



Outdoor Tennis Courts and Emerging Recreation Strategy Frequently Asked Questions, Summer 2021



Argay Tennis courts

What is the purpose of the Outdoor Tennis Courts and Emerging Recreation Strategy?

To set a consistent strategic direction for the programming, maintenance, and use of outdoor tennis courts and provide for other emerging court sports in Portland.

How many outdoor tennis courts does PP&R have? What is their current condition?

PP&R provides 103 outdoor tennis courts located within 38 parks. 30 of the 103 tennis courts in the PP&R system are considered fair, good, or excellent, and can be considered providing a playable and programmable surface with conditions that are safe and enjoyable. 73 (71%) of PP&R's outdoor tennis court surfaces are in poor condition or have failed.

What is the level of service for outdoor tennis courts?

The current goal is to provide an outdoor tennis court within 3-miles of all households in Portland. Currently 94% of households are served by tennis courts within a 3-mile service area (Level of Service Guidance for Developed Parks and Natural Areas, 2019).

What are emerging recreation sports?

Outdoor tennis courts are adaptable spaces. Because they are fenced and provide a solid surface to play on, they can be used for new and emerging recreational sports like bike polo, futsal, pickleball, skateboarding, and other activities. Some of these sports can share a space with tennis, while others are not well suited to sharing space and work best as their own dedicated courts.

What are the key recommendations of the strategy?

Based on our research and analysis, PP&R has drafted some initial actions for further consideration, and we would like your input. The key finding includes providing outdoor tennis courts within 3 miles of every Portland resident, and establishing a tiered system of Community



Tennis Hubs, Recreational Courts, and Neighborhood Courts (see definitions below). Additional goals include properly maintaining the 16 courts that are in excellent or good condition so that they remain usable and support tennis programming activities, initiating a program to renovate the courts that are in fair to poor condition, and prioritizing maintenance and improvement projects at community tennis hubs and recreational courts in underserved areas of the city.

What are Community Tennis Hubs?

Community Tennis Hubs are dedicated tennis courts, primarily suited for enhanced levels of programming by PP&R and our partners, including league and competitive play, and community school tennis programs. They provide a 3-mile level of service and have 4 or more tennis courts at a park location. They feature tournament-level synthetic acrylic surfacing, with an asphalt or concrete base, and supporting subsurface. The hubs also include support facilities such as lighting, restrooms, benches, and are accessible and are priority for renovations and maintenance. There are 48 courts at 10 parks that fit this definition (Argay, Buckman, Clinton, Glenhaven, Grant, Gabriel, Irving, Sellwood, Washington, Willamette)

What are Recreational Courts and Neighborhood Courts?

Recreational Courts provide a 2-mile service area. Their primary use is tennis, but they may also have complementary secondary uses including pickleball and futsal. There are 2-3 courts provided at each location, and they host PP&R and partners' children's and introductory tennis programming and smaller activities. They may have some support facilities. They are the 2nd priority for renovations and maintenance.

Neighborhood courts serve a ½-mile level of service, have 2 courts at a location, and are typically within walking distance of homes. They can be shared with other court sports. They are typically not programmed by PP&R or our partners but are reserved for walk-on use. The surfacing may be asphalt or concrete and may not have support facilities such as lighting.

Which tennis courts are recommended for removal or reuse? Why?

18 courts at 11 parks are recommended for removal or reuse (Alberta, Brentwood, Burlingame, Creston, Essex, Hillside, Lair Hill, Northgate, Pier, Rose City, Westmoreland). They are recommended for removal or reuse primarily because the courts have reached the end of their lifecycles and do not meet design and safety guidelines for tennis. Additionally, their service areas overlap with other courts and/or there is insufficient demand for tennis.

What kind of tennis programming does PP&R currently provide? Are there jobs available?

Tennis programs include senior programs, programs for mobility device users, tournaments, afterschool programs, summer camps and free drop-in classes, youth and adult leagues and instruction, and fitness classes. The Tennis Program works closely with community partners to provide these programs. PP&R also provides indoor programming at the Portland Tennis Center and with our partner Portland Tennis & Education at the St. Johns Racquet Center. More information about our tennis program is located online, here: [Tennis | Portland.gov](https://www.portland.gov/tennis)



The Tennis Program is currently hiring! Please see our employment and internship opportunities, here at: [Employment and Internship Opportunities | Portland.gov](#)

How will court maintenance, improvements, reuse, or removals be funded?

Regular court maintenance is funded through the city's general fund and performed by staff and contractors. Additional funding sources include major maintenance funding, grants, bonds or levies, and partnerships with sports or community organizations. PP&R has implemented a Sponsorship & Fundraising Partnerships Opportunities program which allows for funding partners to assist Parks with high-priority projects.

PP&R does not currently have funding to implement all these recommendations and staff will evaluate sources of funding for renovation, removal, and reuse of the tennis courts as necessary, during the annual capital growth and maintenance funding process. This will ensure that the focus remains on prioritizing the tennis courts that best provide for recreational programming, serve the greatest number of users, and provide equity to city residents.

What is the plan for areas of Portland not served in a 3-mile radius?

PP&R has many tennis courts that are well-distributed across the city, and nearly all households are located within three miles of a tennis court, except for a gap in East Portland. Implementation of the Parklane Park Master Plan in East Portland, with construction of two tennis courts would more fully serve the city. PP&R will evaluate locations and identify funding for additional East Portland neighborhood courts where 3-mile level of service is not provided in the future.

How can I provide my input on the strategy or learn more?

Please take part in our online survey: portland.gov/parks/construction/tennis-courts-strategy or attend a community meeting presentation to learn more. If you have additional questions, please contact Katie Dunham at Katie.Dunham@portlandoregon.gov or 503-679-0826

How can my organization get involved in funding improvements to tennis courts or the reuse of courts for other sports?

PP&R has implemented a Sponsorship & Fundraising Partnerships Opportunities program which allows for funding partners to choose from high-priority projects that currently do not have dedicated funding, based on scoring and equity considerations. This list of prioritized tennis and emerging recreation sports findings will be added to this list of projects. Other projects can be reviewed by the Portland Parks Foundation or the PP&R Volunteer Program. Information on the Sponsorship & Fundraising Partnerships Opportunities program is located here: [Friends and Partners | Portland.gov](#). You can also Contact Megan Dirks, Development and Partnership Coordinator, megan.dirks@portlandoregon.gov, or 503-312-2299. Portland Parks Foundation can be found here: [Portland Parks Foundation \(portlandpf.org\)](http://PortlandParksFoundation.org).

How do I find out more about the PP&R Tennis Program?

More information about our tennis program is located online, here: [Tennis | Portland.gov](#)