



# The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

## REGULAR COUNCIL REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on May 10, 2021

**To:** Christine Culham  
Chief Administrative Officer

**File:**

**From:** Britt Burnham  
Manager of Community Services

<b>Priority:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic
	<input type="checkbox"/> Operational

**Date:** April 16, 2021

**Re:** Pickleball Court Pilot Project

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That a pilot project to add two pickleball courts on the lacrosse court be endorsed.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The sport of pickleball is growing, and Central Saanich currently has one shared court and an increasing demand for use. In recent years staff and Council have considered a number of scenarios to accommodate more courts. One option staff and the Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association have discussed in the past was the lacrosse box; however the association didn't feel it was ideal at that time.

Pickleball has many benefits; it is a low-impact sport encouraging socializing and physical activity and it is played by a wide age-range. Locations for courts must be carefully determined for washroom access, parking requirements and noise disturbance of park users and neighbours due to the distinctive popping sound of the ball (range of 64-71 decibels).

Outdoor spaces on the Peninsula:

- Shared pickleball/tennis court (Centennial court #1), Central Saanich
- Four courts in Wain Road Park, North Saanich built in 2017
- Two courts at Iroquois Park, Sidney (one shared with tennis and one a shared multi-sport court)

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- Four courts located at Parkland Secondary School marked for pickleball (feedback is they're not desirable)
  - Court coming to Panorama Recreation Centre in future
  - Courts coming to Stelly's Secondary

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The District's lacrosse box provides a sunny location with washrooms and parking, and it has ample available booking time; the lacrosse association uses it in the evening and weekends from February until July. The Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association and Peninsula Lacrosse Association representatives have discussed the potential shared use of the facility and welcome a pilot project wherein lacrosse would retain their annual booking and pickleball could book the courts outside of those times (weekdays until July, then any time).

The lacrosse box can accommodate two pickleball courts by adding painted lines and temporary netting. The court surface is pavement and reaching the end of its life, but a modest investment could provide a short-term way to keep residents active and engaged in a safe outdoor form of recreation. Currently the surface has some thin cracks that are not considered hazards but could be sealed by staff.

#### Timeline

The courts could be used until October 31, 2021. If the pilot is successful with the community, user groups, and depending on the multi sport box grant application, the courts could be used annually for the remainder of the lacrosse box's lifespan. The District is waiting to hear back on a grant application to help fund the replacement of the lacrosse box with a multi-sport box. Staff are told to expect a decision in August 2021.

#### Financial Implication

The cost can be managed within existing budgets. About \$1,500 would be required for line painting and temporary nets. Court booking revenues may offset costs.

#### Long-Term Planning

Ideally, the sport of pickleball would have a shared multi-use facility with a group wherein the sports are not played at the same times of day. With recent community amenities, including the indoor training facility/batting cage and the Brentwood Bay Performance Stage, fundraising by a community group has enabled a new facility for community use.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Adding two pickleball courts to the lacrosse box can bridge a gap until a parks master plan can more thoroughly look at community recreation needs. The inexpensive solution would be a pilot project for 2021 with costs recuperated through booking fees. The 2022 season would depend on the success of the sport in this location and the success of the multi-sport box grant application.

As the District updates the Parks Master Plan in the near future (approximately 2022 or 2023), the feasibility of a multiuse facility suitable for multiple pickleball games could be further explored and partnership opportunities explored.

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Respectfully Submitted

Britt Burnham

Manager of Community Services

***Administrator's Recommendation:***

***I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.***

***Christine Culham***

***Chief Administrative Officer***