

Pickleball Noise Mitigation Case Study: City of Bozeman

Background

At Bozeman’s Bogert Park, rising pickleball demand had collided with growing resident complaints –until the city partnered on a science-based solution. In 2025, SLNCR NanoBaffle™ sound panels were installed along multiple fence lines, followed by an independent professional sound study. The results were clear: average noise levels at nearby homes dropped substantially, with the panels delivering measurable attenuation of the disruptive pickleball “pop.” By combining reduced court hours, security enforcement, with proven acoustic technology, Bozeman transformed its most contentious courts into a model for balancing recreation and neighborhood livability.

Assessment Scope

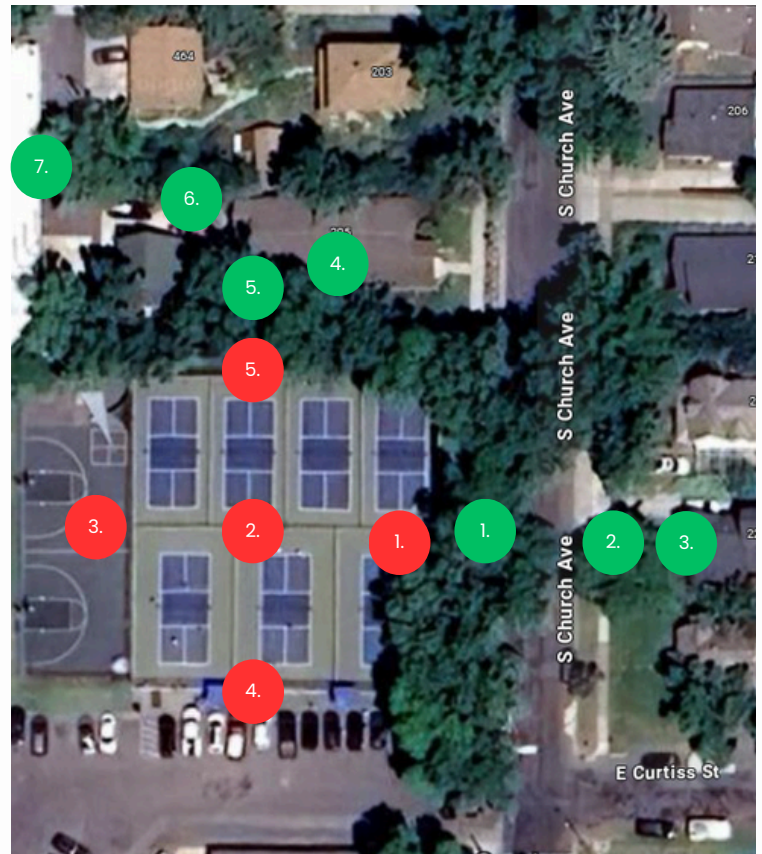
Readings were taken at multiple locations. Duration of readings lasted 2–5 minutes each. Source noise occurred on court, during play post baffling installation. Assessment was conducted by James Black, Professor of Acoustics at Montana State University.

Noise Sources

Location ID	LAeq (dB)	LAFmax (dB)
1	66.4	79.7
2	64.9	79.5
3	68.6	87.0
4	68.9	84.3
5	70.9	87.8
Average	67.8	83.66

Receivers

Location ID	LAeq (dB)	LAFmax (dB)
1	53.6	60.6
2	52.2	57.8
3	51.8	59.2
4	60.4	64.4
5	61.1	71.6
6	60.7	65.4
7	62.6	69.7
Average	57.48	64.10



Locations of sources and receivers marked on map. Points correlate with data tables

Results

Average noise levels (LAeq) were reduced by over 10 dB, effectively halving the perceived loudness. The peak sound intensity (LAFmax) saw a substantial reduction of nearly 20 dB.