



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Estella Espinosa

Work: (832) 395-7022

Cell: (832) 465-4782

MEMORIAL PARK TO HOST CITY OF HOUSTON'S FIRST EVER NATIONAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Tournament arrives as Pickleball court locations in Houston rise

Memorial Park (1500 E. Memorial Loop Drive) will host the City of Houston's first ever national Pickleball Tournament beginning **October 19-23, 2022**. The **APP Sunmed Houston Open** is a team effort led by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Councilmember Abbie Kamin, the Greater Houston Pickleball Association, and the Houston Pickleball Association. It will bring to town the world's best pickleball players to compete in pro, senior pro, and amateur divisions.

"Pickleball is booming in popularity nationwide, including here in Houston," said Kenneth Allen, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "The citizens of Houston have asked us to build more Pickleball courts, and thanks to Council Member Abbie Kamin and my dedicated staff in the Parks and Recreation Department, more places to play are on the way."

Pickleball combines elements of tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. It is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, with an estimated 4.8 million players nationwide, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. There are an estimated 10-thousand players in the Houston area, according to the Houston Pickleball Association.

"It's really exciting. This is going to be the first professional Pickleball Tournament to come to Houston," said Councilmember Abbie Kamin, City Council District C. "It was a team effort to bring this tournament here. Thank you to our local Pickleball organizations and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for helping to bring another high-profile event to the City of Houston."

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department currently has 11 outdoor and 17 indoor dual courts available for Pickleball play. For more information on locations and hours, visit the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's website at www.houstonparks.org. For more information on the **APP Sunmed Houston Open**, including tickets, visit www.apptour.org. Tickets will also be available at the event gate.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages 382 parks and over 39,501 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all ages and abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.