



REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Heather Kaufmann, Community Development Supervisor –
Volunteer and Group Support

DATE: November 19, 2021

REPORT NO.: RP-2021-0023

SUBJECT: Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. RP-2021-0023 dated November 19, 2021, regarding Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the final recommendations and action plan of the Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review as outlined in Report RP-2021-0023 be approved in principle, subject to on-going affordability and sustainability as outlined in the Town's long range financial plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the actions that have financial implications within the Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review, be reviewed and considered each year at Budget Committee for corporate prioritization and ongoing affordability within the constraints of the Town's Long Range Financial Plan.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Outdoor Pickleball and Tennis Review was led by staff throughout 2021 and included community consultation, confirmation of municipal standards, level of court use analysis and stakeholder focus groups.
- The Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review has resulted in Court Sports Strategy that outlines direction for the delivery of services and facilities for outdoor tennis and pickleball over the next 10 years.

- The final recommendations and implementation plan of the strategy are discussed for approval in principle.
- Financial implications are discussed in this report and subject to ongoing affordability and sustainability of the Town's Long Range Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In March 2021, Council received Memorandum RP-2021-0001 regarding the commencement of the Outdoor Pickleball and Tennis Review. The Town committed to this review to ensure a clear understanding of demand, establish standards, support user groups, and ultimately assist the Town in responding to the current and future needs for tennis and pickleball.

The focus of this review was targeted to only the sports of tennis and pickleball due to the increased participation being experienced in both sports and community advocacy for additional pickleball amenities. Although the focus of this review was on outdoors, the need for indoor facilities for year-round play was identified and will be incorporated in future studies and development of facilities.

The outdoor tennis and pickleball review process included community consultation, municipal benchmarking, level of court use analysis and stakeholder focus groups which has resulted in the development of the Court Sports Strategy.

March 2021

•COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- Survey on Let's Talk confirmed community use of the courts and interest for a lending net and sports equipment program.
- Town Staff engaged in focus groups with each of the tennis and pickleball users to determine types of use and the needs for each sport.

April to August 2021

•CONFIRMATION OF MUNICIPAL STANDARDS

- Review of other municipalities for types and counts of facilities as well as models of service delivery for both tennis and pickleball.
- Benchmarking was completed and analyzed to determine a provisional standard and best practices.

May to September 2021

•LEVEL OF USE ANALYSIS

- Staff confirmed outdoor facility permit requirements for outdoor courts from each of the clubs.
- Staff observed courts during various times of the day to understand how courts are being utilized children, youth, adults, older adults, and active families.

June to September 2021

•STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

- Focused conversations with each pickleball and tennis user groups took place to confirm governance, membership and league play models.

August to November 2021

•PRELIMINARY STRATEGY

- Development of draft strategy.
- Review and consultation of draft strategy with Halton Hills Pickleball Association, Halton Hills Pickleball Club and Halton Hills Tennis Club.

December 2021

•FINAL STRATEGY

- Proposed Strategy to Council for approval.

Court Sports Strategy

The Court Sports Strategy sets the strategic direction for the delivery of services and facilities for tennis and pickleball over the next 10 years. The Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review can be found in Appendix A.

The Court Sport Strategy has confirmed principles for facility use (shared vs. dedicated), facility type (community club and neighbourhood) and models for play (public access, permitted play and clubs).

In addition, the strategy recommends a provisional standard for tennis and pickleball courts. To meet the established provisional standards and principles set out by the strategy a variety of site opportunities were reviewed for suitability and future development (existing and new).

The confirmed principles, provisional standard and opportunities have been incorporated into recommendations and an overall implementation action plan. This plan supports the Town of Halton Hills in forecasting the ongoing maintenance of existing tennis and pickleball outdoor courts and planning for additional facilities, while ensuring clear expectations for participants and stakeholder groups.

Town staff will work with the community and stakeholders for the implementation of the Court Sports Strategy. While the implementation actions with financial implications are forecasted in the capital budget, it is recognized that collaborative partnerships in which tennis and pickleball organizations contribute fundraising and access of grants will be essential to secure finalized funding.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have an impact on the Town's Strategic Plan.

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

This report also identifies fiscal growth as one of the Town's Strategic priorities as it ensures resources are directed towards projects with community impact for all, that have been planned for accordingly.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement has been conducted as follows:

- Online Let's Talk Survey and Stakeholder focused conversations for information gathering with the respective groups referred to in this report. This included the preview of the Draft strategy with opportunity for feedback and revisions

Confirmation of endorsement of the strategy has been received from all groups and Halton Hills Pickleball Association who has provided some additional feedback in a letter attached as Appendix B to this report.

The broader public will be informed of Council's decision regarding the disposition of this report with the Court Sport Strategy being posted on Let's Talk. If there is any substantive feedback received from the greater distribution of the strategy, staff will report back to Council.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Staff consulted with the Town Treasurer and Director of Finance during the preparation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report has the potential to require funding in a future budget year and therefore needs to be referred to budget committee for tracking purposes.

Existing staffing levels and previously approved capital budget resources as currently identified in the proposed 2022 Budget are adequate for the 2022 implementation of the recommended actions of the Court Sports Strategy – Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Review.

The strategy includes the commitment of ongoing monitoring of participation, membership, and trends which will ensure staff have certainty of scope and costing at the time of detailed project planning. Any future additional funding requirements will be identified and submitted for approval through the annual Budget processes. It is recognized that all funding requests beyond the 2022 Budget year are subject to ongoing affordability and sustainability of the Town's Long Range Financial plan.

Reviewed and approved by,

Moya Jane Leighton, Director of Finance & Town Treasurer

Mandy Keller, Senior Manager of Community Development

Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer

