

CHAPEL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT SHARED USE PILOT PROGRAM

PILOT (TRIAL) SHARED USE SCHEDULE FOR EPHEBUS PARK

We acknowledge that Ephesus Park has traditionally been a desirable site for tennis in Chapel Hill. We acknowledge that the resurfacing of these courts was completed mid-November and that tennis play could decline during the winter months. We also understand that while pickleball's numbers at the outdoor courts will likely also decrease in the winter, the sport's growth makes it likely that there will continue to be significant demand for court time even in the winter. To that end, we recognize a unique opportunity to pilot (trial) shared use on a limited basis. We intend to do this as follows:

- A pilot shared use program will begin on January 27, 2023 and end on March 24, 2023; if deemed successful we intend to provide seasonal shared use again from December 2023 to March 2024.
- For the duration of the pilot program temporary pickleball lines (2 courts) will be marked on court 4 of the tennis facility and portable nets will be on site to create two pickleball courts during designated days and times. Tennis play may continue on courts 1-3 but pickleball will have priority on court 4 on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2pm-11pm. Lines and nets will be removed from the site at the completion of the pilot program.
- Tennis will retain priority on courts 1-3 year-round; and 1-4 seasonally.
- Parks and Recreation, Schools, and contracted facilitated usage for formal tennis programming which may occur during this time will continue to take priority over other uses of the tennis courts including this shared use pilot schedule.
- Parks and Recreation staff will monitor the courts as much as feasible during times of scheduled shared use to assess use and to attempt to minimize negative impacts on either user group. Staff will observe and document usage of and demand for the pickleball and tennis courts to inform decisions regarding the potential for future shared use.
- Potential expansion of the shared use will be re-evaluated following completion of other tennis court projects.

Parks and Recreation reserves the right to discontinue or modify the pilot program at any time.

DROP-IN PLAY

Parks and Recreation does not regulate or enforce drop-in use parameters at our outdoor athletic facilities provided that the alternative use(s) does no harm to the site. In the interest of maximizing use of our limited facilities and reducing the likelihood of conflict, we provide the following updated guidance on drop-in play:

- Tennis play is to remain the priority for use of the tennis courts and pickleball is to remain the priority for use of the pickleball courts.
- When tennis courts are not being used, pickleball players may choose to use the tennis courts for informal play such as warm-up until a tennis player arrives on-site. At that point, we ask that pickleball players vacate the tennis courts so that tennis play can commence without distractions and ensure that all nets are returned to their normal position.
- When tennis is occurring on the courts, other sports will be asked to refrain from using the backboard.
- Players of both sports are asked not to block the sidewalk accessing the courts. We will explore relocating the paddle holder utilized to queue pickleball players who are waiting to play
- Signage may be adjusted to reflect the above changes.



CHAPEL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OTHER UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Consistent with a recommendation from the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission, we will add pickleball lines to the basketball courts at Southern Community Park

Additional Pickleball opportunities for 2023: (beginning approximately April 1):

| Location | Day | Time | Notes |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| SCP– Basketball | Mon/Wed/Fri | 7:30am-1pm | Walk-up play |
| SCP- Basketball | Tuesday | 3pm – 10pm | Leagues and Clinics |
| SCP – Hockey | Saturday | 4pm-10pm | Walk-up and Clinics |

Additional Tennis opportunities for 2023 (beginning February 2023, 4-6 class sessions on select dates):

| Location | Day | Time | Notes |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Ephesus | Tuesday | 12pm-1pm | Adv Beg to Int Lessons |
| Ephesus | Saturday & Sunday (Select Dates) | 1:30pm-3pm | Community Tennis Days |
| Ephesus | Wednesdays | 6pm-7pm | Beginner Clinics |
| Ephesus | Saturday | 11am-12pm | Cardio Tennis |
| Ephesus | Sunday | 10am-11am | Brunch Tennis Clinic |

We are also pleased to report that Council has allocated the necessary funding so that the tennis court resurfacing project can move forward at Hargraves Park and has authorized the Town's application to the Park and Recreation Trust Fund – Accessibility for Parks grant for Cedar Falls Park. We will continue to support addressing the short- and long-term needs of both groups including future facility related projects supported by the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission.

Please reach out to staff if you have questions or comments. Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager; and Jonathan Ray, Sr. Athletics Supervisor, continue to be staff points of contact for scheduling, programming, and court related requests.



CHAPEL HILL PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

