



# It's just the beginning! OR If you build it, they will come!

What is the common denominator with the following celebrities?

Drew Brees  
Lebron James  
Kevin Durant  
Tom Brady  
Kim Clijsters  
Mark Cuban  
George Clooney  
Leonardo DiCaprio  
Matthew Perry  
Bill Gates  
Larry Ellison

Hint: It starts with the capital letter **“P”**:

Answer: They all play or have ownership in Pickleball! Who would have thought?!!

Hardly a week goes by anymore when you don't see **P**ickleball in a commercial, or on some talk show.

The growth of **P**ickleball is phenomenal and exploding beyond everyone's wildest dream.

Drew Brees, a new part owner of a Pickleball Team has even suggested that we will see 40 million people playing Pickleball by 2030. We have 5 million playing today so that vision of his translates into an 8-fold increase in Pickleball in as many years.

The elephant in the room or the obvious question is where are they all going to play? There are many private clubs springing up all over the country; some follow the old Tennis County Club Model and some are becoming the anchor sport in community centers. Then, there are other private courts with no bells and whistles, but requiring a membership to fund and maintain their courts. All different models and new ones coming on line all the time.

While we are starting to see this growth play out across the country, Charlotte County has been proactive and quietly been adding Pickleball Capacity at its recreation facilities. A big shout-out of support to them for being an early adopter in our backyard.

In fact, they currently have 21 indoor courts, and 87 outdoor courts available throughout the county. While most of the 87 are blended (meaning they are set up for Tennis and Pickleball), the County appear to be seeing the demand coming and are being proactive in preparing for it.

As most Peace River Picklers know, we are anxiously awaiting 8 new dedicated courts which will be at the South County Regional Park. Even the new tennis courts at this park will lined and be available

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Future plans include additional dedicated facilities at the Veterans' Memorial Park and G.C. Herring Park.

The County has even replaced nets at the Port Charlotte Beach Park with higher quality net systems on wheels and will evaluate their durability for possible expansion onto other area courts.

Many parks and Pickleball facilities have been damaged to some extent as a result of the recent hurricane so the number of places to play at is somewhat restricted at present.

Having said that, most of the Pickleball facilities in Charlotte County are available to play. You can see on the following map of all their locations, along with details on each venue. Follow this link:

[Charlotte County Pickleball Venues:](#)

We have all missed playing regularly and hope this provides information to all Peace River Picklers as you begin to normalize your life and get back to some of those things that put a smile on your face.



Peace; David Pike, USA Pickleball Ambassador at Large

Park Name	Physical Address	City	Indoor	Outdoor	Outdoor Lights	Outdoor Blended	Outdoor Dedicated	Restrooms
Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park	6791 San Casa Dr.	Englewood	4	8	Y	X		Y
Tringali Park	3460 N. Access Rd.	Englewood	3	16	Y	X		Y
Centennial Park	1184 O'Donnell Blvd.	Port Charlotte	4	0	N/A	N/A		Y
Franz Ross Park	19355 Quesada Blvd.	Port Charlotte	0	4	Y	X		Y
Harold Ave. Regional Park	23400 Harold Ave.	Port Charlotte	6	6	Y	X		Y-indoor only
McGuire Park	21125 McGuire Ave.	Port Charlotte	0	3	N	X		Y
Midway Park	23023 Midway Blvd.	Port Charlotte	0	8	N	X		N
Port Charlotte Beach Park	4500 Harbor Blvd.	Port Charlotte	0	4	N	X		Y
William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park	20499 Edgewater Dr.	Port Charlotte	0	8	N	X		Y
Bissett Park	12455 Path Ave.	Punta Gorda	0	4	N	X		Y
Deep Creek Park	2555 Sandhill Blvd.	Punta Gorda	0	8	N	X		Y
Harbour Heights Park	27420 Voyageur Dr.	Punta Gorda	0	2	Y	X		Y
South County Regional Park	670 Cooper St.	Punta Gorda	4	8	Y	X	Future-in progress	Y
Rotonda Community Park	10 Rotonda Blvd. E	Rotonda West	0	8	N	X		Y