



Darien Parks & Recreation Pickleball

FAQ Page

Effective April 2023, the Cherry Lawn Pickleball courts are for Darien residents and their guests only.

The intent of the pickleball court reservation system is to allow Darien residents the opportunity to reserve pickleball court time at the Cherry Lawn Pickleball Courts from May 1, 2023 through December 1st, 2023.

Reservations are recommended outside of lessons, free 90-minute play and open play drop in times.

Who can make a reservation? Reservations are restricted to Darien Town Residents ONLY. A resident may bring up to three (3) guests to utilize the courts with them. Guests may be a mix of residents and non-residents, however, the resident player must be present during the duration of the reservation.

Which courts are available for reservations? Courts available for reservations are the Cherry Lawn Pickleball Courts 1, 2, 3, & 4 located by the front of the park near the Nature Center.

When can I rent/reserve a pickleball court? Pickleball courts may be reserved seven (7) days in advanced of play starting at 6:30am and no later than one (1) hour before day-of play.

What is the fee to reserve a pickleball court at Cherry Lawn? The fee to reserve a court is \$20.00 per court per 90-minute time slot payable online at the time of reservation (\$5.00 per person for a group of four (4) players, or \$10.00 per player for a group of two (2) players.

What are the times we can reserve courts? *You may reserve courts during the following times Monday through Sunday:

- 7:30AM-9:00AM (M-Sat)
- 9:00AM-10:30AM (M, W, F, Sat)
- 10:30AM-12:00PM (M, Tu, Th, Sat, Sun)
- 12:00PM-1:30PM (M, Tu, Th, Sat, Sun)
- 1:30PM-3:00PM (Tu, W, F, Sun)
- 3:00PM-4:30PM (M-Sat)
- 4:30PM-6:00PM (M, Tu, Th, F, Sat)
- 6:00PM-7:30PM (Tu, F, Sat, Sun)
- 7:30PM-9:00PM (Tu, W, F, Sat, Sun)

*There are select times which are pre-reserved for Open Play Drop In, Free 90-Minute Play, and Darien Parks and Recreation Pickleball Lessons. The schedule for these can be found posted at the court kiosk and online at darienct.gov/pickleball.

How can we reserve a pickleball court? Reservations can only be made online following these steps:

1. Visit darienct.gov/pickleball and click the "Reserve a Pickleball Court" button (seen to the right).
2. After step one (1), follow the below steps:
 - a. On the new page, select "Quick Reserve" or "Pickleball at Cherry Lawn," this opens the "Quick Reservation" page where you can select play time.
 - b. Select the day and time you wish to reserve and follow through the payment steps.



Please note: You may only reserve seven (7) days in advance beginning at 6:30am, and up to one (1) hour in advance of play for day-of play. If a box on the reservation screen is "greyed

out” during the time you'd like to play, this means that a reservation has already been made or that the time requested is reserved for lessons, open play, free 90-minute play, or an event.

How many courts can I reserve? Residents are limited to reserving one (1) pickleball court per day.

How do I know if there's a permit taken out during a time I want to play? Follow the above steps for question: “How can we reserve a pickleball court?” to view court availability. On our reservation site, any “greyed” area is reserved. Any “white” box indicates a day/time that is available for reservations. Unless reserved, reservations may be made up to one (1) hour in advance of the reservation time.

What if I see a reservation time is open (not reserved online) within 60 minutes of the reservation time?

Any court unoccupied/unreserved at any given time is available for use by residents and their guests free of charge on a first come, first served basis. We ask that all players limit their play to 90 minutes. If a current permit holder arrives on site during their scheduled permit time, the court must be released by the drop-in user immediately, whether or not play is complete.

Will staff be present to assist with reservations? No attendants will be on site. Permit holders are expected to have a print or digital copy of their 90-Minute permit available on-site at all times. For reservation conflicts, contact our office by phone M-Th 8am-5:15pm at 203-656-7325 or via email 24/7 at parkrec@darienct.gov.

What if I am running late for my reservation? We are providing a fifteen (15) minute grace period for permit holders to arrive during their pickleball reservation. If participants are not on court within fifteen (15) minutes of their scheduled start time, they risk forfeiting their reservation and the court becomes available for use by other residents and their guests. We understand that in rare circumstances, individuals may be later to their reservation. It is our hope, that other individuals on the court will still honor the permit holder for the duration of their permit time.

What if I need to cancel my permit/reservation? (Refund/Cancelation Policy) Changes to reservations can be made online via email. Requests for a permit cancelation (refund) must be made in writing to parkrec@darienct.gov 24 hours in advance of the permit start time. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to report any cancellation 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of your permit. The confirmation of cancelations/refunds will be handled M-Th 8am-5:15pm. The 24 hour cancelation policy still applies outside of office hours. Therefore, cancellations for Friday-Monday should be made the preceding Thursday. When a refund request is approved, the \$20.00 permit fee will be refunded and you will receive an email from our team.

Where can I register for lessons or the pickleball leagues? Sign up for lessons online at darienct.gov/parkrec. If you have questions about your pickleball level of play, view page 19 of our spring/summer brochure or contact Steve O'Connell at: steveoconnells@gmail.com.

What about lessons and private instruction? Private lesson instruction is not allowed at any time. The Darien Parks & Recreation approved lesson instruction times are available on site at the Pickleball kiosk and online at darienct.gov/pickleball. If you observe lessons being conducted outside of the scheduled times, please notify the Parks & Recreation Department via phone at 203-656-7325.

Where can I find the most up to date information about pickleball? Visit darienct.gov/pickleball for all things pickleball related! We will make every attempt to post updates at the courts' information kiosk and send an email to our database when changes are made.

What are the general rules of conduct for pickleball courts at Cherry Lawn Park? In an effort to provide the best possible pickleball experience for all players, please respect the following rules:

- #1 Enjoy the game!
- Courts are for Darien residents and their guests.
- Courts are for pickleball only.
- No loud music, chairs, skateboarding, roller blading, etc. on the courts
- No dogs allowed off-leash, on courts, or tied to surrounding benches, trees, fences etc.
- Court schedule is posted online at darienct.gov/pickleball and on-site at the information kiosk.
- Resident reservations begin April 24th for play May 1st-December 1st.
- Private lessons are prohibited. For a list of lessons and times, please visit: darienct.gov/parkrec
- Please limit play to 90 minutes when others are waiting to allow them a chance to play
- Please follow all Open Play Drop In rules and levels during designated Open Play Drop In days/times.
- Always exercise courtesy, respect and good sportsmanship at all times.
- The Park and Recreation Commission reserves the right to approve requests which deviate from the above regulations for the benefit of the community.

What if I don't want to pay to play? If you do not want to pay to play, visit the courts during individual drop-in play (free of charge on a first come, first serve basis). The term "drop in" means you arrive at the courts with no reservation and are hoping to drop in and play. There are two types of drop-in play:

1. 90-Minute Play Rules:

- During designated 90-Minute play times, the "90-Minute Rule" applies at all times.
- Players will use the honor system, limit play to 90 minutes and be considerate of waiting players.
- There is no restriction of players rotating onto a court during the 90 minutes.
- At the end of the 90-minute play time, and if ALL COURTS ARE FULL, all players in a group will let players waiting to play have their court. A group may have four (4) or more players rotating on one court for a 90-minute period. All those players in the group must leave the court after 90 minutes and allow waiting players to have the court. Players may continue play on a court if there are no waiting players, or if all waiting players have been invited to play and players opted to wait.

2a) Open Play Drop In Rules:

- During designated open play drop in times, the 90-minute rule is suspended.
- This is a round robin format. There are five (5) levels of open play: Beginner, Intermediate, Inter PLUS, Seniors 65+, and "All Levels". Each open play drop in is designated as one of these five categories and we ask that players follow play accordingly based on level. All levels of play are invited to play in the spirit of comradery.
- We ask that all players, no matter skill level, do their best to play a fair and competitive game.
- When players arrive at the courts during Open Play Drop In, they will put their paddles in the bench rack ("in line" from left to right when facing the courts) and will be invited in to play (in the order in which their paddle was placed) when a game on a court is done. If, and only if, there are no players waiting to play, play may continue until additional players wishing to play show up. It is the responsibility of both the on-court players and waiting players to follow all open play rules respectfully.
- During Open Play Drop In, groups of four (4) should make an attempt to offer any waiting player a rotation in their foursome if no other players are on site.
- Games will be played to 9 points (sudden death at 8 points all).
- Winners stay and move onto a higher numbered court and split up.
- Losers move onto a lower numbered court and split up or come off if all courts are occupied and players are waiting.
- Winning players may only play two (2) consecutive games in a row.
- On the conclusion of any game, paddles must be placed back into the bench rack to be considered for the next available game.

2b) Senior 65+ Open Play Rules:

- This designated time is for organized age-identified player rotation.
- Players and guests must be 65 years or older.
- During designated senior open play times, players will rotate into play as games are completed on each court.
- When a game is done on a court, the two (2) losing players will rotate off and the next two (2) players in the rack system (left to right) will rotate in. If four (4) or more players are waiting off court, then all four (4) players will rotate off and four (4) will rotate in. Winning players may stay on the court for two (2) consecutive rotations, then rotate off. They may then place their paddle back “in line” to play additional games.

What is the Pickleball Schedule? A small version of our pickleball schedule is viewable below, for a large-scale version, visit darienct.gov/pickleball.

Day	MONDAY				TUESDAY			
Court	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
6:00am	COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM				COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM			
6:30am								
7:00am								
7:30am								
8:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30am	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Darien Men's Association	Darien Men's Association	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In
9:00am								
9:30am								
10:00am	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In
10:30am								
11:00am								
11:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:00pm								
12:30pm								
1:00pm	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
1:30pm								
2:00pm								
2:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION
3:00pm								
3:30pm								
4:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION
4:30pm								
5:00pm								
5:30pm	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
6:00pm								
6:30pm								
7:00pm	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
7:30pm								
8:00pm								
8:30pm	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:00pm								
COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am					COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am			

Day	WEDNESDAY				THURSDAY			
Court	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
6:00am	COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM				COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM			
6:30am								
7:00am								
7:30am								
8:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Darien Men's Association	Darien Men's Association	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In	Senior 65+ Open Play Drop In
9:00am	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:30am								
10:00am								
10:30am	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
11:00am								
11:30am								
12:00pm	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:30pm								
1:00pm								
1:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	90 Min Play
2:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
2:30pm	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	Beginner Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In
3:00pm								
3:30pm								
4:00pm	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	Beginner Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	PB League (6pm-8pm)	PB League (6pm-8pm)	PB League (6pm-8pm)	PB League (6pm-8pm)
4:30pm								
5:00pm								
5:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In
6:00pm								
6:30pm								
7:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In	Intermediate Open Play Drop In
7:30pm								
8:00pm								
8:30pm	COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am				COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am			
9:00pm								

Day	FRIDAY				SATURDAY			
Court	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
6:00am	COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM				COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM			
6:30am								
7:00am								
7:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
10:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	All Levels Open Play Drop In	All Levels Open Play Drop In	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
10:30am	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play
11:00am	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
11:30am	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:00pm	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:30pm	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	PARKS & REC INSTRUCTION	90 Min Play	90 Min Play	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
1:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
1:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
2:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
2:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
3:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
3:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
4:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
4:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
5:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
5:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
6:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
6:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
7:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
7:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:00pm	COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am				COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am			

Day	SUNDAY			
Court	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
6:00am	COURTS CLOSED UNTIL 7:30AM			
6:30am				
7:00am				
7:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
10:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
10:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
11:00am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
11:30am	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
12:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
1:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
1:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
2:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
2:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
3:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
3:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
4:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
4:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
5:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
5:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
6:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
6:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
7:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
7:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:00pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
8:30pm	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION	RESERVATION
9:00pm	COURTS CLOSED 9pm-7:30am			

QUESTIONS? Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 203-656-7325 or visit www.darienct.gov/parkrec for further information.