



### **THINGS NEARBY RESIDENTS (ABUTTERS) SAY ABOUT PICKLEBALL NOISE**

“Heartbreaking, until you have experienced this you have no clue how this overtakes your life. and steals your joy. Many folks here are near retirement age and it is hard to believe that in this country, you work your ass off for 50 years with the hope of having a beautiful garden and some peace and quiet and then this.”

“Being in the Midwest, I have had a few months break from the activities of the pickleball courts 75’ from my property. This morning the City Park employees put the nets up...and right on cue the players came crawling in like a bunch of little ants. And so, the agony is back on until Thanksgiving...another summer lost being confined inside my house with windows closed. 🏠🤔🙄”

“We used to have bald eagles nesting near, and flying over our property almost daily. Since the courts were built we haven’t seen an eagle for over 2 years!”

“The sense of community is disrupted. The introduction of Pickleball into our neighborhood came without any prior consultation or notice, resulting in constant unbearable noise. It has become a daily nuisance, occurring every day of the week. To restore harmony, the courts need to be moved at least 1000 feet from any residential area, allowing for peaceful coexistence.”

“Pickleball noise is devastating”

“Nobody understands this. City officials think if decibels are at 50, it’s perfectly acceptable. I am losing my mind over it!”

“No one told me it was being built. They actually resurfaced a badminton court that was there forever - I had no idea they were creating a PB court. I've lived amicably with a hardly used

badminton court outside my home for 12 years. The board did not consult or inform the change of recreational purposes.”

“The noise of PB has ruined any activity outside of my home and can be heard in my home. I am under 200 ft from 6 courts.”

“I live across the street from a court and its very loud and I get no break from it.”

“It is a problem in our neighborhood. That incessant pop pop sound is nothing like tennis.”

“My house has been across the street from a "park" since approximately 1890. I've owned it since 1994. There was never a complaint about tennis, shuffleboard, the children's play area or any of the people who were spending time by the lake on the 3 areas border. Pickleball started 3 years ago and that's when the complaints began.”

“I live 67 feet from a tennis court that has been converted to Pickleball. While this is certainly a game I would play, I certainly wouldn't impede on the privacy and solitude that everyone should enjoy in their neighborhood. We built our home 29 years ago and have never complained about the noise from the basketball, the tennis courts or the nearby playground. We live in our backyard and it's unbearable to say the least. Just realize that when a pickleball player goes home they have peace and quiet. We do not have that luxury any longer. We want to enjoy our home including our backyard the way we used to! Please stop comparing this game to tennis. This sport has divided our neighborhood. We have been forced to move forward with a lawsuit. It's just a game versus quality of life!”

“At first I just thought wow the recreation courts are getting way more use than they used to. Then after a few weeks I thought, shoot, I wish they weren't playing so much outside my house. Then about a month ago, it hit me, I couldn't stand the noise any longer. The stress really kicked in. I started closing all my doors and putting the AC on just to drown out some of the noise. I wrote 17 emails with research to the Director of the Board. I literally couldn't do or think about anything else.”

“Pickleball is a very very LOUD sport. The popping noise is horrible and torturous. Almost everyone would agree with the fact they loved living by the parks until the pickleball courts were added.”

“Since about 7:45 am, amidst the continual sound of the “pop,” there is the familiar scream of one woman every time she hits the ball. Not a grunt like Serena Williams, a loud scream, as if she had just hit the winning shot at Wimbledon.”

“PB noise is mental torture to anyone near it”

“I can hear the ball hits two blocks away.”

"We watched as our local playground was taken over by entitled people from outside our community who don't care about kids, only about gentrifying the playground for their own benefit."

"My neighbor built 3 pickleball courts in his backyard 35 feet from my bedroom windows and 50 feet from the windows in the rest of my home. The noise is unnerving when they are in play. So tired of asking them to use quiet balls and paddles, contacting the City and getting little to no support. It needs to stop so I can regain the peace I should be able to enjoy inside my home."

"We live about 75-85 feet from a public pickleball court in Dallas which has recently changed the hours from 5am-10pm. It is a very busy court and the pickleball is not only causing noise at all hours of the day, but has increased traffic, parking on our street (instead of the Rec center), urinating in our alley, and the lights shining into our houses. When asked if we wanted the house changed from 7am to 5am, we said no, and lots of people messaged our park and councilwoman and they still changed it."

"Residents deserve to live peacefully in their homes. There are other places to build courts."

"Unfortunately we now have to proceed with this as a legal matter. We attempted to get resolution through parks and rec but they washed their hands of it. There seems to be some blue hairs looking out for their own best interests. It's unreal how this hobby has turned people into horribly entitled Philistines."

"Every sport has saved people in one way or another. Pickleball sells it as it's the only sport doing these things when literally every sport is having an impact every day across our country."

"I am only 29' from 3 pickleball courts and this needs to stop!"

"I've had plenty of evil thoughts ! 🤖 We are only human. Natural instinct is to fight back and retaliate. My peace and sanity has been stolen."

"Personally I don't care if people play it or not as for me it's a personal choice. Where you place the courts is everything. Place them where they don't bother anyone and nobody will care about it."

"This is my backyard. Among other issues is frequent urinating by the "picklers" right behind my fence for my kids to see. This hobby has made living in my home miserable. It feels like a losing battle to be honest. Part of me feels we're going to spend time and money and nothing will come of it. The parks and rec department was supposedly working on a resolution but at the last meeting we were told too bad, hire an attorney, they can keep playing. The picklers have zero respect for any of their neighbors. They've allowed people from outside our neighborhood/area to infiltrate and make it a Woodstock scene."

"I like pickleball, but I like peace and quiet in my home and totally understand. I hope some sound barriers can be put up or something so you can enjoy your home."

"I am personally negatively affected by the noise. I am also affected by the retaliation I have had and still have because I dared to say that pickleball played ten feet from my house is too loud. It has been two and a half years already. I am no longer the happy woman I used to be. My life is filled with the despair of wondering when the noise is going to start again, and once it starts, it is filled with the thought of "when is this noise going to stop". I know that this will be stopped at some point. I just can't wait for the pain to stop."

"I live 225 ft from 4 PB courts. Almost 1/2 the PB court has acoustic panels. It doesn't work. Play is 7 am- 9 pm, 7 days/ wk. public Park. No staff to enforce any rules. We bought our house, 5 yrs ago. There were 4 tennis courts, basketball court, 3 softball diamonds, volleyball and a playground. We bought the house, because we loved the park. None of the noise or activities ever bothered us. Till 1 tennis court was converted into 4 pb courts. I dont open my windows. I dont spend any time in my backyard. I had to get medication for anxiety and sleep. I am not against pb. My husband plays. Its too close to my house. The noise of pb has destroyed my enjoyment of my own home that we paid a lot of money for. I agree with the distance of 600 ft."

"At my parents' house in Florida, pickleball courts a half mile away can be clearly heard across the bay if the wind is blowing right."

"Players began at 7:00 am this morning! I screamed over the fence but it had no effect other than to bother my neighbors. So I called the police non-emergency line to report it. Finally there was silence."

"The noise is unbearable. It took 7 years for the city I live in to provide the most minimal support to residents. I had to spend my evenings going to city council meetings. Neighbors have moved. I hear it in my sleep. These morons jump locked fences to play with their balls."

"A new pickle court was built less than 30 ft from my parents' property line/ 165ft from their house. My dad is a Vietnam veteran and the constant pop pop pop sound has triggered PTSD. We have tried to work with the pickleball players to use different balls to reduce the sound but they said the balls are difficult to control and they need to use comp regulation balls. We are desperate to resolve this as it is having a negative impact on his health and wellbeing."

"There are a few people in my community who have stopped using the courts because they know how much pain we suffer from the noise ten feet from our homes."

"Perhaps I have some hope for humanity after last night's City of Las Vegas Planning Commission Meeting. This is the first time in two years anyone has shown that they understand what kind of noise problem this could be for our neighborhood and they are requiring an acoustical study before they vote to approve the plans."

"Although the courts were not built this year, the level of activity at them has exploded in the recent past. [The plaintiff] begins to hear the noise as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. The constant barrage of noise has impacted her nerves, harmed her ability to concentrate, destroyed her ability to relax in her own home, impacted her sleep patterns and caused her significant additional mental and physical health problems."

"Pickleball is a high-pitched, chronic, persistent, repetitive noise—a noise that a resident in a nearby home cannot escape. Given that pickleball noise is commonly measured as 70 decibels at 100 feet from the noise source and 64 decibels at 200 feet from the noise source, pickleball noise is not merely an unwanted intruder, it is a health hazard. In contrast, tennis noise, less likely to be perceived as annoying or intrusive, commonly measures 40 decibels at 100 feet and is low-pitched."

"We're also about ready to sue the ever-lovin' !&#@! out of those responsible for the court conversion. I am also gearing up to challenge my tax assessment and see how much I can maximize clawback of the assessed value given that the Financial Samurai says my home would suffer 20% to non-starter value damage, by having pickleball across the street."

"I live across the street from a court and its very loud and I get no break from it."

"I live 67 feet from a tennis court that has been converted to Pickleball. While this is certainly a game I would play, I certainly wouldn't impede the privacy and solitude that everyone should enjoy in their neighborhood. We built our home 29 years ago and have never complained about the noise from the basketball, the tennis courts or the nearby playground. We live in our backyard and it's unbearable to say the least. Just realize that when a pickleball player goes home, they have peace and quiet. We do not have that luxury any longer. We want to enjoy our home, including our backyard the way we used to! Please stop comparing this game to tennis. This sport has divided our neighborhood. We have been forced to move forward with a lawsuit."

"It's just a game versus quality of life!"

"I am only 29' from 3 pickleball courts and this needs to stop."

"Residents deserve to live peacefully in their homes. There are other places to build courts."

"My neighbor built 3 pickleball courts in his backyard 35 feet from my bedroom windows and 50 feet from the windows in the rest of my home. The noise is unnerving when they are in play. So tired of asking them to use quiet balls and paddles, contacting the City and getting little to no help."

"It's the right thing to do. PB noise is mental torture to anyone near it."

"I live across from Falconwing Park where pickleball courts recently opened. The lights are extremely bright and high (above the treeline) and on till late at night. On the side of the park where the courts are, you can hear the pickle ball all day long from the street, I can't imagine what it's like for the neighbors that live in those houses!"

"We watched as our local playground was taken over by entitled people from outside our community who don't care about kids, only about gentrifying the playground for their own benefit."

"I live within 300' of four pickleball courts and the constant noise plus the duration of the noise is ruining my home. I can no longer go outside or have windows open. My city mayor and Park Board have very little understanding of this problem."

"For an activity that professes to bring people together it sure seems to be tearing communities apart :("

"Pickle ball court is 225 ft from my house. The noise has ruined my quality of life and causes anxiety and depression. The nonstop pop is torture."

"Pickleball is a scourge."

"This is ruining my mom's quality of life. She's lived in the same home for 30yrs but wants to move now because of this. She shouldn't have to."

"I live 116 feet from pickleball courts. Even with an acoustic fence in the flat area we live in, the sound is unbearable."

"The noise is unbearable. How could our city betray us like this?"

"Pickleball noise is like slow and steady water torture. It's 10 pm at night, and they are still at play. If you thought the noise was bad in the daytime, it's even louder at night because of the cooler air. The city moved a Pickleball club from a richer neighborhood to ours and it is so unfair. Please spread this petition long and far. The struggle against noise pollution is real. Thank you."

"I am the same as J. The City of Long Beach painted two tennis courts, tennis and pickleball courts. It impacts the quiet enjoyment of my home. I can hear the noise in the house -during dinner, on the weekends and while working from home. I can no longer enjoy my front lawn that we renovated. The crowds are loud and overbearing. They treat the courts like an extension of a private country club like it is for their private use alone. The excess noise and cars also make the park unsafe."

"I live 100 feet from four pickleball courts painted over two town tennis courts. Pickleball is loud, harp, rapid and annoying. Can hear noise inside of the house. We can't get the town to remove them, yet."

"I believe in people's right to be able to enjoy peace and quiet in their own backyards."

"The noise is unacceptable so close to residential properties."

"We have Pickleball players playing within 20 yards of an early childhood day care facility."

"Having pickleball move in next to your house is a living hell."

"I am also suffering from this hellish noise."

"I'm signing because I know firsthand the constant aggravating noise that comes from a pickleball court."

"I live 100 feet away from four pickleball courts, and the noise is a terrible disturbance to my daily life. As others have stated, it indeed causes a LOT of stress and anxiety."

"My family has truly suffered from the noise, and the argument that they chose to live across from a school makes no sense. Schools are not known to have pickleball courts or teams, especially ones from 20 years ago, when they bought the house. The wind turbines in east Falmouth were halted because of the stress of the noise, and these residents should be given the same consideration."

"The noise causes stress, anxiety, and unreasonable interference with enjoyment of property."

#### **THOSE PLAYERS WITH COMPASSION SAY....**

"I'm a Pickleball player and find this completely unacceptable. The horror! Stunning home ruined. I play in protected areas from homes. I will never play in a community with homes again. So sorry 🥺"

"I wouldn't want to live next to a pickleball court. We pickleball players have to resist being entitled and understand the sounds of pickleball are not music to everyone's ears. This is also a cautionary tale to local planning authorities to consider the neighbours before approving installation of pickleball courts."

"As much as I love Pickleball, that would drive me crazy if it was every day for hours on end as many people have to put up with ~~it~~. Sometimes people play out here at our condos late in the evening. With my doors closed, I don't hear it much. Some of the young guys can get pretty loud when they're playing each other though. I do wonder how some of the non-playing residents feel about it that are right next to the courts. And we only have 2 courts. You're not just dealing with the ball noise but people getting loud and yelling."

"Wow, that's really intrusive sound. While I LOVE pickleball, that's just too much if those courts are new and you hadn't understood that would be part of your daily life. So sorry. you really shouldn't have to put up with it."

"Ever time this issue is posted I will repeat my input on the subject. You either respect others or you do not. We as pickleball players do not own the neighborhoods, and we either respect folks who live in the area or we don't."

"I would personally feel like an asshole if I was showing up somewhere at 6:00 in the morning making noise outside and knowing that it was directly affecting a group of people sleeping across the street."

"Pickleball noise has been the subject of complaints across the country. And yes, it is loud and very annoying. I'm surprised you call this nimbyism when the noise problem directly impacts someone in their domicile. People have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their home."

"“I love pickleball more than the next person and I would NOT want to hear it all day when I'm inside my house. There were times when I was on tour with the APP Tour that I sought places to go so I didn't have to hear it any more and I could just think; so the thought of having it right outside of my window would be pretty mind numbing.”"

"I love the game. But I would definitely NOT want the courts built beside my place. I feel for you."

"I am a pickleball player. My home courts are not in a residential area or anywhere near a house, but if I were playing near homes and discovered that the noise was causing residents high levels of distress, I would not play on those courts. Anyone who plays pickleball is fully aware of the noise level and it is not just about the decibels. I doubt the decibel level of fingernails on chalkboards is very high, but everyone knows just how unpleasant that sound can be. If you are a pickleball player who is knowingly causing distress to residents, you should be ashamed of yourself."

"This is terrible. I like PB but this is crazy. You can hear our local Pb 100 yards away!! This is not fair to these folks."

"I am new to playing pickleball and have become a community advocate for the sport. I have joined this group because we are currently looking for new places to build courts in our community. I believe that the noise complaint is a valid complaint. I want to read your stories and listen to your valid complaints so we do not make the same mistakes in our community."

"I'm rarely on the side of an Irvington resident about anything, but I agree with the neighbor on this one. That pickleball sound happening all day long should be nowhere near anyone's home."

#### **NOISE DENIERS SAY....**





Image: Courtesy of Dan Lauer, <https://youtu.be/n8GB2CzgTfY?si=79HRiK1MZEHclQF>

**Noise deniers** are the pickleball players who insist that the impulsive noise their sport makes is acceptable and that no one should complain about it. We've all seen it, the jabs, the insults. The dirty looks as 50 players march into a council meeting and snicker at the neighbors who are fighting to recover the soundscape in their own private homes. Players insist that the noise is groovy, music to their ears. Fountain of youth. They have made new friends, getting exercise and having fun – ***“so all you complainers can just go away. Better yet....just wear earplugs.”***

“Get a life!!! Is not even loud!!! If you don't like it, sell it & go away!”

“if u can't beat them,join them, go play”

“There are millions of people with no place to live at all and people are concerned about people who live near parks. One thing I will never worry about is someone who has a place to live. They can listen to us all play pickleball and be happy that they aren't sleeping in a shelter. Spoiled trash. These complainers disgust me.”

“If you live by a park there will be noise. When we went before the board to get courts approved there was a lady who had moved in recently complaining about teens making noise playing basketball.”

“It does suck about the noise, but just because you don't like something it doesn't mean you get to complain about it, and at the end of the day get your way about it.”

“I just don't have the mental capacity to be bothered by the noise from Pickleball... Feels like a trivial, first world problem.”

“And everybody likes the sound of a good whack when they hit the ball. Relieves aggression.”

"some people have a miserable life and want everyone to be miserable with them."

"I would rather see people outside enjoying themselves than a bunch of illegals sleeping in the neighborhood and drug dealers."

"This is an amazing opportunity for you! Go buy some paddles and enjoy this great sport. Your cardio fitness will thank you."

"You purchased a home that backs to a park and are acting like you own the park land. If it bothers you, you will need to put in some trees for a sound barrier."

"I choose a glass half full perspective in life and a new park with pickleball players outside is an easy thing for anyone to acclimate to. I encourage you to do the same!"

"Learn to play, make some friends in your retirement, and be thankful you have a great social/fitness area adjacent to your home!"

"The moment they knew about the construction, they should have sold. No brainer."

"I would get a fountain that makes gurgling noises and has a good outdoor speaker where you can play your favorite tunes. Probably won't hear the noises then."

"Should have never moved in by a park if they wanted quiet."

"Why the hell would anyone want to live with a bunch of old quite people. Sounds like u r already half dead!"

"People complain about the noise but seem to be fine with yipping dogs."

"Are you going to get cancer from the noise?"

"What about outdoor sports arenas near people's homes that include parking nightmares, whistles, air horns, screaming parents and kids, garbage, the list can go on and on. That seems to be okay with everyone!"

"i get annoyed when the leaf blowers and/or lawnmowers show up to the courts to work, while i'm playing but I've learned to live with it!"

"Kids screaming in a swimming pool is worse!"

"It's less noisy than kids playing basketball."

"just move"

"you're hypersensitive"

"you bought a house by a park"

"children playing and basketballs are bad too"

"what about leaf blowers"

"you're just a lonely senior who has nothing better to do but to complain about people having fun"

"join us, you'll learn to love the sound."

"you are denying me my right to exercise and stay healthy."

"the tennis court was under-utilized"

"Everyone in the community needs to work together so pickleball and tennis can co-exist."

"some people will never be happy"

"if its not the balls and/or paddles sounds, it will be the music playing on the courts! -or the sound of laughter from all the people having fun!"

"20 or 30 yards away, one can hardly hear it!"

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Compiled from members of Pickleball Noise Relief group on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pickleballnoiserelief>