

Communication: C1
Committee of the Whole (2)
May 9, 2023
Item #9

Pickleball Project Update

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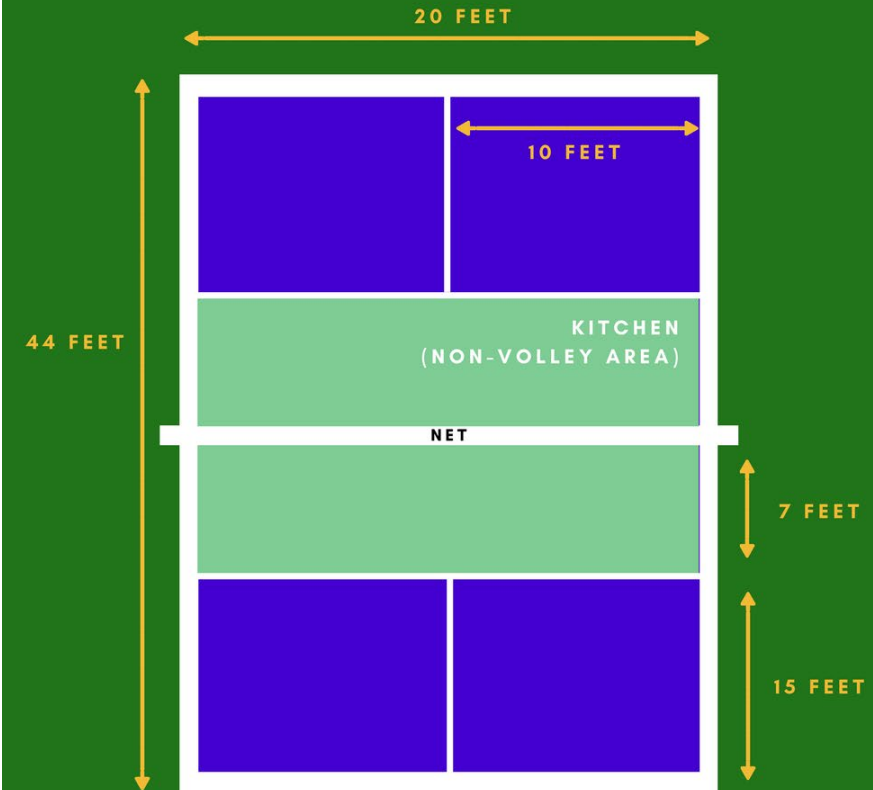
VAUGHAN CITY HALL

What is Pickleball?

- Pickleball is an **emerging sport** experiencing a popularity boom in Canada, particularly among older adults and seniors.
- Paddleball sport combining elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong.
- It is played with a **paddle and a wiffleball** (a plastic ball with holes) on a badminton-sized court approx. 20 feet by 44 feet (6m x 13m) with a slightly modified tennis net (approximately 50 mm lower in height).
- The sport can be played as **doubles or singles** and can be enjoyed by **all ages and skill levels**.
- The sport has aspects of a **social sport** where several players congregate to participate in rotational play.



PICKLEBALL COURT MEASUREMENTS (OFFICIAL RULES)



NET AT SIDELINE
36 INCHES HIGH

NET AT CENTER
34 INCHES HIGH

2018 ATMP Recommendation

The 2018 Active Together Master Plan (ATMP) sets out a ***vision for a healthier and more mobile community***. The vision, goals and objectives of the Pickleball Study reflects the following recommendation set out in the ATMP:

38. Undertake a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of re-purposing existing tennis courts (re-lining) to share use between tennis and pickleball.



2021 Pickleball Study

Study Overview

The inhouse Study identifies ***suitable locations*** within municipal parks with existing tennis courts for pickleball lining, as well as establish a new ***level of service*** for outdoor facilities. The scope of the Study included the following:

1. Measures ***interest and demand*** of existing user(s)/groups;
2. Identifies ***suitable locations*** that can be line painted with pickleball courts;
3. Establishes ***facility standards*** and specifications; and
4. Identifies a ***new service level provision*** for pickleball courts

Key results of Pilot project

1. A ***pilot project*** was implemented for the 2021 playing season at these locations with positive feedback received overall
2. Initial roll out of ***seven (7) courts*** in six (6) parks across the City to make them compatible for pickleball play for shared-use.
3. The provision of pickleball facilities may be continued to be addressed through ***refurbishment and lining projects*** on existing courts.
4. Additional pickleball courts can continue to be provided on a ***case-by-case basis*** through the lining of existing tennis courts.
5. Move forward with identifying sites for ***dedicated pickleball courts***.

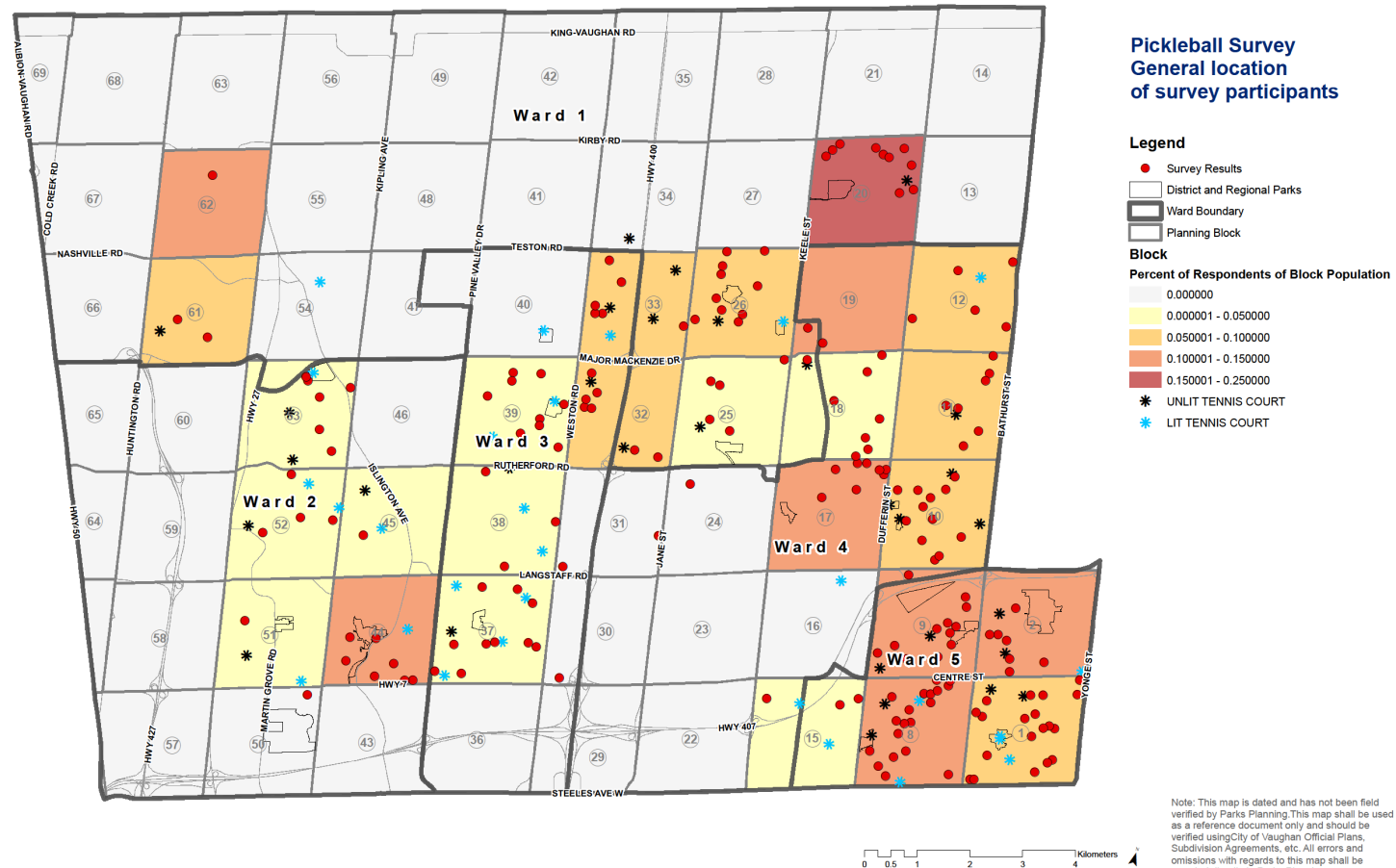
2021 Pickleball Study

Survey Key Findings

- Survey undertaken February to March 2021
- **305 Respondents**, **60%** play once or more per week, **80%** are not part of a club, and **60%** indicated an interest to be part of a Vaughan League.
- **Casual play** is preferred followed by “city run drop in” program.
- **76%** supported sharing pickleball with tennis courts.
- Currently an equal mix of indoor and outdoor play is practiced. However **30%** of respondents indicate a preference to play outdoors.
- **70%** prefer to play at a facility that has nets as opposed to option of bringing their own portable net.

2021 Pickleball Study

Survey Respondents Heat Map



2021 Pickleball Study

Site Selection Criteria

Building upon the findings of the Pickleball Study survey, background research on pickleball, and information collected through consultation with user groups, staff considered the following **site selection criteria** to identify ***potential locations*** for an initial roll out:

User Base

- i. Service area population
- ii. Local interest
- iii. Permitting restrictions

Existing Tennis Court Conditions

- i. Number of tennis courts
- ii. Surfacing material
- iii. Surfacing condition
- iv. Court wind exposure

Amenities

- i. Court lighting
- ii. Access to parking
- iii. Access to washrooms

Nuisance

- i. Potential nuisance due to game play noise

Outdoor Pickleball

In 2022 a total of 9 outdoor shared-use courts were installed at 8 park locations city-wide

1. Maple Community District Park (Ward 1)
2. Maxey Park (Ward 2)
3. Giovanni Caboto Park (Ward 3)
4. North Thornhill District Park (1 court) Ward 4
5. Dufferin District Park (Ward 5) *2 courts
6. Promenade Green Park (Ward 5)
7. Rosedale Park North (Ward 5)
8. York Hill District Park (Ward 5)



Indoor Pickleball Opportunities

Recreational drop-in pickleball programs are a first come first serve open forum for different skill levels to practice and participate in recreational game play, with each session running between 1.5 – 2 hours.

Currently, there are three community centres offering drop-in pickleball programming:

- 1. Al Palladini Community Centre**
- 2. North Thornhill Community Centre**
- 3. Dufferin Clark Community Centre**

The newly renovated Garnet A. Williams Community Centre will add to the list when it reopens this summer.

Registered pickleball programs are available at community centres across the City on a seasonal basis and include:

- 1. Learn to Play Pickleball:** An introductory program to pickleball. Through friendly gameplay as either singles or doubles, learn basic pickleball shots, court awareness and scoring.
- 2. Pickleball Ladder:** A competition where players can work your way up the rankings by winning matches against other pickleball ladder players with similar skill levels.

2023-2024 Pickleball Initiatives

City of Vaughan is expanding outdoor pickleball courts and indoor programming city-wide to help meet growing demand

- Installation of **10 additional outdoor pickleball courts** for shared-use with tennis by Q3 2023
- Construction of **8 outdoor dedicated pickleball courts** at 2 locations (Carrville Community Centre, Le Parc Park) by Q3 2024
- **Increasing indoor pickleball court offerings** to 4 locations with the addition of Carrville Community Centre

27

**Outdoor courts by 2024
(8 dedicated + 19 shared-use)**

13

Indoor courts for drop-in programming by 2024

Next Steps

Pickleball communication and PSA to be released on May 10

Provides information on existing facilities, indoor programs and future plans

Request for Expression of Interest

The City has received inquiries from external parties interested in developing a pickleball hub and service the community. Staff will consider developing a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) process to formally receive interests and report back to Council.

Tennis and Racquet Sports Study to be launched Q3 2023

Study will review and evaluate existing assets and opportunities for program/facility improvements or expansion

Pickleball Courts IN THE CITY OF VAUGHAN



Pickleball has experienced a huge surge of popularity in the last few years, particularly in North America. The sport can be played as doubles or singles and is enjoyed by all ages and skill levels. The City is striving to meet community demand for pickleball courts. Based on a study completed in 2022, the City is providing outdoor pickleball courts by adding line work at existing tennis courts for shared-use tennis/pickleball, and through the design and construction of dedicated pickleball courts.

There are currently **9 shared-use (pickleball and tennis)** outdoor courts that are open to the public on a first come first serve basis. Vaughan Council has also approved development of **10 additional shared-use** courts and **8 new dedicated courts** for installation in 2023 and 2024 for a total of **27 pickleball courts city-wide**.

The City will also be conducting a Tennis and Racquet Sports Strategy to further evaluate the feasibility of retrofitting some existing tennis courts to meet the future needs for tennis and upcoming outdoor racquet sports such as pickleball.

Read the 2022 report at vaughan.ca/pickleball

The following chart summarizes City of Vaughan outdoor pickleball court initiatives:

Ward	Location	# of courts	Type	In-Service Date
1	Maple Community District Park 101 McNaughton Rd.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
2	Maxey Park 199 Willis Rd.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
2	Woodbridge Highland Park 51 Thompson Creek Blvd.	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Q3 2023
3	Chatfield District Park 100 Lawford Rd.	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Q3 2023
3	Giovanni Caboto Park 75 Matthew Dr.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
4	Carrville Community Centre, Library and District Park 655 Thomas Cook Ave.	4	Dedicated pickleball	Q3 2024
4	LeParc Park 172 Connie Crescent	4	Dedicated pickleball	Q3 2024
4	North Thornhill District Park 300 Pleasant Ridge Ave.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
4	North Thornhill District Park 300 Pleasant Ridge Ave.	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Q3 2023
5	Dufferin District Park 1441 Clark Ave. W.	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
5	Glen Shields Park 140 Glen Shields Ave.	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Q3 2023
5	Promenade Green Park 25 Carl Tennan St.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
5	Rosedale Park North 350 Atkinson Ave.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing
5	Wade Gate Park 151 Wade Gate	2	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Q3 2023
5	York Hill District Park 330 York Hill Blvd.	1	Shared-use tennis/pickleball	Existing

vaughan.ca/pickleball





Questions & Discussion

VAUGHAN CITY HALL