

Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee
Written Public Comment- 11/02/2023

Entry Date	Comment
11/02/2023	<p>Regarding PSMP Objective 1.4.3: Establish a dedicated pickleball facility to meet the growing demand</p> <p>By all metrics this is a complete failure. The number of dedicated pickleball courts in Arlington has actually decreased from 1 to 0.</p> <p>When it comes to the “meet demand” aspect: current plans for the Walter Reed project are counterintuitively to reduce the number of courts from 9 to 6 despite a documented overwhelming demand for more courts. DPR is moving in the wrong direction, and is acting counter to the PSMP.</p> <p>DPR was slow to act on Objective 1.4.3, giving preferential treatment to tennis. Planning for a tennis facility at Bluemont Park began six months after the PSMP was passed, whereas planning for a pickleball facility was delayed for three years.</p> <p>PSMP Objective 1.4.3 has become a national embarrassment for Arlington, making the front page of the New York Times, and Late Night with Stephen Colbert.</p> <p>DPR’s “measured approach” to pickleball and to this PSMP Objective have been a disaster. Tennis has over 50 dedicated courts. At the very least, it’s time to plan a dedicated pickleball facility with twelve pickleball courts. Once the next Statistically Valid Survey comes out, there will be a number reflecting demand in Arlington. Objective 1.4.3 is a mandate to meet that demand.</p>