



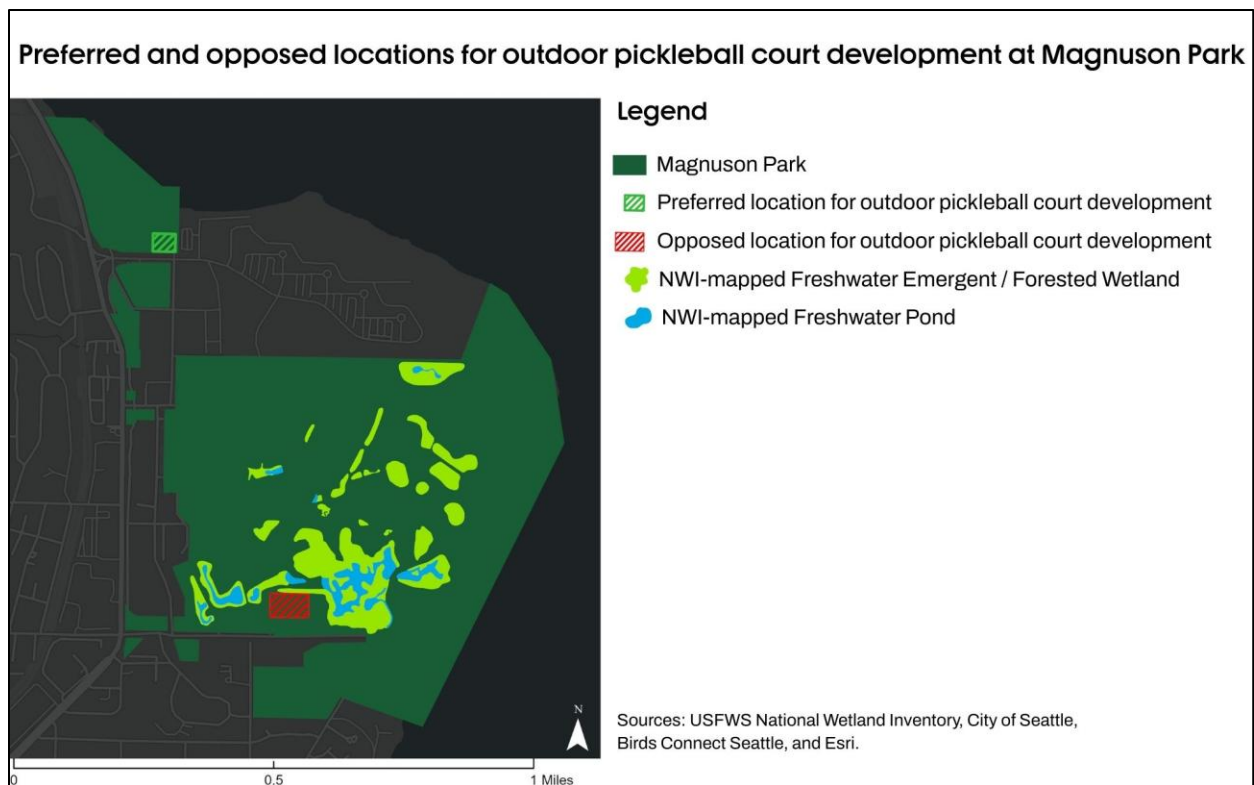
Morteza Behrooz
Sr. Capital Project Coordinator
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Sent via email to Morteza.Behrooz@seattle.gov

September 8, 2025

RE: Preferred Location for Outdoor Pickleball Court Development at Magnuson Park

Morteza Behrooz:

Birds Connect Seattle is an environmental conservation organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing urban habitats for people and birds in the Seattle area. **We are writing to express our preference for developing outdoor pickleball courts at the north end of Magnuson Park rather than the south end.**



Appropriate site selection for outdoor pickleball courts is important for preserving nature access and environmental quality at Magnuson Park. Our organization opposes outdoor pickleball court development at the E5 parking lot of Magnuson Park (hereafter “south location”; red crosshatched area on map) due to the proximity to restored wetlands that were designed to enhance wildlife habitat and provide nature access opportunities for people. The noise and

artificial light at night from an outdoor pickleball facility at this location would negatively impact the wetland ecosystem and diminish the nature experience for human visitors.

These impacts would be significantly reduced if the outdoor pickleball courts were instead developed in the parking lot east of Arena Sports (hereafter “north location”; green crosshatched area on map). This north location offers these clear advantages:

- **Greater distance from sensitive wetland habitats.** The nearest National Wetland Inventory-mapped wetland is more than 2,000 feet away from the north park location. Meanwhile, there are NWI-mapped permanently flooded ponds within 250 feet of the south location and seasonal pools within 150 feet. Developing the pickleball courts at the north location will protect sensitive wetland habitats from increased human-associated noise and artificial light at night.
- **Protects access to nature.** Pickleball courts and their associated noise impacts in the north location will not interfere with park-goers' ability to experience nature in a quiet environment.
- **Closer to essential amenities.** The north location is closer to amenities like bathrooms. There are no public bathrooms near the south location.
- **No tree removal required.** The north location is fully paved and no trees would need to be removed to develop pickleball courts. The south location, however, would require removal of around twenty trees.
- **Reduced residential impact.** The nearest residential structures to the north location are approximately 700 feet away, with the Arena Sports building serving as a sound barrier. The south location has residential structures within 500 feet and lacks sound barriers.

Given the reduced impacts on people and nature, Birds Connect Seattle favors development of outdoor pickleball courts at Magnuson Park in the north location east of Arena Sports and opposes development at the south location near the restored wetlands.

Sincerely,



Joshua Morris
Conservation Director