

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation
Re: Future Location of Pickleball Courts

AIM

To obtain Council’s approval to locate future outdoor pickleball courts at Cowan Fields.

BACKGROUND

On September 21st, 2023, Council accepted a staffing report as information regarding pickleball courts. The report looked at three pickleball locations that were brought forward by a delegation requesting the City to build more pickleball courts. The first two recommendations from the delegation were to build more courts at Park Row Park and/or to have pickleball courts at Civic Arena. The report from staff did not recommend either location as optimal for additional pickleball courts. The third location was to have Brompton courts become a hybrid tennis and pickleball courts when redevelopment takes place in 2024. This report was received as information by Council and staff continued their assessment of Brompton Park courts and other options to expand pickleball locations.

COMMENTS

Brompton courts are now scheduled to undergo redevelopment later this month. Staff considered having the contractor put both tennis and pickleball lines on this court. However, after further investigation staff now do not recommend this course of action regarding hybrid courts at Brompton. Hybrid courts have led to animosity between tennis and pickleball players in other communities. Additionally, pickleball also makes a distinct sound when the paddle strikes the ball. This has led to noise complaints when courts have been situated close to residents. In the case of the Brompton courts, they are situated very close to residential backyards and should Council decide to have hybrid courts at the location, staff anticipate noise complaints from the residents.

The picture below illustrates the distance between courts and backyards)



As additional tennis courts and pickleball courts are recommended in the latest Recreation Facility Needs Study, it is staff's opinion that the Brompton courts should remain tennis courts and that a multi-court outdoor pickleball facility should be constructed at Cowan Fields where the outdoor pool was originally going to be located. Staff plan to bring a pickleball construction request as part of the 2025 Capital budget cycle for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Woodstock City Council direct staff to research and cost the construction of a multi-court outdoor pickleball facility at Cowan Fields.

Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approved by: David Creery, M.B.A., P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer