

7130 Valhalla Trail
Madison, WI 53719
July 25, 2011

Mr. Kevin Briski, Madison Parks Superintendent
City of Madison Parks Division
PO Box 2987
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Mr. Briski:

This letter is on behalf of the undersigned, all avid pickleball players in the Madison area. We are writing to request that the Madison Parks Division create pickleball courts in the Madison city parks, with courts on both the East and West sides of the city, or, if only one site is available, at a central location.

Pickleball is played at 19 locations in Wisconsin. (Location list attached). One of the indoor locations is in Madison at the Salvation Army Gym on Madison's east side. Pickleball play began there on January 11, 2010. We currently play there each Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. (The Salvation Army Courts will also be available on Monday beginning August 1, 2011.) Indoor courts are available at the Sun Prairie Athletic Club on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. There are no public outdoor pickleball courts available in the Madison area.

Pickleball is said to be one of the fastest growing sports in the USA today, particularly among baby boomers. Interest in the Madison area is increasing. The number of players at the Salvation Army Gym has grown steadily in the last 18 months. Recently we have had as many as 25 players at the Salvation Army gym and players are asking for more court time there.

Providing opportunities for pickleball is consistent with the Madison Parks vision to provide the ideal system of parks, natural resources and recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life for everyone. Many of us have learned to play pickleball while spending winters in Florida and Arizona where courts are plentiful in most retirement and vacation communities. Many retirees, who go south for the winter, return, wanting to play pickleball in Madison. Courts in the Madison parks will serve these retirees and also provide all residents with venues to learn and practice the sport.

"Pickleball" is a racquet sport combining elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis and can be played as singles or doubles. The game is played with a hard paddle and a plastic whiffle-like ball. Pickleball is similar to tennis but key differences make pickleball more accessible to a wide range of players, particularly children and seniors.

The sport is played on a court, both indoors and outdoors, with the same dimensions as a doubles badminton court (20 x 44 feet). The net is similar to tennis net,

but mounted two inches lower. The court is striped similar to a tennis court with no alleys. The inner courts are divided in half by service lines. The inner courts are no-volley zones (sometimes called the "kitchen"). The court diagram, below, is from the rulebook of the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) a principal governing body of the sport.

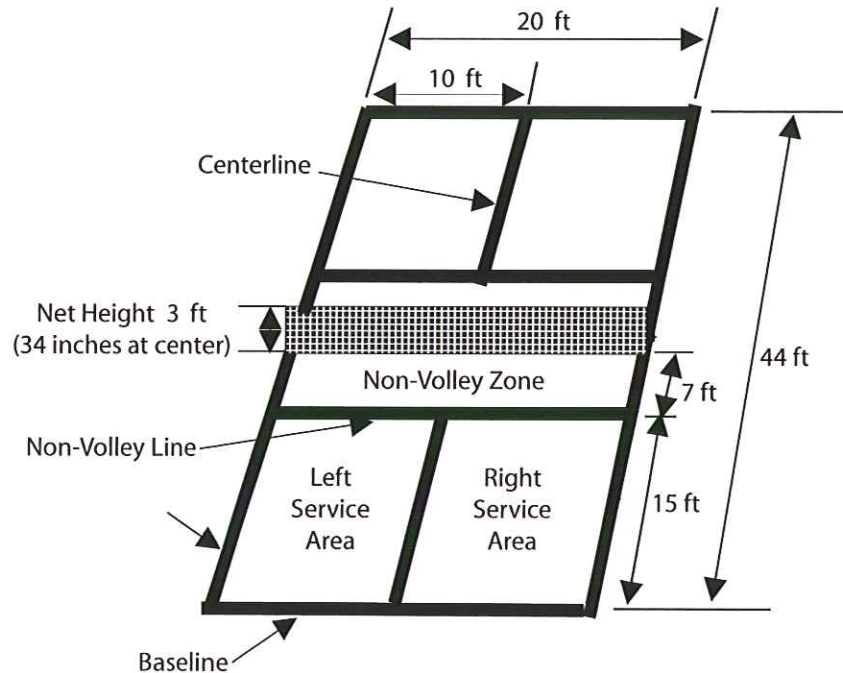


Figure 2-1 The Court

A copy of the 2010 USAPA rulebook is attached. USAPA has extensive information about the sport on its web site at www.usapa.org.

The courts would benefit the City of Madison by making Madison a destination point for pickleball players visiting Southern Wisconsin and retirees returning to Wisconsin for the summer. We believe that having these courts available will regularly draw people to the city from surrounding communities, as the Salvation Army experience has already demonstrated. The courts would create an additional use for existing space in our Madison Parks during the day and in the evening.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance with respect to this request.

Sincerely,

Donna Dusso
William Dusso
Donna and William Dusso