

To: Chief Administrative Officer **Date:** June 5, 2023
From: Jason Horton, Manager of Parks and Facilities
Subject: Pickleball Court Location Update

Recommendation(s)

1. That Council support a public engagement process for pickleball courts at Wren Park;
2. That, if the public engagement in Recommendation #1 is successful, Council allocate \$90,000 for at least 6 pickleball courts and related improvements from the General Unappropriated Surplus; and
3. That the City's Financial Plan be amended.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the potential sites to renovate/install pickleball courts and to recommend Wren Park as the preferred location for the first set of courts.

Background

At the April 19, 2022 Council Meeting the Mission Pickleball Club provided a presentation on the growth of pickleball in Mission and requested Council support to upgrade one of three proposed sites; Hillside Park, Heritage Park or Hatzic Middle School. Concerns were raised with the three proposed sites, and in September 2022, Parks, Recreation & Culture staff proposed three other sites located at; 33649 Prentis Avenue, 32286 Cherry Avenue and Shaw Pit.

Discussion and Analysis

The recently published BCRPA Pickleball Noise Assessment Report further confirms the challenge of noise mitigation in order to keep the sound of play below the recommended 50dBA maximum allowable standard. The following table outlines the minimum recommended setback distances that would be required to reach this target:

| Number of Courts | Setback Distance required to meet 50dBA (m) | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | No Noise Mitigation | | 3m Noise Barrier | |
| | Hard Ground | Soft Ground | Hard Ground | Soft Ground |
| 2 (1x2 grid) | 65 | 50 | 35 | 30 |
| 4 (2x2 grid) | 90 | 75 | 50 | 45 |
| 6 (2x3 grid) | 105 | 85 | 55 | 50 |
| 12 (3x4 grid) | 160 | 115 | 75 | 60 |

Further recommendations include:

- Locating pickleball courts in a manner that takes advantage of naturally occurring terrain obstacles (ie., behind berms or heavy foliage).
- Avoid locations where residences of the upper-level dwellings of building will overlook the courts.
- Mandating the use of “quieter” pickleball equipment (this would only shorten the setback distances by approximately 25%).

At the April 19, 2022 Council Meeting the three sites that were proposed all had potential development concerns. Hillside Park, when compared to the BCRPA Pickleball Noise Assessment Report, was located too close to residential properties. The Heritage Park and Hatzic Middle School sites were rejected due to neighborhood concerns and noise complaints after a few trial sessions were held.

The three sites identified in September 2022 were investigated for their potential for pickleball courts. Both the site at 32286 Cherry Avenue and Shaw Pit were not desirable sites for development. On February 2, 2022 staff met with the Mission Pickleball Club to determine if the site at 33649 Prentis Avenue could be a potential site. Although the club agreed this site would have development potential the Prentis property is currently owned by the Province of British Columbia and would be difficult to obtain given the need for extensive consultation with First Nations and possible preference the lands be provided to First Nations before Mission should disposal be considered. Parks, Recreation & Culture staff have recently reached out to the Mission Pickleball Club and together have identified Wren Park, located at 30435 Silverhill Avenue, as another possible site. Staff recommend that a public consultation process with neighbours to the park be initiated to explore the degree of support for pickleball and other improvements at the site should Council be interested in this site.

The Wren Park courts allow for a minimum of six courts to be added as well as on street parking for 10 vehicles. This court would continue to be a multi-sport court with the existing basketball hoop relocated to allow the courts to be installed. Signage improvements for permitted uses would also be improved.

There are three homes within 100m of the existing courts at Wren Park – 65m, 66m and 86m.

Financial Implications

This project is not included within the City’s Financial Plan and \$90,000 of additional capital funding is required. Staff recommend the funds be taken from the General Unappropriated Surplus.

Communication

No communication action is required.

Summary and Conclusion

In response to Council’s request to provide a short-term solution for dedicated pickleball courts in Mission staff have recommended supporting a public engagement process for courts at Wren Park, and if successful, recommend spending \$90,000 from General Unappropriated Surplus to construct the courts.

Report Prepared by: Jason Horton, Manager of Parks and Facilities

Reviewed by: Louis Dauphin, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment(s)

Attachment A: BCRPA Pickleball Noise Assessment (2023)