



**DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW – DECEMBER 1, 2021**

## **Recreation Acquisition & Development Grant Program 2022 Grant Application for Recreation Development Grants**

**Please see the 2022 Grant Instruction Sheet and enter the information in the spaces provided**

### **PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **Municipality:** Little Compton
2. **Project Name:** Town Tennis Courts Renovation and Lighting
3. **Address of property to be developed:** 15 Meeting House Lane
4. **Map and Lot:** I will look up
5. **Grant Category:** Check one below:  
 Small Recreation Development Projects up to \$100,000 (20% match)  
 Large Recreation Development Projects \$100,001 to \$400,000 (20% match)  
Has a separate application for an associated acquisition project been submitted?  
Yes  No
6. **Grant Amount Requested:** \$150,000
7. **Does the Municipality own the property?** Yes  No
8. **Authorized Government Official Name & Email:** Antonio Teixeira, Town Administrator,  
[tteixeira@littlecomptonri.org](mailto:tteixeira@littlecomptonri.org)
9. **Name of Contact:** Patrick McHugh
10. **Title of Contact:** Town Council Member, Liaison to the Recreation Committee
11. **Email of Contact:** patrick.mchugh@cox.net
12. **Telephone: of Contact:** 4016838463
13. **Address of Contact:** 231 John Dyer Road, Little Compton, RI 02837
14. **Municipal FEIN #:** 05-6000225
15. **Project Target Dates: Start:** May 2022 **Finish:** July 2022

**16. Project Summary: (Please be concise. Clearly state the problem, how the project will address the problem, how the budget will support the project and what the feasibility is for project completion.)**

We request funds to improve the Little Compton Town Tennis Courts located in the town recreational complex. Improvements will include:

1. The installation of lighting to extend the hours that the courts may be used by the public as well as the safety of those using the courts and the adjacent recreational facilities.
2. The installation of an improved drainage system and the construction of a new playing surface to better address the courts' challenging environmental conditions and the dramatically increased usage the courts have seen in the last five years.
3. Lining the new surface to include two tennis courts and four Pickle Ball courts, thus doubling the number of Pickle Ball courts available.
4. Install picnic tables (including an ADA compliant picnic table), court benches, and a bike rack near the court to encourage use of the recreational complex, to increase the comfort and enjoyment of all users, and to encourage bike riding in the community.
5. Improve access to the courts by placing tennis and Pickle Ball equipment kits for loan at the Brownell Library and by adding a page to the town's website to better convey the courts' expanded hours and the calendar of scheduled use by organized groups and the school.

The town tennis courts are currently the most used facility in the Little Compton town recreational complex. The complex is adjacent to the town commons and is our community's primary recreational resource. It is becoming increasingly challenging for individual residents and visitors, public school physical education classes, tennis group members, and now Pickle Ball group members to find open court times.

Popular for decades, tennis continues to serve a growing audience in Little Compton. The two town courts are the only public facilities in the community. They are adjacent to the school playing fields and are also used by our K-8 physical education students. In recent years the Pickle Ball craze has taken hold in Little Compton providing a new exercise option enjoyed by many, and ideal for older athletes or anyone for whom tennis is too physically strenuous. We currently have three public Pickle Ball groups competing for space in the courts with our local tennis group, physical education students, and members of the general public. The groups are gracious and cooperative regarding the scheduling of the courts, but currently are not able to play as often or as long as they would like. There is no fee for anyone to use the courts.

The two tennis courts were greatly improved in 2016 with new fencing, new drainage, and a new surface. Despite a strong maintenance record, the surface that was supposed to last approximately seven years is now badly in need of replacement after only five years because of wet environmental conditions and much higher than predicted usage. The courts' cracks and low spots are a hazard to the players. A simple resurfacing will not be sufficient because better drainage is required to minimize cracking and heaving in the future. This proposed project will remove the old surface, improve the drainage system, install a new surface, and line the surface for both tennis and Pickle Ball, doubling the number of Pickle Ball courts from the two we have currently to four.

Lighting the courts will greatly extend the hours they can be used and as a result will accommodate more players. Lighted courts will allow players to exercise more comfortably and safely in the cool of a summer evening, will better accommodate our working residents who are not able to play in the

daytime, and will provide an improved measure of security for all. The portion of the town's figure eight walking trails closest to the courts will also benefit from the proposed lighting as will the proposed picnic tables. We will install four downward facing lights on a timer activated by the players to minimize light pollution and to be as environmentally sensitive as possible. The tennis courts are adjacent to the Dunderly Brook Trail wetlands and boardwalk.

We also plan to install benches within the courts for the safety and comfort of players, two picnic tables, one of which will be ADA compliant, near the courts in a naturally shaded area, and a bike rack that will serve the entire recreational complex and encourage residents and visitors to ride their bikes to the recreational complex.

**17. Please list the new facilities that will be developed and/or the existing facilities that will be renovated for the proposed Recreation Development project. Expand the table as needed.**

	<b>Proposed Scope of Work (Include number of items, square footage, dimensions, etc.)</b>	<b>New facility or existing facility to be renovated?</b>	<b>Is the new or renovated facility replacing an existing recreational resource? If yes, provide the rationale for eliminating the existing resource.</b>	<b>Timeline (Start &amp; Finish)</b>
1	Remove existing tennis court surface and install French drains to improve drainage	Existing Courts	The previous drainage plan was not sufficient for the current environmental conditions.	May 2022
2	Install new surface for multi-purpose courts including two tennis courts and four Pickle Ball Courts	Existing Courts	The existing court surface is becoming unsafe and is beyond what simple maintenance and annual repairs can fix.	May 2022
3	Light the courts with four downward shining lights with a player activated timer	Existing Courts	The current courts are unlit and therefore cannot be used after sunset.	June 2022
4	Install two picnic tables	New	New feature near existing courts.	June 2022

5	Install two benches	Existing Courts	There is no place to sit in the courts.	June 2022
6	Install one bike rack	New	New feature near existing courts and parking area. Will serve the entire recreational complex.	June 2022
7	Update the town's website with the latest information regarding the courts' operating hours and scheduled use by recreational groups and the school.	Existing Courts	Better sharing of information regarding the town's recreational facilities will directly benefit the public.	June 2022
8	Place tennis and Pickle Ball equipment kits for kids and adults on loan at the Brownell Library which is located approximately ¼ mile from the courts.	Existing Courts	Access to free equipment makes access to tennis and Pickle Ball more accessible to all.	June 2022

**18. Site Maintenance History for any proposed renovations:**

**Document below how any existing facility(s) proposed for renovation in Question #17 has been maintained consistent with industry standards. Expand the table as needed.**

<b>Approximate Date or Annual Schedule or Frequency</b>	<b>Maintenance performed on proposed renovation</b>
8/31/2016	Court surface replaced over new drainage system. Predicted to last seven years. Is in need of replacement and better drainage after five years.
8/13/2019	Crack sealing and line striping. Lining for two Pickle Ball courts. \$1,210
10/27/2020	Surface wash, crack repairs, Line striping for two Pickle Ball courts. \$2,750
10/6/2021	Crack repairs. \$2,975

**19. Public Participation Requirement:**

Hold at least one public meeting or hearing with proper public notice no more than 6 months prior to grant submission.

- **Enter date(s) of public meeting or hearing:** December 2, 2021
- **Is a copy of the agenda and meeting/hearing minutes attached?** Yes  No

**20. Municipal Approval Requirement:**

Hold at least one meeting of the City/Town Council with proper public to authorize the submission of the grant application and the municipality's matching contribution. Submit documentation such as an official City/Town Council letter, meeting minutes or a resolution.

- **Enter date(s) of City/Town council meeting:** December 2, 2021
- **Is a copy of a resolution or meeting minutes attached?** Yes  No

**21. Fees:**

**Are fees currently charged or proposed for this facility?** Yes  No

If yes, are fees in compliance with the Fee Policy? (See Instructions) Yes  No

Is a copy of the fee schedule attached? Yes  No

If not in compliance, explain here: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**22. Permit Requirements:**

**Please list all anticipated state permits required for the project and their application status (including date to be submitted/date submitted, file #, pending/approved):**

No permits are anticipated.

**23. By checking the box below, the person filling out this application certifies that he or she is authorized to sign this application on behalf of the applicant/municipality and, if awarded a grant, the municipality will comply with the following program requirements:**

- **Diligently manage and execute the grant to complete the project to the specifications described in this application within the project period and budget.**
- **Operate and properly maintain all public-use facilities developed pursuant to the project.**
- **Not discriminate in the availability and usage of any public facilities developed pursuant to the project.**
- **Record a Notice of Grant Agreement on the project land area that permanently restricts it to outdoor recreational use.**

Name and Title of Authorized Governmental Official: Antonio Teixeira, Town Administrator

Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)

## **PART B: PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM QUESTIONS FOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**Be concise. If you are referencing reports and documents that are available on the internet, provide links to access them instead of copying the full report in the application or as an attachment.**

### **1. Relationship to Need (10 Points):**

**Points will be awarded based on the need and/or demand for the proposed recreational activity in the area.**

The demand for time on the Town Tennis Courts from the public tennis group, three public Pickle Ball groups, the public K-12 elementary school, and individual town residents and visitors greatly exceeds its capacity at the moment. This proposal will double the number of Pickle Ball courts available. It will also greatly increase the time the courts can be used because of the lighting to be installed. Not only will the courts be usable for longer periods of time each day, using the courts will also be possible earlier in the spring, later in the fall, and even on mild days in the winter when daylight hours are short. Currently the court surface has cracks and dips that are hazards to the players. Replacing the surface of the court will provide a safer environment for all and improving the drainage to meet the increasingly wet environmental conditions will extend the life of this new surface.

The final phase of this project will be to update the town's website with the latest court usage schedule and available hours to make it as easy as possible for everyone to enjoy the improved courts and their expanded hours.

### **2. State Planning Consistency (10 Points):**

**The project satisfies priority needs documented in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and any other State Guide Plan elements identified as applicable by the RRRRC. Points will be awarded based on the number and/or importance of recommended actions supported by the proposal.**

In both large and small ways this project meets all four of the State's goals for outdoor recreation as outlined in Part Three of *Ocean State Outdoors, State Guide Plan Element 152*, page 27. It also directly meets seven out of the eight Critical Needs and Issues for outdoor recreation in the state, also described on page 27. References to the Critical Needs are in bold below.

**Goal 1** – Invest in new and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation.

1. The town of Little Compton has been investing heavily in its outdoor recreational resources for the last decade, and with this application proposes a major investment in its tennis courts.
2. The **Health and Wellness** of our residents will be supported by providing a safer playing environment, more hours of play, and by including Pickle Ball, a game that encourages all residents, but especially elderly residents or those with limited mobility to take part in outdoor recreation. **Access, Equity, Age-Friendly Programming**

3. Adding lights to increase the hours of use of the courts and to make them more accessible to working people and to provide increased comfort levels and safety to all.  
**Access & Equity**

**Goal 2** – Strengthen expand and promote the statewide recreation network while protecting natural and cultural resources as well as adapting to a changing environment.

1. Improving the courts' drainage system to address current issues and keep ahead of stormwater and groundwater issues predicted due to **Climate Change**.
2. Exist in harmony with the natural resources of the Dunderly Brook Trail, the open recreation space in the center of town, and the historic and cultural resources of the Little Compton Town Commons. Because the selected lights are downward facing and on a timer, they will have the smallest possible impact on local wildlife and the overall appearance of the commons. The improved drainage will also benefit the surrounding natural areas by eliminating pools of water. **Habitat & Conservation, Collaboration**
3. Reaffirm the town's commitment to keep this area for recreational use in perpetuity.

**Goal 3** Ensure sustainable operation maintenance and management of the statewide outdoor recreation network.

1. Improving the drainage system will extend the life of the playing surface and make future annual maintenance more affordable and sustainable.
2. The town already **collaborates** with and will continue to work with at least four organized groups that use the tennis/Pickle Ball courts. These groups have been excellent about stewarding the courts. They play an important role in the court's daily upkeep, equipment change-overs, and small repairs. The town encourages the empowerment of those using the courts to help maintain the courts and manage their scheduling in ways that best meet the community's needs.

**Goal 4** Improve access by removing barriers and enhancing information and communication systems.

1. The Brownell Library already lends Pickle Ball equipment to residents and visitors. As part of this project the town will purchase and supply the library with tennis equipment for children and adults and additional Pickle Ball equipment to enable people of all ages and income levels to access the court facilities and enjoy increased outdoor recreation.  
**Access, Equity, Youth Opportunities**
2. The Town will expand its efforts to communicate the availability of the courts, the availability of loaner equipment at the nearby Brownell Library, and the standards of behavior required while on the courts by improving signage at the entrance to the courts and by creating a new page on its website dedicated to announcing up to date information on the courts regarding their hours of operation, rules of use, and the coordinated schedule for four organized groups and the school currently using the courts. **Collaboration, Access, Equity, Tourism, Youth Opportunities**
3. By doubling the number of Pickle Ball Courts available this project increases access to facilities for all people, but especially for the elderly and those with limited mobility.  
**Access & Equity**
4. The new lighting also increases access for anyone unable to play during daylight hours due to work or heat or light intolerance issues. **Access & Equity**

**3. Relationship to Community Planning (5 Points):**

**The project advances elements of a larger community planning process.**

This project directly addresses the greatest current need and priority for town recreation as determined by the Little Compton Recreational Committee and described in their long range recreation plan. This project is also in keeping with the town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town Tennis Courts are a key component of the town's centrally located recreational complex.

**4. Applicant Priority (0-5 Points):**

**The applicant's highest priority application will receive 5 points, the applicant's second highest priority application will receive 3 points, and the applicant's third highest priority application will receive 1 point. All other applications will receive 0 points.**

This is the Town of Little Compton's highest priority application.

**5. Multi- community or Regional Needs (3 Points):**

**The project demonstrates how it will address multi- community or regional needs.**

Improved town tennis and Pickle Ball courts will benefit our school-age population, four known athletic groups made up of adults ranging in age from 40-90, as well as the general public. Some members of the tennis and Pickle Ball groups come from neighboring communities. When not scheduled for use by an organized group or the local school, the courts are open to all and serve Little Compton's year-round residents, summer-residents, and visitors of all ages.

**6. Economic Revitalization (5 Points):**

**The project will improve the economy of an area. Examples can include projects that spur local business activity, tourism, job creation, town center redevelopment, etc.**

Because the courts are located in the center of town, they drive business to the restaurants and shops operating there, whether it be lunch at A-1 Pizza, a bottle of water at Wilbur's Store, or a post-game ice cream at Trolley Stop Ice Cream. At least five different nearby businesses have the potential to benefit from people using the nearby courts. The Town Commons is also a major tourist center for Little Compton. Anyone using the courts, especially people from out of town would enjoy the historic architecture of the Commons, the historic Old Burying Ground, and the handicapped accessible boardwalk of the Dunderly Brook Nature Trail.

**7. Historic & Cultural Preservation (5 Points):**

**Projects that protect and restore historic and cultural resources, educate the public about the importance of these resources via interpretive signage, etc.**

This project continues the local tradition of using Veteran's Field and Peckham Lot for public recreation adjacent to the historic town commons.



**8. Habitat Creation & Restoration (5 Points):**

**Projects that create and/or substantially restore areas of wildlife habitat.**

This project works to protect the wildlife habitat of Dunderly Brook in two ways: first, by installing timer-controlled downward shining lights that minimize light pollution, and second by improving drainage in the area to prevent unnatural water pooling.

**9. Brownfield Redevelopment (3 Points):**

**The project involves the redevelopment of a brownfield as defined by DEM Remediation Regulations.**

N/A

**10. Connectivity (3 Points):**

**The project creates a connection between two existing recreational resources or from a population center to a recreational resource.**

The town tennis courts are located at the nexus of the town's figure-eight walking trail that in turn loops around the other features of Little Compton's centrally located recreational complex. It is also adjacent to the entrance to the Dunderly Brook Nature Trail. Each of the town's recreational facilities in the complex shares the parking area, the handicapped parking, the paved walkways, and other facilities like existing trash cans and benches. The picnic tables and bike rack to be installed as part of this project will benefit users in the whole complex. The lighting of the tennis court will also light portions of the figure-eight walking trail as well as the new picnic area.

**11. Maintenance (0 to -5 Points)**

**The applicant has documented that the facility proposed for renovation has been maintained consistent with industry standards.**

The Little Compton Recreation Committee has seen to it that the tennis courts have been maintained regularly by industry professionals since the surface was replaced in 2016. Please see the list of dates of service in the Site Maintenance section above.

**12. Equity, Service, and Accessibility (15 Points – 5 Points Each for A, B & C):**

**The project will expand the recreational opportunities available to disadvantaged segments of the population.**

**A) The project is located within or provides enhanced service to neighborhoods in which low income and/or minority residents are over-represented. (5 Points):**

Because the project is located in the center of town, a relatively nonresidential area, it has the potential to serve everyone in the community equally regardless of income or race.

**B) The project is in a densely populated neighborhood or a neighborhood identified for revitalization by State or community programs. (5 Points):**

N/A

**C) The project is served by public transportation (within ¼ mile of a bus stop) or is proximate to a bikeway. (5 Points):**

The total lack of public transportation in Little Compton is a challenge with no solution in site. At the very least, elementary, middle school, and high school students can use the public school bus system to access the recreational complex on school days and enjoy its facilities after school. There is also a Senior Bus operated collaboratively by the town and a non-profit organization that before COVID picked up seniors and drove them to the Senior Dining Center on the Commons which is within ¼ mile of the town recreational complex.

**13. Expanded Usage (7 Points):**

**The project adds to the number of recreational amenities or hours of usage (e.g. additional fields are added to a facility or lights are added so it can be used at night).**

This project doubles the number of lined Pickle Ball courts from two to four. It also adds lights to the courts for the first time increasing the number of hours the courts can be used as well as the length of the season in which the courts can be used. Working people will greatly benefit from the addition of lights to the courts because they will be better able to use the facilities after work in the evenings. The town recently added lights to the town basketball courts resulting in an immediate positive reaction from local residents and greatly increased use of the courts.

**14. Multiple Uses (5 Points):**

**The project appropriately integrates a variety of recreational opportunities providing activities for a mix of age groups and degrees of physical abilities.**

By altering the existing tennis courts to also include Pickle Ball courts this project expands the types of activities people of all ages can enjoy on the town courts. Pickle Ball is a newly popular, slower paced, less strenuous activity than tennis. It allows a much wider range of people of differing ages and abilities to enjoy the town courts, exercise, and socialize.

**15. Improved User Comfort or Safety (5 Points):**

**The project provides for the addition of bathrooms, fencing to separate recreational activities, benches, shade trees, shelters over picnic tables, etc.**

This project will add benches within the fencing of the courts themselves to enable players to rest between matches, wait their turn, or sit comfortably to change shoes etc. We will also add picnic tables in a tree shaded area near the entrance to the courts. One of the picnic tables will be ADA compliant and adjacent to the paved walkways. The new lighting will help light the picnic area. The lighting will also add to the safety of any players using the courts after dark and walking to and from the parking area.

**16. Opportunities for physically or mentally challenged individuals (5 Points):**

**The project provides activity or amenity features that expand the recreational opportunities for physically or mentally challenged individuals (such features to be in excess of normally mandated barrier-free accessibility standards).**

Pickle Ball is a relatively new sport being enjoyed by people with varying abilities.

**17. Green Building and Site Design (3 Points):**

**The project incorporates green building and site design/LEED/SITES features (water or energy conservation, recycled materials, provisions for renewable energy, etc.)**

NA

**18. Climate Change and Resiliency (3 Points):**

**The project incorporates innovative ways to account for impacts associated with climate change such as site/landscape construction to provide adaptations for sea level rise, shade, storm buffers, stormwater infiltration, etc.**

The new drainage system will protect the courts and the surrounding areas at times of stormwater infiltration and in the event of rising groundwater levels.

**19. Exceptional Features (3 Points):**

**The project has special features not noted elsewhere in the application. For example, promotes arts, supports healthy aging, special programming, includes acquisition of land, etc.**

This project promotes healthy aging within our community by providing opportunities for both tennis, a sport enjoyed by many older people, and Pickle Ball, a less strenuous sport that is widely popular among older adults. The groups that have formed to play these sports provide social opportunities and supportive relationships for our aging residents.

**BUDGET SHEET FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Note: Double click on the table below to open it and enter information, then click outside the table to close it.

Equipment for library loan program	\$500.00				\$500.00	
Bike Rack	\$500.00				\$500.00	
Installation	\$600.00			\$600.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Signage:</i>						
Signs and installation	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Other: (Lighting, electrical, etc.)</i>						
New Court Lighting	\$49,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$191,250.00</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,400.00</b>	<b>\$8,450.00</b>	<b>\$4,400.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<i>20% Minimum Match Required for DEM Grant* (H)</i>	\$38,250.00				
	<i>Total Proposed Match from Columns C - F Above (I)</i>	\$38,250.00				
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$191,250.00</b>					
*20% Minimum Match Calculation: (grant amount ÷ 0.8) – grant amount - Minimum Required Match						

