

## Tennis and Pickleball Strategy

<b>Date:</b>	January 4, 2022
<b>Department, GM:</b>	Community Services, Ron Higo
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Julie Pavey-Tomlinson
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Robbie Nall
<b>Project Origin:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Council Motion #[Council Motion] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Initiated <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Strategic Priority Area:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional Service <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy City <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Evolution
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Objective and Action 3.3 - Encourage lifelong healthy and active living.
<b>Proposed Priority</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 3

Project Description
Develop a city-wide Tennis and Pickleball Strategy that considers changing user needs and community feedback. Staff will report back to Council on location options for pickleball courts.

Relevant Background
<p>Pickleball is a growing sport, with opportunities to play currently available at the Recreation Centre via registered programs and drop-in, while a handful of outdoor community courts provide users with drop-in services. Recent growth in the sport has placed pressure on staff to consider new opportunities to include options for pickleball courts, which typically coexist on tennis courts, albeit with different zone lines.</p> <p>In 2015, when the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was generated, tennis seemed to be on the decline, with pickleball not included specifically for outdoor courts as it was initially taking off indoors. More recently however, tennis has been on an upswing, with increased use of all the courts and there has been public demand for outdoor courts for both tennis and pickleball, necessitating a review of both sports, options for how the City can respond to changing user needs, and to solicit community feedback on how they uniquely impact the neighborhoods in which the courts are situated.</p> <p>In the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2015), pickleball was identified as a sport of interest within the City of Port Moody, particularly for seniors, who actively seek out activities that are physically accessible with added social benefits. While included in a general list of popular activities with a usage rate of 38%, pickleball was also identified as important to the Active Living Fitness (55+) program. However, it scored a sample mean of 3.62/5.00 for satisfaction rating for program and facility availability. Tennis scored slightly higher at 3.78/5.00 on the same satisfaction</p>

rating. Both ratings indicate that improvements can be made to program offerings and facility availability.

As a result from the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased volume of users at all outdoor parks and recreation facilities and a higher awareness of personal health and wellbeing. Most recently, tennis has experienced renewed levels of participation, generating additional requests for upgrades to existing courts. Simultaneously, pickleball has piqued the interest and become a rapidly growing sport, with several pickleball players and the recently formed POCOMO Pickleball Club approaching the City with requests for more court space, pickleball markings and a more robust registration system. Staff made steps to reconcile the needs and interests of both user groups by including pickleball lines at Chestnut Way Park as part of an overall capital improvement project to resurface and paint the existing tennis courts, which presented an opportunity to address growing demand for pickleball courts and to diversify the sporting experience at the park in keeping with recommendations to repurpose courts for their highest and best use.

In recent months combined with the increased popularity of pickleball within the City, Staff have received community feedback of noise complaints and challenges in the court sharing between various user groups. Further investigation is necessary to determine the best approach to supporting user needs for tennis and pickleball.

In response to a community delegation, on April 20, 2021, Council passed the following motions:

THAT staff be directed to remove the Pickleball lines at Chestnut Way Park, re-designate these tennis courts for tennis only, and include Pickleball on the prohibited activities list on the tennis court signage;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back on alternative locations for Pickleball in Port Moody, including North Shore Community Park.

THAT staff be directed to conduct community consultation prior to changes to neighbourhood parks and amenity spaces.

Staff have already initiated some preliminary work to inventory existing infrastructure and are reviewing potential considerations to address user needs as the need to assess tennis and pickleball was included in the approved work plan for the Parks And Recreation Commission as an emerging topic. Staff have reached out to other municipalities and are reviewing a recent guidance document provided by Tennis BC and Pickleball BC (February 2021).

**Official Community Plan (OCP) Policies:**

- The full range of recreational needs of the community will be met through a combination of approaches, including providing parks (for both active and passive recreational uses), public sports facilities, and the provision of recreational, cultural and environmental programs.
- The City will continue to support sustainable initiatives to increase the overall fitness level of every resident of the community.

- The City will continue to modify and add park amenities as community needs change.

#### **Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2015) - Key Recommendations**

- Provide more support to sport users groups in terms of building their sports
- Evaluate public use of outdoor courts and consider repurposing for highest and best use
- Consider an outdoor fitness area suitable for seniors and other age groups near the Recreation Centre complex.

#### **Project Objectives**

- To develop a city-wide Tennis and Pickleball strategy
- To develop a public consultation plan for gathering feedback on proposed pickleball court locations
- To report back to Council on alternative locations for Pickleball courts in Port Moody with the goal of addressing user needs for both sports
- To collaborate with Tennis BC and Pickleball BC to understand recent trends and coordinate with neighbouring municipalities

#### **Scope**

<b>In Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of current infrastructure and policies</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultation to understand community and user needs</li> <li>• Development of Tennis and Pickleball Strategy</li> <li>• Report to Council on options for pickleball courts</li> <li>• Recommendations for future capital considerations</li> </ul>
<b>Out of Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acquisition for tennis and pickleball facilities</li> <li>• Park and court designs</li> </ul>

#### **Work Plan Overview**

<b>Project start date:</b> February 2021	<b>Project end date:</b> December 31 2022
<i>Deliverable/Milestone:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
Initiate project with Parks and Recreation Commission and staff working group	February 2021
Asset management condition update of existing infrastructure	March 2021
Initial discussion at Parks and Recreation Commission	June 2021
Public Engagement plan	TBD
Analyse feedback and develop a strategy for review	Q2 2022
Report to Council on Tennis and Pickleball Strategy.	Q3 2022

<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Budget Source:</b> Capital–Parks Asset Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request Referral to Finance Committee</b>
<i>Item:</i>	<i>Cost:</i>
Communication plan implementation	TBD
<b>Total:</b>	TBD

<b>Decision Notes</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Decision</b>