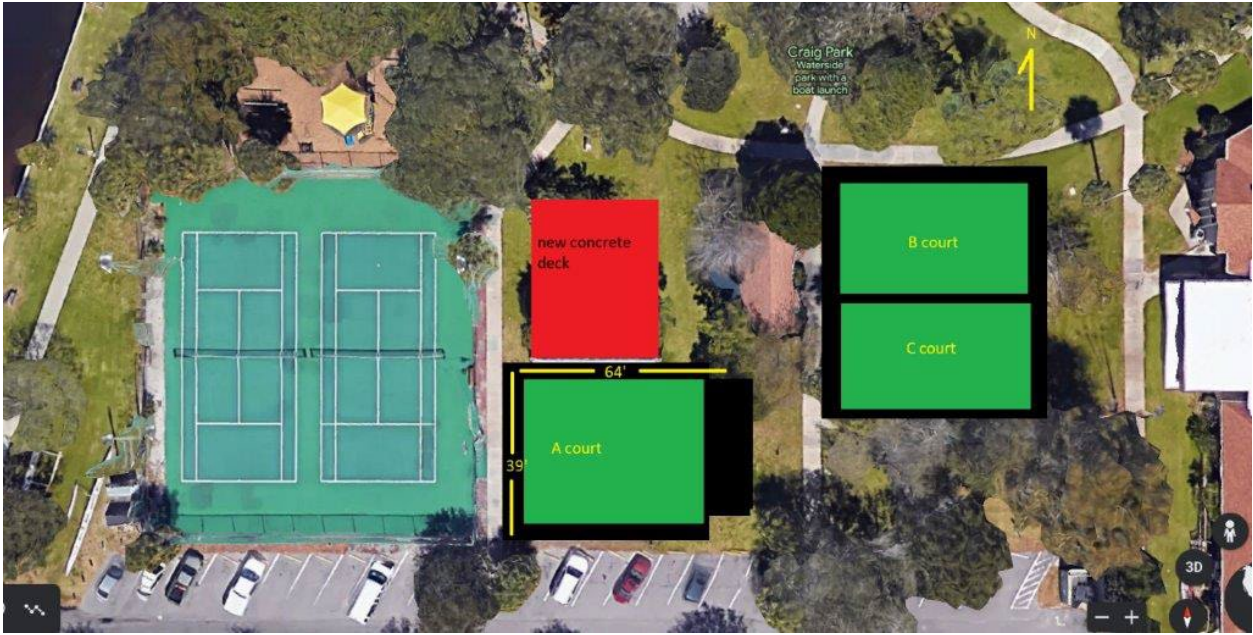
Riverside Field



Sports Complex



Craig Park



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
City of Tarpon Springs
324 Pine St
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

August 14, 2023

Mark LeCouris
City Manager
City of Tarpon Springs
324 Pine St
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Dear Mr. LeCouris,

We are writing to request your support in encouraging the Mayor and City Commissioners to approve our citizen's #1 requested recreational facility; outdoor pickleball courts. Pickleball is a national phenomenon, and Tarpon Springs once led in this initiative. However, we have since fallen behind most other surrounding communities who now have strong pickleball programs with outdoor facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has considered all previous City Council concerns and evaluated potential locations based upon existing infrastructure to reduce costs, availability of adequate parking areas, noise abatement concerns, necessary lighting requirements, negative impact on greenspace statutes and economical support of surrounding businesses, i.e., Sponge Docks and downtown areas. After all considerations, we believe the exercise park area is best suitable location due to satisfying every concern.

Our vision is to build a minimum of four pickleball courts in order to maximize useability and accommodate tournaments. The exercise park area can accommodate these four courts. Tournaments are highly attended and offer another great avenue to provide positive economic impacts to our community.

We routinely have community members attend our monthly meetings asking for status on the City's pickleball plan. We, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, remain committed to this project and want to ensure the Mayor and Commissioners understand the importance of pickleball to our community. After discussions for nearly three years, we would like to see this highly requested project completed for our community. We respectfully request your kind consideration and guidance toward resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammy Danielson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Tammy Danielson
Chairperson, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board