

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2021 Nov. 30

FROM: DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PILOT PROJECT - DEDICATED RACQUET SPORT TIMES

PURPOSE: To improve the recreation experience between racquet sport players who use shared tennis and pickleball courts.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** specific times be dedicated to pickleball and tennis at Keswick, Robert Burnaby and Bonsor Park Racquet Courts.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

With the increasing growth and popularity of both pickleball and tennis, and the demand for outdoor activities during Covid-19 participation on Burnaby's public outdoor racquet sport courts has increased. This has led to numerous conflicts between players of both racquet sports.

The goal of this pilot project is to make it easier for racquet players of either sport to organize play times, within these dedicated times, to improve the user experience and reduce conflicts between players of both racquet sports.

Through court signage, this project will clearly define priority playing times for both tennis and pickleball as well as spread play amongst the three parks identified. These three locations were chosen, as they have vibrant, organized pickleball groups and are well used by the tennis community.

The courts involved, and the days and times identified, were developed with feedback from the public and consultation with Burnaby racquet sport user groups. This pilot project will run from January until November 2022, with a report upon completion.

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The planned schedule is:

Keswick and Bonsor Park

Mon, Wed	8 a.m. – noon Tennis	5 p.m. – Dusk Pickleball
Tues, Thurs	8 a.m. – noon Pickleball	5 p.m. – Dusk Tennis
Fri, Sat, Sun	First come, first served.	

Robert Burnaby Park

Mon, Wed	8 a.m. – noon Pickleball	5 p.m. - Dusk Tennis
Tues, Thurs	8 a.m. – noon Tennis	5 p.m. - Dusk Pickleball
Fri, Sat, Sun	First come, first served.	

If there is no one on the court during dedicated sport time, either sport may play. However, if players of the dedicated sport arrive, the court is to be given to that sport players.

Success will be measured by tracking the number of complaints received, random site visits at the courts and conversations with associations and user groups.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Goal

- A Connected Community
 - Social connection –
Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
 - Partnership –
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- An Inclusive Community
 - Celebrate diversity –
Create more opportunities for the community to celebrate diversity
 - Serve a diverse community –
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
 - Create a sense of community –
Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life –
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being

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3.0 BACKGROUND

The racquet courts in the pilot project are shared use, with pickleball lines painted on top of the tennis courts.

These courts were among the first courts to have pickleball lines added in Burnaby:

- Keswick Park courts can be used as two tennis courts or six pickleball courts.
- Robert Burnaby Park courts can be used as three tennis courts or ten pickleball courts.
- Bonsor Park courts can be used as two tennis courts or six pickleball courts.

Currently, pickleball lines on shared courts are being painted on a ratio of one tennis court to two pickleball courts. This makes it easier for both tennis and pickleball to play in adjoining courts at the same time.

Pickleball nets need to be installed and removed by the players in order for pickleball to be played. For rotations between sports to occur, many pickleball nets currently have to come down and be put back up in order to facilitate tennis play. At Keswick, during shared time, up to sixteen pickleball players can play and four pickleball nets would have to be installed and removed for a 30 minute game of tennis to be played between two players. This set up and take down time would be reduced with scheduled priority sport schedules.

Existing Court inventory as of 2021 September 14:

- Total Tennis Courts = 81 (46 stand alone courts + 35 shared courts)
- Total Pickleball Courts = 75 (8 stand alone courts + 67 shared courts)

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the pilot project be moved forward as outlined in the report.



Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

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