

September 29, 2023



To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the Pickleball Guelph Association (PGA) to extend our support and endorsement for the construction of dedicated outdoor pickleball courts as identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) for the City of Guelph.

Established in April 2022, the PGA serves as a representative body for the growing community of pickleball enthusiasts in Guelph, aiming to offer a unified voice, presence, and a structured platform for player development. Since its inception in 2022, the PGA has successfully onboarded 220 registered members (with membership fees duly paid) and garnered a following of 350 individuals on our Facebook Group. It is worth mentioning that the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association (GWSA) pickleball club, which has approximately 180 active participants along with a waitlist of 120 eager players, further underscores the growing appeal for the sport and demand for pickleball facilities. It is estimated that the Guelph pickleball community encompasses over 1,000 players.

The PGA wholeheartedly supports the PRMP in its move to construct dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. The provision of dedicated courts brings forth several substantial advantages over multi-purpose courts. Multi-purpose courts, though a step towards accommodating both pickleball and tennis, fail to address the distinct game structure and spatial requirements of pickleball and tennis. The different court sizes, net heights, and playing styles necessitate tailored facilities to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and competitive environment for both sports.

It is appreciated that the PRMP has indicated consideration for constructing dedicated pickleball courts. There is an additional solution that can be engaged quickly that is time-effective in terms of implementation, cost-efficient, and considers little change to the existing supply of multi-purpose courts that were originally built exclusively for tennis. That solution is to simply convert two existing tennis courts into 5 - 6 dedicated pickleball courts. It is only a matter of repainting two tennis courts for pickleball and adding fencing to separate tennis and pickleball. This can be done in a few weeks at most and is very cost-efficient. This recommendation aims to enhance existing pickleball facilities rather than replace a new facility that would be constructed specifically for pickleball.

The PGA is committed to fostering a robust pickleball community in Guelph and believes that well-structured and ample facilities are crucial for nurturing this rapidly flourishing sport. We eagerly offer our cooperation and insights to ensure that the PRMP is tailored to accommodate the evolving needs of pickleball enthusiasts in our city.

Thank you for all you are doing to support the growth of all sports interests in our City. We are confident that the Guelph City Council will recognize and support the fastest-growing sport in Canada - Pickleball.

Kind regards,

The Pickleball Guelph Association