



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: February 13, 2024
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Parks Division
Subject: Tennis and Pickleball Update and Interim Plan

Purpose

To provide Council with an update on interim and long-term plans for tennis and pickleball, within the context of the Priority 1 project, “Feasibility Study of New Recreation Facilities” (to be conducted in 2024).

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT staff proceed with plans to build three new pickleball courts at Town Centre Park, using approved capital funding and allocated funding from the Growing Communities Reserve Fund, as recommended in the report dated February 13, 2024, from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Tennis and Pickleball Update and Interim Plan.

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with an interim report back on tennis and pickleball recreational facilities, which summarizes earlier work completed and outlines options to meet community and user needs over the short-term. Longer-term tennis and pickleball needs will be addressed as part of the upcoming Feasibility Study of New Recreation/Community Facilities.

Background

Tennis and pickleball have been increasing in popularity and have seen a growing demand for court space. In 2015, when the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed, tennis appeared to be on the decline, and pickleball was not included specifically for outdoor courts as it was initially taking off indoors. More recently however, tennis has been on an upswing and pickleball expanded to outdoor courts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, placing considerable pressure on all available courts. As such, there has been public demand for the City to preserve tennis courts while providing dedicated court space for pickleball users.

The POCOMO Pickleball Club has approached the City with requests for more court space, pickleball markings on outdoor tennis courts, and more signage listing court-use rules. Hard sport court surfaces like tennis, lacrosse, basketball, hockey, and pickleball require unique lines and different net heights. There have been conflicts over space and noise arising from the increasing popularity of pickleball.

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a community survey, which noted that 38% of surveyed households participated in indoor sports, including pickleball, and 25% in tennis. The satisfaction rating for both sports indicated improvements can be made to program offerings and facility availability.

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Recommendations included the following actions:

- 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.

The 2019-2022 Corporate Project Plan included a Tennis and Pickleball Strategy as a project. As staff were preparing a report back to Council on a draft Strategy, the BC Recreation & Parks Association (BCRPA) initiated a 2022 noise study related to pickleball, and subsequently announced the development of pickleball guidelines related to noise and court siting. Staff paused the report until the BCRPA study was completed and there was an opportunity to review the BCRPA noise study and subsequent pickleball guidelines (see **Attachment 1**) to make amendments to the Strategy.

Discussion

Sport Court Review

The City of Port Moody hosts an active indoor pickleball program at the Recreation Centre, dedicated outdoor tennis courts at Town Centre Park, North Shore Community Park, and Chestnut Way Park as well as shared tennis/pickleball courts at Easthill Park and Art Wilkinson Park. There are smaller sports courts in several neighbourhood parks including Flavelle, Cedarwood, Twin Creeks, Sycamore, Greenleaf, and Kyle (single hoop) which are too small for tennis and pickleball. Current tennis courts are heavily used, indoor pickleball courts are at or near capacity, and there is a shortage of appropriate outdoor court space for various sports.

The following table shows the City's current sports court allocation and potential for expansion based on the BCRPA's pickleball guidelines (including minimum distance from residential properties). A map of court locations can be found in **Attachment 2**.

Table 1 – Summary of Tennis and Pickleball Courts in the City of Port Moody

Facility	Pickleball Court	Dedicated Pickleball Court?	Tennis Court	Dedicated Tennis Court?	Multi-Sport?	Expansion Candidate?
Recreation Centre (Indoor)	3	Yes	/	/	Yes	No
Arena 2 - Indoor (Spring only)	6	Yes	/	/	Yes	No
Town Centre Park	0	/	5	Yes	No	Yes – 2/3 pickleball courts
North Shore Community Park	0	No	2	Yes	No	Maybe – would require additional studies to meet BCRPA
Art Wilkinson Park	2	No	1	No	Yes	No
Chestnut Way Park	0	/	2	Yes	Separate court	No
Easthill Park	4	No	1	No	Separate court	No
Port Moody Senior (with SD43)	0	/	0	TBD	TBD	There is a renewal project in 2024 for 2 tennis courts
TOTAL	15		11			5

Based on staff analysis and in accordance with the BCRPA pickleball guidelines (2023), Town Centre Park is a suitable candidate for a new pickleball court facility. Design work for two pickleball courts at Town Centre Park was completed in 2022 using Parks capital funding. Based on these designs and remaining approved capital funding – along with supplemental funding already approved by Council from the Growing Communities Reserve Fund - staff are planning a capital project with a goal to expand and construct three pickleball courts, adjacent to the tennis courts.

The proposed new pickleball courts at Town Centre will provide some relief from the pressure to expand court space, while staff continue to work on a longer-term court and amenity strategy (see below).

Feasibility of New Recreation Facilities Project

While there is pressure from tennis and pickleball user groups to create new amenities, plans for expansion are best considered in the context of the full spectrum of sport user needs, priorities, and financial considerations.

In 2024 staff will be leading the Feasibility Study of New Recreation Facilities, which is a Strategic Project (Priority Level 1) in the Corporate Project Plan. The study will consider demographics, regional services, recreational trends, community and user feedback, financial considerations, and other factors. The target start date is 2024 Q1, with a target end date of 2024 Q4.

The Feasibility of New Recreation Facilities Project will include the following, as it relates to tennis and pickleball sports specifically:

- Understanding existing inventory of tennis and pickleball courts (indoor and outdoor) as well as projected needs based on population growth.
- Review of potential locations for courts in Port Moody with the goal of addressing user needs of various court and sport user groups including tennis, pickleball, basketball, lacrosse, badminton, ball hockey, etc.
- Review of park space to find potential locations for multi-sport use including future park acquisitions. Site considerations include court surfacing, on-site services, parking, proximity to residential areas including noise guidelines, accessibility, and upgrade needs.
- Review of the overall cost considerations of both court installation and court maintenance.
- Review with Tennis BC, Pickleball BC, and community user groups to understand recent trends and stakeholder needs for tennis and pickleball, including how to balance indoor and outdoor recreation.

At the conclusion of this study will be an appropriate time to make decisions about multi-sport and court expansion strategies (for both indoor and outdoor courts).

General Court Planning Considerations

Community courts are often within close proximity of residential areas, schools, and other busy or well frequented areas. In making changes or additions to courts or park space, the City will consult with impacted communities in advance, to best understand how changes will impact current area use.

Future court development should consider design elements such as:

- 150 metre minimum distance between pickleball courts and homes
- Court “aprons” with vegetation to dampen sound
- Parking and/or public transit access
- Usage counters
- Seating for spectators
- Washrooms and water fountains
- Lighting (during courts hours)
- New signage
- Court booking system
- Update to lines and nets
- Proper site proportions to ensure courts can be positioned in a north-south direction
- Paddle racks
- Court rules with clear signage

Additional recreational considerations:

- Hosting free beginner classes
- Promoting multi-generational play
- Healthy active aging
- Equipment rental program
- Ladder leagues and supporting local clubs

- Skills clinics
- Addition to school offerings

Other Option(s)

THAT staff defer building the pickleball courts at Town Centre Park until the Feasibility Study of New Recreation Facilities project is complete.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Communications and Public Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or public engagement initiatives associated with the recommendations in this report.

Council Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations in this report align with the following Council Strategic Plan Goals:

- Strategic Goal 2.3 – Enhance and expand parkland and open spaces;
- Strategic Goal 3.3 – Enhance community wellbeing; and
- Strategic Goal 4.3 – Leverage public spaces.

Attachment(s)

1. BCRPA Pickleball Guidelines
2. Map of Court Locations

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Tennis and Pickleball Update and Interim Plan.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - BCRPA Pickleball Guidelines.pdf - Attachment 2 - Map of Court Locations.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 6, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Jan 29, 2024

Anna Mathewson, General Manager of Community Services - Jan 29, 2024

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - Jan 30, 2024

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 30, 2024

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 30, 2024

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Feb 6, 2024