

To: City of Gearhart Planning Commission  
From: Garrett Phillips  
Date: July 8, 2025  
Subject: Approaches to Regulating Pickleball to Minimize Noise Impacts on Residential Areas

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This memo responds to the Planning Commission's June 2025 discussion on alternative approaches to address pickleball noise in residential areas. We previously identified three potential approaches to limiting pickleball noise in residential areas:

- 1) Nuisance noise approach
- 2) Time manner and place restrictions outside of the zoning code
- 3) Zoning based restrictions

The City Administrator may have previously indicated that a nuisance noise ordinance based approach is not considered viable in Gearhart, so we did not review examples of other communities that use that approach, however examples are available upon request.

We could not find any examples of communities that regulate private residential pickleball play through time, manner, and place restrictions outside of zoning ordinances.

In terms of zoning based approaches, we did not identify any examples of communities that completely prohibit pickleball courts in one or more residential zones, though they may very well exist and we just have not found them. We did find two examples with reference documents that represent a zoning based approach. These examples include restrictions based on hours, lot size, setbacks, and noise level, and lighting.

Below are examples of two zoning based approaches and links to sources.

City	Hours of Play	Setbacks	Lot Size	Unique Elements	More Information
Centennial, CO	8 AM– 8 PM	Prohibited within 250 ft; permits required if 250–600 ft from residence	N/A	Noise limit $\leq 47$ dB at property line	<a href="#">Ordinance</a>
Park City, UT	8 AM– 8 PM	$\geq 600$ ft (can reduce to	$\geq 1$ acre	No artificial lighting; must comply with noise	<a href="#">Decision Packet (See PDF page 310 and</a>

150 ft with  
noise study)

ordinance; CUP required [following pages](#))

**Next Steps**

Potential next steps include asking staff to answer more specific questions about pickle ball noise, describe these examples in more detail, find other examples, or examine examples provided by the public or planning commission to continue generating ideas.