



History of the RCC/AMN Pickleball Program:

- Feb 2017 pickleball started at RCC
- April 2017 Donna became the USA PB Assoc Ambassador for Lake City and added Lake City to their Places 2 Play website. Now anyone looking for pickleball in our area could find us.
- May 2017 Our First Ever Pickleball one day tournament
- June 2017 scholarship money was raised for the summer camp
- Summer 2017 pickleball was introduced to Hopeful Baptist Church
- July 2017 a website was created
- August 2017 our 2nd tournament was advertised on 2 National websites
- October 2017 we officially became a 501c3 program under RCCAMN
- January 2018 Winter Blast 3-day Pickleball tournament fund raiser for outdoor pickleball courts and the RCC/AMN STEM program
- From Feb 2017 to today we expanded from 12 players to 80 and increased our playing time from 2 hours once a week to a total of 18 hours in 2 locations
- Just this past Sunday, we had 30 players playing on 3 courts at RCC

Outdoor Courts

- Our program is at or near capacity and we are not actively seeking new players until we have outdoor courts to provide more playing options.
- We need outdoor courts and evening hours that will attract young people and working adults.
- You can inexpensively add lines to one tennis court and instantly have 4 pickleball courts with just the addition of 4 portable nets.
- Gainesville Pickleball has proven that pickleball and tennis can "share" the court, with both getting ample playing time.
- In Naples, the US Open Pickleball Championships with 48 courts, 2047 players from 17 countries, and 47 states. The youngest player was 10 and the oldest was 91.
- Griffin, GA, a city of 23,000 people recently completed construction of 18 pickleball courts in 2017 and have already hosted 4 major tournaments.

The Lake City / Columbia County Pickleball players want to express our sincere thanks to Columbia County for helping us grow and the foresight to add 4 pickleball courts to the RCC project. But, we are just getting started. We would appreciate it, if you would continue to keep us in mind when you develop any new recreation areas.