



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

BACKGROUND REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025

Re: Update Tennis Pickleball Court 1 at Centennial Park

Below is background, for information purposes:

The sport of pickleball continues to grow in popularity, and in response, staff and Council have explored several options to accommodate the increasing demand for court space. When identifying suitable locations for pickleball courts, key considerations include proximity to washroom facilities, parking availability, noise impacts, and potential conflicts with other recreational uses.

Over time, the District has implemented interim solutions while longer-term planning is underway. The first pickleball accommodation was introduced in 2014, when Court 1 at Centennial Park was reconfigured as a shared-use court, marked for both tennis and a single pickleball court.

In January 2020, Council received a request from the Peninsula Pickleball Association to reline Court 1 for four pickleball courts which is the ideal number of courts for four teams (16 players+) to play rotating games. On January 27, 2020, Council resolved:

That the report and correspondence relating to pickleball courts be referred to the Parks Master Plan and further that:

- 1. Panorama Recreation be encouraged to consider coordinating the development of pickleball facilities on the Peninsula, and*
- 2. That the pickleball community be invited to look at potential locations for facilities and for fundraising and grant opportunities.*

To address demand, lines for two pickleball courts were added to the Centennial Park lacrosse box as a pilot project to see if that site was suitable for multiple courts, which are currently under construction by the CRD as part of the Multi Sport Box.

2023 Centennial Court 1 Agreement

In 2023, the Peninsula Pickleball Association requested Court 1 be relined for four courts. It is important to note that Court 1 is limited to two pickleball courts due to spatial constraints to provide a safe and enjoyable playing area.

The pickleball and tennis associations met with staff and agreed to a temporary relining of Court 1 to include two pickleball courts in addition to the tennis court lines, on the understanding that once the Multi Sport Box was built, Court 1 would revert to tennis only. This shared configuration was implemented as an interim measure to help offset the expected disruption in court availability.

The January 9, 2023 Council direction was: *Reline the Tennis/Pickleball Court 1 to accommodate an additional pickleball court.* Which was carried out in July 2023.

The agreement between the Peninsula Pickleball and Saanich Peninsula Tennis associations was that Court 1 was to return to tennis-only use following the completion of the Multi-Sport Box. However, if the new facility lacked designated pickleball lines Court 1 could remain lined for shared use.

To proactively address any potential conflict between user groups, a meeting was held between the presidents of the local tennis and pickleball clubs. The two groups agreed to work collaboratively and come forward jointly with aligned recommendations to Council with any future requests. The meeting was constructive and did not raise any issues of contention.

Two concurrent planning initiatives are currently underway that will inform the long-term provision of pickleball and other recreational amenities. The District is developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan, and the Capital Regional District is conducting a Sub-Regional Recreation Needs Assessment to evaluate recreation needs in relation to available space and facilities.

DISCUSSION:

The local pickleball community has again submitted a request for Court 1 to be converted to dedicated pickleball courts. This request reflects the continued high demand for pickleball access; however, it raises several operational and planning and considerations.

The new Multi-Sport Box is expected to open shortly with four dedicated pickleball courts. which is an increase from the previous service level. Upon completion, this will increase the overall number of publicly available pickleball courts in the District to six.

Converting Court 1 to dedicated pickleball courts would permanently remove tennis access at this location, impacting user group equity and leading to conflict without broader consultation or supporting data.

Standard spacing requirements and court dimensions cannot safely accommodate more than two pickleball courts considering buffer zones, runoffs, and fencing proximity. This conclusion is supported by pickleball guidelines and was previously confirmed by the District's design consultant during the last round of court line installations.

To help support a collaborative approach, a recent meeting was held between the presidents of the tennis and pickleball clubs. Both groups expressed a willingness to continue working together; however, it was acknowledged that converting the court exclusively to pickleball would represent a loss of playing space for tennis.

Given the imminent completion of the Multi-Sport Box, along with the ongoing Parks and Trails Master Plan and the CRD's Sub-Regional Recreation Needs Assessment, retaining the current shared-use configuration of Court 1 will allow time for further data to inform long-term decision-making. From a maintenance perspective, the existing surface of Court 1 is in good condition and does not require resurfacing or repainting in the near term.

Proceeding with a conversion at this time would not only pre-empt broader planning efforts, but would result in the removal of tennis access, introduce safety concerns due to space limitations, and yield only a marginal increase in total pickleball court availability. A holistic, evidence-based approach to recreational planning is necessary.

IMPLICATIONS:**Financial/ Resource**

Repainting Court 1 to include four dedicated pickleball courts is not currently budgeted in the District's Financial Plan. The existing surface is in good condition and does not require resurfacing or repainting at this time. While there is cost of line painting, converting the court would require staff time for coordination, layout, and community engagement, and would also require addressing associated impacts such as user group displacement.

Any decision to alter the current configuration outside of scheduled resurfacing cycles would require additional financial planning and prioritization relative to other parks and recreation needs.

Communications

If Council direction is to retain the current shared-use configuration of Court 1, staff will coordinate communications through:

- Notifying local pickleball and tennis associations
- Signage at the courts,
- Updates to the booking system and website,
- Social media messaging to clarify the current status and upcoming improvements with the new Multi-Sport Box facility.

Staff will also continue direct engagement with both the tennis and pickleball associations to share information, reinforce court etiquette, and support positive user group relationships.

As part of broader Parks planning efforts, staff will also provide updates through the, CRD's Sub-Regional Recreation Needs Assessment.

CONCLUSION:

Given the planned opening of the Multi-Sport Box with four dedicated pickleball courts, along with ongoing community planning initiatives, maintaining the current shared-use configuration of Court 1 ensures equitable access for all users while awaiting further data to inform long-term decisions. The collaboration between the tennis and pickleball communities remains a priority, and continued engagement through our planning process will help guide and balance the current and future needs of the different recreation groups.

Report written by:	Kyle Motiuk, Manager Parks, Fleet and Facilities
Respectfully submitted by:	Dale Puskas, Director of Engineering
Concurrence by:	Emilie Gorman, Director of Corporate Services
Concurrence by:	Christine Culham, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: [Report from the January 9, 2023 RCM](#)

Appendix B: Letter to Council January 31, 2022 re report: Pickleball and Tennis: Solutions that meet the needs of both sports