

Pamela Martin

From: Municipal Hall
Subject: FW: Centennial Park Pickleball Courts

From: Brad Watson [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 11:51 AM
To: Niall Paltiel <Niall.Paltiel@csaanich.ca>
Subject: Centennial Park Pickleball Courts

August 27, 2024

Dear Councillor Paltiel,

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me at the Peninsula Market this past Saturday. It's fantastic that our mayor and council have committed to this accessible and informal opportunity for community engagement.

As we discussed, since the closure of the Wain Park pickleball courts in North Saanich there are no longer any **designated** pickleball courts on the Saanich Peninsula. The few available pickleball courts are on shared courts with other sports (tennis, lacrosse etc). The two pickleball courts at Court #1 at Centennial Park have been a huge success, however, according to the staff at CS that I spoke with last year, this is a temporary measure until the multi-sport box is complete. At that time court # 1 will be converted back to tennis.

Although we are grateful to have access to some shared pickleball courts when the multi-sport box is complete, we will once again be competing with other sports to access court time. The player demand for outdoor pickleball courts on the Peninsula is enough to fill about a dozen pickleball courts. There is an opportunity here for Central Saanich to support the fastest growing sport in North America (over the last five years), and demonstrate the importance of providing recreational facilities that help keep the community healthy and vibrant. A place where residents of all ages can come together to play pickleball - one of the few multigenerational sports.

My question for you is; can we make the temporary pickleball courts at Centennial Park into permanent pickleball courts? There is enough room on Court #1 to have 3-4 courts pickleball courts. The conversion price would be minimal.

There are 21 **designated** tennis courts on the Saanich Peninsula (including 6 at the two high schools), offering plenty of places for tennis players to play and yet there are **no designated** pickleball courts. **Many of these tennis courts are underutilized or sit empty.** It is well documented that tennis has been on the decline over the past five years, with many former tennis players now playing pickleball.

Many other small B.C. communities have built **designated** pickleball courts over the last 5 years: Oak Bay, Parksville, Shawnigan Lake, Tofino, Ladner, Tsawassen, Cranbrook, & Penticton to name a few.

On behalf of the Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association (SPPA) I look forward to discussing/working with you on this project. We can discuss at a later time how we may be able to contribute financially as well to this project.

Kind Regards,

Brad Watson (President SPPA) [REDACTED]

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