



August 22, 2023

Dear Paddle Tennis Participant,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying the last days of the summer. With some very hot, rainy weather behind us, we are turning our attention to the 2023-2024 paddle tennis season! The courts were extremely busy last year and we anticipate much of the same this season.

We are excited to announce that a 6th paddle tennis court will be built at Weed Beach! Funding has been approved, a contractor has been selected and we anticipate construction will commence this fall. We are hopeful that the court will be open during the upcoming paddle tennis season. If there are any delays, construction will be finished in spring of 2024. Please check in with the paddle court supervisor or reach out to me for updates.

We are also pleased to announce the lottery draw for block time for the 2023 – 2024 season which starts October 9th and ends March 30th. Any group interested in requesting block time must return the enclosed sheet (now fillable) by **Thursday, September 14th, 2023**. If necessary, a lottery drawing will be held on Tuesday, September 19th to determine group assignments. Requests for block time **must include first, second and third choices**. Failure to include several choices may result in no block time granted. Groups must pay in full for original requested time blocks. After the lottery draw, any additional requests are subject to availability.

The lottery draw will be run on a classification system. We classify groups in accordance to the number of courts per hour in conjunction with the simultaneous number of hours requested. For example, groups that wish to play paddle for two hours using one court will be drawn along with similar groups. Groups requesting the largest amount of court time will be drawn first. This ensures we maximize the use of our courts. **All block time reservations must be paid in full by Wednesday, October 4th, 2023. Failure to pay by this date could result in forfeiture of court time.** Any group or person wishing to reduce their request after court time has been assigned may do so only if there is a group or person on a waiting list for that court time.

Block time reservations will be accepted for any hour the courts are open, Monday – Sunday. Hours of operation are:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday - Friday	9 am – 10 pm
Saturday	8 am – 6pm*
Sunday	8 am - 6 pm

Please note the courts are open until 10pm on Saturdays. We leave 6-10pm open for party and weekly advance play rentals only.

The maximum number of courts that can be reserved at any one hour is two, unless historically approved by the Park & Recreation Commission. We will leave at least one court open for drop-in use.

Fee structure for block time use is as follows:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Monday - Friday	9 am – 5 pm	\$20/one hour booking/court
Monday - Friday	9 am – 5 pm	\$30/1.5 hour booking/court
Monday - Friday	5 pm - 10 pm	\$25/one hour booking/court
Monday - Friday	5 pm - 10 pm	\$37.50/1.5 hour booking/court
Saturday	8 am – 5 pm	\$20/one hour booking/court
Saturday	8 am – 5 pm	\$30/1.5 hour booking/court
Saturday	5 pm – 10 pm	\$25/one hour booking/court
Saturday	5 pm – 10 pm	\$37.50/1.5 hour booking/court
Sunday	8 am – 5 pm	\$20/one hour booking/court
Sunday	8 am – 5 pm	\$30/1.5 hour booking/court
Sunday	5 pm – 6 pm	\$25/one hour booking/court
Sunday	4:30 pm – 6 pm	\$37.50/1.5 hour booking/court

Courts and times not blocked are available for daily reservation up to a week in advance or first-come, first-serve to the general public. Anyone wishing to book a court on a non-block basis should reserve online at www.darienct.gov/parkrec. You may also reserve a court in-person at the courts. Any court reservation questions should be addressed to the court supervisor at 203-656-7350. All court reservations must be paid in full at time of reservation.

A fee schedule is included on the next page of this packet. Please call (203-656-7325) or email us (parkrec@darienct.gov) to book a paddle party, including use of the paddle hut and fire pit.

We hope that everyone safely enjoys their time at the courts this year! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at 203-656-7325 or via email at jcoghlan@darienct.gov.

Sincerely,



Jim Coghlan

Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

DARIEN PARKS AND RECREATION
PADDLE TENNIS RULES AND REGULATIONS
SEASON: OCTOBER 9, 2023 - MARCH 30, 2024

COURT AVAILABILITY

- Courts will be available for play:
 - Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
 - Saturdays: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
 - Sundays: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

- Supervisors will be on duty:
 - Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
 - Saturdays: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
 - Sundays: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

COURT FEES

- Fees:
 - \$20.00 /1-hour reservation/court before 5:00 pm
 - \$30.00/1.5-hour reservation/court before 5:00 pm

 - \$25.00 /1-hour reservation/court after 5:00 pm
 - \$37.50/1.5-hour reservation/court after 5:00 pm

- Seniors Fees: Seniors (ages 65 and over) play free Monday - Friday before 5:00 pm (Full payment required evenings/weekends/holidays)

- Paddle Parties: Group party time is available on Saturday evenings & Sunday afternoons and must be reserved 2 weeks in advance. Payment is due 2 weeks prior to date of reservation. No refunds will be granted unless courts close due to unsafe weather conditions. Please visit Parks & Recreation at www.darienct.gov/parkrec to obtain the complete rental policy and to book a paddle party. The fees to book a party are \$50.00/hour for the paddle hut rental plus a 2-hour minimum court reservation fee as per the above schedule. The paddle hut rental fee is waived if all 5 courts are reserved for the party.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- All cars must have a 2023 beach sticker to park in beach area. Paddle guests must be accompanied by a Darien resident.

- Players must adhere to all State of Connecticut & Town of Darien COVID-19 safety recommendations.

- Proper tennis equipment must be used at all times; no hard-soled shoes allowed.

- Courts may be reserved by up to one week in advance online at www.darienct.gov/parkrec or by registering in-person with the paddle supervisor.
- Players must be present 10 minutes before reservation to avoid delays. Reserved court will be forfeited promptly on the hour to persons waiting to play.
- In the event that a reservation is concluded early, the next reservation for that court may use the extra time at no charge.
- **Players must register with the paddle supervisor before play. Players must pay for court at that time (if payment is due). The person reserving the court is responsible for the total fee.**
- Players who abuse the reservation system and/or fail to show for reserved times will lose the right to make future court reservations.
- Participants are limited to one hour of play during peak playing times and exceptions to this will be made at the discretion of the paddle supervisor. This particularly applies to weekends and holidays.
- Paddle court heaters are used only to melt snow and/or ice in order to get the courts ready for play and are not available during play.
- Private Instruction - Allowed only through the Parks & Recreation Department. Please check with supervisor for more information.

THE PADDLE COURTS WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving
Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31 - News Year's Eve
Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day

The Darien Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to alter the paddle tennis schedule and hours as needed.