



Outdoor Courts & Equipment Use Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Villages Recreation & Parks Department's staff and volunteers offers many activities to meet your lifestyle needs. Our efforts are intended to provide you with the most enjoyable experiences and opportunities to participate in and utilize these activities and facilities. The Recreation & Parks Outdoor Court & Equipment Use Guidelines outline the expectations for the Recreation & Parks Department to effectively manage and program these facilities.

HOURS OF USE

All outdoor court facilities are available from 7AM to Dusk*. Dusk is defined as 30 minutes after sunset. All facilities are smoke-free. Due to the number of facilities that need to be opened, times may vary slightly.

**Rio Grande is available 8AM to Dusk*

ACTIVITY RELEASE

A new activity release must be completed at the beginning of each calendar year. Additional releases may be required for various activities and programs.

ID REQUIREMENTS

Please always carry your approved Resident or Guest ID, and photo ID. Only original IDs are accepted at the Recreation Centers.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Boards are located in close proximity to all outdoor facilities. Each board contains emergency information, program scheduling, special events, and league information.

COURT SCHEDULE INFO

The Recreation & Parks Publication lists all outdoor court schedules. This publication should be used as a guide. Recreation bulletin boards and offices have current schedules available.

ATTIRE

Always wear appropriate attire while at the recreation facilities. Court shoes without black soles are required on our tennis, pickleball, and platform tennis courts. Open-toed shoes are not permitted on our bocce and shuffleboard courts. Sunblock and hats are encouraged.



GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION & COURTESY PHONES

Please locate the nearest phone and call **911** for emergencies.

WEATHER POLICY

In the event of lightning or inclement weather, the Recreation & Parks Department recommends patrons at outdoor recreation areas find shelter and wait at least 30 minutes before resuming activities. The Recreation & Parks Department reserves the right to close facilities for public safety in the event of any storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service or Public Safety Department for tornadoes, hurricanes, or other severe storms.

EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Recreation & Parks sponsored programming will be canceled under the following circumstances:

- Outside temperature of 35 degrees or lower
- Outside temperature with a heat index of 104 degrees or higher

Go to Quick Links on District website to sign up for E-notifications for the most up to date information on facility closures or other important info.

DistrictGov.org | 352-674-1800
RecreationDepartment@DistrictGov.org

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EQUIPMENT CHECK-OUT

All Putt & Play putting courses, croquet & lawn bowling equipment are located at the respective recreation center for check out. Only Villages residents are allowed to check out the croquet or lawn bowling equipment, and a valid Resident ID is required. All parties must sign a current year's activity release and the croquet/lawn bowling etiquette/disclaimer sheet.

- **Fenney Recreation (Fenney Putt & Play)**
3200 Fenney Way | 352-674-8460
- **Ezell Recreation (Clifton Cove Putting Course)**
769 Marilee Place | 352-674-1860
- **First Responders Recreation (First Responders Putting Course)**
7246 SE Highway 42 | 352-674-1870
- **Franklin Recreation (Jubilee Putting Course)**
6750 Meggison Road | 352-674-1989

DISCLAIMER

The individual who checks out the equipment is responsible for the proper treatment and timely return of the equipment issued. Returning damaged equipment or causing damage to the facility may result in a fee being assessed to the resident and may result in loss of privileges for future use.

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EQUIPMENT USE GUIDELINES

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is available in the equipment room or inside the center at each facility. Please treat the equipment as if it were your own and return it to its proper place when finished. It is the participants' responsibility to return the equipment. Do not alter, modify, or make marks to any facility, court surface or equipment. Outdoor Courts are available for use provided that such use is consistent with the design of the facility, safety, and weather conditions permitting for outdoor activities. Personal equipment may be used at facilities for which the equipment was designed. Personal items such as chairs, tables, umbrellas, etc. are not permitted.

CHECKED-OUT EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is to be checked out from and returned to inside their respective Recreation Centers:

- **AIR GUN SUPPLIES**
Chula Vista / Rohan / Fenney
- **ARCHERY SUPPLIES**
Paradise / Fenney
- **BEACH TENNIS EQUIPMENT**
Chula Vista / Riverbend / SeaBreeze
Clarendon / First Responders
- **CROQUET EQUIPMENT***
Chula Vista / Fenney / First Responders
- **FISHING RODS**
La Hacienda / Lake Miona / Rohan
Fenney / Everglades / Lake Okahumpka
- **LAWN BOWLING EQUIPMENT***
Chula Vista / Fenney / First Responders
- **PLATFORM TENNIS EQUIPMENT**
SeaBreeze / Eisenhower / Rohan
Everglades / Clarendon / First Responders
- **TRACK & FIELD EQUIPMENT***
Saddlebrook

RECREATION PROGRAMS

LESSONS / INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The Recreation & Parks Department, with assistance from volunteer instructors, provides the opportunity to attend a variety of lessons and instructional programs. Lessons are recommended as the starting point to learn about our activities before joining a league or organized play.

OPEN PLAY

Open Play refers to when the courts are not reserved, during which time they are available on a first come, first served basis. If there is a posted courtesy rule, please observe it to allow fellow residents play opportunity. Check facility schedules posted on bulletin boards or in the Recreation & Parks Publication. Open Play may be converted to scheduled activity time in the future.

IF OTHER PLAYERS ARE WAITING THE FOLLOWING TIME LIMITS APPLY:

- **PICKLEBALL**
Limit of 1 game to 11 points.
- **TENNIS**
Limit games to: Singles: 1 hour 15 minutes;
Doubles: 1 hour 30 minutes.
- **PLATFORM TENNIS**
Limit play to one set.
- **BOCCIE / SHUFFLEBOARD / BASKETBALL HORSESHOES / VOLLEYBALL AND ALL OTHER OUTDOOR COURTS**
Limit of 1 game.

Open Play may be assigned to specific skill levels i.e. Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced.

**Residents & Guests, 19 years or older, with a valid Villages ID can check out equipment*

The Recreation & Parks Department reserves the right to alter and/or modify Outdoor Sports Court schedules at any time to effectively manage the operation of the Outdoor Sports Courts and continue to provide enjoyment, excellent lifestyle programs, and enhancement to the quality of life for all Villagers.

Participation in recreational activities involves some degree of risk. Participants assume full responsibility for, and the risk of, bodily injury arising out of, or in any way connected with, participation or involvement in, or presence at, any activity or program. All participants must fill out the required activity release(s) before joining in on the fun.

For more information about the use of recreation facilities, please visit DistrictGov.org, view the Recreation & Parks Publication or contact your nearest recreation facility manager.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

ORGANIZED PLAY

For those who prefer to play with a group, but cannot commit to participating every week, Organized Play may be arranged. A staff member or volunteer will organize this play and no statistics will be recorded. Sign-ups are not required.

RECREATION SOCIAL LEAGUES

These leagues are for friendly competition for those who can commit to participation for up to 7 weeks. Leagues are organized and run by Recreation & Parks staff, and statistics are recorded on a regular basis. Sign-ups are required. In an effort to keep competition fair and equal, only residents of The Villages 50 years of age and older will be permitted to sign up for leagues.

RECREATION & PARKS SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Recreation & Parks Department sponsors programs that are administered by The Villages resident volunteers in order to provide all residents the opportunity to participate in group activities.

TOURNAMENTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Single or multi-day events are scheduled throughout the year. Registration may be required. In an effort to keep competition fair and equal, only residents of The Villages 50 years of age and older will be permitted to sign up for tournaments unless otherwise noted.

Some activities may require a participation fee.

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SCHEDULING OUTDOOR FACILITIES

AVAILABILITY AND RESERVATION OF COURTS

The Recreation & Parks Department has the responsibility to manage and program the numerous recreation facilities available for your use in your community. To be the best stewards of these facilities, staff members use every effort to provide ample play time for all residents to get the most out of their active lifestyle. The following is a list of detailed information regarding the use of each of the respective courts.

OPEN PLAY

- Pickleball and platform tennis courts are available for Open Play between 7AM – 10AM from October 1 – March 31, Monday – Sunday.
- Between April 1 – September 30 Open Play times may be altered to accommodate other recreation sponsored programming.

SCHEDULING PUTTING & GOLF COURSES

- An individual or group can reserve 9 holes
- A minimum of 18 people is required to reserve a 9 hole course
- Play time is limited to 1 hour and 50 minutes
- Visit respective recreation center to apply
- Groups or individuals are limited to 4 reservations per calendar year

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SCHEDULING OUTDOOR FACILITIES

RECREATION PROGRAMS

- Between October 1 – March 31 programs may be scheduled between the hours of 10AM – 12PM, Monday – Sunday.
- Between April 1 – September 30 programs may start as early as 8AM depending on summer weather conditions. If no recreation program is scheduled between these times, court time will be considered "Open Play".

NEIGHBORHOOD / RESIDENT LIFESTYLE VOLUNTEER GROUPS

- Organized groups wanting to reserve court time must complete an Outdoor Recreation Facility Use Application. These groups are organized by a resident of The Villages who is designated as the point of contact. Types of groups could be an organized neighborhood, players of a similar skill level, or with common interests. *Approved applications are required for use of court time.*

Pickleball courts are available for these groups during the following times:

OCTOBER 1 – MARCH 31

12PM – Dusk Monday – Sunday

APRIL 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

10AM – Dusk Monday – Sunday

If no Neighborhood/Resident Group is utilizing the courts, courts will be available for "Open Play".

LESSONS / INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Recreation & Parks sponsored lessons during the months of April – September may have a start time as early as 8AM. Lessons during the months of October – March will return to the traditional 10AM recreation programming time slot.

SEASONAL WEEKLY USE BOOKINGS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD / RESIDENT GROUPS

Outdoor Recreation Facility Use Applications will be accepted, reviewed and issued for Fall/Winter & Spring/Summer sessions as follows:

FALL / WINTER

Oct 1 – Mar 31

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Aug 15 – 31

APPLICATION REVIEW

Sep 1 – 16

FACILITY USE CONTRACTS ISSUED BY

Sep 19

SPRING / SUMMER

Apr 1 – Sep 30

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Feb 15 – 28

APPLICATION REVIEW

Mar 1 – 11

FACILITY USE CONTRACTS ISSUED BY

Mar 21



SCHEDULING OUTDOOR FACILITIES

FACILITY USE CONTRACT

- Applications must be submitted for review by Recreation & Parks staff, and contracts will be issued based on current needs of the recreation facility.
- When conflicts arise, the Recreation & Parks staff will use every effort to resolve the conflict and provide alternatives.
- Facility Use Contracts issued mid-season will only be approved through the end of the current season.
- Mid-season contracts will be issued 2 weeks after approval of submitted applications.
- Start times will be scheduled on the hour, and end times scheduled for 10 minutes prior to the end of the hour.
- Groups will be assigned courts based on group size for any facility.
- Courts not being used by a Neighborhood/Resident Group will be made available for individuals to use for Open Play.
- Neighborhood/Resident Groups are limited to two (2) 1 hour and 50 minute time slots per week throughout The Villages. Using a different name for the group does not entitle additional slots.

RESERVATION REQUESTS FOR ONE-TIME USE

- Applications may not be submitted more than one month in advance and no later than one week before the requested time.
- Requests may only be made for dates within the current season.
- Granted based on availability.
- One-time reservations will not appear in the Recreation & Parks Publication.
- One-time reservations may only take place 12PM – Dusk, Monday – Sunday
- Requests for use of the following facilities will be reviewed as applications are submitted. Scheduling of these facilities will be determined by need as well as providing an opportunity for all types of play:



Air Gun



Archery



Basketball



Bocce



Corn Toss



Croquet



Electronic Gaming



Horseshoe



Lawn Bowling



Pétanque



Pickleball



Platform Tennis



Putting



Quoits



Shuffleboard



Sand Courts



Tennis



Volleyball