



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

REGULAR COUNCIL REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023

Re: Tennis/Pickleball Court 1 at Centennial Park

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Reline the Tennis/Pickleball Court 1 to accommodate an additional pickleball court.

PURPOSE:

To respond to the demand for increased local pickleball courts.

BACKGROUND:

The sport of pickleball continues to grow in Central Saanich. The District currently has one shared court—Court 1 at Centennial Park, a court with lines for one tennis and one pickleball court. In addition, two pickleball court lines were added to the Centennial lacrosse box as a temporary solution to meet the demand.

During the construction of the Centennial Multi-Sport Box project starting in 2023, the pickleball courts at that site will not be available, putting additional pressure on Court 1.

In recent years, staff and Council have considered several scenarios to accommodate more courts. Locations for courts must be carefully determined for washroom access, parking requirements, and noise considerations. The 2023 District's Parks Master Plan will look at community recreation needs and park space and facility opportunities.

The sport of pickleball is often played with multiple pickleball courts adjacent to each other; this enables pairs to rotate and play multiple games.

DISCUSSION:

The Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association and Saanich Peninsula Tennis Association jointly suggested the District reline Court 1; thus, instead of having one tennis court and one pickleball court it will have one tennis and two pickleball courts as a temporary measure.

Shared courts are not a long-term solution as they are often a source of conflict between tennis and pickleball players for several reasons. When the Centennial Multi-Sport Box is built, the associations jointly request Court 1 revert to tennis only, therefore reducing conflict between tennis and pickleball players. Should the Centennial Multi-Sport Box not meet the needs of the pickleball community to the extent they are hoping for, the associations understand Court 1 would continue as a dual-sport court.

By using the upcoming 2023 court resurfacing as an opportunity to reline Court 1, Central Saanich would increase pickleball play opportunities. This will be important during the Multi-Sport Box construction period.

Demand at Centennial Park for both the pickleball and tennis courts is expected to increase as Court 1 will increase in popularity for pickleball use because of the preference for multi-court locations that enable pairs to rotate, and thus be less available to tennis players.

Dedicated sport-specific facilities are not often built by municipalities given today’s land and infrastructure costs. Discussions with the Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association over the years have focused on encouraging partnerships and fundraising and bringing opportunities for District involvement forward if and when they present themselves.

IMPLICATIONS:

Financial/ Resource

Costs for adding additional lines are negligible when resurfacing the tennis courts as new lines for tennis are required. Costs can be covered with the 2023 resurfacing project.

Communications

Signage, booking-platform notices, website notices and social media notices would be used to inform players of the purpose of the court changes in late winter 2023.

Additional communications with the tennis and pickleball associations to remind members of etiquette and the shared courts will also be required.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (Recommended):

Reline the Tennis/Pickleball Court 1 to accommodate an additional pickleball court.

Option 2:

Staff will not add additional pickleball lines will when the resurfacing of the tennis courts happens in 2023 to accommodate Pickleball.

CONCLUSION:

The Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association and Saanich Peninsula Tennis Association jointly suggest the District reline Court 1 with one tennis and two pickleball courts as a temporary measure to provide more pickleball courts during construction of the Centennial Multi-Sport Box. The temporary measure is timely as the courts have planned resurfacing in 2023 and the impact will be negligible.

Report written by:	Britt Burnham, Manager of Community Services
Respectfully submitted by:	Dale Puskas, Director of Engineering
Concurrence by:	Christine Culham, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix A: Joint Letter from Pickleball and Tennis Associations