

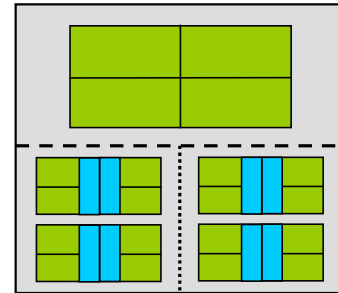
**Dear Mayor Siegers and Councillors**

**May 6, 2021**

The Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association (SCPA) is very pleased to see that \$24,000 has been approved in this year's budget for the resurfacing of the Hackett Park pickleball/tennis courts. The courts are presently falling into disrepair and are potentially hazardous to players. As part of this restoration project we propose the following recommendation to better serve the growing demand for courts.

## **Recommendation**

Retain one court as dedicated tennis with no pickleball lines marked on the court and convert the other court to 4 dedicated pickleball courts with permanent pickleball nets, lines and a new chain link fence separating the tennis and pickleball courts.



## **Rationale**

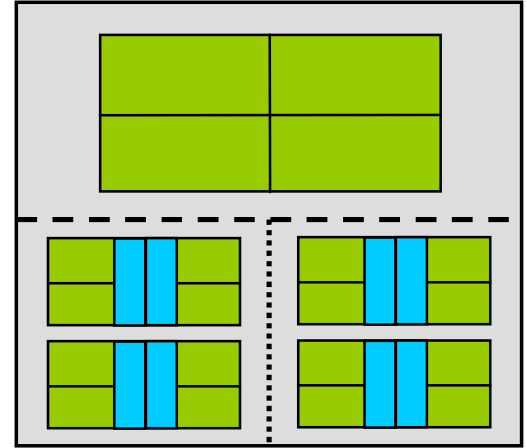
1. Currently with only two tennis courts marked for both tennis and pickleball, players from both sports are becoming increasingly frustrated with the wait time for a court.
2. Based on current anecdotal evidence, the demand for pickleball courts at Hackett Park is greater than the demand for tennis. This could be corroborated with the results of a recent DoS survey regarding court demand. The SCPA would appreciate receiving the results of the survey.
3. Currently with 2 courts marked for each sport a maximum of 8 players can be accommodated. However with the proposed pickleball court conversion a maximum of 20 players can be accommodated. This is based on doubles play on 4 dedicated pickleball courts and 1 dedicated tennis court.
4. Since pickleball players will no longer have access to the dedicated tennis court we expect that court access for tennis players will likely be improved since currently both courts are commonly taken by pickleball players.
5. There will be a significant improvement in the quality of play for both tennis and pickleball with non overlapping, dedicated court lines for each sport.
6. Tennis players will appreciate the enclosed court and will be chasing errant balls far less.
7. Without pickleball lines on the dedicated tennis court, tennis players will no longer be competing with pickleball players for court time so tensions between the two groups will be greatly reduced.
8. Should additional costs beyond the \$24,000 currently allocated occur as a result of the dedicated pickleball court conversion, the SCPA would survey its membership regarding possible tax-deductible donations to assist with the extra costs.

## Proposed Court Layout

The diagram provides a scale drawing of the proposed Hackett Park pickleball and tennis courts.

### Dimensions:

- Overall: 116'x102' for the current outer chain link fence of the Hackett Park facility.
- Tennis Court: 78'x36' within the overall 116'x50' fenced enclosure.
- Pickleball Courts: 20'x44' each with 7' spacing behind the baseline of each court and a 4' spacing between each court. The overall pickleball enclosure is 116'x52'.
- Pickleball courts located on the south side.
- New fence required separating the tennis and pickleball courts.
- New pickleball posts, nets and partial low centre fence separating the two pairs of pickleball courts required.
- New wind screen (green mesh) attached to south side chain link fence or if budget permits, along the entire outer fence.



Hopefully our recommendation will be positively received since it results in a significantly improved recreational amenity for the Sechelt community at potentially no additional public expense assuming the SCPA is able to fund any budgetary shortfall resulting from the pickleball court conversion.

We would be pleased to further discuss this proposal and are keen to meet with park engineers to share our knowledge of court design and surfacing.

Sincerely

Ted Bentley

On Behalf of the SCPA Directors

<https://www.sunshinecoastpickleball.com/>