

**2025 Annual Town Meeting
Article 24
Appropriate for Action Sports Park & Pickleball Courts Design
Frequently Asked Questions**



1. What is the history of this project?

The Park and Recreation Commission had received numerous requests from residents for additional amenities to be added to the Town. The 2023 Annual Town Meeting approved \$35,000 to fund an Action Sports Park Feasibility Study to investigate options for an action sports complex and pickleball courts. The Park and Recreation Department engaged CHA Solutions to conduct the feasibility study and identify the best location for an action park and pickleball courts. In October of 2024, Claxton Field was chosen.

2. Why an action sports park and pickleball courts?

Needham has never had a skate park and does not have dedicated pickleball courts. After much public inquiry and public outreach, the Park and Recreation Department decided to move forward with these two types of recreational facilities.

3. Where are the proposed locations for the action sports park and pickleball courts?

The skate park is proposed to be located in and around the Claxton Quarry. The pickleball courts are proposed to be located adjacent to the parking lot along Central Avenue.

4. How will this project intersect with the ongoing Claxton project?

The current Claxton project is scheduled to be completed Summer of 2025 and this project, if funded, will just be starting design so there will not be an overlap.

5. What other locations were evaluated?

The Town and CHA also evaluated Mills Field, Cricket Field, and the Hillside School Field.

6. Will noise and parking concerns be taken into consideration?

The project will include installation of additional parking. The design and engineering phase will include a sound study and work with respect to protection of nearby wetlands.

7. How much is construction estimated to cost? And when?

The current construction estimate is \$3 million, but without a design, that estimate is subject to adjustment. The Park and Recreation Department anticipates applying for construction funding at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting. The design costs are slightly increased due to the specialized nature of skate parks and the limited availability of designers for this type of project.

8. Will any of the areas currently included for the project overlap with the DEP mitigation site at Claxton?

Yes. The Town completed work during the Claxton Field and DEP project to prepare the site for the potential of a pickleball court, including removing all irrigation and tree replantings from the anticipated footprint of the courts and installing a structural base under the liner. The installation of future pickleball courts should not require disturbing the liner.