

<i>COUNCIL AGENDA</i>	
Date: <u>July 8, 2024</u>	Item: <u>10.3.</u>



DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
 750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

10.3.

COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	June 24, 2024
From:	Jill Lawlor, Senior Manager of Parks
Subject:	Pickleball Courts at Normanby Park
File:	2150-01-2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, as recommended by the Pickleball Advisory Roundtable, the four temporary pickleball courts installed at Normanby Park in April 2022 be made permanent dedicated pickleball courts.

1.0 Purpose

In February 2022, Council directed staff to install four temporary pickleball courts on the northern tennis court in Normanby Park. At the January 18, 2024 Pickleball Advisory Roundtable (PAR) meeting, it was recommended that the four temporary pickleball courts located at Normanby Park be made permanent.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

The District of West Vancouver’s (District) Sport and Active Recreation Policy No. 02-70-366 (2016) provides policy and principles to support the provision of activities that benefit residents’ physical and mental wellness, as well as facilities that support participation in active recreation for all ages.

The Sport and Active Recreation Policy notes in part that: “decisions about space or support of new or emerging activities will be made in a collaborative and transparent manner with current and potential users, respecting the principles noted in this policy. A balance between existing and new activities will be actively sought.”

3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan

Council Strategic Plan 2024-2025

Council’s Strategic Goal is applicable to this report:

- Objective 6.4: Expand recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages.

Official Community Plan

The following sections are applicable to this report:

- 2.9.1. Maintain and optimize the use of existing recreation facilities to help facilitate participation in sport, leisure, and active recreation for all ages and abilities.
- 2.9.5 Provide accessible recreational programs and services to encourage physical and mental wellness for all ages, abilities, and income.

4.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.0 Background

5.1 Previous Decisions

Council, at its December 13, 2021 regular meeting, passed the following resolution:

THAT staff report back in January with a plan to move the 29th Street pickleball courts on an interim basis.

Council, at its January 24, 2022 regular meeting, passed the following resolution:

THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on the feasibility of installing permanent pickleball courts at Hugo Ray Park during the summer of 2022, especially with respect to quantifiable noise, traffic, and other related impacts

THAT the 29th Street dedicated pickleball courts be closed on April 30, 2022 and converted back to tennis.

Council, at its February 7, 2022 regular meeting, passed the following resolutions:

THAT

- 1. staff be directed to create up to 4 temporary pickleball courts on the northern sports court at Normanby Park as soon as possible; and*
- 2. the temporary Normanby Park pickleball courts be converted back to a tennis court once permanent pickleball courts are built.*

Council, at its May 30, 2022 regular meeting, passed the following resolutions:

THAT

- 1. staff be directed to proceed with community engagement for Option A and Option C, as outlined in the report dated May 12, 2022 from the Parks Stewardship Manager and Senior Manager of Parks, for the location of four dedicated pickleball courts in Hugo Ray Park; and*

2. staff report to Council on the outcome of the community engagement with recommendations on next steps for installation of dedicated pickleball courts in Hugo Ray Park.

At the April 3, 2023 regular meeting, the Mayor and the president of Tennis BC announced that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Tennis BC and the District to investigate the possibility of building a six-court indoor tennis facility and a six-court indoor pickleball facility at Hugo Ray Park.

At the March 11, 2024 regular meeting, Council confirmed the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Ambleside Park; and the construction of four dedicated pickleball courts in Ambleside Park to be ready for play in the fall of 2024.

5.2 History

In 2018, three dedicated pickleball courts were installed on one of the 29th Street tennis courts. In the spring of 2021, in response to the concerns of the 29th Street residents, the District restricted the hours of play for pickleball to 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week. In addition, staff began working on a plan to move the 29th Street dedicated pickleball courts to a new temporary location. After much research, Normanby Park was selected; it is located on Pinecrest Drive, high in the British Properties, and has two tennis courts. Based on anecdotal evidence, this park had low use. In 2022, the north tennis court was converted to four pickleball courts on a temporary basis. The south tennis court remains open for tennis play. The 29th Street pickleball courts were returned to tennis court use.

Established in the fall of 2023, the PAR was created to secure the future of indoor and outdoor pickleball in West Vancouver, serving as a key body to develop recommendations related to this growing sport. It brings together members from the West Van Players, North Shore Pickleball Club, and community members with expertise in sports, recreation, and mediation. Together, they collaborate with District staff to foster a constructive and supportive atmosphere for pickleball, striving to maintain a balance between the growth of pickleball, other sports in West Vancouver, and community concerns. The PAR model was devised to simplify and expedite the decision-making processes around pickleball.

6.0 Analysis

6.1 Discussion

The north Normanby Park court opened for pickleball play in May 2022 and is a popular destination for pickleball, often with a lineup to play.

Of the District's 29 tennis courts, 25 of these courts are dedicated to tennis and the remaining four are shared pickleball and tennis courts. To reduce conflicts on courts, the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association, along with Pickleball BC, and Tennis BC, advise against

shared courts. The District made a commitment in December 2021 that no further shared courts would be created.

The Normanby Park courts are located on Pinecrest Drive, with sufficient access to on-street parking to meet the needs of players and residents along the north side of Pinecrest Drive (see Figure 1). This location is mostly surrounded by forest.

Players have reported a positive pickleball experience at Normanby Park, and, through the PAR, have expressed a desire to keep these courts dedicated to pickleball on a permanent basis. Staff have not received feedback from neighbors regarding the pickleball courts at Normanby Park. However, the tennis community has expressed concern that a tennis court was converted to pickleball.

The demand for pickleball continues to exceed the number of courts available in West Vancouver. This demand has been demonstrated through community complaints, letters, and feedback expressed through the PAR. The PAR believes there is a need in the community for more than four dedicated pickleball courts.

At its January 25, 2024 meeting, the PAR voted unanimously to make the pickleball courts at Normanby Park permanent and requested staff to act on this recommendation. In addition to these four permanent pickleball courts at Normanby Park, four additional dedicated pickleball courts will be constructed at Ambleside Park this summer. This will result in eight permanent dedicated pickleball courts in West Vancouver.

Staff are now recommending to Council to designate these courts as permanent dedicated pickleball courts.

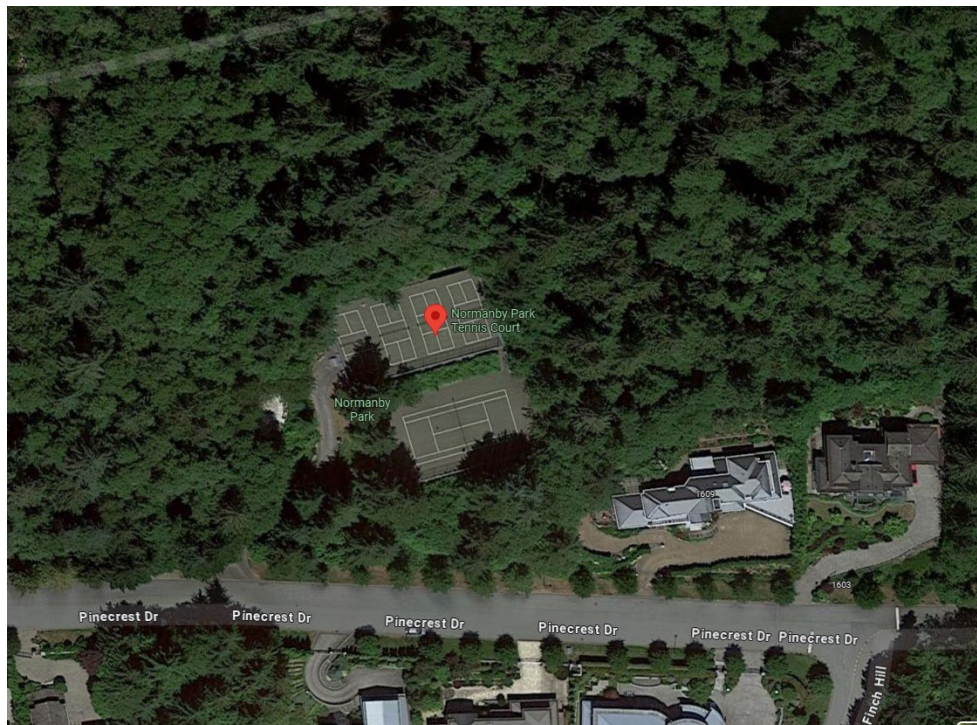


Figure 1: Map of Normanby Park courts

6.2 Climate Change & Sustainability

West Vancouver is an active healthy community with a natural environment that makes active outdoor pursuits readily available to the community. The provision of courts in the community that support pickleball provide recreation opportunities that are important for the social physical well-being of residents.

6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

In 2022, the residents surrounding Normanby Park were informed of the conversion of the courts from tennis to pickleball. In 2023 and 2024, the PAR was part of the decision-making process and recommend the permanence of the Normanby Park pickleball courts.

6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

Staff meet regularly with the PAR, as well as the North Shore Tennis Society (NSTS). The NSTS was advised that the PAR recommended making the Normanby Park courts permanent for pickleball, and the NSTS expressed disappointment about this decision by the PAR. The NSTS also expressed that they are pleased the Ambleside tennis courts at 13th Street and Marine Drive are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2024.

7.0 Options

7.1 Recommended Option

THAT, as recommended by the Pickleball Advisory Roundtable, the four temporary pickleball courts installed at Normanby Park in April 2022 be made permanent dedicated pickleball courts.

7.2 Considered Options

Council may:

- request further information; and/or
- not approve the recommendation.

8.0 Conclusion

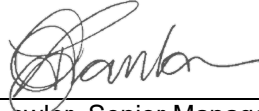
Since opening in May 2022, the Normanby Park pickleball courts have become a popular destination, with consistent use and positive feedback from players. The location above residential areas and surrounded by forest has minimized the noise impact, and available parking has proven sufficient. Through the Pickleball Advisory Roundtable, the pickleball community has advocated for the permanence of these courts, citing their high usage and positive player experiences. No feedback has been received from neighbors, though the tennis community has expressed concerns over the loss of a tennis court.

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The demand for pickleball continues to outstrip the available courts in West Vancouver. This need has been highlighted through community feedback and the Pickleball Advisory Roundtable. This report supports the permanence of pickleball courts in Normanby Park.

Author:



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