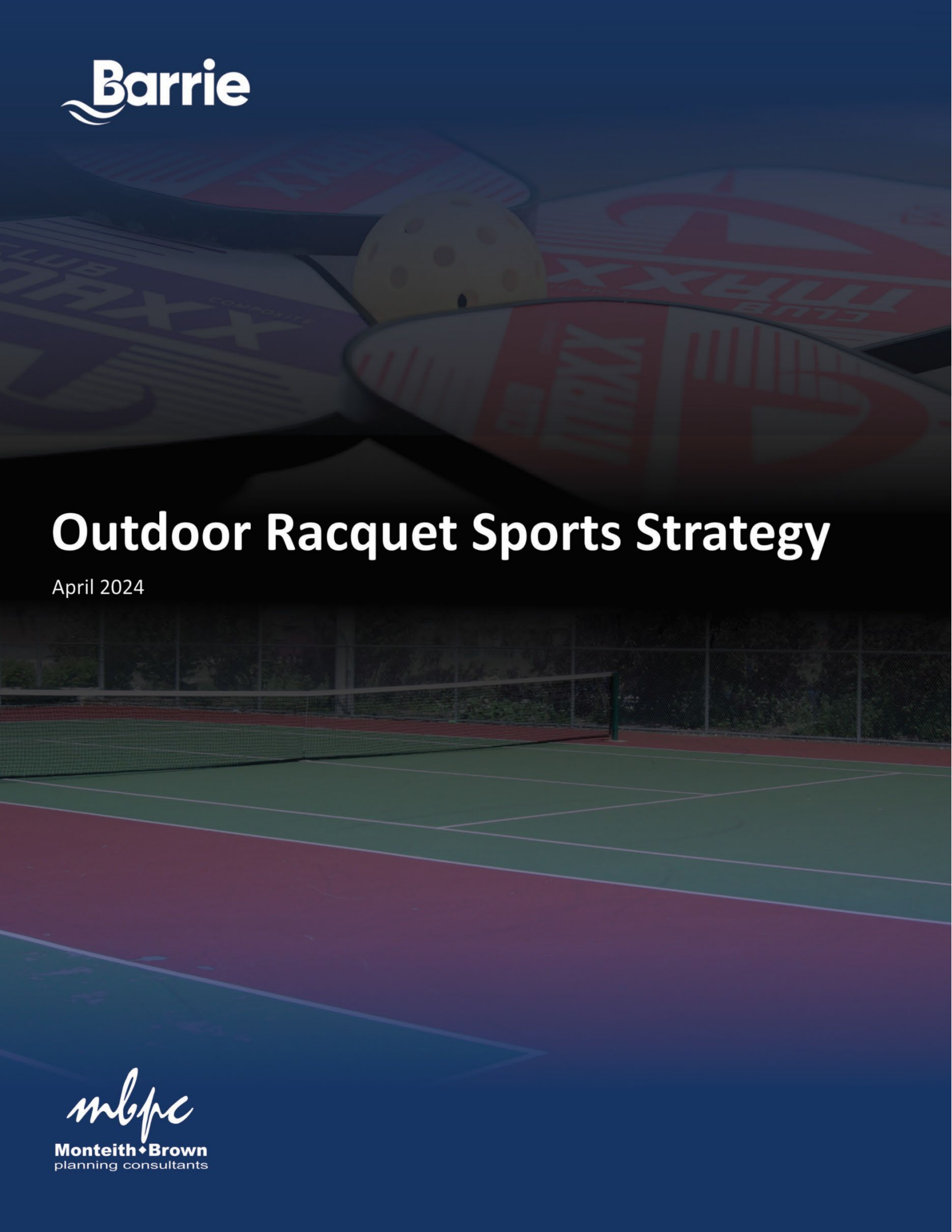


Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy

April 2024

Monteith Brown
planning consultants

City of Barrie

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Executive Summary

The Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy is intended to guide the sustainable delivery of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in the City of Barrie towards 2036, in response to the continued demand for these amenities. The intent of the Strategy is to provide the City of Barrie with:

1. Guidance on design standards for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts;
2. Recommended levels of service based on best practices, community interests, and needs; and
3. An implementation strategy with solutions to achieve the recommended levels of service.

The City of Barrie is committed to continuous improvement and works towards providing the public with inclusive, diverse, and safe opportunities for outdoor recreation, including racquet sports such as outdoor tennis and pickleball. Tennis is experiencing a resurgence in popularity, which is being driven by a growing segment of the population seeking social, and to some degree, lower impact activities. There is also a growing focus on promoting the sport at the grassroots level and the success of Canadian men and women competing on professional tours is also contributing to the heightened interest in the sport.

Pickleball is widely recognized as one of the fastest growing sports in North America. It is an affordable and social sport that is predominantly played among older adults, although there is gaining interest from other age groups, including youth and young adults, who are taking up the sport. Exposure to pickleball is growing exponentially due, in part, to increased media exposure. Additionally, there are now three North American professional tours and hopes of the sport qualifying for the Olympics as soon as 2032.[1] Former professional tennis players have also been promoting the sport, including John McEnroe, Maria Sharapova, Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, and Michael Chang at major pickleball events.[2] Major brands in the sporting goods industry are also carrying pickleball equipment.[3]

In response to the rapidly growing interest in outdoor tennis and pickleball in Barrie, the City has had a number of recent accomplishments, including tennis court renewal and new pickleball court construction projects (e.g., Painswick Park). This Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy provides a detailed analysis of the interests and needs for outdoor tennis and pickleball facilities towards 2036, taking into consideration various factors including, but not limited to, historical and projected population, participation trends, best practices in design and provision strategies, current and planned court inventory, stakeholder and community engagement, court utilization, club membership data, and more. The findings and recommendations of this Strategy are intended to be used to guide future decisions and inform both a future Comprehensive Parks Plan and Recreation Master Plan.

[1] https://torontosun.com/sports/other-sports/pickleball-craze-has-canadians-of-all-ages-headed-for-court
[2] Sports Illustrated. 2023. Sharapova, McEnroe, Graf, Agassi to Compete in Pickleball Slam. Retrieved from https://www.si.com/tennis/2023/07/18/sharapova-mcenroe-graf-agassi-compete-pickleball-slam-2
[3] Afzal, M. 2023. 16 Best Pickleball Paddles Under $50. Retrieved from https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/16-best-pickleball-paddles-under-50-1228192/

The Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy contains 43 recommendations guiding future outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in the City of Barrie. The following is a high-level summary of key recommendations contained in this Strategy. A full list of recommendations can be found in Section 8.

- All new and redeveloped tennis courts should be constructed according to the court dimensions endorsed by the International Tennis Federation that are suitable for wheelchair play.

- All new and redeveloped pickleball courts should be designed to court dimensions for competitive play that are endorsed by Pickleball Canada and USA Pickleball Association. Pickleball court dimensions for elite and wheelchair play should only be considered at Community and Regional Parks.

- The development of multi-lined courts for outdoor tennis and pickleball should only be considered where dedicated courts cannot be accommodated to satisfy community needs and where parkland is limited, such as at a Neighbourhood Park.

- The design of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should consider factors such as court configuration, orientation, setbacks, noise mitigation, surfacing, pathways, lighting, electrical supply, fencing, shade, seating, washrooms, windscreens, water bottle filing stations, on-site parking, and indoor meeting spaces.

- A service level target of one tennis court per 5,000 residents and a service area of one kilometre is recommended, which would require the City add 13 new dedicated tennis courts by 2036, although additional locations may be considered to strengthen geographic distribution. The following strategy is recommended:

    - Construct 6 tennis courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area
    - Construct 3 tennis courts in the Salem Secondary Plan Area
    - Construct 4 tennis courts in Barrie's established areas to address existing gap.

- A service level target of one pickleball court per 5,000 residents and a service area of one kilometre is recommended, which would require the City add 20 new dedicated pickleball courts. To achieve a strong geographic distribution, 22 dedicated pickleball courts are proposed to be provided in the following manner:

    - Construct 8 pickleball courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area
    - Construct 6 pickleball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan Area
    - Construct 8 pickleball courts in Barrie's established areas to address existing gaps

- Work with the Barrie Community Tennis Club, other stakeholders, and the general public to undertake a Comprehensive Park Plan for Queen's Park to create a long-term future for responding to residential intensification with consideration given to outdoor tennis and pickleball courts.

- Outdoor tennis and pickleball club-courts for organized community groups should be provided at a rate of one court per 50 to 75 members. Based on existing membership data, no new club courts are recommended at this time.

- Regularly review the City's outdoor tennis and pickleball court fees, with consideration given to regional municipal comparators, and adjust as necessary to remain in alignment with other communities and to achieve appropriate cost recovery levels.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Strategy

The Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy ("the Strategy") will guide the sustainable delivery of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in the City of Barrie to 2036, in response to the continued demand for these amenities. The intent of the Strategy is to provide the City of Barrie with:

1. Guidance on design standards for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts;
2. Recommended levels of service based on best practices, community interests and needs; and
3. An implementation strategy with solutions to achieve the recommended levels of service.

The City of Barrie is committed to continuous improvement and works towards providing the public with inclusive, diverse, and safe opportunities for outdoor recreation, including racquet sports such as outdoor tennis and pickleball. In 2019, the City prepared an Outdoor Recreation Facility Study and at the time, pickleball was in its infancy in Barrie and limited data was available regarding generally accepted provision targets for outdoor pickleball facilities in Ontario municipalities. In response to the rapidly growing interest in tennis, and particularly pickleball in Barrie, this Strategy will provide a detailed review of the interests and needs for outdoor tennis and pickleball facilities. The findings and recommendations of this Strategy will be used to guide future decisions and inform both a future Comprehensive Parks Plan and Recreation Master Plan.



1.2 Strategy Scope and Approach

This Strategy has been developed as part of a four-stage process. **Stage 1** consisted of background research to establish an understanding of Barrie's current state as it relates to outdoor tennis and pickleball activities. This included reviewing key background documents, sport court inventory and visual condition, usage levels, community profile, and trends and best practices. **Stage 2** consisted of undertaking community engagement to collect input from the public and interest holders, which included a public online survey, in-person information pop-ups, a sports user groups workshop, and consultation with Barrie's Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee. **Stage 3** involved establishing a recommended service level for outdoor tennis and pickleball facilities, followed by a gap analysis, preliminary recommendations, and delivery plan. A draft and final Strategy was developed in **Stage 4**. Preparation of the Strategy was guided by the City's Technical Advisory Team consisting of representatives from Development Services – Parks Planning, Parks and Forestry Operations, and Recreation and Culture Services Departments. The purpose of the Technical Advisory Team was to provide project direction and input throughout the process, including reviewing and commenting on deliverables at key stages.

Stage 1 **Background Research**	1. Background Research 2. Community Demographics 3. Trends and Best Practices 4. Supply and Utilization
Stage 2 **Community Engagement**	5. Public Awareness and Pop-ups 6. Online Community Survey 7. Sports User Groups Workshop 8. Seniors' and Accessibility Advisory Committee Workshop
Stage 3 **Needs Assessment and Preliminary Findings**	9. Service Level, Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment 10. Preliminary Findings
Stage 4 **Outdoor Racquet Sports Strategy**	11. Draft and Finalize Strategy

This Strategy is focused on outdoor tennis and pickleball facilities exclusively. Indoor recreation facilities, such as indoor tennis and pickleball courts (either permanent or domed), are beyond the scope of this Strategy and will be evaluated as part of a future Recreation Master Plan, led by the Recreation and Culture Services Department. Other racquet sports that could be played in an outdoor setting, such as ping pong/table tennis and badminton, have been excluded from this Strategy.

Both outdoor ping pong/table tennis and badminton facilities are not typically provided as a baseline level of service by municipalities. In Barrie, outdoor ping pong/tennis facilities are considered on a case-by-case basis where sufficient support is identified, where requests have been made, or where deemed appropriate. These facilities are often implemented as part of a park redevelopment/enhancement process.

Badminton is generally a sport that is best enjoyed indoors, as outdoor elements, such as wind, can significantly impact game play. Should residents be interested in taking part in outdoor badminton activities, the City of Barrie offers outdoor pickleball court facilities that can potentially be utilized for badminton play. The standard pickleball courts and badminton courts share the same dimensions (13.41 by 6.10 metres/44 by 20 feet). Pickleball and badminton courts have similar, yet different linework, and different net heights for gameplay.



2.0 Current Context

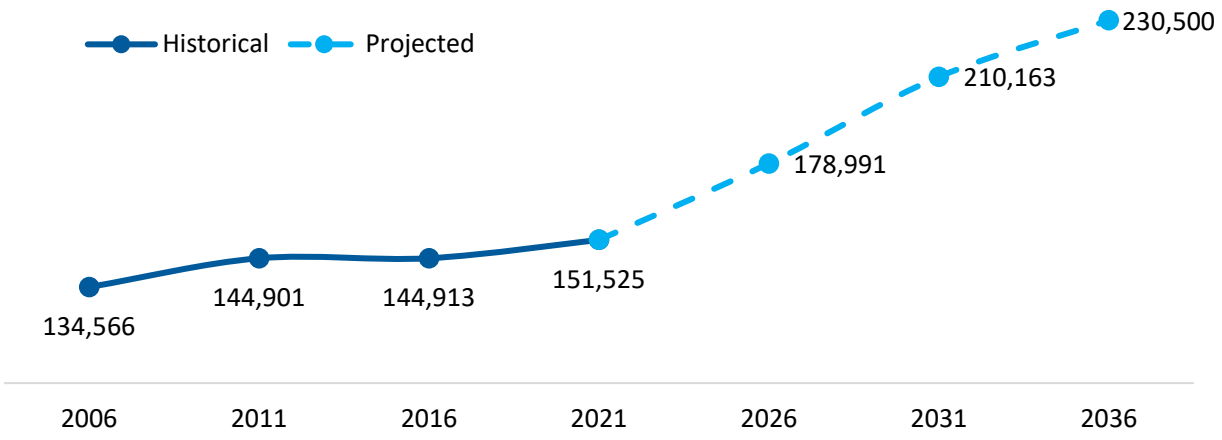
This section provides an overview of Barrie's community profile, including historical and projected population growth and other socio-demographic characteristics such as age, immigration, diversity, and income. Participation trends in outdoor tennis and pickleball is also contained in this section.

2.1 Community Profile

2.1.1 Historic and Projected Population

Statistics Canada reported that between 2011 and 2021, Barrie's population grew by 9% to 147,845 (or 151,525 adjusting for Census undercount).[4] Barrie's most recent population projections are contained in the City's 2023 Development Charges Background Study. **These projections estimate that Barrie will have a population of 167,910 residents for 2024, which will be used as the baseline for this Strategy.** By 2036, the City is expected to grow by 37%, reaching a population of 230,500 residents (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH, 2011 TO 2031

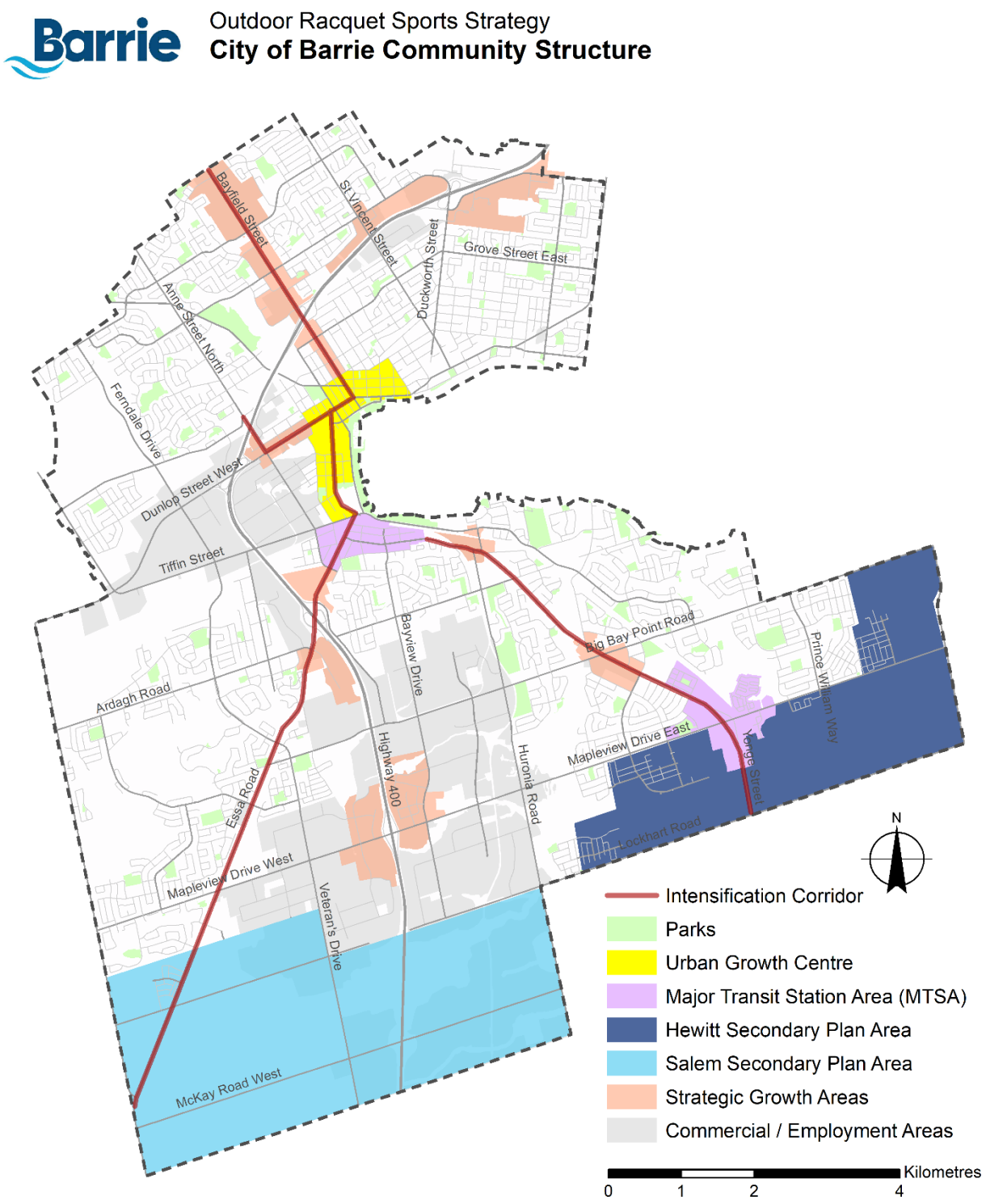


Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2006 to 2021. City of Barrie 2023 Development Charges Background Study.

Barrie's secondary plan areas of Hewitt and Salem are expected to accommodate the majority of future population growth through low and medium density development. By 2036, these two secondary plan areas are projected to grow by fivefold, adding a total of more than 32,000 new residents. In addition, the population within the City's former municipal boundary is estimated to grow by 18%, adding over 28,000 residents.[5] The majority of future residents within Barrie's former municipal boundary are anticipated to be accommodated within areas of intensification, including Barrie's Urban Growth Centre and Major Transit Station Area (MTSA). Figure 2 illustrates the geographic location of these key growth areas.

[4] Statistics Canada 2011 and 2021 Census.
[5] Hemson Consulting. 2023. Development Charges Background Study. Retrieved from https://www.barrie.ca

FIGURE 2: CITY OF BARRIE KEY GROWTH AREAS



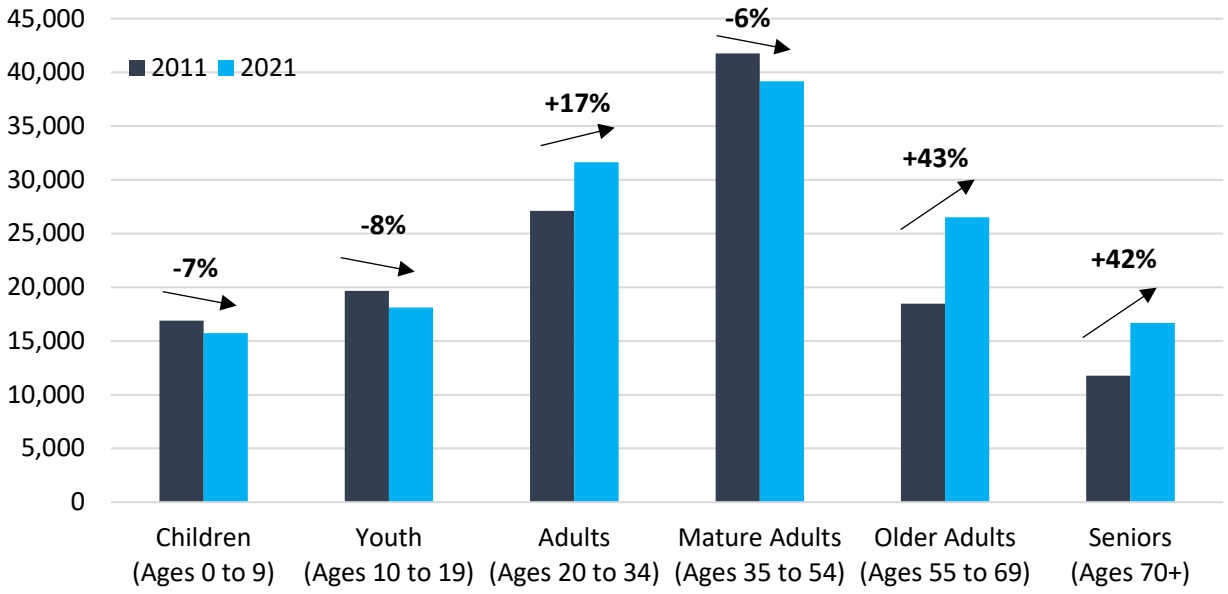
2.1.2 Population Growth by Age

Barrie is an aging community, a trend that is consistent across Simcoe County and Ontario, driven by the aging baby boomer population. Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, Barrie's median age increased by two years to 39.2 years, which is lower compared to Simcoe County (43.2 years) and Ontario (41.6 years).

A review of population growth by age group provides further evidence of Barrie's aging population. Between 2011 and 2021, the population of older adults (ages 55 to 69) and seniors (ages 70+) increased by 43% and 42%, respectively. The population of adults (ages 20 to 34) also increased by 17%, while all other age groups declined by 6% to 8% (Figure 3).

While it is anticipated that Barrie's population will continue to age, the City's projected housing stock may drive an increase in young adults and new families to Barrie over the planning period, particularly as young Canadians across the Greater Toronto Area and newcomers seek more affordable housing options. Barrie's recent increase in adults in their childbearing years also suggests that the City may soon experience an increase in children and youth, although it is also recognized that some people are choosing to delay or forego starting a family. Overall, population growth is expected to continue driving needs for racquet sport courts in Barrie.

FIGURE 3: POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE GROUP



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2011 to 2021.

2.1.3 Immigration and Diversity

The 2021 Census reported that 17% of Barrie's residents are immigrants, which is higher compared to Simcoe County (16%) and lower than Ontario as a whole (30%). A large portion of Barrie's immigrants are from European countries such as Poland, Germany, and Portugal, as well as from Asian countries, including India, Philippines, and China.

Immigration levels and cultural diversity have an impact on the type of recreation activities that are played. Tennis is an international sport with worldwide appeal; it is anticipated that the cultural barriers associated with the sport are low. While pickleball is generally a North American sport, it is an easy activity to learn, and the social nature of the game suggests that it has appeal to people regardless of their cultural background.

2.1.4 Income

Statistics Canada's 2021 Census reported that Barrie's household income in 2020 was $93,000, on par with counterparts in Simcoe County and slightly higher compared to Ontario ($91,000). The individual income for Barrie residents in 2020 was $41,200, on par with counterparts in Ontario and slightly lower compared to Simcoe County ($41,600). It is also recognized that some Barrie residents may be experiencing financial constraints. The 2021 Census found that 8.3% of residents live below the low-income measure (after tax), which is higher compared to Simcoe County (8.1%) but lower compared to Ontario (10.1%).

Studies have found that higher income groups are more likely to be physically active compared to lower income groups.[6] This suggests that households with more disposable incomes may be more likely to participate in certain recreation activities such as organized sports that have high equipment costs. However, outdoor tennis and pickleball are relatively affordable sports to play as a study completed in the United States found that families spend an average of $122 USD (or $164 CAD based on January 2024 exchange rates)per year on tennis equipment for one child, which is less compared to equipment costs for other sports such as hockey ($389 USD/$521 CAD per year per child), field hockey ($521 USD/$698 CAD), softball ($159 USD / $213 CAD), soccer ($125 USD/ $168 CAD), and others. While costs for program registration, lessons/camps, and travel can vary, the availability of public racquet sport courts can be used by the community without having to pay a fee.[7]

[6] Government of Canada. 2020. A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving. Retrieved from: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/lets-get-moving.html

[7] Utah State University. 2019. 2019 Youth Sport Survey. Retrieved from https://www.playgroundequipment.com/the-average-cost-of-each-childrens-sport/

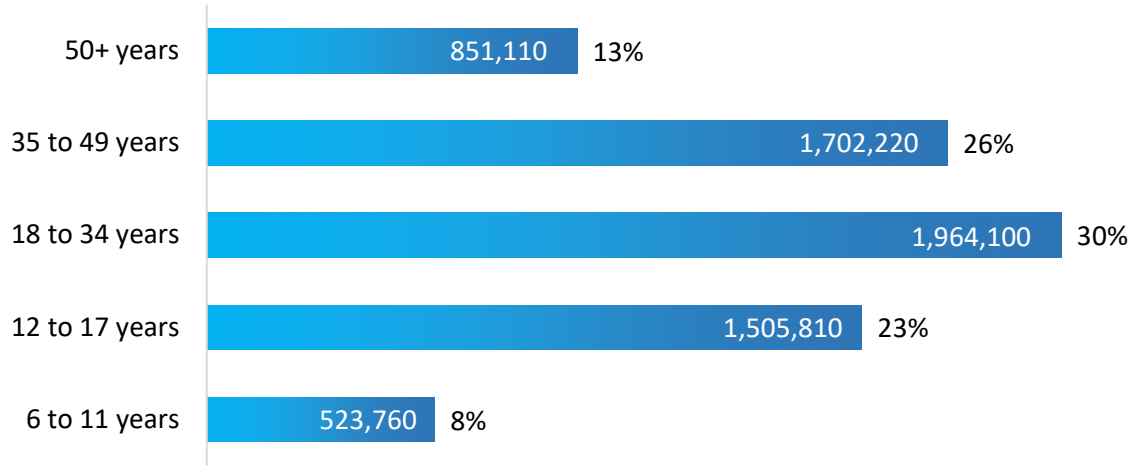
2.2 Tennis Participation Trends

Tennis is a racquet sport that is played between two opposing players or in teams of two on a hard surface court with painted lining to denote the playing boundaries. Tennis is played using a racquet to strike a felt-covered, rubber ball over or around a net to the opposing player who aims to return the ball within the playing boundaries. Tennis is an inclusive sport, played by all ages and abilities, including persons with mobility disabilities, such as wheelchair users.

Tennis Canada reported that 6.6 million Canadians played tennis at least once in 2018, which was a growth of more than 23% from 2014. Tennis is being played more often as nearly 3 million Canadians self-identify as a frequent player – those who play at least once a week during the tennis season – which is twice as many compared to 2014.[8, 9] At the provincial level, Tennis Ontario reported that there were 65,000 members registered with 250 affiliated member clubs in 2022; the organization also reported that there are 2,800 registered competitors.[10]

Age-specific data from a 2018 Canadian survey is shown below, indicating that the sport is most popular among the young adults age group (18-34 years old), making up 30% of tennis players in Canada in 2018. This age group is closely followed by tennis participants who are 35-49 years old (26%) and those who are 12 to 17 years old (23%). This indicates a generally younger population playing the sport in recent years.

FIGURE 4: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF TENNIS PLAYERS IN CANADA (2018)



Source: Tennis Canada Tennis Participation in Canada (2018)

The research suggests that tennis is experiencing a resurgence in popularity. This can be attributed to a number of factors such as the growing segment of the population seeking social, and to some degree, lower impact activities. There is also a focus on promoting the sport at the grassroots level. Tennis Canada reported that in 2018, more than 200,000 children under the age of 12 were considered frequent tennis

[8] Tennis Canada. 2018 Annual Report.
[9] Charlton Strategic Research. 2014 Canadian Tennis Brand Health Study.
[10] Tennis Ontario. 2022. https://www.tennisontario.com/news/ota-by-the-numbers

players, which was an increase of 40% compared to 2015.[11] Part of this growth can also be linked to the success of Canadians competing on the professional tours, including Leyla Fernandez, who made it to the finals in the US Open in 2021 and Gabriela Dabrowski's US Open championship win in 2023.[12]

Like many recreation opportunities, participation in tennis experienced a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic when public facilities were closed (2020 to 2022). During this period, many communities, including Barrie, experienced a pent-up demand for outdoor recreation opportunities with people having been limited in the physical activities that they were accustomed to; the social aspect of participating in recreation activities was also missed among many people. When recreation facilities began to re-open with certain restrictions, tennis courts were one of the few outdoor recreation facilities that people could use while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Coming out of the pandemic, Tennis Canada reports that interest in the sport is growing, particularly among the younger population – specifically children – as there is a renewed interest in the activity.[13]

Barrie's local organization is the Barrie Community Tennis Club. Each year, the Club caps their membership at 120 players as they indicate that they are limited to the number of courts available to the group and as a result, they typically limit their waitlist to 30 players. Currently, the Club offers memberships to adults (18+). Simcoe Tennis, a tennis coaching service, offers children and youth programming throughout Simcoe County including the City of Barrie. The organization reported that participation typically fluctuates between 50 and 100 members and three-quarters of its membership are Barrie residents (37 to 75 players).

2.3 Pickleball Participation Trends

Pickleball Ontario describes the sport as a combination of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. The game is played on a badminton size court with a whiffle ball, about the size of a tennis ball; and a solid smooth surface, short handled paddle larger than a ping pong paddle. The game is easy to learn and you do not have to be an athlete to play. Pickleball is a great way to get active, stay active, and have fun at the same time, and it also has great aerobics value.

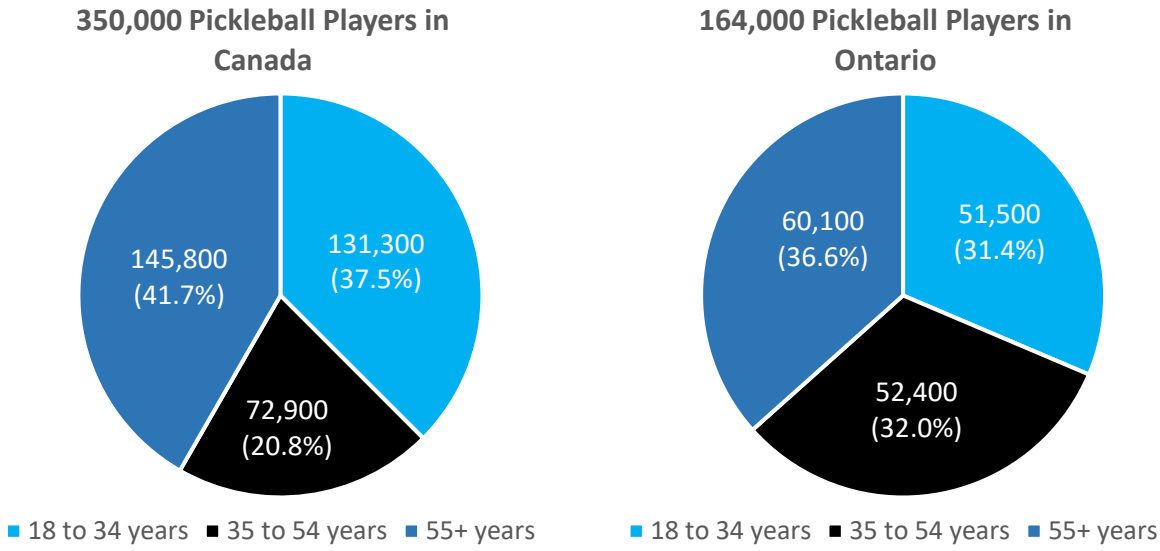
Pickleball is an accessible, affordable, and social sport, able to be played by newcomers and more seasoned players alike. Doubles play is more popular than singles. The sport is easier on the knees and shoulders than tennis, making it extremely popular with older adults and seniors, many of which have transitioned from playing tennis. Due to its primary demographic, generally daytime usage is more frequent than evening use. As the sport of pickleball matures in Canada, participation is becoming broader and more diverse. This includes more competitive leagues (leading to the establishment of sport organizations and advocates for higher-quality facilities) and instructional programs for youth (it is beginning to be taught in schools). Today it is widely recognized as the fastest growing sport in Canada.

[11] Ibid.
[12] CBC News. 2022. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/canada-success-tennis-popular-british-columbia-1.6313134
[13] Tennis Canada. 2021 Rebuilding a Tennis Nation. https://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Rebuilding-a-tennis-nation_EN.pdf

A survey[14] completed in January 2022 by Pickleball Canada showed that 8% of Canadian households report at least one household member plays pickleball once per month. This suggests that there are now one million Canadians playing pickleball at least once a month, a near tripling of the number of pickleball players in Canada in two years.

The figure below highlights the age of pickleball players in Ontario and in Canada for players over the age of 18; data for players under the age of 18 is not available. The data indicates that the sport is most popular with older adults (who typically play during the daytime), but that it is also attracting younger, working adults as facilities become available during evening hours and weekends. Since 2020, the age group showing the fastest rate of growth is players aged 18 to 34, with a 26% increase over the number of players in this group playing at least once per month in 2020. This age group also reports a very high frequency of play with 13% playing 15 or more times/month.

FIGURE 5: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PICKLEBALL PLAYERS IN CANADA AND ONTARIO, AGES 18+ (2020)



Source: Pickleball Canada, IPSOS Poll, December 2019
Note: Survey conducted by IPSOS Poll did not collect data on respondents under the age of 18

Municipalities quickly responded to initial demands for pickleball facilities by overlaying pickleball lines on a tennis court. However, many communities throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area are now constructing dedicated outdoor pickleball courts to accommodate the sport such as in Hamilton, Whitby, Bradford West Gwillimbury, St. Thomas, London, Sarnia, Windsor, and more.

[14] https://pickleballcanada.org/january-2022-survey-national-release/

Some communities have been more creative to address pickleball needs on an interim measure. For example, during the pandemic, some municipalities established temporary pickleball courts on a variety of surfaces, such as tennis courts, ball hockey rinks, arena floors, parking lots, and more. Pop-up pickleball courts can be created through painted (of chalked) lines, portable nets and temporary fencing, such as courts at Richmond Green Park in the City of Richmond Hill (Figure 6) or the City Hall parking lot in Markham (Figure 7).

FIGURE 6: EXAMPLE OF POP-UP PICKLEBALL COURTS AT RICHMOND GREEN IN RICHMOND HILL



Photo Credit: Steve Somerville/Metroland

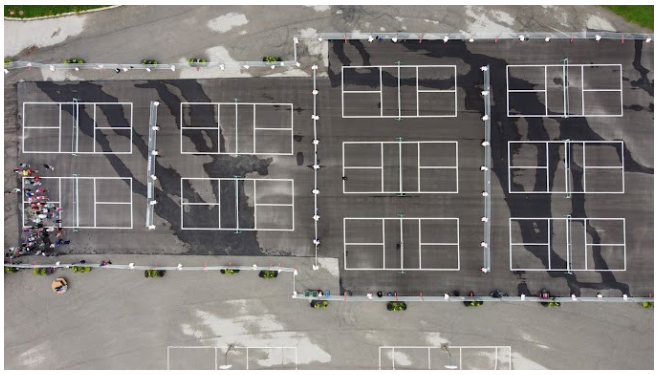


Photo Credit: Nara Oeur

FIGURE 7: EXAMPLE OF POP-UP PICKLEBALL COURTS AT THE MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE IN MARKHAM



Photo Credit: Pickleball Today



Photo Credit: Pictometry

Exposure to the sport is growing exponentially due, in part, to increased media exposure. Additionally, there are now three North American professional tours and hopes of the sport qualifying for the Olympics as soon as 2032.[15] Former professional tennis players have also been promoting the sport, including John McEnroe, Maria Sharapova, Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, and Michael Chang at major pickleball events.[16] Major brands in the sporting goods industry are also carrying pickleball equipment.[17]

[15] https://torontosun.com/sports/other-sports/pickleball-craze-has-canadians-of-all-ages-headed-for-court
[16] Sports Illustrated. 2023. Sharapova, McEnroe, Graf, Agassi to Compete in Pickleball Slam. Retrieved from https://www.si.com/tennis/2023/07/18/sharapova-mcenroe-graf-agassi-compete-pickleball-slam-2
[17] Afzal, M. 2023. 16 Best Pickleball Paddles Under $50. Retrieved from https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/16-best-pickleball-paddles-under-50-1228192/

Like tennis, pickleball activities were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as gatherings and recreation activities were temporarily prohibited. As restrictions were eventually relaxed, pickleball was one of the few activities that could be played while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Experience in other communities have revealed that interest and participation in pickleball has ramped back up to pre-pandemic level and in many cases, exceeded historical participation levels.

The Barrie Pickleball Club is the City's local organization. In the past year, the Club reported that their membership more than doubled to 585 participants. The pickleball program offered by the St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School also increased nearly four-fold to 44 members. Anecdotally, the pickleball group identified that members are mostly are older adults, although the activity is attracting younger players.



3.0 Community Engagement

This section provides a summary of the Strategy's community engagement initiatives and results.

3.1 Community Engagement Strategy

Community engagement activities were undertaken to support the development of this Strategy. The purpose of these engagement activities is to raise general awareness about the Strategy and ways the public and user groups could get involved and for the City to collect information from local outdoor tennis and pickleball players (including membership, participation levels, satisfaction levels, opportunities to improve service, and more). The consultation process was designed to align with the City's community engagement guiding principles, highlighted below:

1. **Inclusiveness:** The participation of all interest holders and those who would be affected by a specific decision, including groups that can be difficult to engage such as young people, minority groups and persons with disabilities.

2. **Representative:** To ensure that a cross-section of the community is provided with the information regarding the project and that their views are represented and considered in the process.

3. **Transparency and Clarity:** Ensuring that all interest holders are given the information they need, told what they can or cannot influence by responding to engagement and what the next steps will be taken.

4. **Commitment:** Giving consultation sufficient priority and resources and demonstrating that it is a genuine attempt to understand and incorporate other opinions even when they conflict with the existing point of view.

5. **Accessibility:** Providing different ways for people to be engaged and ensuring that people are not excluded through barriers of language, culture, or opportunity.

6. **Accountability:** After the engagement process, ensure participants receive feedback of how and why their contributions have or have not influenced the outcome. Also, ensure that there are routes for follow-up including reporting on final decisions and/or implementation plans.

7. **Responsiveness:** Those doing the consulting must be open to the idea that their existing plans may need to be changed, improved, or even deleted. Those being consulted must believe that their voice will be taken seriously, and that things can be changed if there is support for change.

8. **Willingness to Learn:** Encouraging both those carrying out the consultation and the participants to learn from each other. This means a style of process that is as interactive and as incremental as possible to build increasing layers of mutual understanding and respect.

9. **Productivity:** Establishing from the outset how the engagement process will make something better.

3.2 Strategy Awareness Initiatives

3.2.1 Strategy Website

To raise awareness for the Strategy, a project webpage was created on the City's Building Barrie engagement portal where residents could learn about the Strategy and how to get involved and provide input, including completing the online public survey, where to find information pop-ups, joining the Sports User Groups Workshop, and participating in the children (12 and under) colouring activity.

3.2.2 Information Pop-Ups

City staff held seven information pop-ups at various parks and community centres throughout October 2023 to raise awareness about the project, promote the community survey, and to engage the community. The pop-up sessions were well attended as City staff directly engaged with approximately 1,200 members of the public.

A range of public input was received, including comments expressed for the desire to learn to play pickleball, but were hesitant to invest in equipment. Staff were able to inform residents of the Barrie Public Library's Library of Things, where both outdoor tennis and pickleball kits were available to borrow, free of charge. Others shared that they felt intimidated to try pickleball at City courts, as the courts were often busy, and the users appeared to be advanced/competitive players. Several residents suggested that beginner pickleball programs and/or introductory lessons be available. Some residents expressed that they had difficulties booking pickleball courts during their desired times, as the courts were already permitted for regular use by others. Several positive comments were also received by both residents and visitors, about the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park.

FIGURE 8: OUTDOOR RACQUET SPORTS STRATEGY POP-UP STATIONS



3.2.3 Colouring Activity

To engage youth, a colouring activity was available for children 12 and under at the information pop-ups and online. The colouring activity involved "designing" your own tennis racquet or pickleball paddle and ball. The City received over 100 submissions. Eligible participants were entered into a draw for a beginner pickleball or tennis set.



3.2.4 Additional Promotion

Additional promotions for the Strategy were undertaken, such as:

- Social media advertisements (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X)
- Media releases (Simcoe.com and BarrieToday)
- Radio advertisements
- On-site signage at parks

3.3 Online Public Survey

An online public survey was open from October 10th to November 10th, 2023, to provide the opportunity for residents to share information about their skill level, sport participation, preferences, and satisfaction levels, and suggestions for potential enhancements to existing courts or where new courts should be considered. The community survey was available to complete online through the project portal on Building Barrie and it was promoted at the City's pop-up booths, social media efforts, posters, and word of mouth, and other tactics. A total of 486 survey responses were received. As the survey was voluntary and self-directed, participants were not required to answer every question and the results may not necessarily be representative of the entirety of the City of Barrie. The following is a high-level summary of the survey responses. **Appendix A** contains a detailed summary and the survey data.

3.3.1 Key Tennis Survey Findings

- **57% of respondents** reported that they **played tennis in the past 3 years**. Among the 43% of respondents that have not recently played**, two-thirds (67%) indicated that they have no interest in playing tennis**. Suggestions offered by respondents to encourage them to try the sport included offering beginner lessons.

- Of respondents that have played tennis, **59% of respondents** were **recreational players** – those who play for fun and are familiar with the rules of the game. **One-fifth (22%) were beginners** – those who are not regular players or are not familiar with the rules, and the remaining **19% were competitive/expert players** who play in a competitive league and are well-versed in the rules and are able to teach others.

- The **majority of respondents play tennis at City tennis courts**. Competitive/expert players are more likely to play on private clubs and outside of Barrie compared to beginner and recreational players.

- Over the past three years, the most popular tennis courts were **Queen's Park and Painswick Park**. The top reasons for respondents visiting City courts were convenience of the location, the courts are available when they need them, and that they participate in a league or with a group of friends.

- Competitive/expert and recreational players are **most likely to drive** to tennis courts that they use; beginner players are likely to drive or walk.

- Two-thirds (66%) of beginner players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the **number of tennis courts**; 21% were neutral and 7% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. 63% of recreational players are satisfied or somewhat satisfied; 16% were neutral and 19% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. 51% of competitive/expert players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied; 11% were neutral and **38%** were dissatisfied. This suggests that **adding tennis courts may increase satisfaction levels**. Suggestions included adding or constructing tennis courts at Queen's Park, Painswick Park, Strabane Park, Golden Meadow Park, Kozlov Park, Holly Park, Harvie Park, Tyndale Park, and in the south end of Barrie.

- 64% of recreational players and 60% of beginners were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the **distribution of tennis courts**, while 43% of competitive/expert players were satisfied. This suggests that there may be **opportunities for improvement to the distribution of courts**.

- Regardless of skill level, top **suggestions to enhance the use of existing tennis courts** included **improving court surfacing, installing washrooms and shade structures**.

- Top suggestions for **improving access to tennis courts** included **adding lighting, washrooms and constructing courts in new locations**.

3.3.2 Key Pickleball Survey Findings

- **60% of respondents** reported that they **played pickleball in the past 3 years**. Among the 40% of respondents who have not played the sport, one-third (32%) cited being **unaware of opportunities as the most common barrier**; suggestions were made to offer beginner lessons and to promote available opportunities.

- Of respondents that have played pickleball, nearly **two-thirds (63%)** were **recreational players** – those who play for fun and are familiar with the rules of the game. **One-quarter (23%) were beginners** – those who are not regular players or are not familiar with the rules, and the remaining **14% were competitive/expert players** who play in a competitive league and are well versed in the rules and are able to teach others.

- **84% of pickleball players play at City of Barrie courts**; competitive/expert players are more likely, than beginner and recreational players, to play at private courts and outside of Barrie.

- In the past three years, the pickleball courts at **Painswick Park and Eastview Community Park were the most used locations**. The top reasons for respondents visiting City courts were: location is convenient, they participate in a league or with a group of friends, and the courts are available when they need them.

- **Traveling by vehicle** is the most common method to access pickleball courts, particularly for competitive/expert and recreational players. Beginner pickleball players are more likely to walk or bicycle to pickleball courts compared to recreational and competitive/expert players.

- 68% of competitive/expert players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the **number of pickleball courts** in Barrie; 10% were neutral and 17% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. Among beginner and recreational players, 55% were satisfied or somewhat satisfied; 21% were neutral and 23% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. This suggests that there is an **opportunity to provide additional pickleball courts to improve satisfaction levels**.

- 59% of competitive/expert players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the **distribution of pickleball courts**; 20% were neutral and 15% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. 36% of beginner players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied; 24% were neutral and 21% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. 46% of recreational players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied; 19% were neutral and 33% were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. This suggests that there are **improvements that could be made to the geographic distribution of the City's pickleball courts**. Suggested locations included in the north and south end of Barrie, Holly neighbourhood, Painswick Park, Sunnidale Park, Strabane Park, East Bayfield Community Park, Waterfront, Queen's Park, Downtown area, Ferndale Park, Lampman Lane Park, and Greenfield Park.

- Regardless of skill level, there was a **desire to enhance existing pickleball courts**, with top suggestions including improving or **installing washrooms, shade structures, and windscreens**.

- Top suggestions **for improving access to pickleball courts** among all skill levels included **increasing the supply and distribution of pickleball courts** and in more locations, as well as adding washrooms and lighting.

3.4 Sports User Groups Workshop

An in-person workshop with community outdoor tennis and pickleball user groups was held on October 26, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to learn about each group, trends they are experiencing, concerns, and potential solutions to address needs. Seven individuals, representing four groups, were in attendance and one organization provided written comments. Participants included:

- Barrie Community Tennis Club
- Barrie Pickleball Club
- Simcoe County District School Board
- Simcoe Tennis
- Taylored Pickleball Academy (written input submitted)

Key themes from the discussions with groups are highlighted below and a detailed summary can be found in **Appendix B**.

3.4.1 Interest and Participation

- Both outdoor tennis and pickleball organizations identified that participation and interest in their organizations have grown over the past number of years. According to user groups, interest in their organizations and their respective sports is driven by broad trends that make the sports popular such as the international appeal and the success of professional Canadian tennis players on the international stage.

- The Barrie Community Tennis Club noted that they are unable to accommodate additional players due to the limited availability of permitted tennis courts specifically at Queen's Park, the Club's primary location. The Club reported to have 120 players and have capped their waitlist to 30.

- Pickleball groups anticipate that interest in the sport will continue to grow as the sport continues to become more mainstream for residents, noting that it is accessible and is a social activity. Pickleball groups noted that international tennis players who are taking up and promoting pickleball have also helped generate interest in the sport.

3.4.2 Access and Inclusion

- User groups recognize the importance of accommodating all residents to ensure that outdoor racquet sports user groups are inclusive of everyone (physically and financially accessible). For example, the Barrie Community Tennis Club noted that they are open to providing financial assistance to any member who may be experiencing financial constraints. The Barrie Pickleball Club is also open to providing financial support, although they noted that membership fees are more affordable compared to other organized sports. Some groups noted that they have

members who have a physical disability, and the use of courts has generally not been an issue as the layouts of competitive courts are generally suitable for wheelchair users, based on feedback from group members. Barrie has some courts that can accommodate persons with disabilities such as the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park. Barrie Pickleball Club also mentioned that they typically have demonstration paddles available for non-members to try the activity.

3.4.3 Existing Facilities

- The Barrie Community Tennis Club requested up to three additional tennis courts at Queen's Park to support the growth of their organization and to expand programming. The Club expressed the desire to centralize tennis courts at Queen's Park, rather than book time at other courts in Barrie. The group has provided programming at other courts in the past, but this created challenges with players having a preference to play at specific locations. Other concerns were mentioned regarding the quality of courts and the absence of equipment storage facilities at other City park locations. It was indicated that there would be a cost and liability associated with establishing satellite storage facilities and equipment requirements. Additionally, the group expressed the desire to remain at Queen's Park to create the Club atmosphere and playing environment that members seek, as well as have access to amenities such as the clubhouse and washrooms.

- The Barrie Pickleball Club primarily uses the new courts at Painswick Park; the Simcoe District School Board also uses these courts. The Club expressed praise for the new facilities, with specific mention of the court surfacing, shade structure, lighting, bleachers, and fencing. This location has been used for tournaments and there is interest from groups in holding additional events in the future. The pickleball courts at the Eastview Community Park are also used by the Club, as well as by the Simcoe County District School Board for their programming and have indicated that adding lights at this location would be beneficial to extend playing times (light installation is expected to take place in the short-term). The importance of locating pickleball courts near schools was also mentioned to support school programming.

3.4.4 Facility Design and Supporting Amenities

- The workshop participants identified key design features that should be considered as part of new construction or renewal include lighting, proximity to adjacent land uses, proximity to schools, high quality asphalt and acrylic surfaces, and other supporting amenities such as paved parking, seating, shade, washrooms, drinking fountains, and electricity. It was also expressed that all courts should be physically accessible, with consideration of accessible pathways to and from park access points and court facilities, accessible gate entrances, tall fencing, and wide playout areas. The desire for dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts was also heard, as well as to ensure that all courts are designed to standards endorsed by the International Tennis Federation and USA Pickleball.

3.5 Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee

City staff attended the Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee on November 20, 2023. Staff provided an overview presentation of the Strategy and held a discussion period. Prior to the meeting,

committee members were provided with the presentation and a list of guiding questions to provide feedback regarding the existing outdoor tennis and pickleball facilities and what could be improved from a seniors and accessibility standpoint. The following is a summary of the feedback that was received.

- Accessible seating at the ground level is important for persons with disabilities. It was mentioned that the raised seating (bleachers) at the new Painswick Park pickleball courts would not be suitable for persons with mobility issues.

- Provide paved pathways to courts from parking lots and entrances to support those with mobility issues. The courts at Strabane Park were mentioned as an example of a location that could benefit from a pathway connecting the courts to the sidewalk. Eastview Community Park was identified as a good example that is physically accessible for persons with mobility issues.

- Supporting court amenities should consider infrastructure for charging mobility devices.

- Providing courts near public transit stops is important for people who do not have access to a private vehicle or walk.



4.0 Supply and Utilization

This section highlights Barrie's supply and utilization of outdoor tennis and pickleball.

4.1 Outdoor Tennis Courts

4.1.1 Outdoor Tennis Court Supply

Barrie has 33 outdoor tennis courts, including 29 dedicated courts and four courts that are shared with pickleball. The locations and distribution of tennis courts are highlighted in Table 1 and Figure 9. All tennis courts are lit except for Ferndale Park, Sandringham Park and Strabane Park. The condition of the City's tennis courts is based on a scale from very good, good, fair, poor, and very poor. Most tennis courts are in good and very good condition, except for Lampman Lane and Sandringham Park, which are in fair condition. The courts at Eastview Community Park are in poor condition and the courts at Strabane Park and Lougheed Park are in very poor condition. The City is currently undertaking, or planning the following projects:

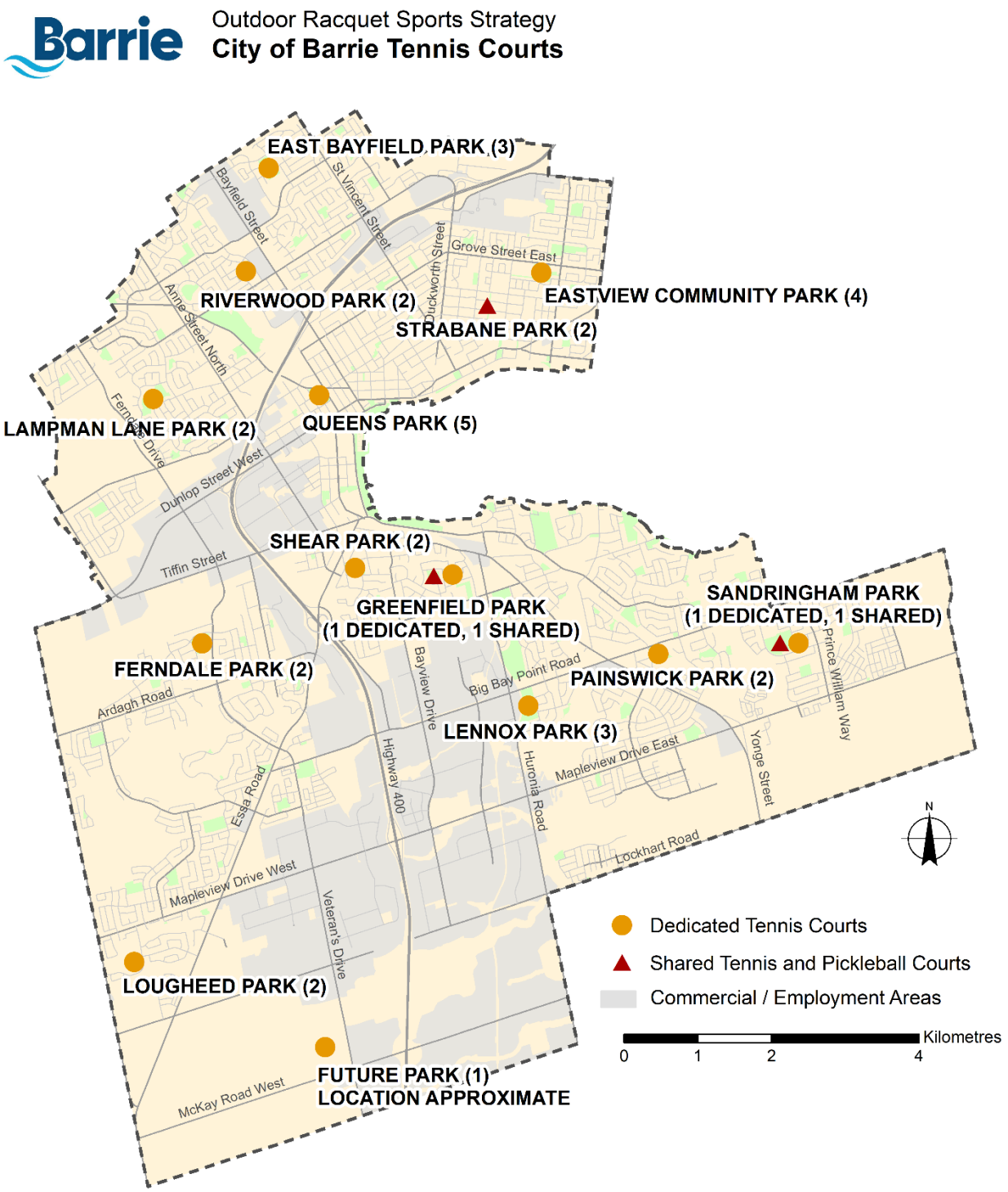
- Adding lights to the new pickleball courts at Eastview Community Park (Anticipated 2024)
- Updating tennis court lights at Queen's Park (Anticipated 2024)
- Updating tennis courts at Lougheed park (Anticipated 2024)
- Planning for a future park in the Salem Secondary Plan Area that will have one dedicated tennis court (adjacent to two dedicated pickleball courts) (Anticipated 2024)

TABLE 1: CITY OF BARRIE TENNIS COURT SUPPLY

Park	Dedicated	Shared	Surface	Lit	Install Date	Condition*
East Bayfield Park	3		Acrylic	Yes	2002	Good
Eastview Community Park	4		Acrylic	Yes	2016	Poor
Ferndale Park	2		Asphalt	No	2022	Very Good
Greenfield Park	1	1	Asphalt	Yes	2019	Very Good
Lampman Lane Park	2		Asphalt	Yes	2007	Fair
Lennox Park	3		Asphalt	Yes	2005	Good
Lougheed Park	2		Asphalt	Yes	1996	Very Poor**
Painswick Park	2		Acrylic	Yes	2019	Good
Queen's Park	5		Acrylic	Yes	2000	Good
Riverwood Park	2		Asphalt	Yes	2008	Very Good
Sandringham Park	1	1	Asphalt	No	2012	Fair
Shear Park	2		Asphalt	Yes	2021	Very Good
Strabane Park		2	Asphalt	No	1995	Very Poor
Total	**33**					

*Condition as of 2019. **The tennis courts at Lougheed Park will be updated in 2023/2024 and as a result, the court install date and condition will change.

FIGURE 9: 2023 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF TENNIS COURT



4.1.2 Outdoor Tennis Court Benchmarking

Table 2 below summarizes tennis court supply from selected municipalities. Barrie currently provides a tennis court service level of one per 5,088 residents, which is on par compared to the average levels of service of benchmark municipalities. Some of these comparators may have agreements with local tennis clubs to offer instruction and leagues at tennis courts, which may boost supply, although public access may be limited. Among most comparators, there are more dedicated courts than shared courts.

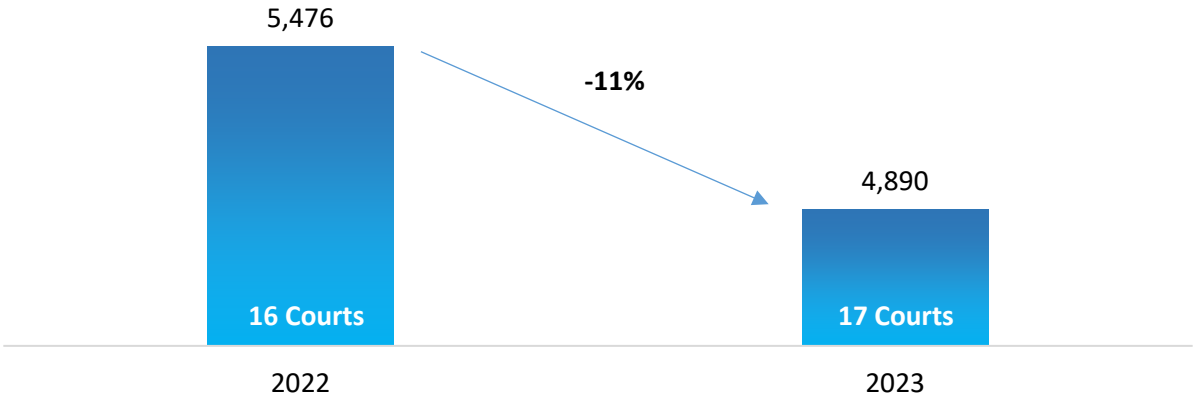
TABLE 2: 2023 SERVICE LEVEL COMPARISON, OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS

	2021 Census	Tennis Courts (public/club)			
	Population	Dedicated	Shared	Total	Residents Per Court
Vaughan	323,103	100	30	130	2,485
Windsor	229,660	13	22	35	6,562
Oakville	213,759	28	30	58	3,686
Richmond Hill	202,000	89	4	93	2,172
Burlington	186,948	31	5	36	5,193
Oshawa	175,400	15	8	23	7,626
Whitby	138,501	33	0	33	4,197
Milton	132,979	3	14	17	7,822
Average					**4,968**
Barrie	147,829	28	5	33	4,480
Barrie (Projected 2024 Estimate)	167,910	28	5	33	5,088

4.1.3 Outdoor Tennis Court Utilization

Barrie permits tennis courts for league play, City-run programming, and private rentals at select parks, including East Bayfield Park, Eastview Community Park, Ferndale Park, Greenfield Park, Lampman Lane Park, Lennox Park, Painswick Park, Queen's Park, Riverwood Park, and Shear Park. In 2023, the City's tennis courts were booked for 4,890 hours, which was a decline of 11% (or -586 hours) from 5,476 hours booked in 2022 (Figure 10). While the number of permitted hours has been in decline, the City's tennis courts are also used for neighbourhood-level play where use of the courts is not permitted. The community survey undertaken as part of this Strategy found that more than two-thirds (69%) of tennis respondents were not a member of a tennis organization and thus, **permitted hours only reflect a sub-set of the tennis playing community in Barrie**.

FIGURE 10: CITY OF BARRIE TENNIS COURT UTILIZATION, 2022 TO 2023



Note: Tennis court utilization includes permitted hours at East Bayfield Park, Eastview Community Park, Ferndale Park, Greenfield Park, Lampman Lane Park, Lennox Park, Painswick Park, Queen's Park, Riverwood Park, and Shear Park.

Four of the five tennis courts at Queen's Park represented more than half (2,882 hours) of all bookings in 2023, which were permitted by the Barrie Community Tennis Club and Simcoe County District School Board. Three of the four tennis courts at Eastview Community Park were also a common location for renting time, which had 1,522 hours booked (Table 3).

TABLE 3: 2022 AND 2023 TOTAL PERMITTED HOURS FOR TENNIS COURTS BY LOCATION

	2022	2023	Change (+/-)
East Bayfield Park	924	124	-800
Eastview Community Park	1,162	1,522	+360
Ferndale Park	8	20	+12
Greenfield Park	17	34	+17
Lampman Lane Park	27	104	+77
Lennox Park	0	40	+40
Painswick Park	138	112	-26
Queen's Park	3,137	2,882	-255
Redpath Park	4	0	-4
Riverwood Park	24	32	+8
Shear Park	35	20	-15
Total Hours Permitted	**5,476**	**4,890**	**-586**

Most of the decline was due to 600 fewer hours permitted by the City of Barrie for tennis programming. This was because the City reserved a large amount of court time to offer programming in 2022, although some of the reserved time went unused. In 2023, the City changed its approach to only book court time that was needed to avoid reserving time that would prevent public use, resulting in a decline in permitted court time that reflects actual court time used for City programming. There was also a modest decline in other permit holders from Simcoe Tennis and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board totalling -154 hours. The Simcoe County District School Board was the largest permit holder, which booked 2,295 hours in 2023, which was a slight increase from the previous year (+4 hours). The Barrie Community Tennis Club was the second largest permit holder, 1,940 hours in 2023, an increase of 83 hours from 2022. Private rentals also grew by 81 hours during the same period, as illustrated in Table 4.

TABLE 4: 2022 AND 2023 PERMITTED HOURS FOR TENNIS COURTS BY ORGANIZATION

	2022	2023	Change (+/-)
Barrie Community Tennis Club	1,857	1,940	+83
City of Barrie	704	104	-600
Private Individual	114	195	+81
Simcoe County District School Board	2,291	2,295	+4
Simcoe Contemporary Dancers	27	0	-27
Simcoe Tennis	244	170	-74
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	240	187	-53
Total Hours Permitted	**5,476**	**4,891**	**-586**

4.2 Outdoor Pickleball Courts

4.2.1 Outdoor Pickleball Court Supply

As of 2023, Barrie had 26 pickleball courts, including 19 dedicated courts and seven courts that were shared with tennis. The locations and distribution of pickleball courts is highlighted in Table 5 and Figure 11. Except for Sandringham Park and Strabane Park, all the City's pickleball courts are lit. All the City's pickleball courts are in good or very good condition, except for Strabane Park and Sandringham Park, which are in fair and very poor condition, respectively.

The City's supply reflects a number recently completed projects, including new dedicated pickleball courts at Eastview Community Park and Painswick Park. In 2024, the City is planning new pickleball-related projects including adding lights to the new courts at Eastview Community Park and constructing a new park in the Salem Secondary Plan Area that will include two dedicated pickleball courts (adjacent to one dedicated tennis court.

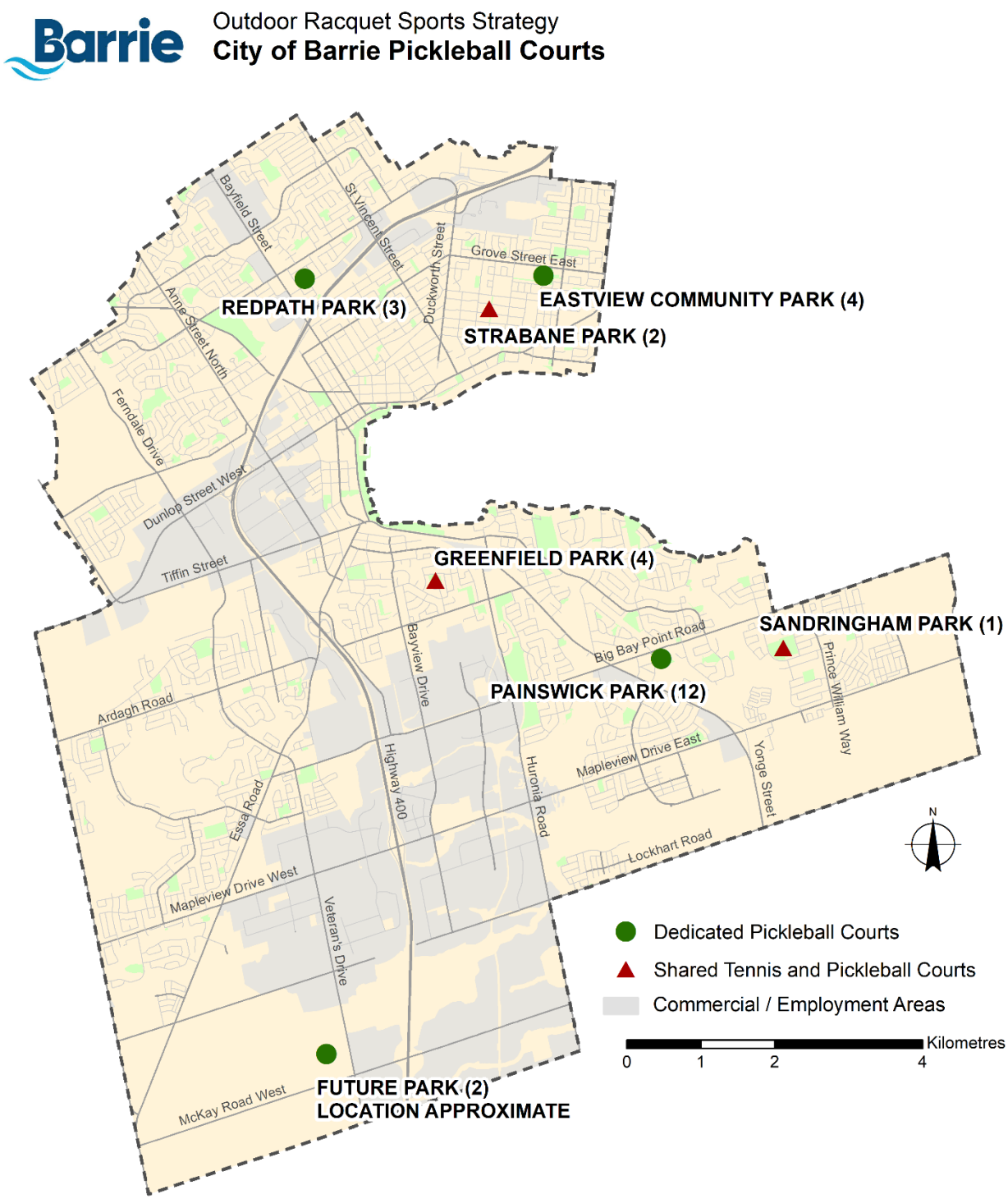
TABLE 5: 2023 CITY OF BARRIE PICKLEBALL COURT SUPPLY

Park	Dedicated	Shared	Surface	Lit	Install Date	Condition*
Eastview Community Park	4		Acrylic	Yes	2021	Very Good
Greenfield Park		4	Asphalt	Yes	2019	Very Good
Painswick Park	12		Acrylic	Yes	2019 – 2023	Very Good
Redpath Park	3		Asphalt	Yes	2019	Very Good
Sandringham Park		1	Asphalt	No	2012	Fair
Strabane Park		2	Asphalt	No	1995	Very Poor
Total	**26**					

*Condition as of 2019.



FIGURE 11: 2023 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS



4.2.2 Outdoor Pickleball Court Benchmarking

Barrie is currently providing a pickleball court service level of one per 6,458, which is higher compared to the average service level of benchmark municipalities of one per 10,7439 residents (Table 6). Barrie is primarily providing more dedicated courts than shared courts, which is contrary compared to most benchmark municipalities. Richmond Hill and Whitby are the only other cities that provide more dedicated courts than shared courts or are constructing major multi-court pickleball complexes. Vaughan is also in the early stages of planning to construct a pickleball hub that will offer a minimum of 20 dedicated courts serving their population of nearly 325,000 residents.

TABLE 6: 2023 SERVICE LEVEL COMPARISON, PICKLEBALL COURTS

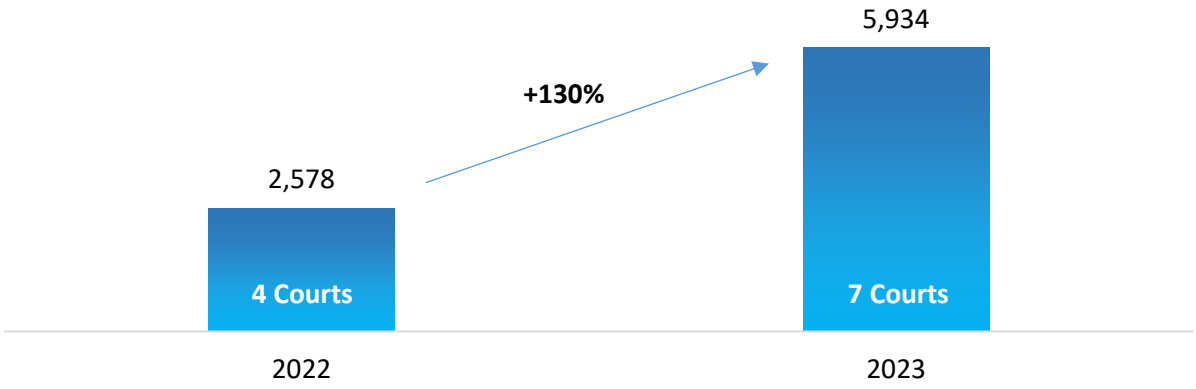
	2021	Pickleball Courts (public/club)			
	Population	Dedicated	Shared	Total	Residents Per Court
Vaughan	323,103	0	30	30	10,770
Windsor	229,660	10	22	32	7,177
Oakville	213,759	11	30	41	5,214
Richmond Hill	202,000	12	4	16	12,625
Burlington	186,948	5	5	10	18,695
Oshawa	175,400	4	8	12	14,617
Whitby	138,501	21	0	21	6,595
Milton	132,979	3	14	17	7,822
Average					**10,439**
Barrie	147,829	12	7	19	7,780
Barrie (Projected 2024 Estimate)	167,910	19	7	26	6,458

Note: Dedicated pickleball court supply includes future multi-pickleball court complexes planned in Whitby. Excludes future multi-pickleball court complex in Vaughan as the number of planned courts is currently unknown.

4.2.3 Outdoor Pickleball Court Utilization

The City permits outdoor tennis and pickleball courts for leagues, club, and individual play, City-run programs, at Eastview Community Park, Painswick Park, Greenfield Park and Strabane Park. In 2023, Barrie's pickleball courts were booked for 5,934 hours, which was more than double the number of bookings from 2022 (+2,413 hours) (Figure 12). This usage pattern is reflective of the input received through the Sports User Groups Workshop as pickleball organizations expressed that there has been an increase in the use of Barrie's pickleball courts in past years. Similar to tennis courts, the City's pickleball courts may also be used by people who are not a member of an organization that permits court time from the City. The community survey for the Strategy found that 60% of pickleball respondents were not a member of an organized group. As a result, **actual pickleball court use in Barrie is likely higher than the total permitted time when factoring in casual play that is not permitted**.

FIGURE 12: CITY OF BARRIE PICKLEBALL COURT UTILIZATION, 2022 TO 2023



Note: Pickleball court utilization includes permitted hours at Eastview Community Park, Greenfield Park, Painswick Park and Strabane Park. Data current as of September 2023. Due to the timing of data collection for this Strategy, utilization data does not reflect use of the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park.

The increase in utilization is largely attributed to the opening of the dedicated pickleball courts at Eastview Community Park in 2023. Due to the timing of when utilization data was collected for this Strategy, the permitted data does not reflect the use of the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park; however, use of the existing pickleball courts at this location increased by 288 hours from 2022 to 2023, as identified in Table 7.

TABLE 7: 2022 AND 2023 PERMITTED HOURS FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS BY LOCATION

	2022	2023	Change (+/-)
Eastview Community Park	0	3,230	+3,230
Greenfield Park	165	0	-165
Painswick Park	2,413	2,701	+288
Strabane Park	0	4	+4
Total	**2,578**	**5,935**	**+3,357**

Due to the timing of data collection for this Strategy, utilization data does not reflect use of the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park.

The Barrie Pickleball Club is the City's primary permit holder, which represented nearly 89% of all bookings in 2023, or 5,259 hours. There were also 445 hours from private individuals and 216 hours booked by the Simcoe County District School Board (Table 8).

TABLE 8: 2022 AND 2023 PERMITTED HOURS FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS BY ORGANIZATION

	2022	2023	Change (+/-)
Barrie Pickleball Club	2,517	5,259	+2,742
City of Barrie	0	15	+15
Simcoe County District School Board	0	216	+216
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	52	0	-52
Private	9	445	+436
Total	**2,578**	**5,935**	**+3,357**

Due to the timing of data collection for this Strategy, utilization data does not reflect use of the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park.

It is noted that the increase in pickleball court use has created concerns about the need to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of public and club-based use of Barrie's pickleball courts. At present, the Barrie Pickleball Club may permit 11 pickleball courts – eight at Painswick Park and three at Eastview Community Park. While it will be difficult for the City to manage how the remaining public courts are used as they are available for anyone to use, this Strategy provides the City with direction on increasing the pickleball supply to respond to pressure for more courts, as well as design guidelines to ensure that the City offers high quality playing experiences to encourage court use across the City and not solely at key sites. As the Strategy is implemented, it will be important for the City to continue to monitor public and club-use, as well as to track club-membership data to ensure that permitted court users are predominantly serving local residents, which is also recommended in this Strategy.

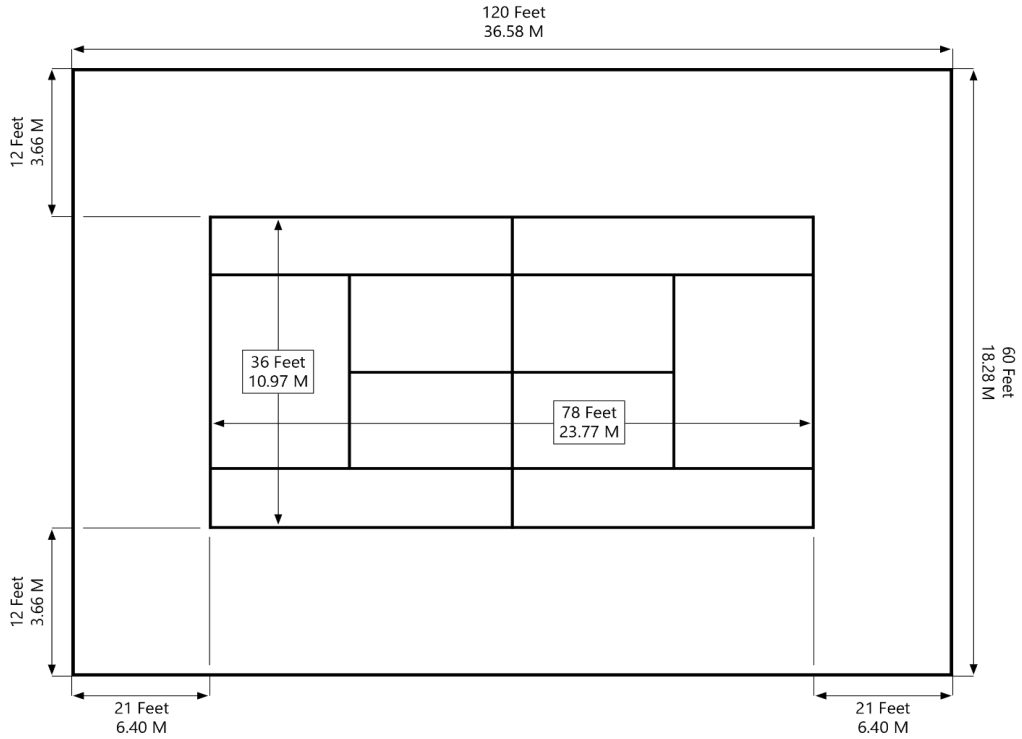
5.0 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Design

This section provides an overview of outdoor tennis and pickleball court design characteristics that align with the guidance from sport governing bodies including Tennis Canada, International Tennis Federation (ITF), Pickleball Canada and USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), as well as best practices from other municipalities. Where possible, the City should consider the information contained in this section in the development and redevelopment of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Barrie. Prior to court development and renewal projects, consultation with the community is recommended to guide the design process.

5.1 Outdoor Tennis Court Dimensions

Figure 13 illustrates the minimum dimensions for international tennis courts, which are standardized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The ITF establishes that courts be rectangular in size, measuring 78 feet (23.77 metres) long and 36 feet (10.97 metres) wide for doubles matches, or 27 feet (8.23 metres) for singles matches. A minimum distance of 24 feet (7.3 metres) is recommended between each court, although a slight reduction may be permitted for recreational tennis facilities to reduce the footprint size. A distance of 21 feet (6.4 metres) is recommended between the baseline and the backstop to allow for appropriate transition turns and runoffs. As a result, a typical tennis court requires a footprint measuring 120 feet by 60 feet (36.5 metres by 18.3 meters). The net height standard is 36 inches at the centre at 42 inches at the post.

FIGURE 13: STANDARD DOUBLES TENNIS COURT DESIGN (NO MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR WHEELCHAIR TENNIS)



Created by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants based on court size endorsed by the International Tennis Federation.

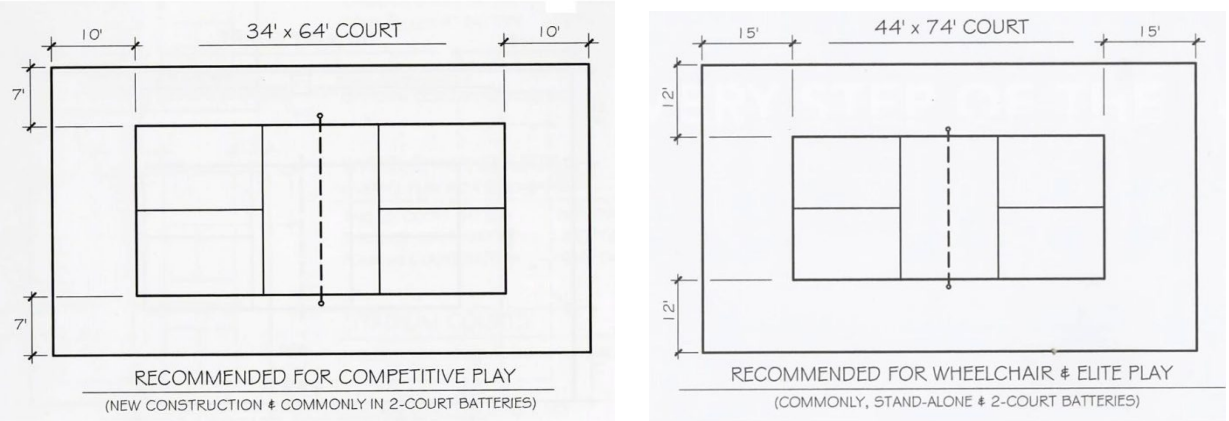
Tennis Canada provides guidelines for the development of accessible courts for wheelchair tennis. From a design perspective, Tennis Canada identified that no modifications are required for wheelchair tennis, although there are requirements for sufficient gate or door widths that can accommodate sports wheelchairs, of 4 feet (1,200 millimetres). An unobstructed pathway with a firm and stable surface is also required, with a minimum width of 5 feet to 6.5 feet (1.5 to 2.0 metres) and an appropriate grading that's suitable for wheelchairs. Other supporting design features that need to be considered include, but are not limited to, accessible parking, colour treatments, signage, and the distance between tennis courts and from the baseline to the backstop. With consideration given to the above noted standards, Barrie's tennis courts should be constructed according to court sizes endorsed by Tennis Canada/ITF. This will position the City to ensure that its courts are designed to recognized standards and eligible for competition play if future opportunities arise.

Recommendation #1. **All new and redeveloped tennis courts should be constructed according to the court dimensions endorsed by International Tennis Federation, which is also suitable for wheelchair play.**

5.2 Outdoor Pickleball Court Dimensions

Pickleball courts are rectangular in shape with dimensions measuring 20 feet by 44 feet (6.1 metres by 13.4 metres) for singles and doubles matches. These dimensions are largely considered to be the standard template used by national governing bodies including Pickleball Canada and USA Pickleball Association. Design guidelines published by these governing bodies identify that each pickleball footprint should have a minimum dimension of 30 feet by 60 feet (9.1 metres by 18.2 metres), although a preference should be given to a template of 34 feet by 64 feet (10.4 metres by 19.5 metres) to allow for slightly larger playout areas, which is suitable for competitive play. The net height requirement is 34 inches at the centre and 36 inches at the post. The governing bodies also provide court design standards for wheelchair play, which is consistent with elite playing standards, measuring 44 feet by 74 feet (13.4 metres by 22.6 metres) (Figure 14).

FIGURE 14: STANDARD PICKLEBALL COURT FOR COMPETITIVE PLAY AND WHEELCHAIR/ELITE PLAY (NOT TO SCALE)



Source: USA Pickleball Association Competitive and Wheelchair/Elite Play Court Layout

Other municipalities in Ontario have generally adopted the competitive play template for dedicated pickleball courts, although some courts were found to have reduced playout areas to minimize the footprint size. This has been a concern among players in other communities as it creates a greater risk of injury and damage to perimeter fencing, reducing its intended lifespan and increasing cost to the municipality. Experience has also found that courts, and other recreation facilities, in general, will have lower levels of expected use if they are not designed appropriately. Discussions with some communities have noted that future dedicated pickleball courts are to be designed with sufficient playout areas. The competitive pickleball court template is recommended for all new and redeveloped courts in Barrie to facilitate high quality play, which will also position the City well to respond to future competition play.

Barrie is recognized as one of the first communities that has constructed pickleball courts for elite/wheelchair play. The Municipality of Clarington also recently completed a pickleball court for elite/wheelchair play. Other municipalities may not have officially constructed elite/wheelchair pickleball courts, although courts may be designed that share similar dimensions. Due to the space requirements of elite/wheelchair pickleball courts, they should only be located at higher order parks (e.g., Community and Regional Parks).

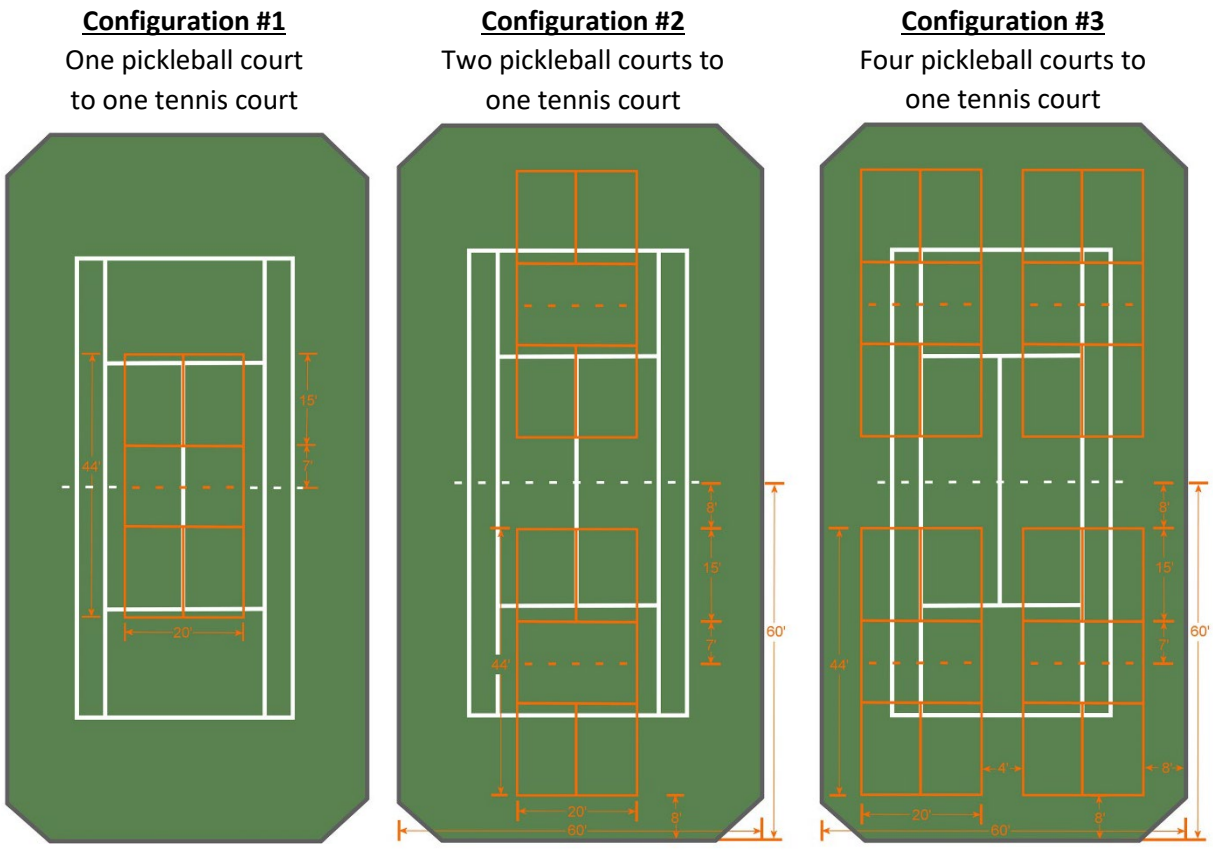
Recommendation #2. **At a minimum, all new and redeveloped pickleball courts should be designed to court dimensions for competitive play that are endorsed by Pickleball Canada and USA Pickleball Association.**

Recommendation #3. **Pickleball court dimensions for elite and wheelchair play should only be considered at Community and Regional Parks.**

5.3 Multi-Lined Courts for Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball

Most Ontario municipalities are gradually adopting strategies to respond to the demand for pickleball courts. Early solutions were to paint pickleball lines on existing outdoor tennis courts to respond quickly and test demand. The approach to shared court provisions can vary. One pickleball court can be overlaid on a tennis court to use the same net (although regulation pickleball net height is slightly lower). This configuration is more suitable for beginner and recreational play. Due to the smaller size of pickleball courts, other arrangements are also possible such as two, or four pickleball courts overlaid on a tennis court (Figure 15). These shared use court configurations require portable nets to be provided by the users and/or municipality. Secured, on-site storage is a desirable supporting amenity for this configuration of shared use court and can be a partnership opportunity between local clubs and municipalities. Barrie provides a number of shared courts throughout the City such as at Strabane Park (one pickleball to one tennis court) and Greenfield Park (two pickleball courts to one tennis court).

FIGURE 15: EXAMPLES OF SHARED OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS



Source: USA Pickleball Association

This approach of creating shared courts is often seen in communities where there is capacity for added use due to lower demand and/or over-supply of tennis courts, such as at neighbourhood parks, which are generally suitable for casual and recreational players. Where tennis demand is significantly lower, some courts are converted permanently to pickleball. Compared to tennis, which is generally played with two or four players, a group of 16 pickleball players can occupy the same amount of court space. There are other benefits to shared courts such as maximizing the use of park space by having two sports using the same footprint, although there are also challenges such as conflicts between users. The pros and cons of shared and dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts are highlighted in Table 9.

TABLE 9: PROS AND CONS OF SHARED USE AND DEDICATED COURTS

Court Type	Pros	Cons
Shared Courts (outdoor tennis and pickleball)	• Less expensive to provide than dedicated courts • Provides ability to leverage existing (potentially underutilized) tennis courts facilities to implement • Increases use of courts by accommodating two sports within the same court footprint. • More efficient use of space (4 pickleball courts can be accommodated on 1 tennis court) • Up to 16 pickleball players can be accommodated within the space of one tennis court with 4 players.	• Creates opportunity for conflict between outdoor tennis and pickleball users • Multiple lines and colours add a higher level of visual distraction for both sets of players • Height of outdoor tennis and pickleball nets differ • Additional equipment and storage needs (e.g., portable nets)
Dedicated Courts (tennis only or pickleball only)	• Clear line work for gameplay • Lower competition for use of court facility	• Increased costs (design, construction, maintenance) • Increased parkland requirements (with consideration of limited availability of tableland parkland suitable for active recreational programming)

Tennis Canada has released a statement of guidance for communities to consider for providing outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. The organization maintains that it is a best practice to preserve tennis courts for tennis and build and/or allocate dedicated courts for pickleball. This is due to factors that include, but are not limited to, a dissatisfaction among outdoor tennis and pickleball players about using shared courts and tennis nets are not appropriate for recreational pickleball, municipalities reported nets being damaged, resulting in increasing replacement costs. Strategies recommended by Tennis Canada include the following (in order of priority):

Option #1: Developing dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts (Recommended Strategy)

Option #2: Using non-traditional spaces for casual outdoor tennis and pickleball such as public hard surface areas that could be used for these activities such as multi-court sites and vacant parking lots. This strategy is recommended if Option #1 is not possible.

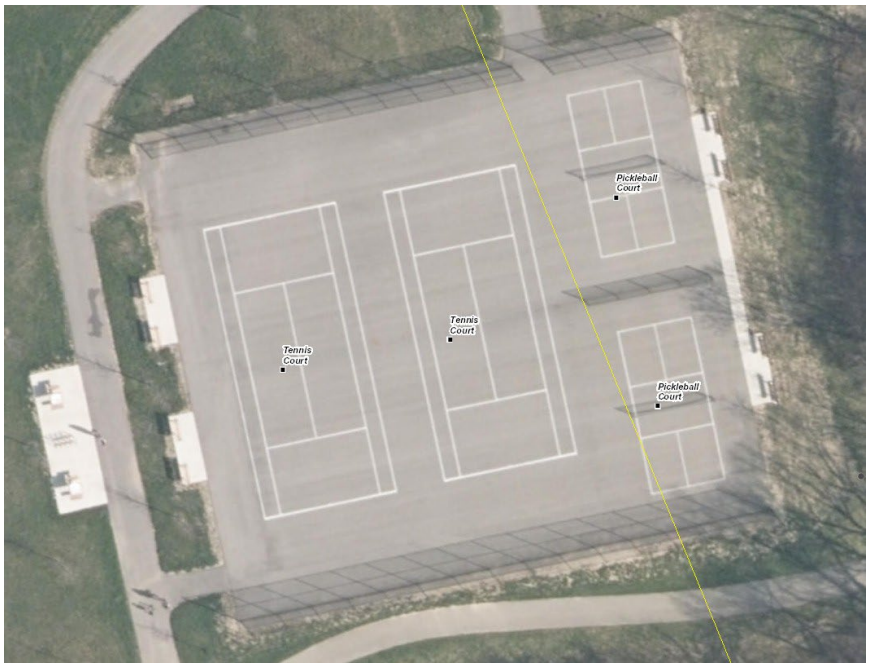
Option #3: Shared use of tennis facilities using multi-coloured lines. This strategy is recommended if Option #1 and #2 are not possible, and only for public locations with two or fewer tennis courts.

In addition to these options, Tennis Canada encourages that municipalities establish an online court booking system to assist communities to organize court usage times and provide data to help guide future court provision decisions. Barrie does not currently have an online booking system, although courts can

be reserved by phone, fax and e-mail. Online booking systems are available in other communities including London, Oshawa, Brampton, and others.

While the provision of shared courts has allowed communities to respond quickly to pressure for courts and monitor demand, there is a growing shift towards the development of purpose built dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, either through new construction or the permanent conversion of tennis courts. Experience in other communities has found that while there are benefits to having shared outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, municipalities continue to face growing pressure from users for dedicated facilities to minimize user conflict between the two sports and confusion between playing lines. Communities such as Oakville and London have constructed dedicated courts within the same complex consisting of two dedicated pickleball courts and two dedicated tennis courts (separated by fencing) to satisfy the needs for both sports and to leverage supporting amenities, such as lighting washrooms, and shade structures.

FIGURE 16: EXAMPLE OF A SHARED OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT COMPLEX AT HASTINGS PARK IN LONDON



Recommendation #4. **Consistent with strategies recommended by Tennis Canada, the development of multi-lined courts for outdoor tennis and pickleball should only be considered where dedicated courts cannot be accommodated and to satisfy a community need where parkland is limited, such as at a Neighbourhood Park.**

5.4 Outdoor Court Surfacing

A variety of court surfacing materials are available that range in physical properties and characteristics and influence the level of play and the impact on players, including asphalt, acrylic, clay, natural or synthetic grass, and plastic tiling. Best practices in other communities have found that asphalt is the most common surface type used for public outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, particularly at neighbourhood parks. Compared to other surface types, asphalt is relatively low cost to provide, is low maintenance, and a long lifespan. A painted acrylic coating over an asphalt surface is also common, particularly at provided at higher order parks and at club courts to offer a higher quality playing experience. The benefit of acrylic courts over asphalt surfacing is that a built-in cushioning layer can be installed beneath the acrylic surface to minimize the physical impact of players. High contrast colours are typically used for acrylic tennis courts, the most common colour combinations being blue with a green playout area, or green with a red playout area, which contrast well with a white or yellow tennis ball. Compared to asphalt surfaces, acrylic courts also reduce the wear of balls and shoes. Other court surfaces such as clay, natural and synthetic grass, and plastic tiling are less common surface materials and are typically not provided by municipalities due to high operational costs and/or short lifespan. A summary comparison of different court surface types is summarized in Table 10.

The consultation process found that there is a desire for improved court surfacing with a preference for acrylic coatings. As a best practice, Barrie should only provide this type of playing surface at Community and Regional Parks only. Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have an asphalt surface with painted lines, which is generally suitable for more beginner and recreational players. Court surfacing should also have regard for the City's Play Court Acrylic Surface Audit, which is currently being undertaken at the time of preparing this Strategy.

FIGURE 17: EXAMPLE OF A HIGH CONTRAST TENNIS COURT SURFACE



TABLE 10: COMPARISON OF COURT SURFACE TYPES

	Asphalt	Acrylic	Clay	Grass	Synthetic	Tiling
Cost	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Low	High
Maintenance	Low	Low	High	High	Moderate	Low
Lifespan	Long	Moderate	Short	Long	Long	Short
Stress on Knees/Back	Moderate - Hard	Low - Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Pace of Play	Fast	Fast	Slow	Fast	Fast	Fast
Ball Bounce	High	High	High	Low	Low	High
Sliding	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sun Temperature	Hot	Hot	Moderate	Cool	Moderate	Hot
Drainage	Fast	Fast	Fast	Moderate	Fast	Fast

Note: Material and playing characteristics may vary subject to detailed construction costs, specific design, site conditions, project scale, etc.

Recommendation #5. **An asphalt surface with painted lines is recommended for Neighbourhood Parks.**

Recommendation #6. **Painted acrylic playing surfaces with high contrasting colours are recommended for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks. Consideration should also be given to the recommendations of the City's Play Court Acrylic Surface Audit.**

5.5 Other Design Considerations and Court Amenities

There are a broad range of design considerations and facility amenities that support outdoor tennis and pickleball activities to offer high quality neighbourhood and community level play, as well as tournament opportunities at appropriate locations. Supporting design considerations and amenities can be applied to the planning, design, and development of new or redeveloped outdoor tennis and pickleball courts and shall be reviewed in this sub-section.

5.4.1 Court Configurations and Orientation

Outdoor tennis and pickleball are social activities that are often played in groups. As a result, municipalities often provide courts in groups of two or more to support simultaneous play and to create a social environment that is desired among the playing community. For Neighbourhood level Parks, it is a best practice by municipalities to provide a maximum of two tennis courts or two pickleball courts, which is typically sufficient to accommodate beginner and recreational play. Any more than two tennis or pickleball courts tends to draw organized types of users, which may begin to place undue pressure on neighbourhood-level parks, particularly if the park is being used for other purposes.

At a minimum, outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be provided in groups of two at Community and Regional Parks. For pickleball courts, experience in other communities suggests that many users are willing to travel past lower quality courts to access higher quality courts, such as multi-court complexes that can support league play. There is an increasing number of municipalities across Ontario that are constructing pickleball complexes with a minimum of four or more courts at parks where there is demonstrated demand, including Barrie's new courts at Painswick Park. Other communities include Hamilton (12 courts) (Figure 17), Stratford (4 courts), St. Thomas (8 courts) (Figure 18), Markham (8 courts), and more. New hubs are also being planned and/or constructed in Whitby (14 courts) and Vaughan (minimum of 20 courts); a pickleball hub in Richmond Hill was also being planned with 16 courts, although this project is currently on hold pending further study to confirm needs. These major multi-court complexes can facilitate lessons, league play, and hosting tournaments. Table 11 highlights the court requirements for tournament hosting from Pickleball Ontario.

TABLE 11: PICKLEBALL ONTARIO COURT REQUIREMENTS FOR PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS

	Number of Pickleball Courts	Number of Tournament Players
Local and Regional Tournaments	Less than 12 Courts	n/a
Provincial Tournaments	12 Courts	300+
National and International Tournaments	24 to 40 Courts	400 to 3,000

Note: Pickleball courts may be shared across multiple parks.

FIGURE 18: EXAMPLE PICKLEBALL COURT COMPLEX AT CONFEDERATION PARK IN HAMILTON



FIGURE 19: EXAMPLE OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT COMPLEX AT PINAFORE PARK IN ST. THOMAS



FIGURE 20: EXAMPLE CO-LOCATED OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT AT SAW WHET PARK IN OAKVILLE



In many instances, there is merit in providing dedicated tennis courts adjacent to dedicated pickleball courts to centralize similar communities within the park and to allow for shared amenities such as shade structures and lighting. This is a best practice observed in other communities, such as at Pinafore Park in St. Thomas that constructed eight pickleball courts adjacent to four tennis courts. Oakville also recently completed the construction of two pickleball courts adjacent to two tennis courts at Saw Whet Park (Figure 19).

Court orientation is an important consideration to avoid direct sun from the eyes. It is a best practice to orient tennis courts in a north-south direction.

Recommendation #7. **Neighbourhood Parks should have a maximum of two dedicated tennis courts. Community and Regional Parks should have a minimum of two dedicated tennis courts.**

Recommendation #8. **Neighbourhood Parks should have a maximum of two dedicated pickleball courts. Community and Regional Parks should have a minimum of two dedicated pickleball courts, although a four or more courts are preferred.**

Recommendation #9. **Where possible, dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts within the same park should be co-located together to centralize similar activities and achieved efficiencies in sharing supporting amenities.**

Recommendation #10. **Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be oriented in a north-south direction to avoid direct sun into the eyes.**

5.4.2 Residential Setbacks and Noise Mitigation

Municipalities have been constructing public tennis courts for some time now and have a good understanding of appropriate setback distances for tennis courts to minimize negative impacts on adjacent land uses such as residential areas. Best practice in other municipalities such as Richmond Hill, Oshawa and Brampton have a minimum setback of 15 metres between tennis courts and residential lot lines. A setback distance of 30 metres is typically applied to courts with lights, although it is recognized that this distance may become more of a challenge to provide as parks become smaller or because of other park constraints, as a result, a reduced setback for lit courts (e.g., 20 metres) could be acceptable when abatement strategies are used such as landscape screening. Advancements in LED lighting technology that are dark sky compliant and have a sharp lighting cutoff have also helped mitigate light spillover. To align with best practices, a minimum setback distance of 15 metres is recommended in Barrie for unlit tennis courts. A setback distance of 30 metres is recommended for lit tennis courts, although 20 metres may be suitable when combined with abatement strategies such as landscape screening. Setbacks should be interpreted as a guideline and may be adjusted on a site-specific basis due to design or site constraint.

Appropriate separation distances for pickleball courts have been a growing concern in many municipalities as some communities have reported concerns about pickleball game-play noise and the social nature of the game. In 2022, a court case was brought by a resident neighbouring a park in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and was successful in forcing the Town and community group to cease the use of converted tennis courts for pickleball use due to the noise impacts.[18] In this case, the pickleball courts were located 10 metres from the property line. Other communities have also prohibited the use of pickleball courts, including Lambton Shores and Ottawa, that were located approximately 5 metres and 10 metres from the property line, respectively.

This has caused communities to reassess where pickleball courts should located and what abatement strategies should be incorporated into court design to minimize the impact on residential areas. Richmond Hill is one example of a community that has looked at new strategies for addressing the noise concerns by encouraging the use of "green zone pickleball paddles", which are recognized in the pickleball playing community as pickleball paddles that are designed to reduce the playing noise. While the use of green zone pickleball paddles would be difficult for municipalities to enforce and influence, sport governing bodies such as USA Pickleball are also actively working on developing solutions to address the growing noise concerns and supports the use of quiet paddles. Encouraging the use of foam balls, rather than plastic balls is also recommended.

Many municipalities have overlaid pickleball courts on existing tennis courts, meaning they share the same separation distance. However, these guidelines predate the growing noise concerns many municipalities have been experiencing. As previously mentioned, a minimum setback distance of 15 metres is recommended for unlit tennis courts (or 20 to 30 metres for lit tennis courts). Enhanced setback distances need to be considered to minimize noise concerns with pickleball courts.

Research from British Columbia suggests that for two pickleball courts, such as in a neighbourhood park, the minimum setback should be 50 metres and noise abatement measures used such as noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, and acoustic paneling. The minimum setback distance should be increased to 75 to 100 metres or more for pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks, depending on the number of courts being constructed (e.g., four or more) and the level of noise abatement measures being applied. It should be noted that these enhanced setbacks distances were only recently introduced. As a result, they should only be interpreted as guidelines only as the City should exercise a degree of discretion when designing and locating pickleball courts, taking into site constraints. Monitoring best practices in other communities as new pickleball courts are designed is encouraged.

[18] https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/court-orders-niagara-on-the-lake-to-shut-down-pickleball-courts-5485825

Recommendation #11. **A minimum setback of 15 metres from abutting residential property lines is recommended for all unlit tennis courts. A minimum setback of 30 metres is recommended for all lit tennis courts, although 20 metres may be acceptable when using abatement measures such as landscape screening.**

Recommendation #12. **Target a minimum setback of 50 metres between pickleball courts and abutting residential property lines in Neighbourhood Parks and 75 to 100 metres or more for Community and Regional Parks depending on the number of courts. Noise abatement measures may be applied to reduce setbacks such as noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, and acoustic paneling. Monitoring best practices in other communities as new pickleball courts are designed is encouraged to guide setback requirements.**

Recommendation #13. **Encourage the use of Green Zone pickleball paddles and foam balls through public education and awareness, signage, and related strategies to minimize noise impacts, particularly in locations such where minimum setbacks may not be met such as at Neighbourhood Parks.**

Recommendation #14. **Explore noise abatement measures as part of designing outdoor pickleball courts, which may include, but not be limited to, noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, and acoustic panelling. Monitoring noise mitigation strategies that are currently being developed by the USA Pickleball Association is also encouraged.**

5.4.3 Pathways

There is an increasing shift in municipalities to design barrier free parks that are inclusive of all users regardless of physical ability. Paved pathways, with a firm and stable surface, play a key role in creating barrier free parks to connect users from park access points, such as parking lots and sidewalks to on-site amenities, including outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Whitby is one example of a community that has incorporated paved park pathways in most of its parks, which range between 1.5 metres to 2.0 metres in width. Barrie's standard park pathway is 3.0 metres wide, and it typically asphalt, although concrete and granular surfacing may be used depending on the context. The consultation process this Strategy found that there is strong support for ensuring that there are firm and stable surfaces to connect users to Barrie's outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Park pathways should be designed to be accessible for persons with disabilities including those with mobility devices and consider width, slope, tactile paving treatments, etc.

Recommendation #15. **Paved pathways should be incorporated as part of park designs to link users from parking lots and sidewalks to on-site amenities including outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Specific design parameters should be guided by the City's pathway construction standards and in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.**

5.4.4 Court Lighting

To implementation of court lighting enables extended playing hours for users. LED lights are the most common lighting solution, replacing older styles such as metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs. The community survey found that there was strong support from all respondents (regardless of skill level) for outdoor tennis and pickleball court lighting to enhance access. As a best practice, tennis courts at major parks (e.g., Community and Regional Parks) are lit to accommodate longer playing periods and contributes to the high-quality experience that is often expected at these locations, which is consistent with the City's lighting policy.

As major parks also tend to be larger, they can often easily accommodate adequate separation distances between lit courts and adjacent land uses, as municipalities such as Richmond Hill and Oshawa have a standard setback of 30 metres between lit courts and the park property boundary. As previously described, in section 5.4.2, this separation distance was also used for pickleball courts, although this Strategy recommends revised setback distances for Barrie to recognize noise impacts. Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at neighbourhood parks are generally not lit, although some examples exist in Barrie and in other municipalities.

Recommendation #16. **All outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Community and Regional Parks should have LED lights that are dark sky compliant and have a sharp lighting cutoff to facilitate extending playing periods. Lighting courts in Neighbourhood Parks is not recommended.**

5.4.5 Electrical Supply

The availability of electrical services at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts provides two primary functions. The first is to provide organizations with the electrical infrastructure that is often required to support special events such as tournaments, typically at Community and Regional Parks. The second purpose is from an accessibility perspective as this amenity will be important for court users who require charging services for electric mobility devices. This should be considered as part of new court development and renewal. The consultation process found that there is an increasing desire for the availability of electrical services at the City's courts, particularly to support events. It is recommended that the City provide electrical services at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Community and Regional Parks. Electrical supply at courts in Neighbourhood Parks should be considered on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the availability of existing or planned electrical servicing. Consultation with the City's Corporate Facilities Department is recommended to explore options for electrical servicing in alignment with the City's Climate Change Mitigation Plan and the GHG emissions target of net zero by 2050.

Recommendation #17. **Incorporate electrical supply at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Community and Regional Parks. This amenity should be considered at Neighbourhood Parks on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the availability of existing or planned electrical servicing.**

5.4.6 Fencing and Gates

Fencing, typically chain-link fencing, along the perimeter of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts is an important feature to contain the ball within the playing area. The ITF recommends that fencing at the backstop should have a minimum height of 9.8 feet (3.0 metres). Fencing along the exterior sides of the courts (known as the sidestop) should be the same height and extend for a minimum of 19.7 feet (6.0 meters) from the backstop. There are many communities that provide fully enclosed outdoor tennis and pickleball courts for an added level of security, particularly at major parks. In these cases, a minimum of two gates should be provided (one at each end) and designed in a manner that is suitable for sports wheelchairs (minimum of 4 feet or 1.2 metres). These design standards are also suitable for pickleball courts.

Internal fencing between courts is not common; however, where it exists, the height of the fence can vary and may be similar in height to the perimeter fence or shorter to maintain clear sight lines. USA Pickleball recommends a lower fence height of 3.5 feet or 1 metre; there is no requirement for tennis. Although lower fences between courts may not adequately keep the ball within the playing areas and could potentially interfere with the use of abutting courts. Internal fencing is recommended at Community and Regional Parks; internal fencing is optional at Neighbourhood Parks to minimize interference with other court uses such as outdoor skating.

Recommendation #18. **Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks should have fully enclosed fencing with two gates on opposite ends of the court. Gates should be wide enough to accommodate sports wheelchairs (minimum of 4 feet or 1.2 metres).**

Recommendation #19. **Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have fencing along the backstop and partially along the sidestop at the same height.**

Recommendation #20. **At Community and Regional Parks, internal fencing for pickleball courts may be the same height as external fencing or have a lower fence height of 3.5 feet or 1 metre. Internal fencing at Neighbourhood Parks is optional to minimize interference with other court uses.**

5.4.7 Shade Structures

Shade structures are immensely popular park amenities as they provide respite from the sun and warm weather, which is increasingly important as summer seasons are getting hotter. Barrie's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy encourages the development of natural and constructed shade, which can vary and include mature trees, a physical fabricated covered shelter, or a canvas awning. With the exception of clubhouses that also function as a shade structure for members, they are not typically included as part of outdoor tennis and pickleball court designs as they are not critical to the function of the court, but they are complementary amenities that enhance the overall park experience, particularly at locations where it is expected to serve many users who may be using amenities for long periods of time, such as at major parks. Decisions to construct shade shelters need to consider the entire park vision as it would be best

used by serving the entire park, rather than being specifically associated with tennis and pickle courts. The new covered shelter at Painswick Park is a good example of one that not only serves the pickleball courts, but also the adjacent playground. Enhanced shade structures may be considered at in locations to support extended periods of park use.

Recognizing that there may be a major financial cost associated with constructing shade structures, the use of tree plantings around outdoor tennis and pickleball courts is encouraged to provide natural shade, which can also increase park canopy and contribute to the City's corporate environmental goals and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to increase tree canopy in Barrie. This would need to be done strategically to maintain visible sight lines and minimize the potential for fallen debris on the courts. This strategy would be the most cost-effective approach compared to man-made structures, although it would not provide immediate shade relief as it would take time for trees to mature.

Recommendation #21. **Consider the use of enhanced shade structures to support extended periods of park use. As an alternative, incorporate tree plantings in strategic areas around outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, including at Neighbourhood Parks.**

5.4.8 Seating

Like shade structures, seating is a highly popular amenity to provide places for people to rest or sit to wait if courts are in use. They also help make parks (and courts) more accessible for users who cannot stand for long periods of time. It is common for municipalities, including Barrie, to incorporate seating as part of all new court development or redevelopment, regardless of the park type. There is no standard for the number of benches per court, recognizing that the number of benches may be influenced by budgetary and locational constraints. Consideration should also be given to tiered seating/bleachers in strategic locations at Community and Regional Parks to accommodate spectators for special events and tournaments. From an accessibility perspective, ensuring that there is adequate space for accessible viewing, resting, and waiting areas will also be important, which was a key consideration heard through the consultation process.

Recommendation #22. **Provide seating at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Tiered seating/bleachers in strategic locations at Community and Regional Parks may be considered to accommodate spectators for special events and tournaments.**

Recommendation #23. **Ensure that adequate space is available for accessible viewing, resting, and waiting areas for wheelchairs and mobility devices at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts.**

5.4.9 Washrooms

Washrooms in parks are increasingly being requested by the general public as a comfort amenity that can also help encourage greater park use. They can, however, be costly to construct and maintain and can be susceptible to vandalism. For these reasons, permanent or temporary washrooms are commonly located in major parks that have higher levels of use, particularly if there are sports fields that are permitted regularly. For public facilities that are co-located with major parks, it is also a best practice to design washrooms that can be accessed externally by park users when the facility is closed, or at the very least make them available during typical operating hours. Washrooms are generally not provided at Neighbourhood Parks.

Recommendation #24. **Permanent or temporary washrooms should only be located at Community or Regional Parks and should be provided as a park-serving amenity and not specifically for tennis or pickleball court users only.**

5.4.10 Windscreens

Windscreens, such as fabric attached to fencing, are primarily provided to minimize the effects of wind although there are other benefits that include creating a backdrop to make the ball more visible, reduce glare, mitigate noise, and provide an element of privacy, although the latter benefit may also impact the safety of users. As a best practice, windscreens are erected by community-based court users, such as in Markham. Requests for windscreens were made through the consultation process for this Strategy, though no specific locations were identified. While there is no standard guiding the use of windscreens, the City should encourage outdoor tennis and pickleball court users to provide and erect windscreens at locations that they use, which is consistent with best practices in other municipalities.

Recommendation #25. **Encourage outdoor tennis and pickleball court users to erect windscreens at locations they commonly use.**

5.4.11 Water Bottle Filling Stations

Water bottle filling stations are increasingly being considered as part of new park development or renewal as it is a comfort amenity that heightens the park experience and encourages users to enjoy parks longer, especially as summers are getting warmer. Barrie's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy speaks to increasing access to drinking water on public property, such as in parks, as one of the City's cooling strategies. Consultation undertaken for this Strategy also identified the desire for water access at the City's courts. At a minimum, drinking fountains and water filling stations should be considered at major parks, and considered at Neighbourhood Parks on a case-by-case basis, as it is recognized that lower order parks may not have water servicing. Although some Neighbourhood Parks in Barrie may already have water infrastructure in place, such as at locations that provide this service for the creation of outdoor ice rinks.

Recommendation #26. **Incorporate water bottle filling stations at Community or Regional Parks. This amenity should be considered at Neighbourhood Parks on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the availability of existing or planned water servicing.**

5.4.12 On-Site Parking

On-site parking is an important amenity for park users, particularly at major parks that serve a large population where people are likely to drive. Municipalities commonly incorporate on-site parking at major parks, which is also important to reduce congestion along roadways, and where possible, municipalities may also negotiate shared parking agreements with schools that abut parks. There is no standard number of parking spaces for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts as they vary widely in other municipalities. For example, Richmond Hill requires a minimum of 50 parking spaces at major parks and suggests an additional 30 spaces for permitted outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Oshawa recommends two parking spaces for each outdoor tennis and pickleball court, although street parking is suitable at parks that are too small to accommodate parking, such as at Neighbourhood Parks.

The community survey found that 77% of competitive/expert tennis players and 83% of competitive/expert pickleball players drive to courts they use and as they are more likely to use courts located at Barrie's Community and Regional Parks, the City should continue to provide parking in these areas. 59% of beginner tennis players and 49% of beginner pickleball players walk or bicycle to courts that they use, which suggests they are likely to use courts at Neighbourhood Parks. Recognizing the intended use and function of these parks, and that space is often a constraint, on-site parking is not recommended.

Recommendation #27. Ensure that on-site parking is available at Community and Regional Parks to support the use of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, as well as other park uses. On-site parking at Neighbourhood Parks is not recommended.

5.4.13 Indoor Meeting Space

Historically, club-based tennis courts have been co-located with clubhouses that provide members with spaces for gatherings, socializing, general meetings, storage, and often contained some form of change rooms and washrooms. These types of dedicated spaces are still desirable amenities among user groups, and it was expressed through the consultation process that one of the reasons why that the Barrie Community Tennis Club prefers to play at Queen's Park, opposed to other locations, was because the clubhouse is located there and it is an important part of their club experience; it was also mentioned that access to indoor space is important to the group.

It is recognized, however, that access to indoor meeting space is a complementary amenity and not a necessity to the successful operation of a community organization. For example, there are many successful pickleball groups forming across Ontario that do not have dedicated indoor meeting space and as a result, they tend to congregate and socialize outdoors, often on or adjacent to the courts, highlighting the need for shade structures and seating.

While there are no known examples of municipalities constructing new, standalone, clubhouses for community tennis or pickleball groups, it is a best practice for municipalities to construct multi-use community facilities that co-locates various facility components to achieve construction, programming, and staffing efficiencies. For example, the new eight-court pickleball complex at Cornell Community Park in Markham, which is used by the Markham Pickleball Club, does not have dedicated indoor space for the

group, although there is a large, covered shelter with picnic tables and washrooms, which is available for all park users and not specific to pickleball court users.

Recognizing the clubhouse at Queen's Park that is used by the Barrie Community Tennis Club, the City may face pressure for a similar space at Painswick Park for the Barrie Pickleball Club. Where possible, indoor space for indoor tennis and/or pickleball groups should be made through existing or future community spaces and should be provided in a manner that allows for broad public use.

Recommendation #28. Where possible, indoor space for outdoor tennis and/or pickleball groups should be provided through existing or future community spaces and should allow for broad public use.

5.6 Summary of Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Design Guidelines

Based on the design considerations for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, Table 13 summarizes the recommended guidelines for the development and redevelopment of dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Barrie. **This summary should only be interpreted as a guideline only as there may be unique park design scenarios that will require City staff to be flexible if court design standards continue to align with affiliated governing bodies**. Additional supporting amenities may be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with community interest holders.

TABLE 12: SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT DESIGN GUIDELINES

	Tennis Courts		Pickleball Courts	
Park Type	**Neighbourhood Parks**	**Community and Regional Parks**	**Neighbourhood Parks**	**Community and Regional Parks**
Type of Play	Beginner, recreational	Beginner/recreational/ club/league/programming	Beginner, recreational	Beginner/recreational/ club/league/programming
Court Dimensions	ITF standard (preferred)	ITF standard	Standard for competitive play as per USAPA	Standard for competitive play and elite/wheelchair play as per USAPA
Number of Courts	2 maximum	2 minimum	2 maximum	2 minimum / 4 preferred
Residential Setbacks and Noise Mitigation	Unlit courts: 15 meters	Unlit courts: 15 metres Lit courts: 30 metres or 20 metres if abatement strategies are used (e.g., landscape screening)	50 metres with noise abatement measures such as noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, acoustic paneling, or other strategies	75 to 100 metres or more depending on the number of courts being constructed and noise abatement measures being used such as noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, acoustic paneling, or other strategies
Court Surface	Asphalt	High contrast acrylic coating	Asphalt	High contrast acrylic coating
Pathways	Paved pathways designed to accommodate persons with disabilities		Paved pathways designed to accommodate persons with disabilities	
Lighting	Optional	Yes (dark sky compliant with a sharp lighting cutoff)	No	Yes
Electrical Supply	No	Yes	No	Yes
External Fencing and Gates	Full backstop and partial sidestop fencing	Full backstop and sidestop fencing	Full backstop and partial sidestop fencing	Full backstop and sidestop fencing
Internal Fencing	No	No	Optional full or low height	Full or low height
Shade Structures	No	Optional	No	Optional
Seating	Yes	Yes and consider tiered-spectator seating and accessible viewing	Yes	Yes and consider tiered-spectator seating and accessible viewing
Washrooms	No	Yes	No	Yes
Windscreens	Optional – Court user to provide		Optional – Court user to provide	
Drinking Fountains an Water Filling Stations	Optional	Yes	Optional	Yes
On-Site Parking	No	Yes	No	Yes
Indoor Meeting Space	No	Optional	No	Optional

6.0 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Rates and Fees

The Ontario Municipal Act, 2001 grants a municipality the broad authority to impose a fee or charge for any activity or service that it provides, as well as for the use of property under its control. The costs included in a fee or charge may include costs incurred by the municipality or local board related to administration, enforcement, and the establishment, acquisition, and replacement of capital assets. Furthermore, the municipality may impose a charge or fee "for capital costs related to services or activities...on persons not receiving an immediate benefit from the services or activities but who will receive a benefit at some later point in time."

These provisions in the Municipal Act mean that rates and fees are permitted by and set at the discretion of the municipality (e.g., City of Barrie) whereby fees can be below, at the same level, or exceed the direct operating costs of providing an activity or service. Part XII does not define a methodology in which to calculate a user fee, however, Sections 393 and 394 of the Municipal Act identify certain restrictions that are to be considered. Further, Part XII does not require a public process to pass a fee or charge by-law, however, it is considered a best practice to develop recreation rates in consultation with the public and stakeholders of the recreation system to validate core principles that will assist in the setting of fees.

As required through the Municipal Act, Barrie's Council regularly approves and releases a listing of all municipal fees and charges, which is outlined in By-law 2023-023. This includes, but is not limited to, rates and fees pertaining to the permitting of the City's outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Through a separate process to this Strategy, the City undertook a high level scan of court rental rates to understand how Barrie's fees compare with local and similarly-sized municipalities, which ranged between $11 and $14 per hour. By comparison, Barrie's court rental rate is $9.50 for a five hour time block, which equates to $1.90 per hour, much lower compared to other municipalities. To bring the Barrie's court rental fee into alignment with other communities, while also increasing permit revenue, the City adjusted its court fee to $4.25 per hour for 2024, with plans to increase to $9.50 per hour in 2025; the lighting fee has also been removed and incorporated into the court fee.

While this Strategy does not undertake a detailed review of court permitting fees, it will be important for the City to continue to review its court fees on a regular basis, monitor surrounding municipalities, and adjust as necessary to remain in alignment with other communities and to achieve appropriate cost recovery levels.

Recommendation #29. **Regularly review the City's outdoor tennis and pickleball court fees, with consideration given to regional municipal comparators, and adjust as necessary to remain in alignment with other communities and to achieve appropriate cost recovery levels.**

7.0 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Needs Assessments

This section introduces the recommended levels of service targets for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts and undertakes a service and gap analysis to identify locations for new court locations and opportunities for re-distribution.

7.1 Outdoor Tennis Court Service Level Target

Barrie currently maintains a target of one per 5,000 residents to guide tennis courts, which the City has maintained since its 2010 Strategic Master Plan and subsequent studies, including the most recent 2019 Outdoor Recreation Facility Study. This is slightly lower compared to the average service target of one per 4,783 residents for benchmark municipalities, where targets range from one per 2,700 residents (Richmond Hill) to 6,000 residents (Oshawa and Windsor) (Table 14).

TABLE 13: COMPARISON OF TENNIS COURT SERVICE LEVELS

	2021 Population	Tennis Court Service Target	Geographic Service Area
Vaughan	323,103	1 : 5,000	2 kilometres
Oakville	213,759	1 : 4,000	1 kilometre
Windsor	229,660	1 : 6,000	1 kilometre
Whitby	138,501	1 : 5,000	1 kilometre
Oshawa	175,400	1 : 6,000	1 kilometre
Richmond Hill	202,000	1 : 2,700	n/a
Average Service Target		**1 : 4,783**	
Barrie	167,910 (2024 Estimate)	1 : 5,000	1 kilometre

Geography also plays an important role in the provision of tennis courts as they are also viewed as neighbourhood-level amenities that support casual physical activity. Benchmark municipalities that consider the geographic distribution of tennis courts use a service area that range between one kilometre (Oshawa, Windsor, and Brampton) and three kilometres (Mississauga).

On a club basis, the Barrie Community Tennis Club uses 4 courts at Queen's Park at a rate of one per 30 members. There are few municipalities that have adopted service targets for club courts. In communities with established tennis clubs, such as in Milton and Clarington, these municipalities aim to provide club courts at a rate of one per 50 to 75 members.

It is recommended that the City continue to utilize a target of **one per 5,000 residents and a service area of one kilometre** to guide future tennis court needs, suggesting that the **City would require 46 tennis courts at 2036, 13 more than what is currently provided**. This target is based on the following rationale:

- The City's currently service target is on par compared to the average target of benchmark municipalities (one per 5,463 residents).

- Barrie's population is aging and experience in other communities suggest that older adults are gravitating to activities such as tennis to stay active later in life. Younger age groups, including children, youth and young adults, are also taking up the sport because of efforts from Tennis Canada and community tennis clubs/organizations to promote and encourage grassroots programming, as well as the success from Canadian players on the international stage.

- Tennis is an international sport and as the City's population is becoming more diverse, it is expected that there will be an increased interest in the sport from residents from diverse cultural backgrounds.

- Club-based membership in Barrie is at capacity (with a waitlist) and the number of permitted hours increased from 2022 to 2023 (excluding City bookings, which were hours held for programming); the popularity of club-based play in Barrie is strong, which is indicative of the local interest in playing tennis.

- Convenience is a key factor when using tennis courts as 69% of survey respondents reported that the top reason for visiting the tennis court they use the most was because it is convenient for them, particularly for tennis players who consider themselves to be a beginner skill level (e.g., someone who is not a regular player or is not familiar with the rules).

- 32% of survey respondents indicated that the City should provide tennis courts in more locations to increase access to courts. This supports a recommendation of a geographic service area of one kilometre (although the gap analysis for this Strategy will form part of the next deliverable so this radius is subject to change).

For club courts, the Barrie Community Tennis Club currently has 120 members and use four courts at Queen's Park; the group expressed the need for additional courts to grow their programming and membership – they have capped their waitlist to 30 people. The current membership yields a service level of one per 30 members, which is a high service level. As a general guide, club courts are generally provided at a rate of one per 50 to 75 members; Halton Hills provides club courts at a rate of one per 50 members, while Mississauga provides courts at one per 75 members.

Based on the industry target used in other communities, the existing supply of club courts should be sufficient to support the current membership and absorb the group's waitlist, without adding new courts. If the City continues to target the provision of club courts at the existing rate of one per 30 members, at least one additional tennis club court would be required (recognizing that the club caps their waiting list but indicates interest in joining the club exceeds this number). While it is recognized that the Club uses four of the five tennis courts at Queen's Park, permitting the fifth court for club use is not recommended to maintain public access. **No additional club courts are recommended at this time until the Club can demonstrate its ability to use the club courts at a rate of one per 50 to 75 members** which will require the club to also utilize courts at another park location; which was not a preferred option noted by the Club during the consultation process. Club members expressed a preference to remain at Queen's Park due to factors such as the quality of courts and availability of the clubhouse space, although the group is open to other locations provided the facility quality is on par with what is available at the current location.

Recommendation #30. **Public tennis courts should be provided at a rate of one per 5,000 residents with a 1-kilometre service area. This would result in a need for 13 new tennis courts by 2036. Additional courts may be considered based on providing a strong geographic distribution.**

Recommendation #31. **No new club tennis courts are recommended at this time, although the City should monitor club membership data and evaluate the need for additional courts based on a target of one court per 50 to 75 members.**



7.2 Outdoor Tennis Service and Court Gap Analysis

To address the tennis court deficit and address the need for 13 additional courts, a one-kilometre service area was applied to existing locations to understand where gaps exist (Figure 21). The City currently provides a strong geographic distribution of tennis courts, particularly in the north and east end of Barrie. With future growth expected to occur to in the Hewitt and Salem Secondary Plan Areas, new tennis courts are recommended to be new parks to serve the needs of residents in these areas, which would also respond to public requests heard through the consultation process for more tennis courts in the south end of the City. With this in mind, **dedicated** tennis courts are recommended at the following locations in the Secondary Plan Areas:

- Hewitt Secondary Plan Area **(+6 Tennis Courts)**
    - Two tennis courts at a future Community Park (+2).
    - Two tennis courts each at two future Neighbourhood Parks (+4)

- Salem Secondary Plan Area **(+3 Tennis Courts)**
    - One tennis court at a future Neighbourhood Park (+1)
    - Two tennis courts at a future Neighbourhood Park (+2)

In addition to new tennis courts to serve future residential areas, the gap analysis revealed that there some underserved areas in existing areas of Barrie. For example, there is currently a gap on the west side of Highway 400, north of Mapleview Drive West and south of Ardagh Road. Several public requests were received through the consultation process for tennis courts in this area. A high-level scan of existing parks that serve this area revealed that there are currently limited opportunities for new tennis courts, although it is recommended that the City explore opportunities to construct two dedicated tennis courts **(+2 Tennis Courts)** in the vicinity to reconcile this gap area; re-purposing existing outdoor recreation facilities that are underutilized should be considered.

While additional club-based tennis courts are not justified at this time, long-term planning needs to be considered as Barrie's population grows and interest in club play continues to increase. This may include planning for a minimum of two new dedicated tennis courts **(+2 Tennis Courts)** at Queen's Park; a minimum of two dedicated pickleball courts **(+2 Pickleball Courts)** could also be explored at this time to address needs as discussed in Section 7.4. This process should be done in consultation with the Barrie Community Tennis Club, other stakeholders, and the general public.

Assessing the use of the existing ball diamond at Queen's Park may inform decisions on repurposing / relocating this facility to accommodate additional tennis (or pickleball) courts. In consideration of Queen's Park's location near the City's Urban Growth Centre, potential future additional tennis courts, and the introduction of pickleball courts, may be considered as part of a broader Comprehensive Park Plan for the park to ensure it is positioned to respond to the needs of residents in this growing area and likely demand to become a more 'urban park'. As an alternative option, establishing a new location for club-based and public tennis may also be explored potentially in proximity to an existing or planned community centre thereby providing parking, washrooms, meeting space, etc.

It is noted that there may be additional gaps where tennis courts may not be recommended at this time as there may not be any viable locations for a new facility, although opportunities may become available in the future through future infill or facility repurposing and is subject to further consideration by the City for dedicated courts, or multi-lined courts where dedicated facilities may not be accommodated.

While this Strategy recommends that the City construct dedicated outdoor tennis (and pickleball) courts, some multi-lined courts will continue to exist. At the time of renewal, a decision will need to be made to continue providing the multi-lined approach or conversion to a dedicated court. This will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to factors including, but not limited to: ability to provided dedicated outdoor tennis (and pickleball) court at the same site or within the vicinity to serve the existing area, opportunity to address a service gap or service duplication, usage, population growth, and community input.

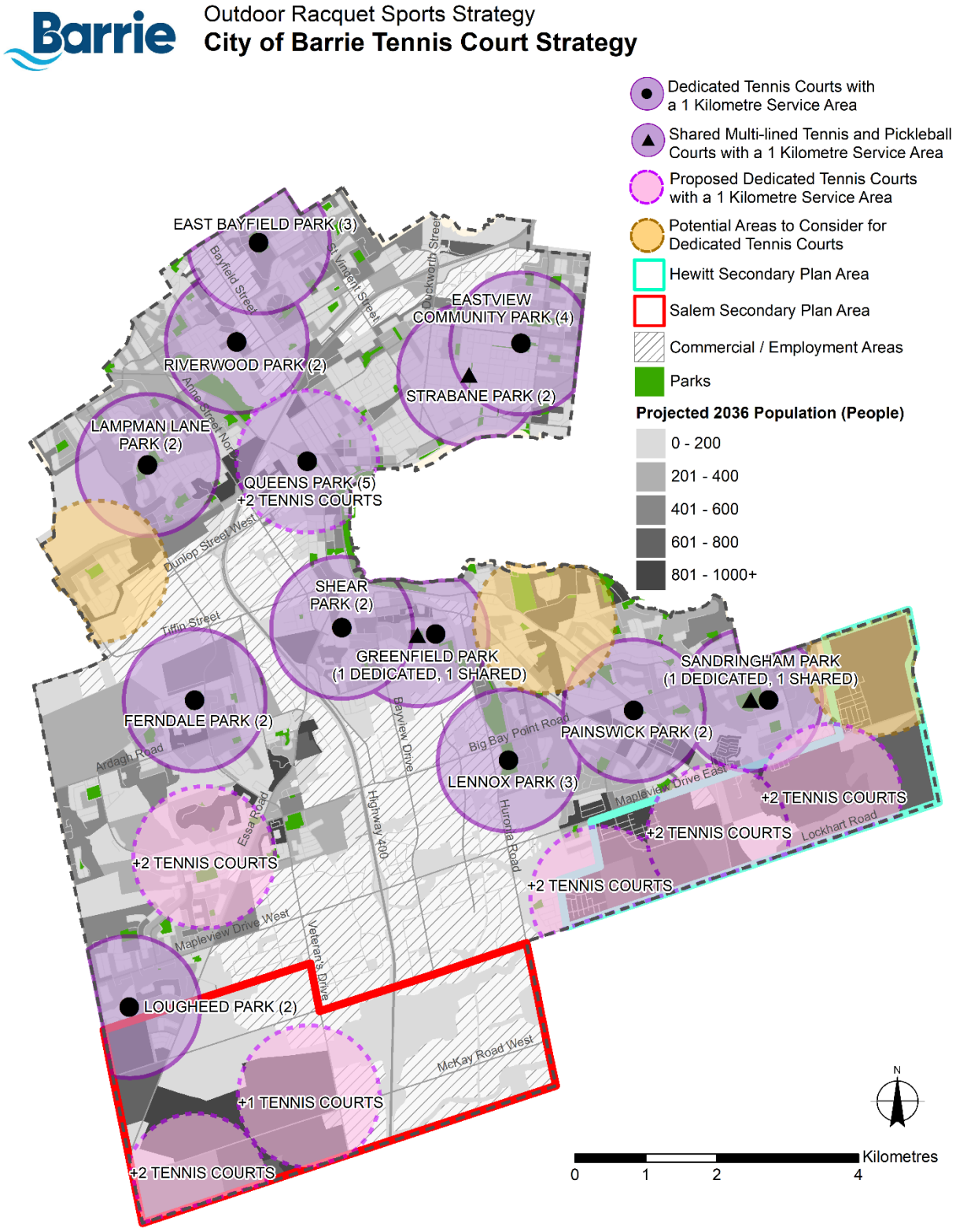
Recommendation #32. **Construct six dedicated tennis courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area, including two courts at a future Community Park (+2) and two courts each at two Neighbourhood Parks (+4).**

Recommendation #33. **In the Salem Secondary Plan Area, continue to plan for the development of one dedicated tennis court at a future Neighbourhood Park (+1) and construct two dedicated courts (+2) at a second future Neighbourhood Park.**

Recommendation #34. **Evaluate sites in the Holly community area on the west side of Highway 400, north of Mapleview Drive West and south of Ardagh Road to construct two dedicated tennis courts (+2). Where opportunities exist, consideration should be given to opportunities to re-purpose underutilized outdoor recreation facilities to accommodate this need.**

Recommendation #35. **Work with the Barrie Community Tennis Club, other stakeholders, and the public to undertake a Comprehensive Park Plan for Queen's Park to create a long-term future for responding to residential intensification in the surrounding area, with consideration given to adding a minimum of two dedicated tennis courts (+2), as well as dedicated pickleball courts, the future of the existing ball diamond, and other outdoor recreation needs and amenities.**

FIGURE 21: RECOMMENDED TENNIS COURT STRATEGY



7.3 Outdoor Pickleball Court Service Level Target

The City's 2019 Outdoor Recreation Facility Study did not recommend a target guiding the provision of pickleball courts. Instead, it recommended a strategy to respond to local demand that included constructing a combination of dedicated pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks, and multi-lined courts at Neighbourhood Parks, with consideration given to locations that are near older adults and seniors.

This approach is like municipalities such as Richmond Hill, London, Hamilton, Vaughan, Mississauga, Whitby, and others that have not formally adopted a service target for pickleball. Many of these communities are experiencing growing demands for pickleball courts and have recently completed, or are currently undertaking, recreation-related studies to identify solutions to address pickleball needs. In lieu of prescribed target levels for outdoor pickleball facilities, municipalities have been responding to local demand where opportunities are available, allowing these municipalities to be flexible in meeting immediate needs.

Municipalities are approaching the provision of pickleball courts in a similar manner by creating a multi-court pickleball hub at a major park. This allows communities to centralize activities at a location that can meet the demand for club-based play, while providing up to two dedicated or multi-lined courts in neighbourhood parks to support walkable, casual, recreational play where it can be accommodated. Balancing club and public use of pickleball courts is important to ensure that access is fair for all users. This was a challenge in Markham, following the completion of the eight-court complex at Cornell Community Park, as residents felt that the allocation of court hours was unfair, and was distributed in favour of the local pickleball club. As a result, the City, club, and residents worked collaboratively to ensure that court hours are nearly within a 50/50 split, favouring public access. [19]

Since Barrie's 2019 Outdoor Recreation Facility Study was completed, the sport of pickleball has matured and the City of Barrie has made major investments in expanding its supply of outdoor pickleball courts to respond to the popularity of the sport. There is merit in formally adopting a service target for pickleball courts to ensure that the Barrie continues to provide an exceptional service level over the long-term. A scan of municipalities found that Halton Hills has formally adopted a target of one per 5,000 residents for pickleball courts. This matches Halton Hill's service target for tennis courts and ensured that each sport was equally represented in the community.

Based upon the research and consultation undertaken for this Strategy, it is recommended that Barrie align with this approach and adopt **a service target for pickleball courts at a rate of one per 5,000 residents and a service area of one kilometre**. The recommended target is slightly higher compared to the City's existing service level of one per 6,458 residents. This suggests that the City will be required to increase its service level over time, which will result in **a total of 46 pickleball courts by 2036 – 20 more than what is currently provided** – when the population reaches 230,500 residents. If the number of existing outdoor pickleball courts that are permitted are excluded, the City would require 31 additional outdoor pickleball courts, although club-courts are typically considered as part of the supply as they also

[19] Keyes, A. 2023. Pickleball courts at Cornell Community Park. Retrieved from https://ward5markham.ca/pickleball-courts-at-cornell-community-park/

address resident needs. It is recognized that Barrie's new pickleball courts serve some non-residents, although this Strategy recommends ensuring that the local club has a minimum membership residency of 80% to permit courts, which aligns with the City's policy.

The recommended target is deemed to be appropriate based on the following rationale:

- While pickleball continues to be popular among older adults, the sport is gaining in popularity among the younger demographic, including in Barrie as schools are offering pickleball programming. This will generate pressure to increase the supply of pickleball courts in strategic locations, including within proximity to schools, and concentrations of older adults and seniors, as well as new residents.

- 59% of competitive/expert pickleball players, 46% of recreational players, and 36% of beginners were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the distribution of pickleball courts. This suggests that there are opportunities to strengthen the geographic distribution of courts to increase access, and satisfaction levels, to these facilities.

- 83% of competitive/expert pickleball players from the survey identified that they typically drive to the pickleball courts that they play at, suggesting that they are willing to drive to where high-quality courts are located; 72% of recreational players also indicated that they typically drive to the courts they use.

- Half (49%) of beginner players from the survey reported that they typically walk or bicycle to the pickleball courts they use. This suggests that they play at courts that are located close to them, highlighting the need to consider neighbourhood-level courts that are available for casual play. This supports a recommendation of a geographic service area of one kilometre (although the gap analysis for this Strategy will form part of the next stage so this radius is subject to change).

It is recognized that the popularity of pickleball and interest in the sport will evolve over time and thus, it will be important to monitor trends, best practices, and court usage and, if necessary, the recommended provision target, and forthcoming strategies may need to be reassessed.

For club-based pickleball, the Barrie Pickleball Club reported that there are currently 585 members who use the pickleball courts at Painswick Park and three of the four courts at Eastview Park. With the group using up to 11 pickleball courts, the City is providing club-courts at a rate of one per 53 members. There is currently no industry standard guiding the provision of club-courts. Based on tennis club standards which is typically provided at a rate of one per 50 to 75 members, Barrie is currently achieving a high service level for club courts. By comparison, Markham is providing club courts at a rate of one per 75 members.

As it is recognized that the pickleball courts at Painswick Park were recently completed in Fall of 2023, it is not known if the current supply will be adequate to meet Club needs (as also noted by the club during the consultation process), or if this location would be sufficient for the Club to centralize all of its activities at this site, thereby freeing up time for public use at Eastview Park. Continuing to monitor the courts at Painswick Park will be required to inform Club needs; **a target in the range of one court per 50 to 75**

members should be used as a general guide to inform future needs. This target is deemed to be appropriate as it aligns with the target for tennis club courts given that the similarities in number of players that can be accommodate on a single court and game format/length, although future adjustments may need to be made once the City has a stronger understanding of court usage given the recent provision of courts in Painswick Park and the significant growth that the Barrie Pickleball Club has experienced.

To help better understand club-based needs for future pickleball courts, and to ensure that the permitting of City courts is fair, collecting demographic of pickleball club members is recommended to ensure that the organization makeup consists of a minimum of 80% Barrie residents. This threshold is consistent with the City's allocation policy for permitting facilities. Establishing an online booking system should also be explored to provide the organizations and the general public with enhanced access to permit courts and may provide the City with additional data to help inform future court planning and development. These strategies may also be applied to tennis courts and associated users.

Recommendation #36. **Public pickleball courts should be provided at a rate of one per 5,000 residents with a 1-kilometre service area. This would result in a need for 20 new pickleball courts by 2036. Additional courts may be considered based on providing a strong geographic distribution.**

Recommendation #37. **With the new pickleball courts completed at Painswick Park, no new courts are recommended to support club-based play. Future club-based needs should be guided based on a target of one court per 50 to 75 members.**

Recommendation #38. **Pursue strategies to help guide future outdoor tennis and pickleball court planning and development, including collecting demographic data from court users to understand residency levels to ensure organizations meet a minimum 80% requirement for permitting City courts and exploring the implementation of an online court booking system.**

7.4 Outdoor Pickleball Service and Court Gap Analysis

A one-kilometre service area was applied to existing pickleball courts, which revealed that pickleball courts are primarily concentrated in the north and east end of the City, with one location serving the central area. To strengthen the supply of pickleball courts, new courts should be directed to the City's emerging residential areas in the Hewitt and Salem Secondary Plan Areas, which also responds to public requests received through the consultation process. Dedicated pickleball courts are recommended in the following locations:

- Hewitt Secondary Plan Area **(+8 Pickleball Courts)**
    - Four pickleball courts at a future Community Park (+4); given this park's proximity to a secondary school block, this location would be suitable for supporting school programming.
    - Two pickleball courts each at two future Neighbourhood Parks (+4).

- Salem Secondary Plan Area **(+6 Pickleball Courts)**
    - Two pickleball courts each at three future Neighbourhood Park (+6).

In addition to constructing pickleball courts in new residential areas, gap areas also exist in established areas of Barrie, including west of Highway 400, north of Mapleview Drive West and south of Ardagh Road. Public requests were made for pickleball courts in this area. It is recommended that the City investigate potential locations in this area to construct between two to four dedicated pickleball courts **(+2 to +4 Pickleball Courts)**, which could potentially be co-located with future tennis courts recommended in this area as identified in this Strategy.

Community requests were also made for bolster the supply of pickleball courts in the City's north end. There is merit in this strategy as the population is generally older, which is the primary market for pickleball users. A scan of potential locations revealed that opportunities exist to incorporate four dedicated pickleball ball courts **(+4 Pickleball Courts)** in the northwest area of Barrie, north of Dunlop Street West and east of Anne Street North.

Several community requests were also made for pickleball courts in the City's downtown area. This is currently a gap area; however, there are currently no opportunities where they could be located. Opportunities may exist at parks that are in proximity to the downtown area where pickleball courts should be considered to serve this area given that future residential intensification is expected. Queen's Park may be a candidate for dedicated pickleball courts to complement the existing tennis courts, which should be considered as part of a broader visioning exercise for the site, as previously identified in Recommendation #35.

The above noted strategy would result in 22 new pickleball courts, which is more than what is required based on the recommended standard (Figure 22). However, this oversupply is deemed to be appropriate based on the need to ensure that there is a good distribution of courts across the City. It is noted that there may be additional gaps where pickleball courts may not be recommended at this time where there may not be any viable locations for a new facility, although opportunities may become available in the future through future infill or facility repurposing and is subject to further consideration by the City for

dedicated courts, or multi-lined courts where dedicated facilities may not be accommodated. The development of pop-up dedicated pickleball courts in temporary locations, such as in public parking lots may also be considered.

The City should endeavour to ensure the provision of dedicated pickleball courts, where possible, with consideration given to the setback distances identified in this Strategy. Where separation appropriate separation distances cannot be achieved, multi-lined courts may be considered, or alternative locations should be explored. Where opportunities exist, pickleball courts should be co-located adjacent to tennis courts to concentrate similar activities within the park and allow for shared amenities such as fencing, surfacing, seating, shade, lighting, and more.

Recommendation #39. **Construct eight dedicated pickleball courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area, including four at a future Community Park (+4) and two each at two future Neighbourhood Parks (+4).**

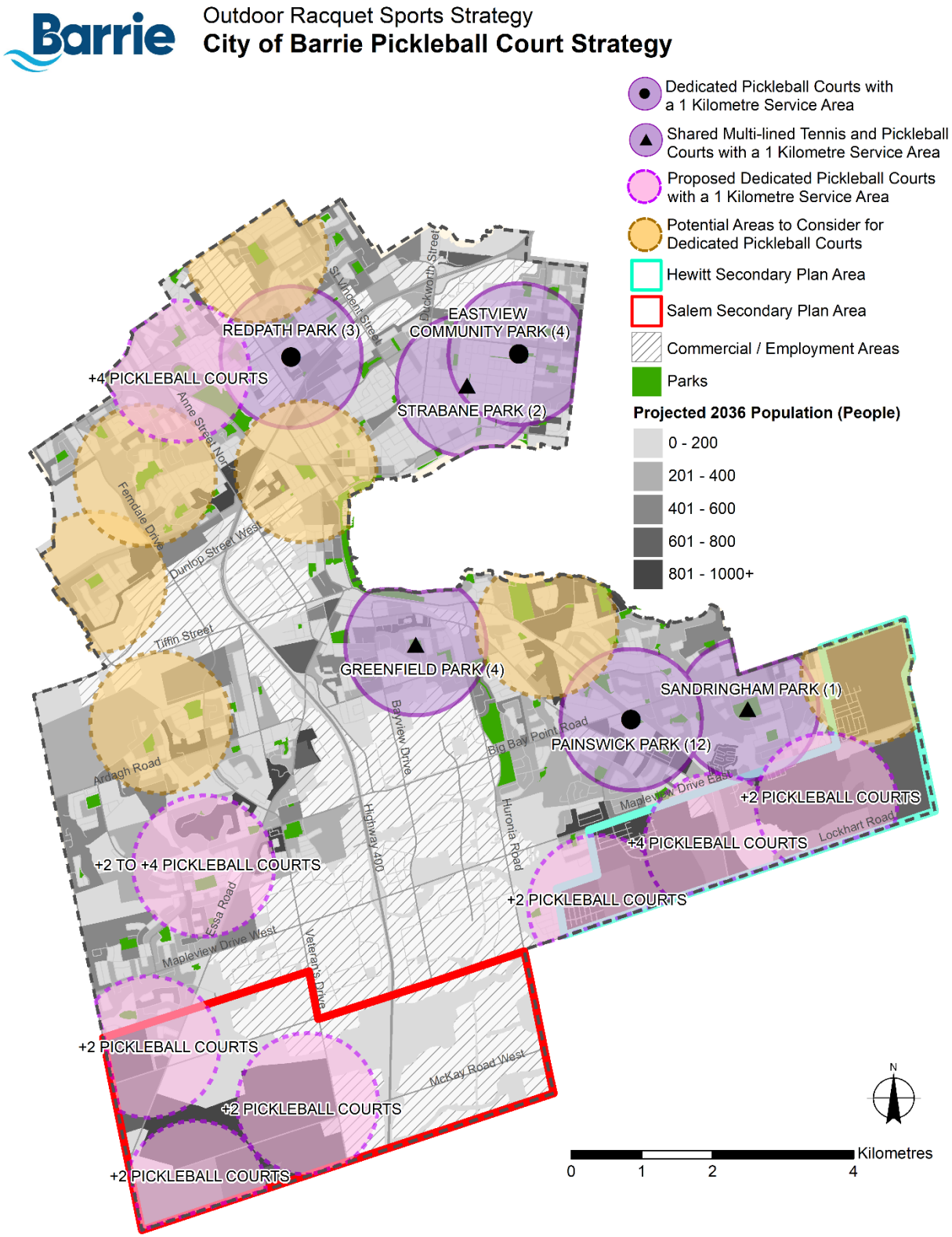
Recommendation #40. **Construct six dedicated pickleball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan Area, including two each at three future Neighbourhood Parks (+6).**

Recommendation #41. **Investigate the feasibility of constructing four dedicated pickleball courts (+4) in the northwest area of Barrie, north of Dunlop Street West and east of Anne Street North.**

Recommendation #42. **Construct between two to four dedicated pickleball courts (+2 to +4) in the Holly community area.**

Recommendation #43. **Investigate opportunities to construct additional dedicated pickleball courts as opportunities exist to respond to future demand and to strengthen geographic distribution.**

FIGURE 22: RECOMMENDED PICKLEBALL COURT STRATEGY



8.0 Implementation Strategy

The timing assigned to each individual recommendation is an estimate that largely relies upon the City's ability to address court gaps in established areas in a reasonable time, subject to confirming site suitability and feasibility, or as part of future park development to serve emerging residential areas (e.g., Hewitt and Salem Secondary Plan Areas). Timing for recommendations has been organized into the following periods:

- Short-term – 2024 to 2027
- Medium-term – 2028 to 2031
- Long-term – 2032 to 2034+
- Ongoing Best Practice – To be implemented or considered on an ongoing basis throughout the course of the planning period.

The City should regularly review, assess, and reconfirm the recommendations set out in this Strategy to ensure relevancy, which should be done as part of the annual budgeting process. This will require monitoring population growth, tennis and pickleball participation and design trends, court utilization, and club registration to understand resident and non-resident membership levels, which will also position the City well to undertake a mid-cycle refresh of the Strategy or full update in 2036.

High level capital costs for the construction of new tennis and pickleball courts were developed in consultation with City staff and are provided for information. These costs are preliminary estimates that include the general hard and soft costs for the design and construction of standard neighbourhood and community level tennis and pickleball facilities. The figures represent current year (2024) dollar values and will be required to be escalated to the mid-point of construction of any proposed project. Hard costs include general site preparation, court construction, and basic supporting amenities, such as lighting (as needed), fencing, site furnishing, and immediate pathway connections related to the facility. Soft costs include site surveys, contingency, consulting fees, contract administration fees, and project management costs. The cost estimates exclude land acquisition, enhanced supporting amenities (e.g. washroom facilities, lighting where lighting is not a standard base level of service, etc.), extensive park pathway connections, permits, tax, or any unforeseen site development costs associated with substructures or geotechnical constraints.

In addition to capital construction costs, it will be important to plan for ongoing maintenance costs for repairs and to plan for full lifecycle renewal, which should be considered through the City's annual budget process. The City regularly maintains all court facilities to ensure that they are safe to use by the public. Standard maintenance practices include, but are not limited to, general maintenance, seasonal set-up and take-down, line painting, equipment replacement, surface repairs, and full surface replacement. A summary of direct court maintenance practices is highlighted in Table 14.

TABLE 14: RACQUET SPORTS STRATEGY MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Maintenance Task	Description	Frequency and Approximate Cost per Court*	
		Neighbourhood Parks (Asphalt)	Community and Regional Parks (Acrylic)
General Maintenance	Routine maintenance such as court surface and equipment inspection for damage, debris removal, touching-up court linework, and verifying net heights for gameplay.	Bi-annually $100	Quarterly $100
Set-up / Take-Down	Seasonal court set-up and take-down.	Annually $200	
Line Painting	Re-paint court lines.	Annually $400	
Equipment Replacement	Replace net assemblies.	5 Years $2,500	5 Years $2,500
Surface Repairs	Patch correction of asphalt/acrylic court surfaces.	5 Years $4,000 to $9,000	2 to 3 Years $4,000 to $9,000
Surface Replacement	Resurfacing of acrylic or asphalt court (does not include base granular). Acrylic resurfacing involves replacement of acrylic ONLY (does not include asphalt).	15 to 20 Years** Tennis $50,000 Pickleball $15,000	8 Years Tennis $20,000 Pickleball $6,000

*Costs do no include overhead costs, such as vehicles, training, supervision, and other.

**Standard lifespan for asphalt is 20 years. Many municipalities have been experiencing pre-mature material failure. The City is currently undertaking a Play Court Acrylic Surface Audit to investigate reasons for pre-mature material failures and best practices moving forward to extend the lifecycle of existing and new courts.

8.1 Best Practice Recommendations

The following recommendations are best practices and are intended to provide the City with guidance on the planning, design, and development of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, as well as permitting of Barrie's courts. As a result, these best practices should be considered on an ongoing basis during the life of this Strategy.

Tennis Court Dimensions	
Recommendation #1.	**All new and redeveloped tennis courts should be constructed according to the court dimensions endorsed by International Tennis Federation, which is also suitable for wheelchair play.**
Pickleball Court Dimensions	
Recommendation #2.	**At a minimum, all new and redeveloped pickleball courts should be designed to court dimensions for competitive play that are endorsed by Pickleball Canada and USA Pickleball Association.**
Recommendation #3.	**Pickleball court dimensions for elite and wheelchair play should only be considered at Community and Regional Parks.**
Multi-lined Courts for Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball	
Recommendation #4.	**Consistent with strategies recommended by Tennis Canada, the development of multi-lined courts for outdoor tennis and pickleball should only be considered where dedicated courts cannot be accommodated and to satisfy a community need where parkland is limited, such as at a Neighbourhood Park.**
Court Surfacing	
Recommendation #5.	**An asphalt surface with painted lines is recommended for Neighbourhood Parks.**
Recommendation #6.	**Painted acrylic playing surfaces with high contrasting colours are recommended for outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks. Consideration should also be given to the recommendations of the City's Play Court Acrylic Surface Audit.**

Court Configurations and Orientation	
Recommendation #7.	**Neighbourhood Parks should have a maximum of two dedicated pickleball courts. Community and Regional Parks should have a minimum of two dedicated pickleball courts, although a four or more courts are preferred.**
Recommendation #8.	**Where possible, dedicated outdoor tennis and pickleball courts within the same park should be co-located together to centralize similar activities and achieved efficiencies in sharing supporting amenities.**
Recommendation #9.	**Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be oriented in a north-south direction to avoid direct sun into the eyes.**
Recommendation #10.	**Neighbourhood Parks should have a maximum of two dedicated tennis courts. Community and Regional Parks should have a minimum of two dedicated courts.**
Residential Setbacks and Noise Mitigation	
Recommendation #11.	**A minimum setback of 15 metres from abutting residential property lines is recommended for all unlit tennis courts. A minimum setback of 30 metres is recommended for all lit tennis courts, although 20 metres may be acceptable when using abatement measures such as landscape screening.**
Recommendation #12.	**Target a minimum setback of 50 metres between pickleball courts and abutting residential property lines in Neighbourhood Parks and 75 to 100 metres or more for Community and Regional Parks depending on the number of courts. Noise abatement measures may be applied to reduce setbacks such as noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, and acoustic paneling. Monitoring best practices in other communities as new pickleball courts are designed is encouraged to guide setback requirements.**
Recommendation #13.	**Encourage the use of Green Zone pickleball paddles and foam balls through public education and awareness, signage, and related strategies to minimize noise impacts, particularly in locations such where minimum setbacks may not be met such as at Neighbourhood Parks.**
Recommendation #14.	**Explore noise abatement measures as part of designing outdoor pickleball courts, which may include, but not be limited to, noise dampening screening, landscaping, berms, and acoustic panelling. Monitoring noise mitigation strategies that are currently being developed by the USA Pickleball Association is also encouraged.**

Pathways	
Recommendation #15.	**Paved pathways should be incorporated as part of park designs to link users from parking lots and sidewalks to on-site amenities including outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Specific design parameters should be guided by the City's pathway construction standards and in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.**
Court Lighting	
Recommendation #16.	**All outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Community and Regional Parks should have LED lights that are dark sky compliant and have a sharp lighting cutoff to facilitate extending playing periods. Lighting courts in Neighbourhood Parks is not recommended.**
Electrical Supply	
Recommendation #17.	**Incorporate electrical supply at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts in Community and Regional Parks.**
Fencing and Gates	
Recommendation #18.	**Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Community and Regional Parks should have fully enclosed fencing with two gates on opposite ends of the court. Gates should be wide enough to accommodate sports wheelchairs (minimum of 4 feet or 1.2 metres).**
Recommendation #19.	**Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts at Neighbourhood Parks should have fencing along the backstop and partially along the sidestop at the same height.**
Recommendation #20.	**At Community and Regional Parks, internal fencing for pickleball courts may be the same height as external fencing or have a lower fence height of 3.5 feet or 1 metre. Internal fencing at Neighbourhood Parks is optional to minimize interference with other court uses.**
Shade Structures	
Recommendation #21.	**Consider the use of enhanced shade structures to support extended periods of park use. As an alternative, incorporate tree plantings in strategic areas around outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, including at Neighbourhood Parks.**

Seating	
Recommendation #22.	**Provide seating at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts. Tiered seating/bleachers in strategic locations at Community and Regional Parks may be considered to accommodate spectators for special events and tournaments.**
Recommendation #23.	**Ensure that adequate space is available for accessible viewing, resting and waiting areas for wheelchairs and mobility devices at outdoor tennis and pickleball courts.**
Washrooms	
Recommendation #24.	**Permanent or temporary washrooms should only be located at Community or Regional Parks and should be provided as a park-serving amenity and not specifically for tennis or pickleball court users only.**
Windscreens	
Recommendation #25.	**Encourage outdoor tennis and pickleball court users to erect windscreens at locations they commonly use.**
Water Bottle Filling Stations	
Recommendation #26.	**Incorporate water bottle filling stations at Community or Regional Parks. This amenity should be considered at Neighbourhood Parks on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the availability of existing or planned water servicing.**
On-Site Parking	
Recommendation #27.	**Ensure that on-site parking is available at Community and Regional Parks to support the use of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts, as well as other park uses. On-site parking at Neighbourhood Parks is not recommended.**
Indoor Meeting Space	
Recommendation #28.	**Where possible, indoor space for outdoor tennis and/or pickleball groups should be provided through existing or future community spaces and should allow for broad public use.**
Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Rates and Fees	
Recommendation #29.	**Regularly review the City's outdoor tennis and pickleball court fees, with consideration given to regional municipal comparators, and adjust as necessary to remain in alignment with other communities and to achieve appropriate cost recovery levels.**

8.2 Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court Needs Assessment Recommendations

Outdoor Tennis Court Service Level Target		Timing and Capital Cost
Recommendation #30.	**Public tennis courts should be provided at a rate of one per 5,000 residents with a 1-kilometre service area. This would result in a need for 13 new tennis courts by 2036. Additional courts may be considered based on providing a strong geographic distribution.**	Ongoing Best Practice
Recommendation #31.	**No new club tennis courts are recommended at this time, although the City should monitor club membership data and evaluate the need for additional courts based on a target of one court per 50 to 75 members.**	Ongoing Best Practice
Outdoor Tennis Service and Court Gap Analysis		
Recommendation #32.	**Construct six dedicated tennis courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area, including two courts at a future Community Park (+2) and two courts at two Neighbourhood Parks (+4).**	Medium to Long Term Community Park - $450,000 Neighbourhood Park $300,000 to 390,000 per location
Recommendation #33.	**In the Salem Secondary Plan Area, continue to plan for the development of one dedicated tennis court at a future Neighbourhood Park (+1) and construct two dedicated courts (+2) at a second future Neighbourhood Park.**	Medium to Long Term $275,000 to $390,000 per location
Recommendation #34.	**Evaluate sites in the Holly community area on the west side of Highway 400, north of Mapleview Drive West and south of Ardagh Road to construct two dedicated tennis courts (+2). Where opportunities exist, consideration should be given to opportunities to re-purpose underutilized outdoor recreation facilities to accommodate this need.**	Short Term $390,000 (Neighbourhood Park) to $450,000 (Community Park)
Recommendation #35.	**Work with the Barrie Community Tennis Club, other stakeholders, and the public to undertake a Comprehensive Park Plan for Queen's Park to create a long-term future for responding to residential**	Initiate in short-term with long-term implementation

	intensification in the surrounding area, with consideration given to adding a minimum of two dedicated tennis courts (+2) and dedicated pickleball courts (+2) to the site, the future of the existing ball diamond, and other outdoor recreation needs and amenities.	
Outdoor Pickleball Court Service Level Target		
Recommendation #36.	**Public pickleball courts should be provided at a rate of one per 5,000 residents with a 1-kilometre service area. This would result in a need for 20 new pickleball courts by 2036. Additional courts may be considered based on providing a strong geographic distribution.**	Ongoing Best Practice
Recommendation #37.	**With the new pickleball courts completed at Painswick Park, no new courts are recommended to support club-based play. Future club-based needs should be guided based on a target of one court per 50 to 75 members.**	Ongoing Best Practice
Recommendation #38.	**Pursue strategies to help guide future outdoor tennis and pickleball court planning and development, including collecting demographic data from court users to understand residency levels to ensure organizations meet a minimum 80% requirement for permitting City courts and exploring the implementation of an online court booking system.**	Ongoing Best Practice

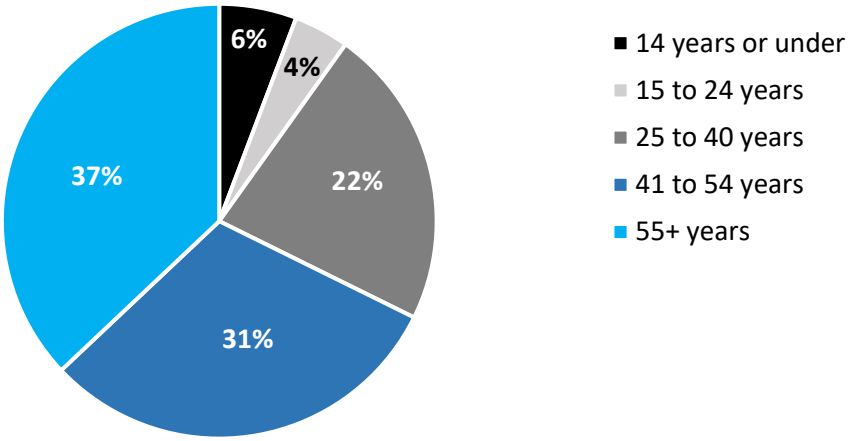
Outdoor Pickleball Service and Court Gap Analysis		
Recommendation #39.	**Construct eight dedicated pickleball courts in the Hewitt Secondary Plan Area, including four at a future Community Park (+4) and two each at two future Neighbourhood Parks (+4).**	Medium to Long Term Community Park - $465,000 Neighbourhood Park - $150,000 per location
Recommendation #40.	**Construct six dedicated pickleball courts in the Salem Secondary Plan Area, including two each at three future Neighbourhood Parks (+6).**	Medium to Long Term $150,000 per location
Recommendation #41.	**Investigate the feasibility of constructing two dedicated pickleball courts (+2) in the northwest area of Barrie, north of Dunlop Street West and east of Anne Street North.**	Short Term $150,000
Recommendation #42.	**Construct between two to four dedicated pickleball courts (+2 to +4) in the Holly community area.**	Short Term $150,000 per location
Recommendation #43.	**Investigate opportunities to construct additional dedicated pickleball courts as opportunities exist to respond to future demand and to strengthen geographic distribution.**	Ongoing Best Practice

Appendix A – Online Public Survey Summary

A.1 Respondent Profile

- Nine-in-ten (91%) respondents indicated that they are Barrie residents.
- More than one-third (37%) of respondents identified that they are over the age of 55. Another one-third (31%) of respondents reported that they were between the ages of 41 and 54. One-in-five (22%) respondents were between the ages of 24 and 40 and 10% of respondents were under the age of 24.

FIGURE 23: AGE OF RESPONDENTS

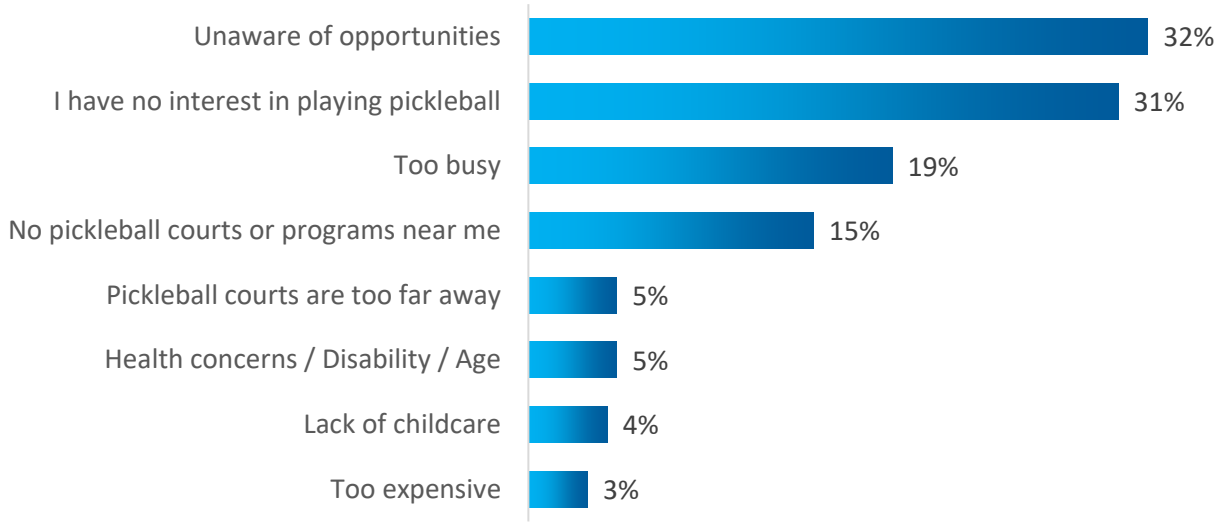


A.2 Participation in Pickleball

Three-in-five (60%) respondents indicated that they have participated in the pickleball sport in the past three years, which means that 40% of respondents have not played the sport. Among the respondents who have not played pickleball, 32% indicated that they are not aware of the opportunities to play, which was the most common response. This reason was closely followed by respondents not being interested in the sport (31%).

Respondents who have not played pickleball were asked what would encourage them to play the sport. The most common suggestion was to offer lessons for beginners. Other suggestions included advertising available opportunities and programs, building more pickleball courts to increase access, and creating a loan program for participants to borrow pickleball equipment such as racquets and balls.

FIGURE 24: REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN PICKLEBALL IN THE PAST 3 YEARS (N=196)



Among respondents who have played pickleball, 60% indicated that they are not part of a pickleball group or league. One-third (33%) identified themselves as a member of the Barrie Pickleball Club, while 7% are a member of another pickleball group.

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of pickleball respondents indicated that they would consider themselves to be a recreational player, meaning that they play for fun at the recreational level, and they are familiar with the rules of the game. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of respondents consider themselves a beginner who is not a regular player or has limited familiarity with the rules. Less than one-in-five (14%) respondents identify as a competitive/expert player who plays in a competitive league and is well versed in the rules and able to teach others. Regardless of their skill level, the majority of players prefer to play indoors and outdoors.

FIGURE 25: PICKLEBALL SKILL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

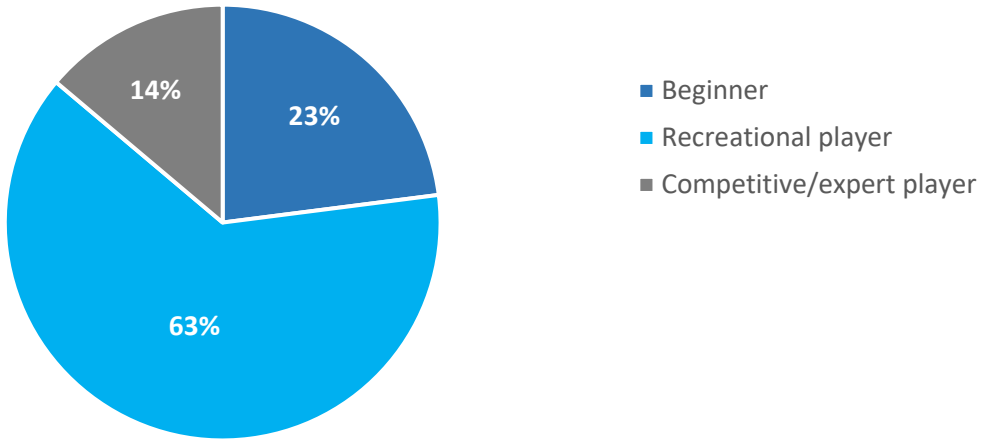
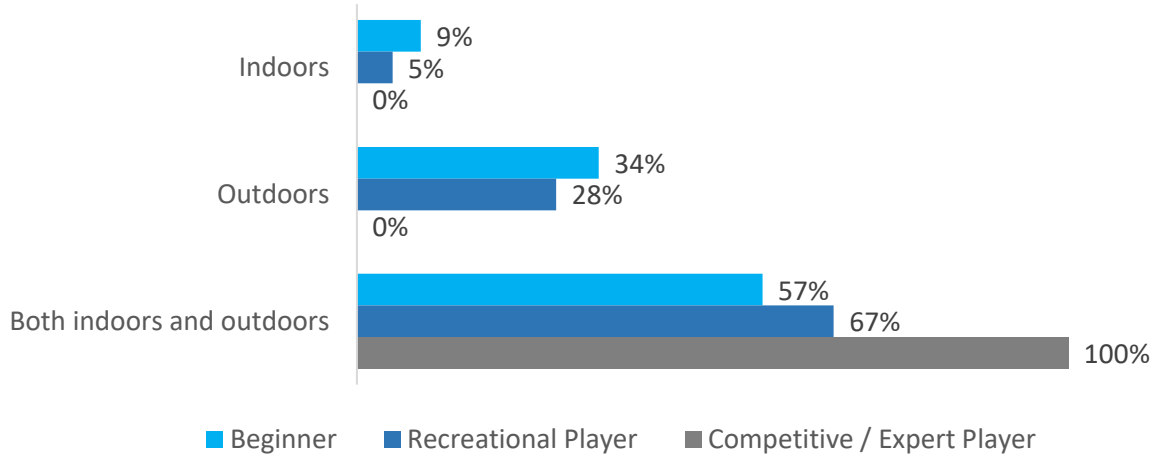


FIGURE 26: PREFERENCE FOR INDOOR OR OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL PLAY



The majority of beginner (66%) and recreational (55%) players reported that they typically play at City courts. A large portion of competitive/expert players (42%) also play at City courts, but they are also more likely to play at private courts, as well as courts outside of the City. For respondents who play on non-City courts, the most common reason for competitive/expert players was that they participate in a league or with a group of friends. For beginner and recreational players, the most common reason why was that the location is convenient for them.

FIGURE 27: TYPICAL LOCATION OF PICKLEBALL PLAY

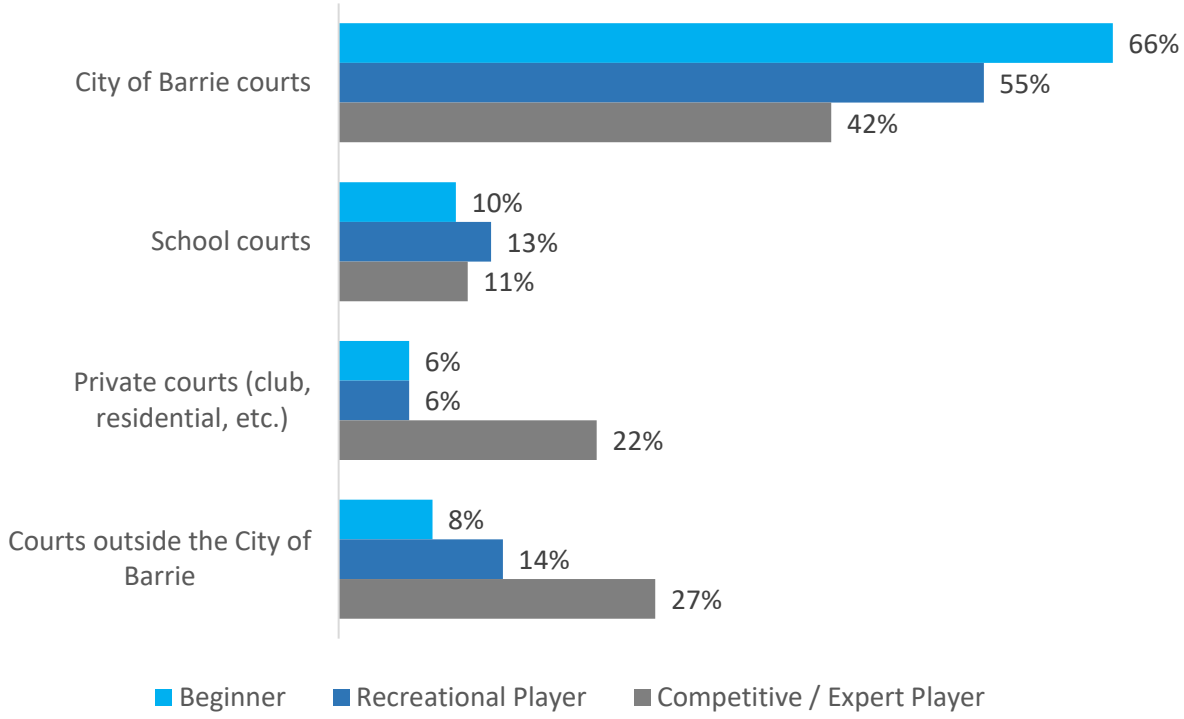
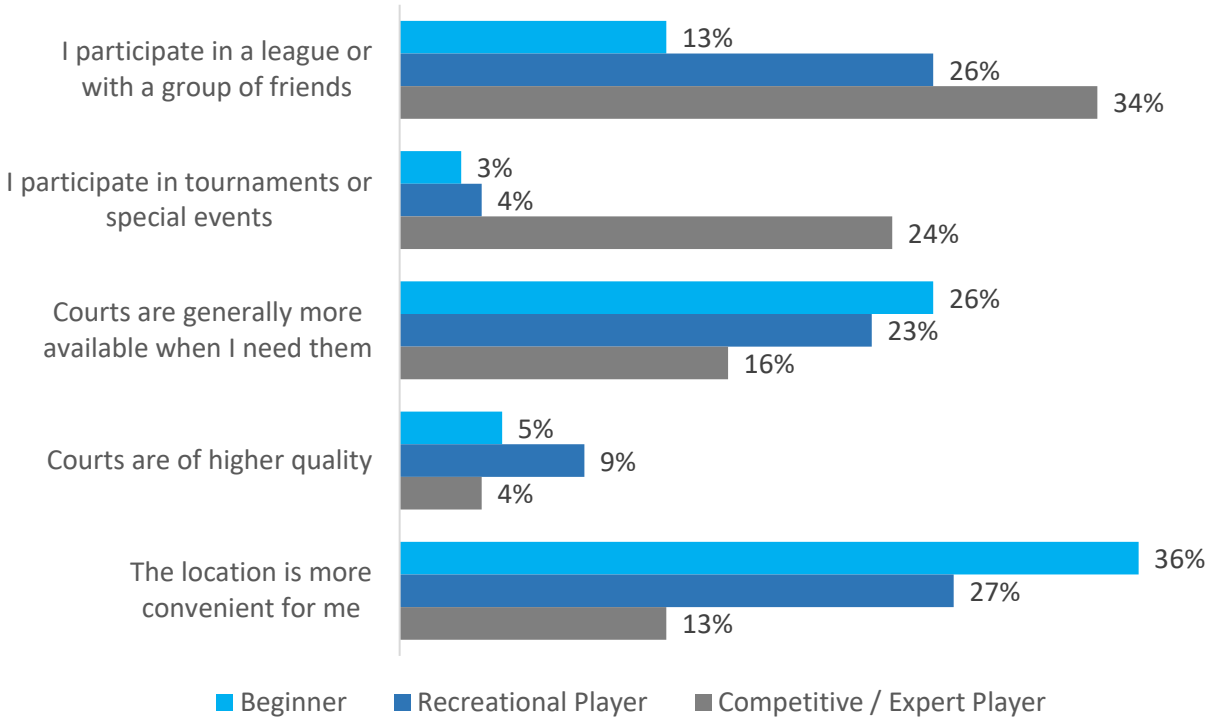


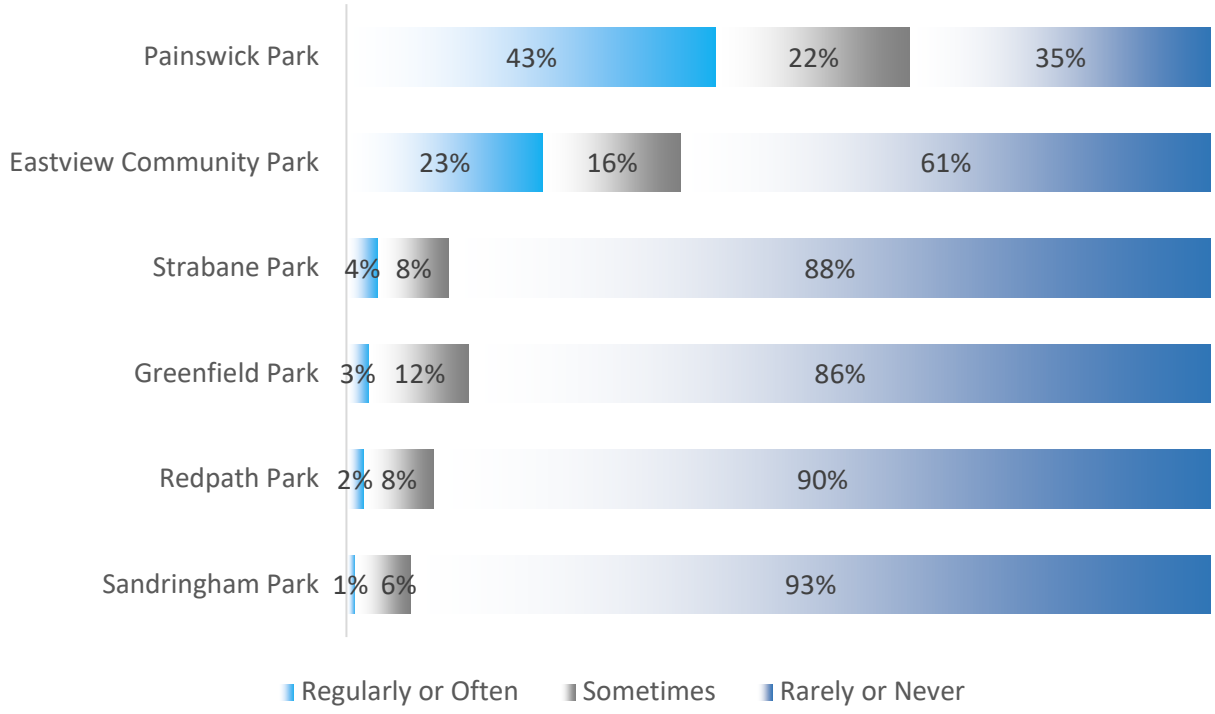
FIGURE 28: REASONS FOR USING NON-CITY PICKLEBALL COURTS



A.3 Use of City Pickleball Courts

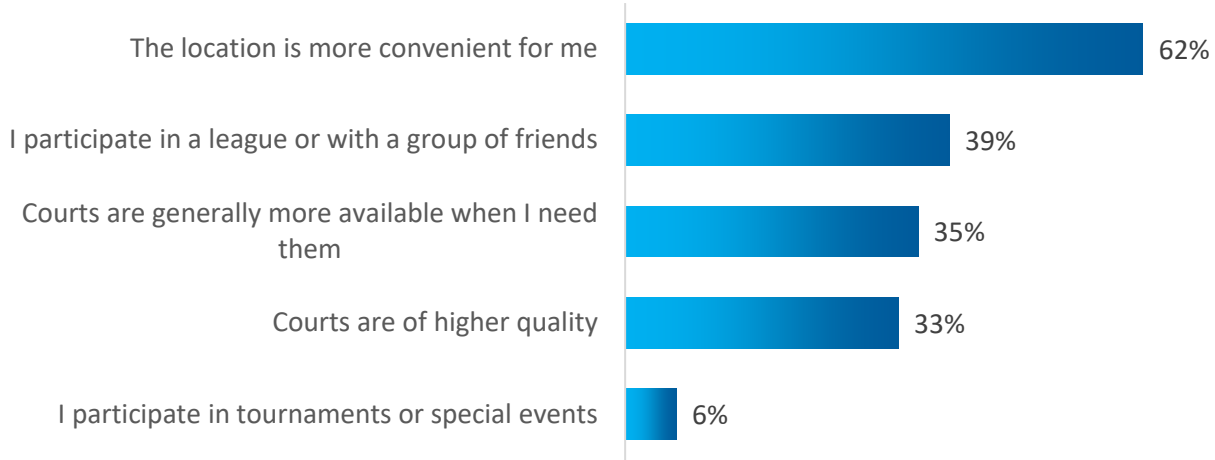
Regardless of their skill level, the pickleball courts at Painswick Park were the most used location with 43% of respondents having played at this site regularly or often. The pickleball courts at Eastview Community Park were also a common location, with 23% of respondents using this location. Respondents' use of Barrie's pickleball courts at Strabane Park, Greenfield Park, Redpath Park, and Sandringham Park are fairly low with the majority indicating that respondents rarely or never use these locations.

FIGURE 29: OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL COURTS USED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS



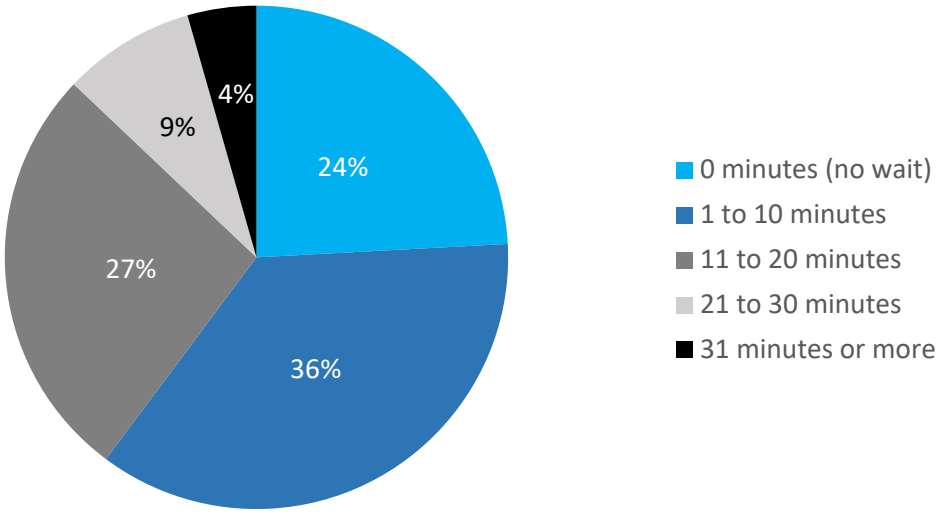
When respondents identified why they prefer to use the parks they visit the most, the majority (62%) indicated that the location is convenient for them. Other common responses were that they participate in a league at this location or play with a group of friends (39%), the courts are available when they need them (35%), and the courts are of higher quality (33%).

FIGURE 30: REASONS FOR USING SELECTED PICKLEBALL COURTS



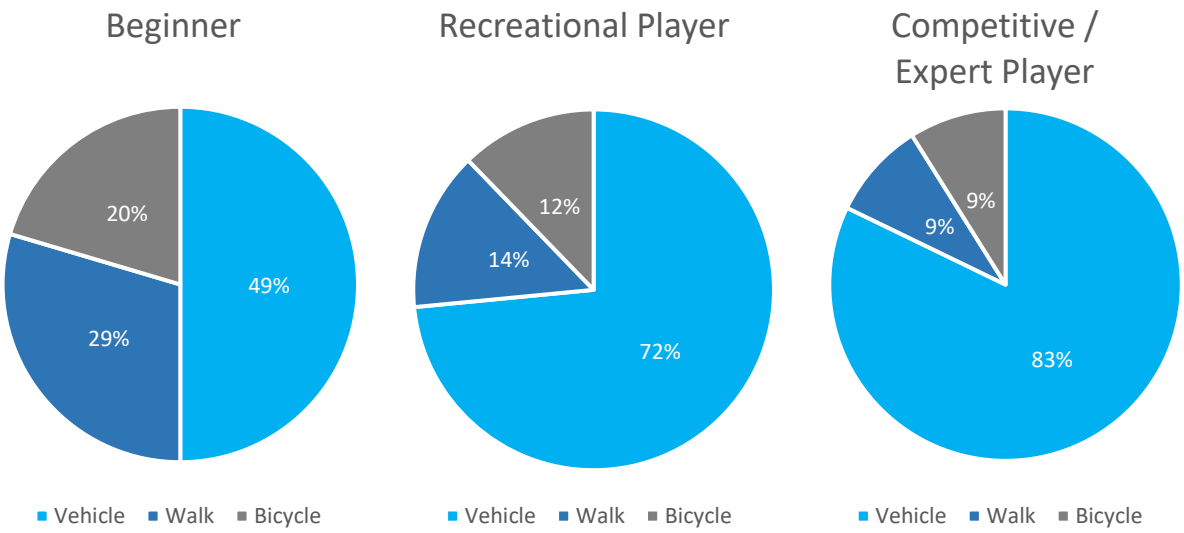
More than one-third (36%) of respondents identified that their average wait time for a City pickleball court is one to 10 minutes, which was the most common response. 27% of respondents indicated that their average wait time is 11 to 20 minutes, while 24% reported that there is no wait; 13% of respondents have to wait an average of 21 minutes or more.

FIGURE 31: AVERAGE PICKLEBALL COURT WAIT TIME



Regardless of their skill level, the majority of pickleball players indicated that they typically drive to the pickleball courts that they use the most. This may suggest that they are willing to drive past courts that may be lower quality to access higher quality locations that may be further to drive to. Nearly half of beginner players indicated that they typically walk or bicycle to pickleball courts they use, suggesting that they likely use courts that are close to them due to convenience. Very few respondents use public transit to travel to courts that they use (less than 2%).

FIGURE 32: TRAVEL METHOD TO PICKLEBALL COURTS



A.4 Outdoor Pickleball Participation Preferences

During the outdoor playing season, 27% of respondents indicated that they play pickleball a few times a week, which was the most common level of frequency. More than one-in-ten (14%) play on a daily basis, while 15% play once a week and 19% play a few times a month. The time of day when respondents play pickleball is fairly split between the evening (after 5 pm) and morning (before 12 pm) at 51% and 47%. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents also prefer to play during both the weekdays and weekends; 27% of respondents play during the weekday and 10% play during the weekend.

The level of frequency of using pickleball courts during the outdoor playing season varies based on skill level. For example, 54% of competitive/expert players played outdoor pickleball daily; 27% also played a few times a week. One-third (34%) of recreational players played a few times a week, which was the most common frequency level for this skill level. Similarly, one-third (35%) of beginners played a few times a year, which was the most common frequency level, followed by a few times a month (27%).

The preferred time of day for playing pickleball was evenly split across all skill levels between morning (before 12pm), afternoon (12 pm to 5 pm) and evening (after 5 pm) periods. Competitive/expert players had a larger preference for playing in the morning and evening. The majority of beginner, recreational and competitive/expert players reported that they preferred to play during weekday and weekend. A larger proportion of competitive/expert players reported that they prefer to play during the weekday and weekend, while beginner and recreational players were more likely to play during the weekday.

FIGURE 33: AVERAGE FREQUENCY OF USING PICKLEBALL COURTS DURING OUTDOOR PLAYING SEASON

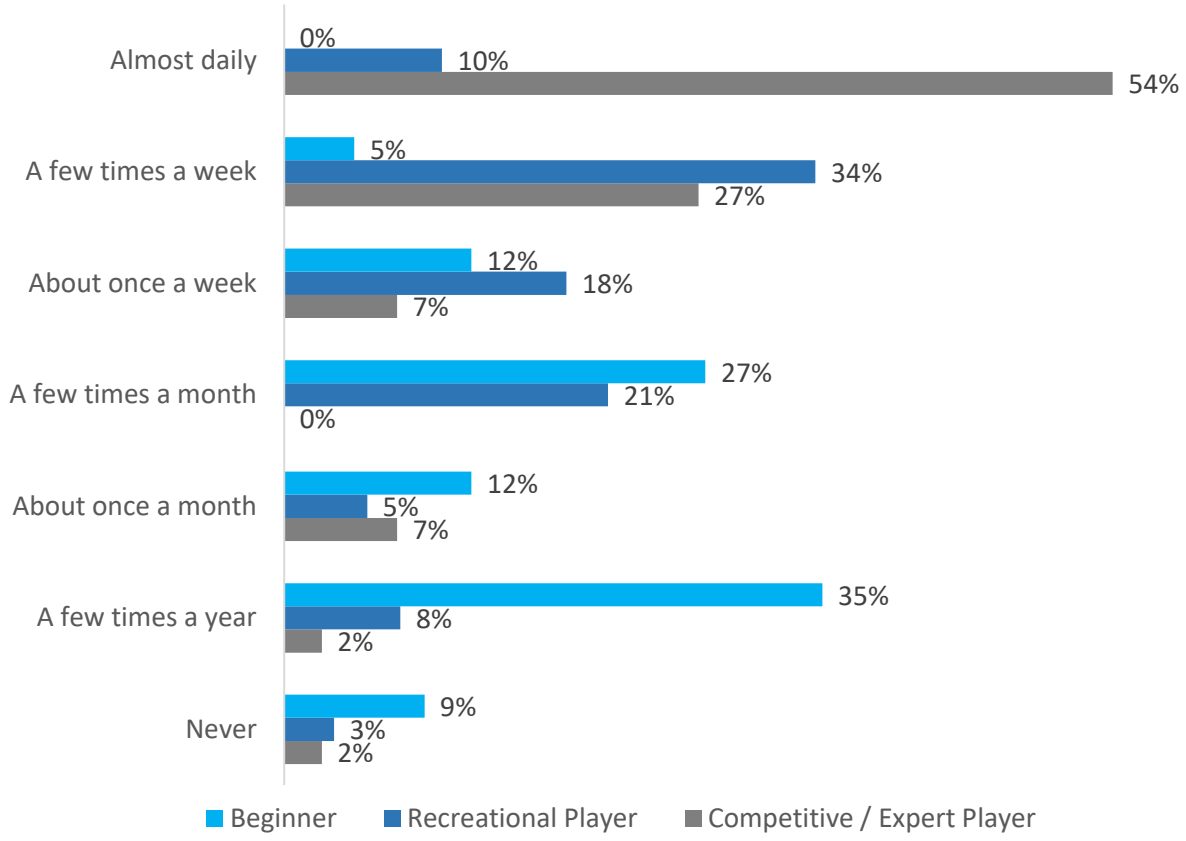


FIGURE 34: PREFERRED TIME OF DAY FOR PLAYING PICKLEBALL

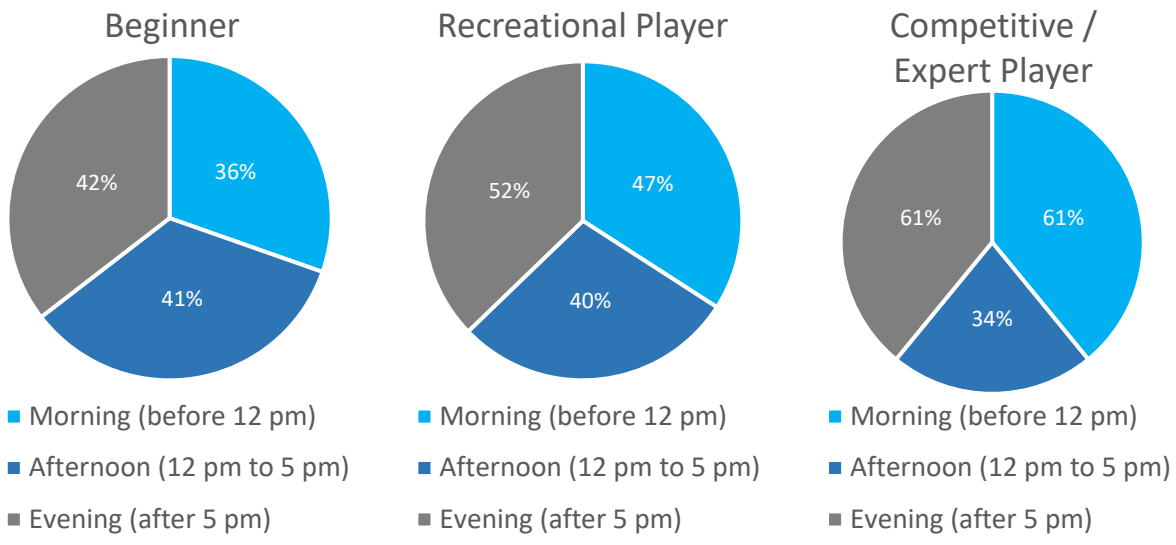
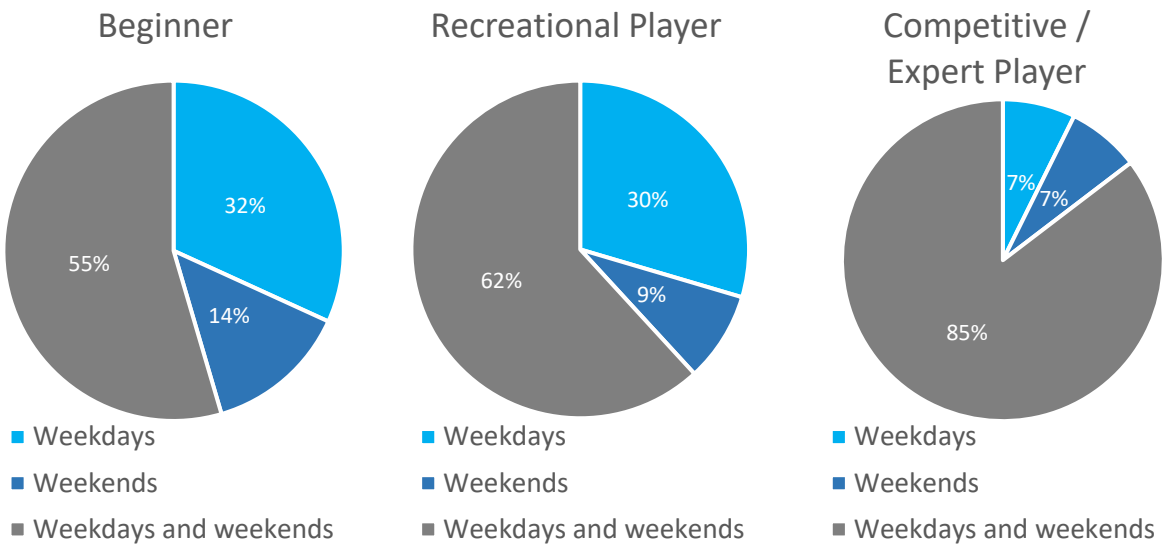


FIGURE 35: PREFERRED TIME OF WEEK FOR PLAYING PICKLEBALL



A.5 Satisfaction with Outdoor Pickleball Opportunities

The majority of respondents reported that they are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the number of pickleball courts in Barrie. A larger proportion of competitive/expert players (68%) reported that they are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the number of pickleball courts in the City compared to beginner and recreational players (55%). Satisfaction levels regarding the distribution of the City's pickleball courts varied by skill level. More than half (59%) of competitive/expert players indicated that they are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the distribution of the City's pickleball courts, whereas 46% of recreational players and 36% of beginners were satisfied or somewhat satisfied. These results suggests that improvements could be made to the City's supply and distribution of pickleball courts to improve satisfaction levels.

Respondents were provided an opportunity to suggest where new or additional pickleball courts could be considered. A range of locations across Barrie were identified, with the most common suggestion being for pickleball courts in the north end of the City as it was felt that this area is underserved. Other locations were suggested, including the southwest end (specifically in the Holly neighbourhood), Painswick Park, Sunnidale Park, Strabane Park, and others. While the rationale for these locations varied, the most common reason was that respondents were looking for pickleball opportunities that are closer to them.

FIGURE 36: SATISFACTION WITH NUMBER OF PICKLEBALL COURTS

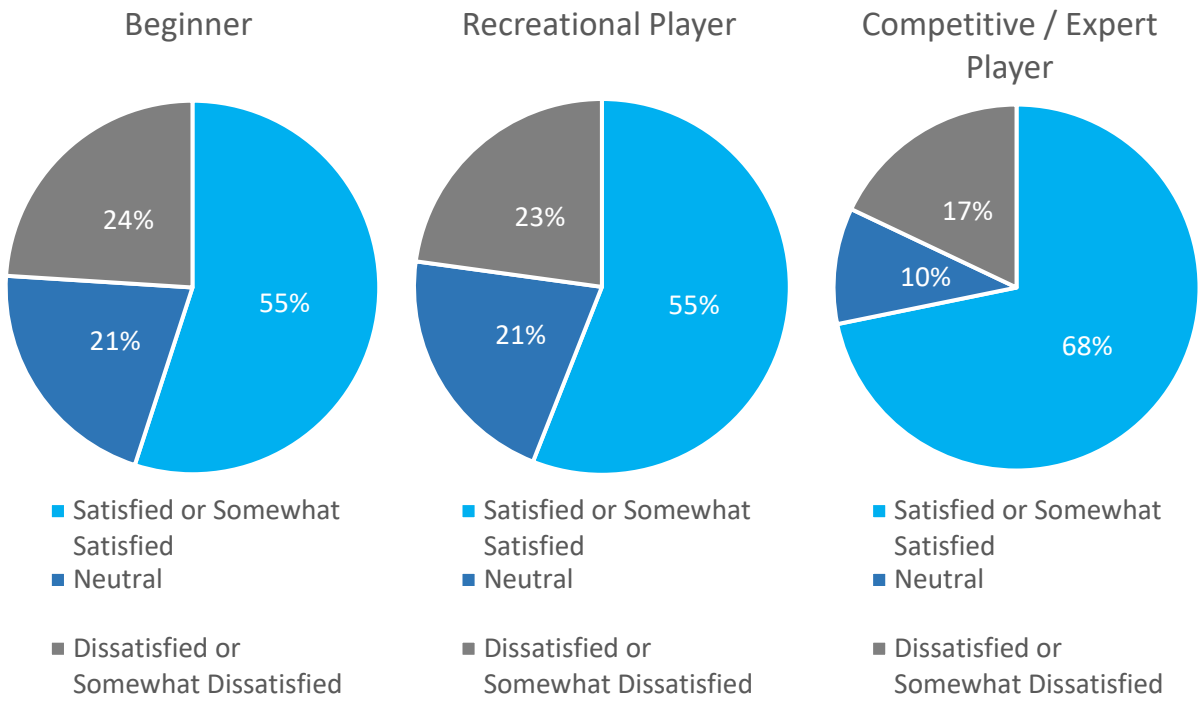
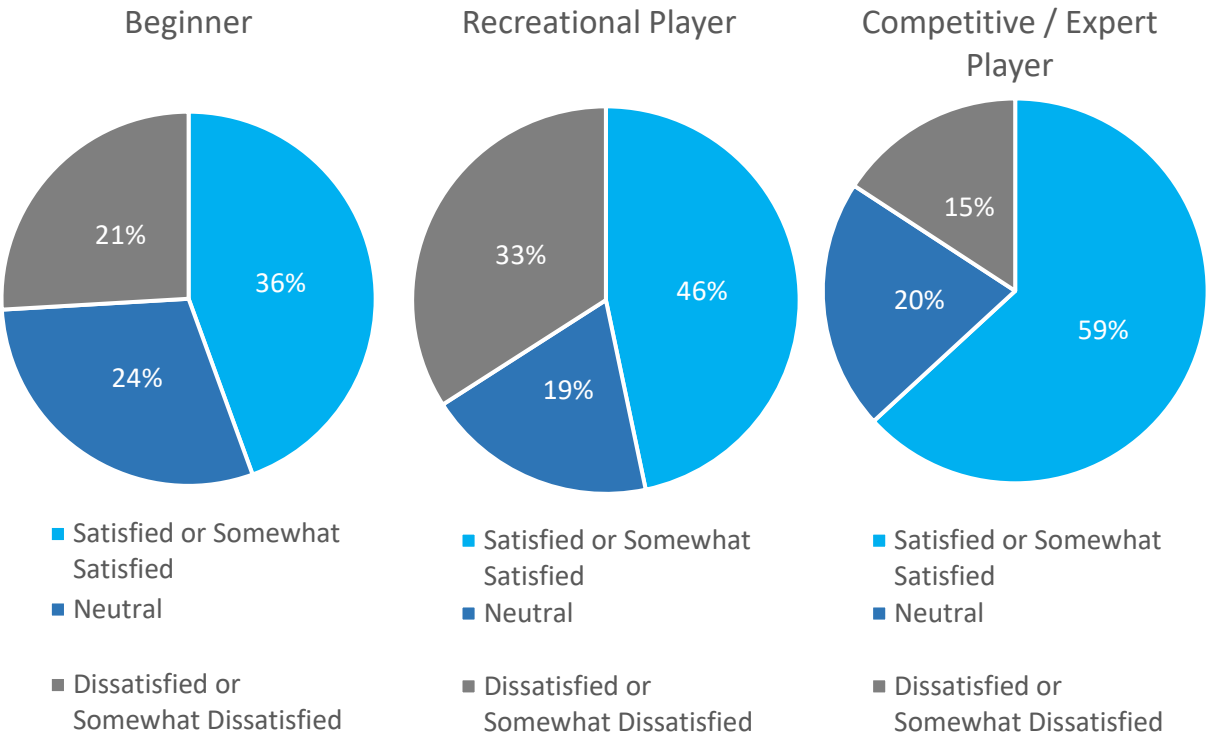


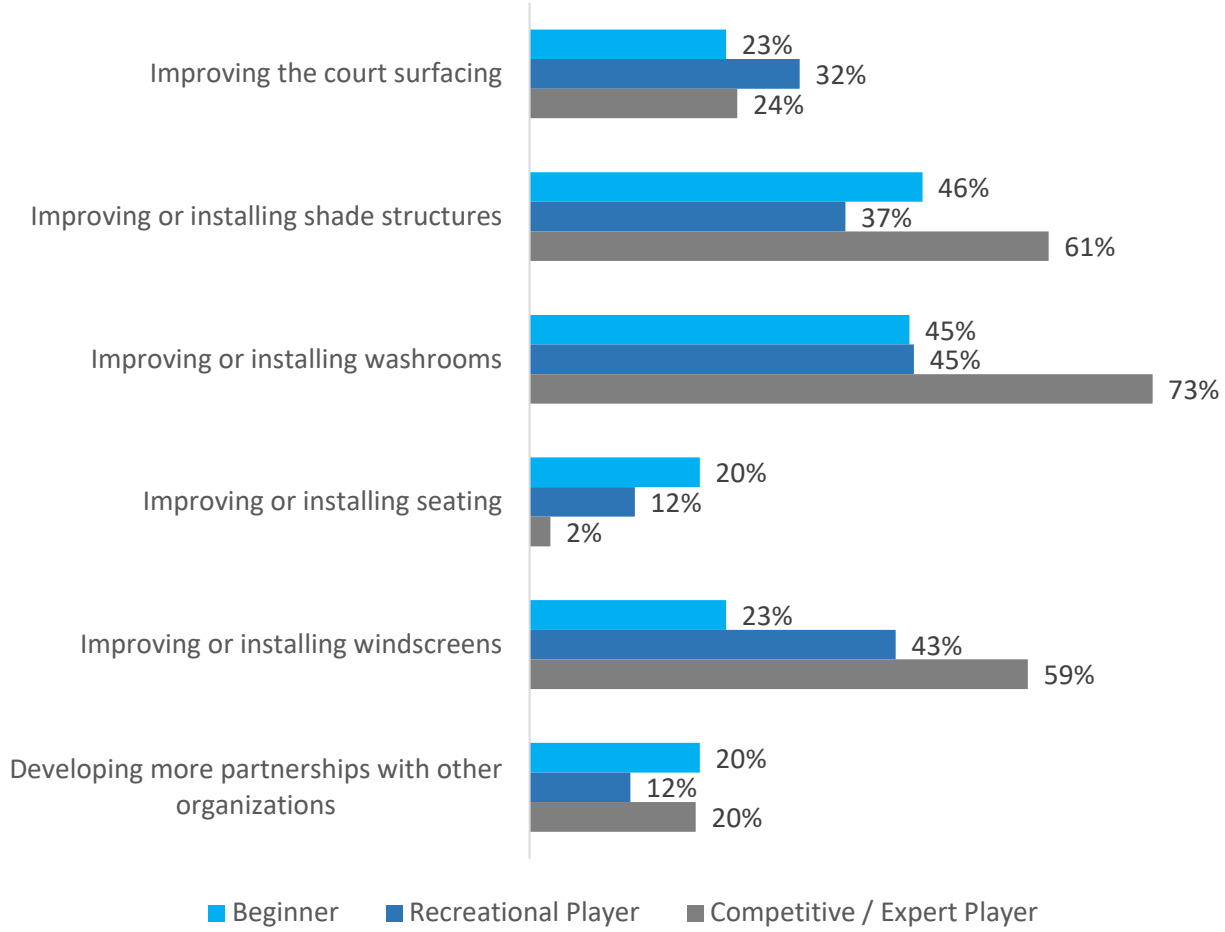
FIGURE 37: SATISFACTION WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS



A.6 Improving Outdoor Pickleball Court Opportunities

Respondents identified how the City could potentially enhance the quality of existing pickleball courts. There was strong support from all skill levels for installing or improving washrooms, shade structures, and windscreens.

FIGURE 38: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EXISTING PICKLEBALL COURTS

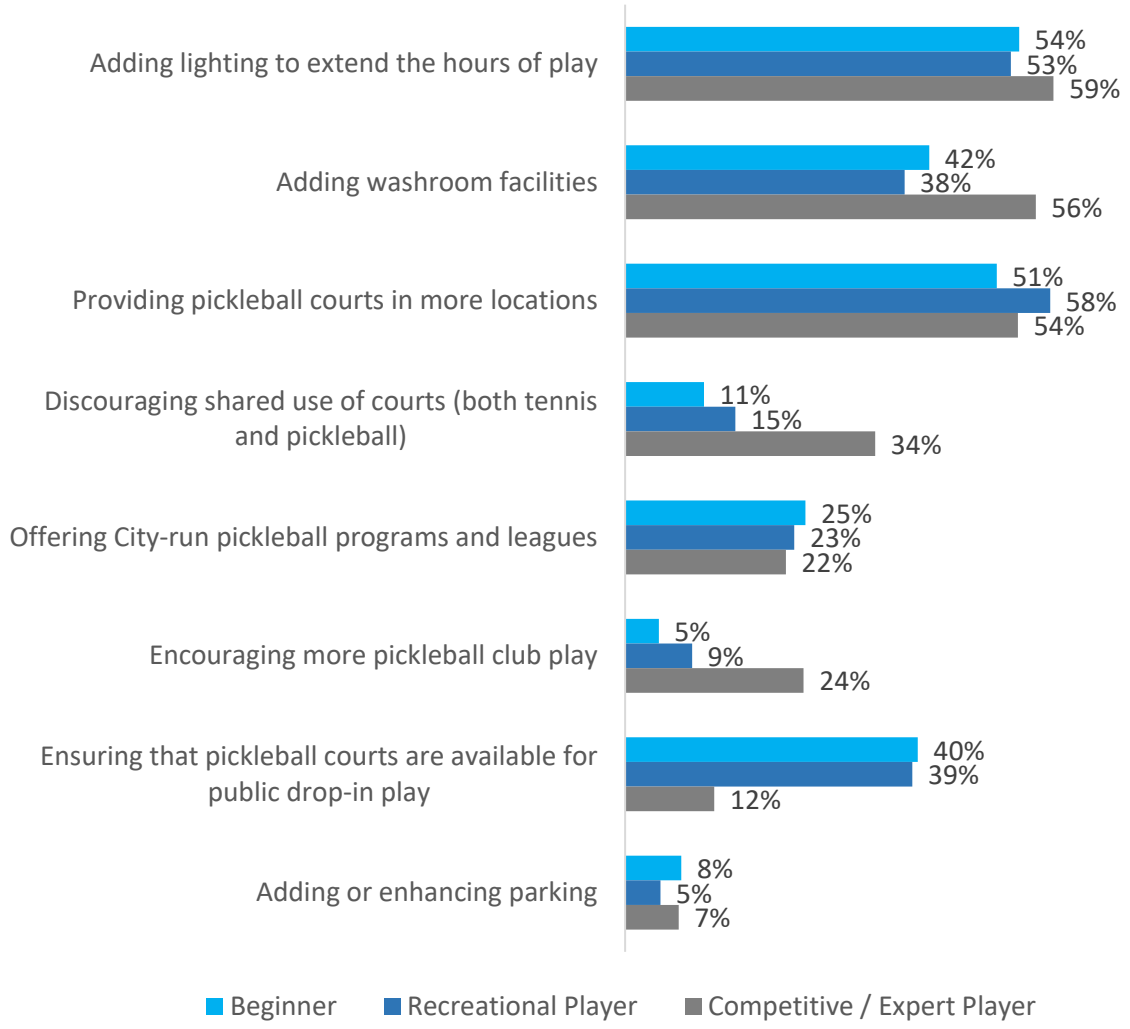


Respondents also had an opportunity to identify how the City could potentially increase access to outdoor pickleball courts. The most common suggestion across all skill levels was to provide tennis courts in more locations. This was followed by adding lighting to extend the hours of play; it is noted that the majority of the City's courts already have court lighting. Adding washrooms was also a common suggestion.

It is notable that 40% of beginners and 39% of recreational players identified that ensuring that pickleball courts are available for drop-in play would help increase access, only 12% of competitive/expert players selected this option. More than one-third of competitive/expert players also felt that shared use of courts (outdoor tennis and pickleball) should be discouraged, while 11% of beginners and 15% of recreational players selected this response. Nearly one-quarter of competitive/expert players felt that there should be more club play, whereas only 5% of beginners and 9% of recreational players selected this option.

Suggestions for additional or new pickleball courts were heard ncluding in the north end, Holly neighbourhood, Painswick Park, Sunnidale Park, Strabane Park, East Bayfield Community Park, Waterfront, Queen's park, Downtown area, Ferndale Park, Lampman Lane Park, and Greenfield Park.

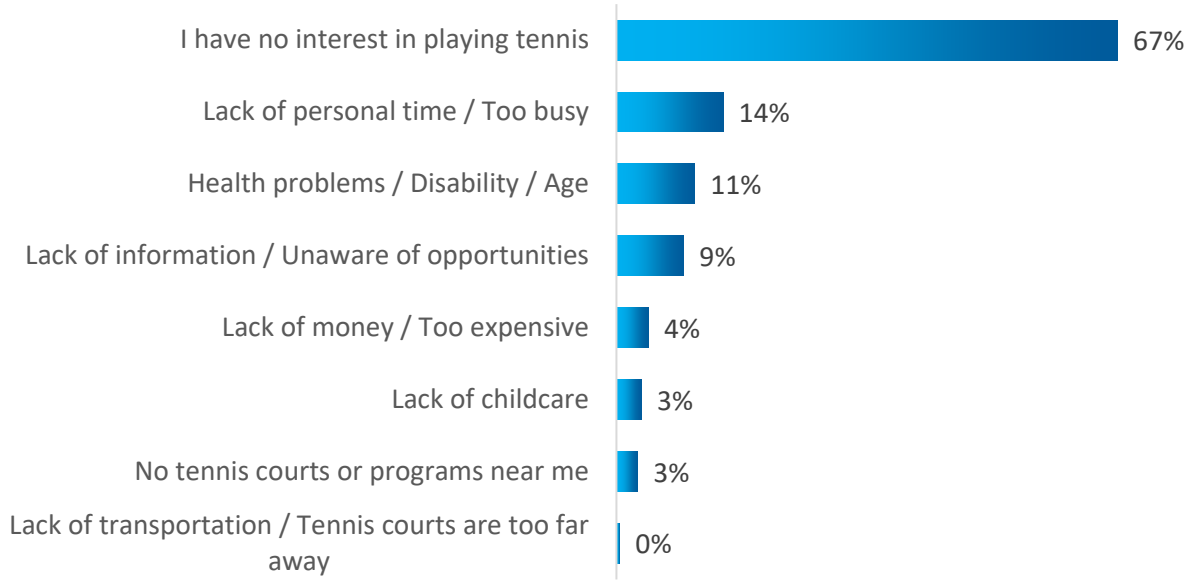
FIGURE 39: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO PICKLEBALL COURTS



A.7 Participation in Tennis

More than half (57%) of respondents indicated that they have played tennis in the past 3 years. This means that 43% of respondents have not played tennis. Among those who have not played the sport, two-thirds (67%) reported that they have no interest in the game, which was the most common response. Other reasons included a lack of personal time or being too busy (14%), and having health problems/disability/age barriers (11%). When asked what would encourage them to play tennis, suggestions included offering beginner lessons or having other friends to play with.

FIGURE 40: REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN TENNIS THE PAST 3 YEARS



Among respondents who play tennis, more than two-thirds (69%) reported that they are not associated with an organized tennis group or league. One-in-five (20%) respondents were a member of the Barrie Community Tennis Club and 4% were a member of Simcoe Tennis.

The majority (59%) of respondents consider themselves to be a recreational player who plays for fun at the recreational level and is familiar with the rules of the game. Nearly one-quarter (22%) of participants defined themselves as a beginner who is not a regular player or has limited familiarity with the rules. Less than one-in-five (19%) respondents identified themselves as a competitive/expert player, having played in competitive leagues and is well versed in the rules and able to teach others.

The majority (49%) of respondents prefer to play tennis outdoors, which was followed closely by respondents who prefer to play both indoors and outdoors (48%). Only 3% of respondents prefer to play tennis only indoors.

FIGURE 41: TENNIS SKILL LEVEL

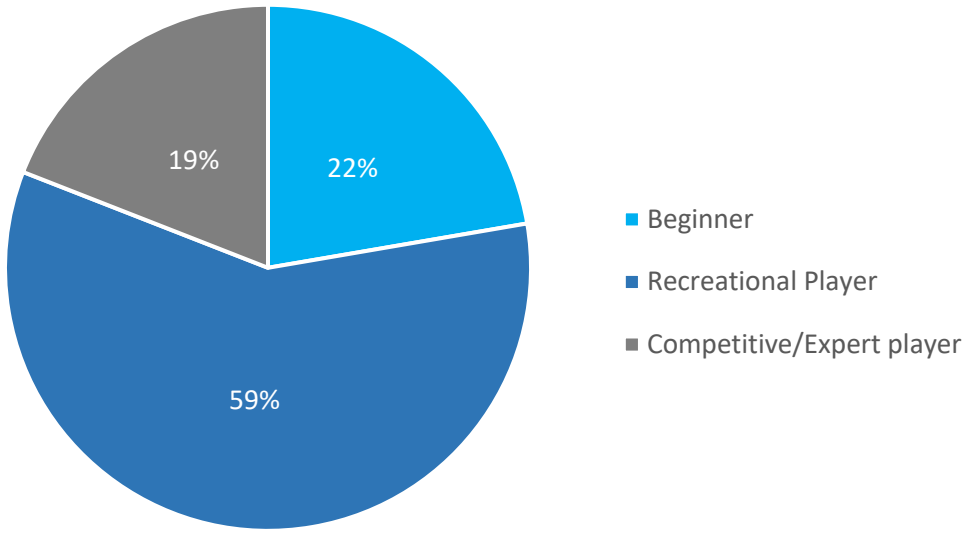
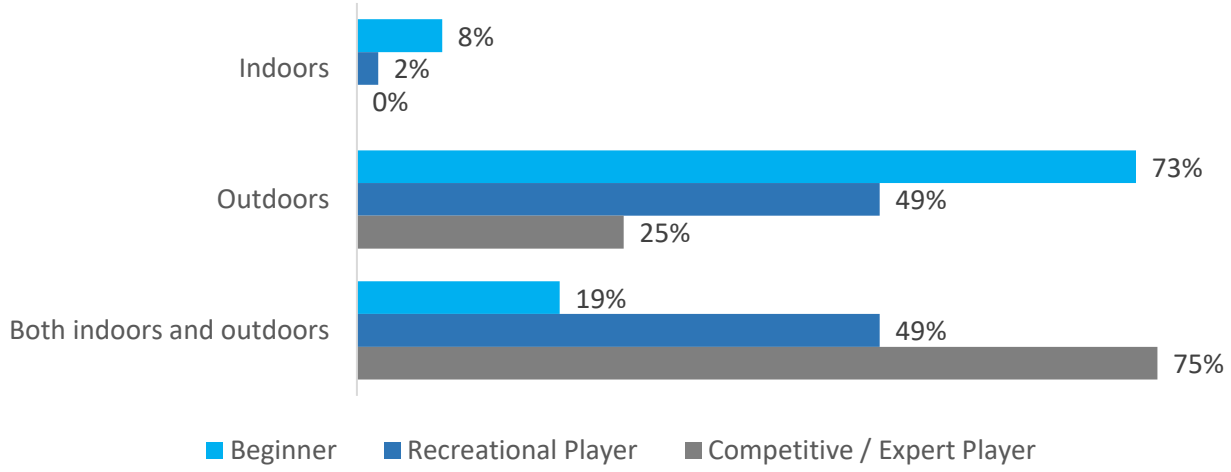


FIGURE 42: PREFERENCE FOR INDOOR OR OUTDOOR TENNIS PLAY



The majority of players reported that they typically play at City of Barrie tennis courts. Nearly all (94%) competitive/expert players use the City's tennis courts, although 40% also indicated that they play at private courts and outside of Barrie. Similarly, 90% of recreational players use City courts and 21% and 16% use courts outside of Barrie and at private locations, respectively. More than three-quarters (76%) of beginners play at City courts, while 15% play outside of Barrie and 11% play at school courts.

For those who prefer to play elsewhere other than on City courts, the most common reason for doing so among competitive and expert players was that they participate in a league or with a group of friends (22%). Playing in a tournament/special event (20%) or the court being available at a convenient time (20%) was also common reason among competitive and expert players. For recreational players, it was common to use courts outside of Barrie because the courts are generally more available when they need them and for beginners, the location was more convenient for them.

FIGURE 43: TYPICAL LOCATION FOR PLAYING TENNIS

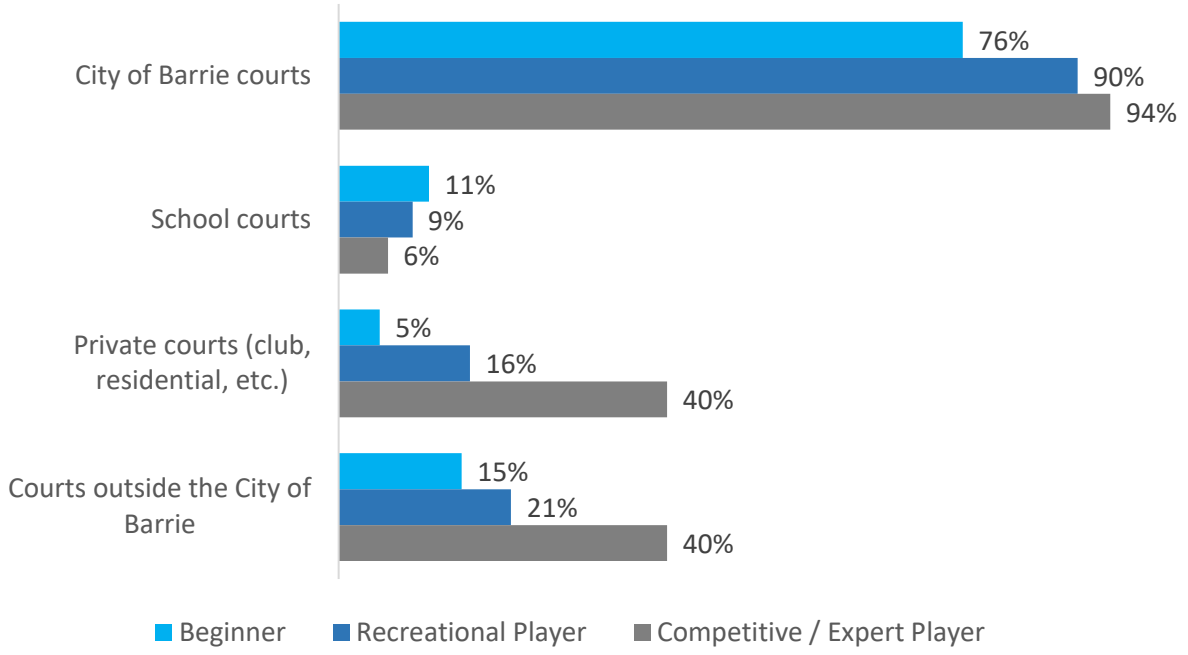
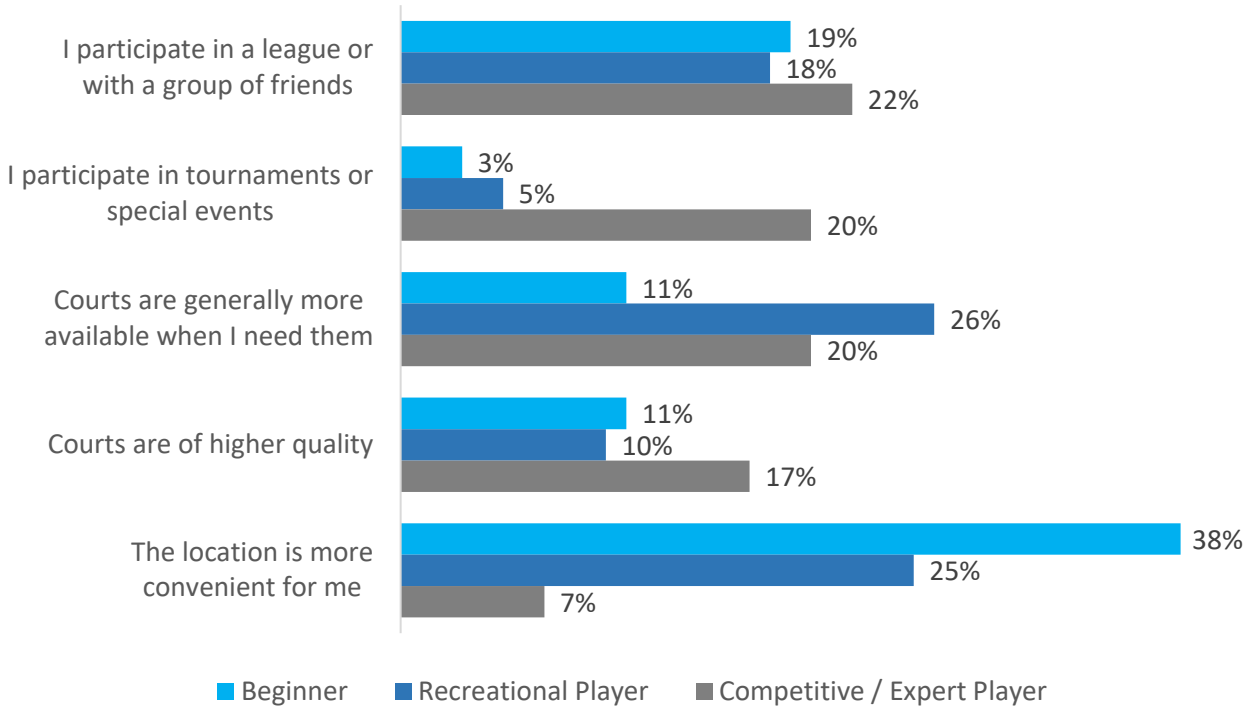


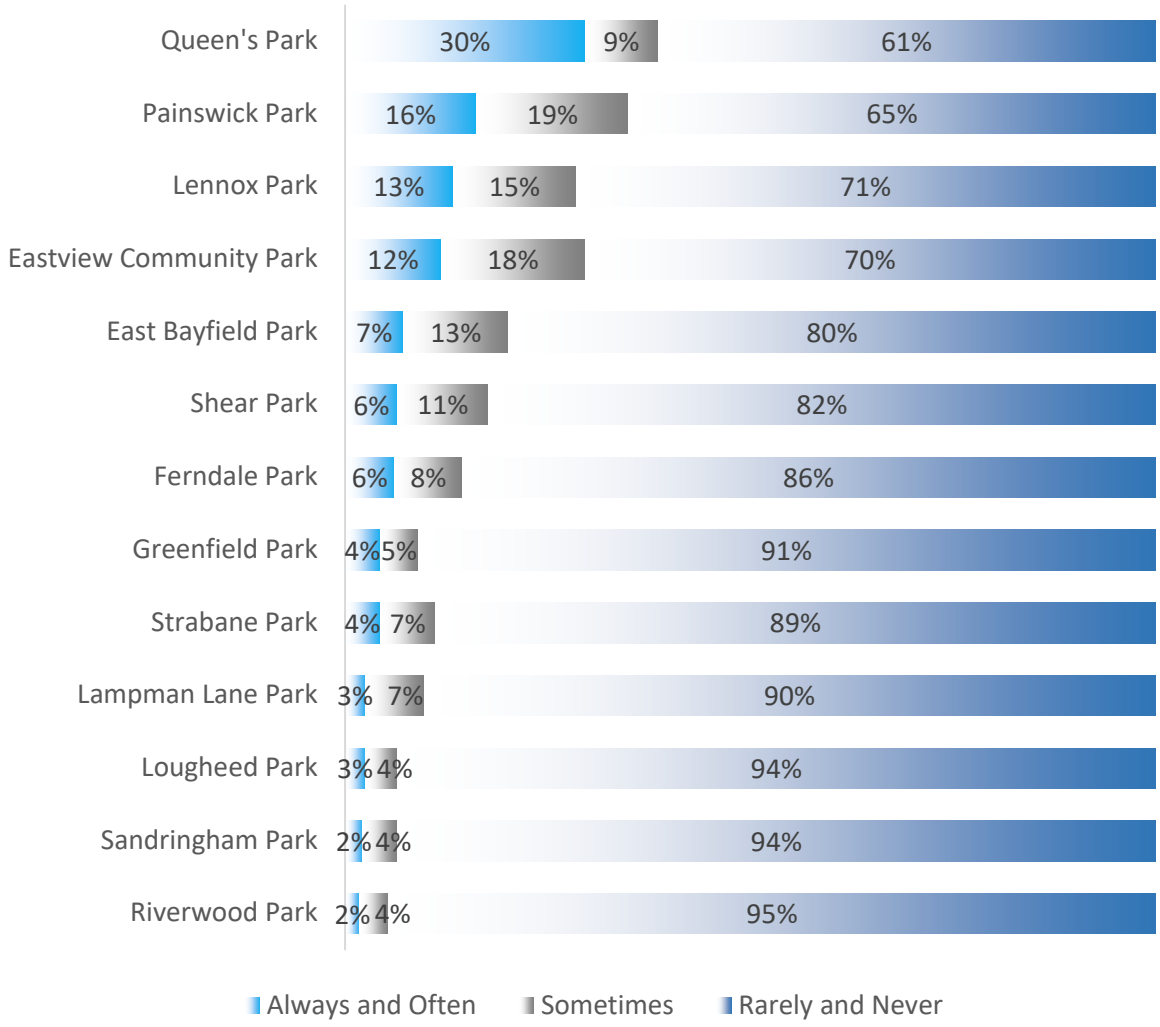
FIGURE 44: REASONS FOR USING NON-CITY TENNIS COURTS



A.8 Use of City Tennis Courts

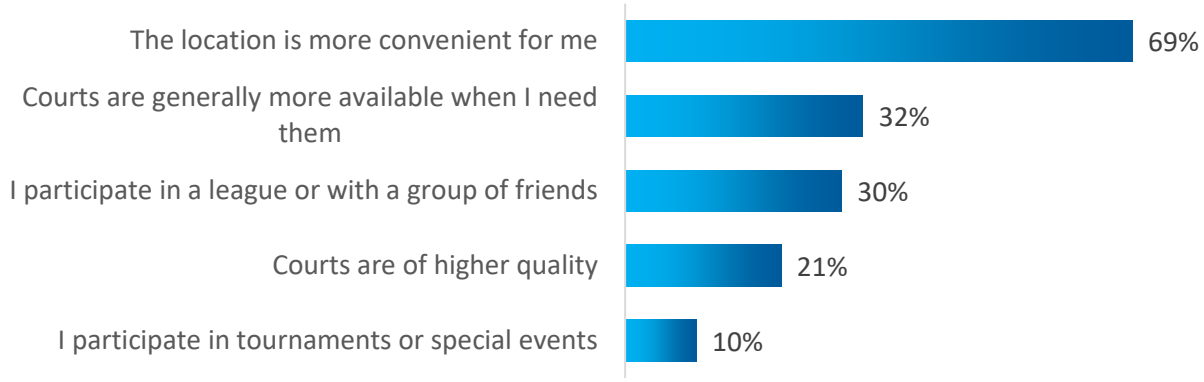
Regardless of their skill level, the tennis courts at Queen's Park were the most used location with 30% of respondents having played at this site regularly or often. Other common locations included Painswick Park (16%), Lennon Park (13%), and Eastview Community Park (12%). All other outdoor tennis court locations had fairly little use by respondents. These results suggest that players prefer to play at the City's higher quality courts.

FIGURE 45: OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS USED IN THE LAST 3 YEARS (N=277)



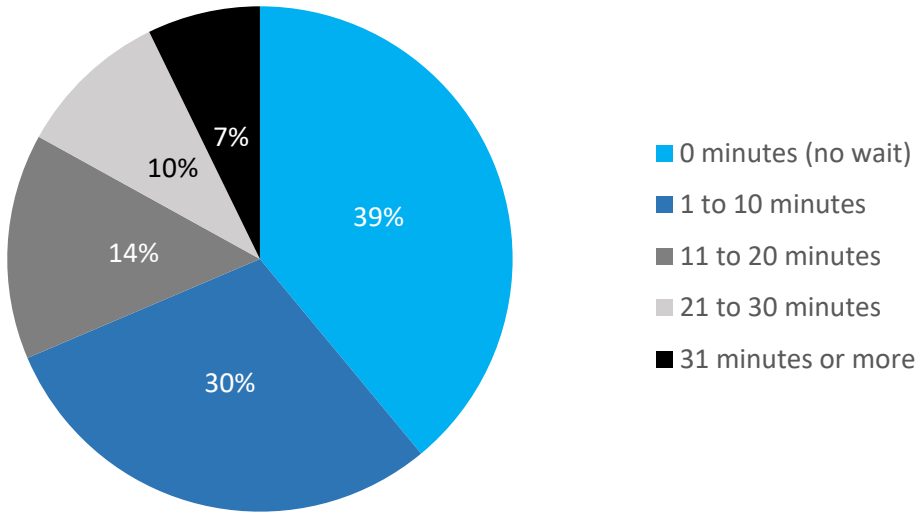
When respondents identified why they prefer to use the courts they use the most, more than two-thirds (69%) of respondents reported that the location was most convenient for them. Other common responses were that they courts are generally more available when they need them (32%), and that they participate in a league or with a group of friends (30%).

FIGURE 46: REASONS FOR USING SELECTED TENNIS COURTS (N=277)



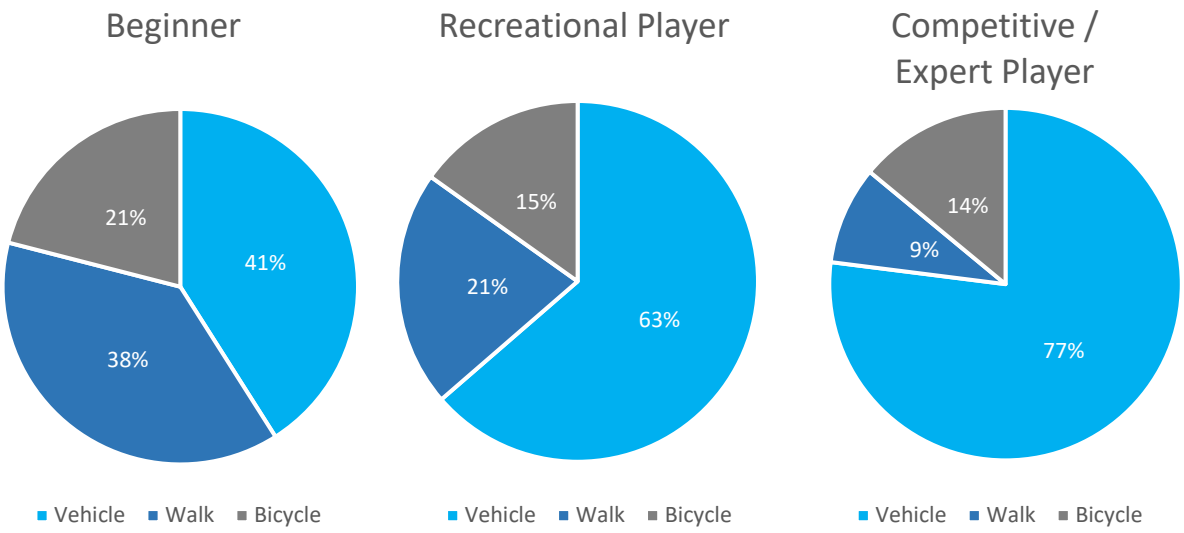
Nearly 40% of respondents reported that there is typically no wait time to use the tennis courts. 30% of respondents indicated that they wait an average of one to 10 minutes for a tennis court, and 14% wait an average of 11 to 20 minutes. 17% of respondents wait an average of 21 minutes or more.

FIGURE 47: AVERAGE TENNIS COURT WAIT TIME



The majority of competitive/expert (77%) and recreational (63%) players travel by vehicle to the tennis courts that they typically use; 41% of beginners drive to the tennis courts that they use. Beginner tennis players (59%) are more likely to walk or bicycle to their tennis courts, compared to recreational (36%) and competitive/expert (23%) players. No respondents travel to tennis courts using public transit.

FIGURE 48: TRAVEL METHOD TO TENNIS COURTS



A.9 Outdoor Tennis Participation Preferences

During the outdoor playing season, competitive/expert players commonly played a few times a week (57%) or daily (25%). Nearly one-third of recreational players (32%) also played a few times a week, which was the most common frequency for this skill level. Nearly half (44%) of beginner players played a few times a year. Recreational and competitive/expert players generally have a preference for playing tennis in the evening (after 5 pm). By contrast, beginner tennis players have a greater preference for playing in the afternoon (12 pm to 5 pm). Competitive/expert and recreation players also have a strong preference for playing throughout the week, regardless of the day, while beginners were evenly split between playing throughout the week or during the weekend only.

FIGURE 49: AVERAGE FREQUENCY OF USING TENNIS COURTS DURING OUTDOOR PLAYING SEASON

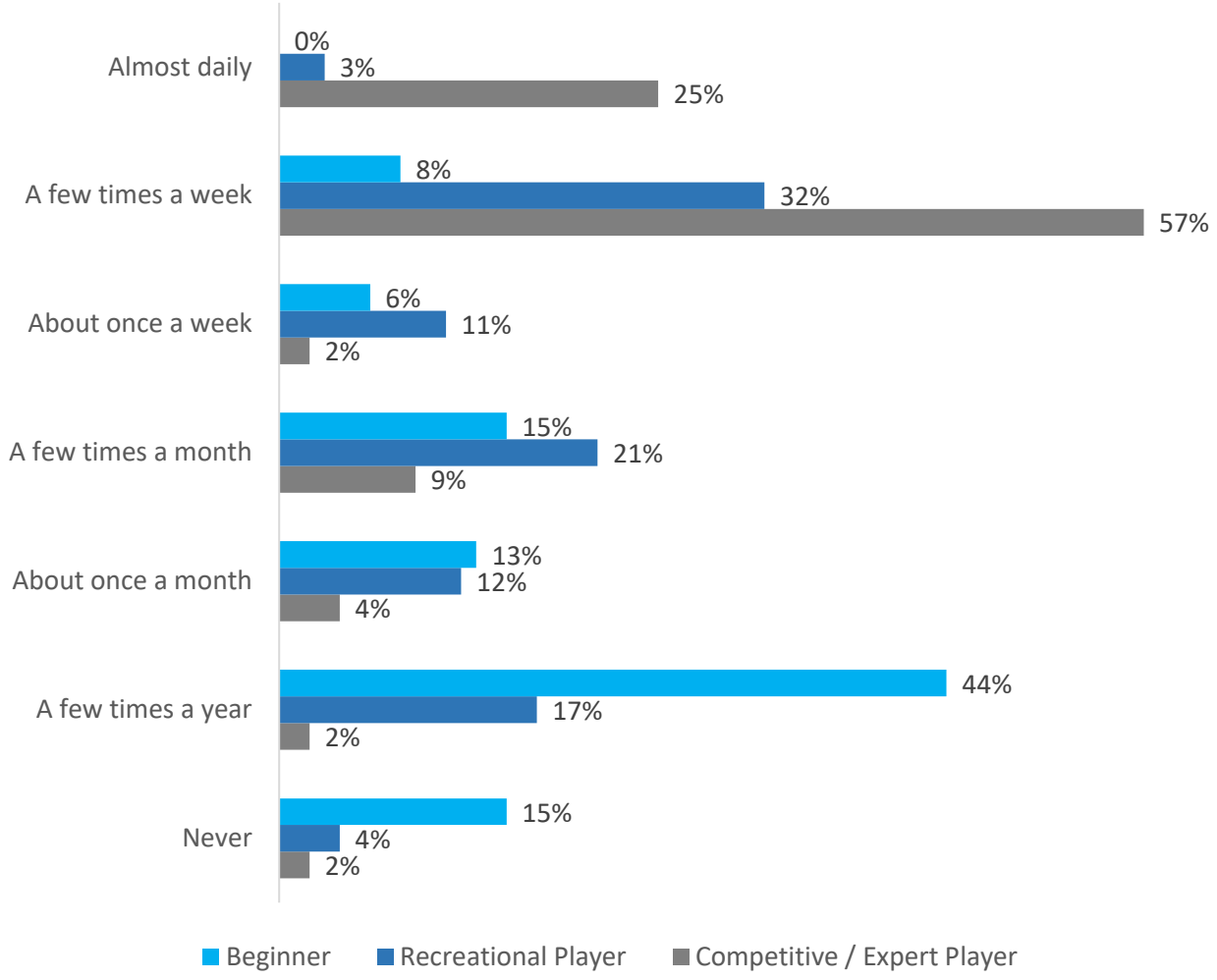


FIGURE 50: PREFERRED TIME OF DAY FOR PLAYING TENNIS

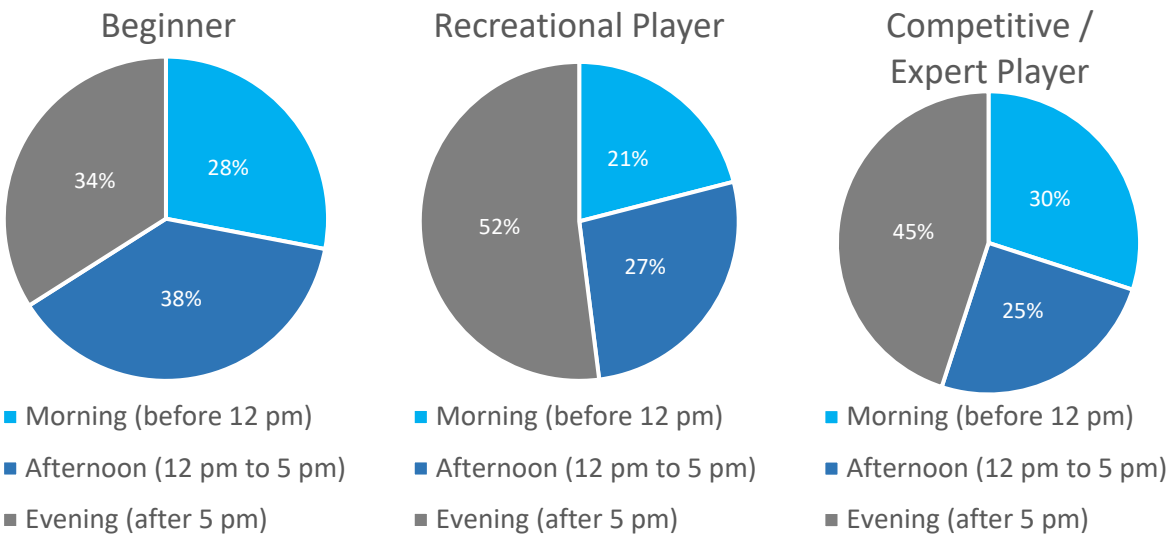
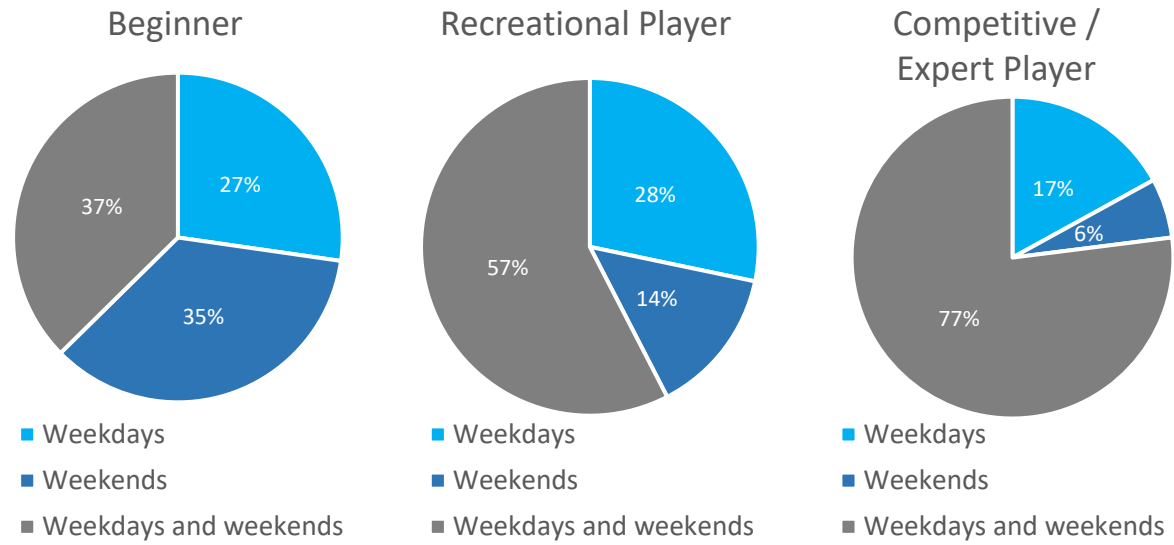


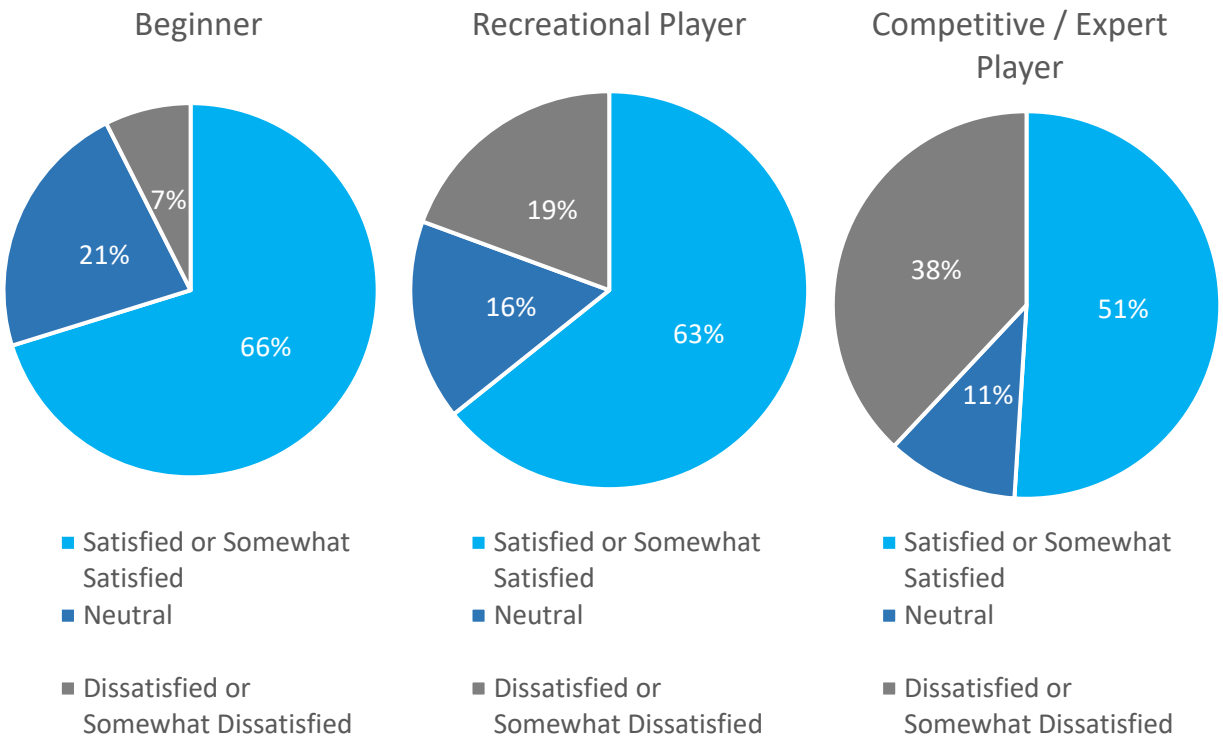
FIGURE 51: PREFERRED TIME OF WEEK FOR PLAYING TENNIS



A.10 Satisfaction with Outdoor Tennis Opportunities

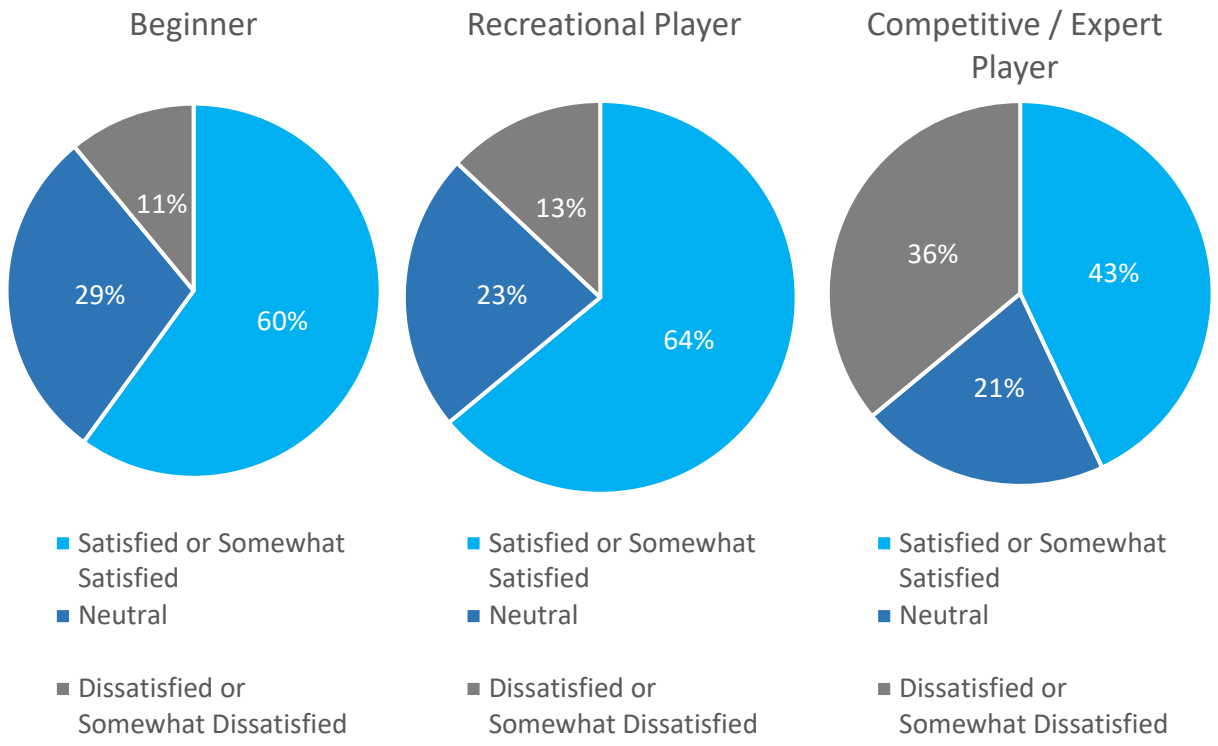
The majority of respondents were satisfied with the City's supply of tennis courts. About two-thirds of beginner and recreational players reported that they were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with Barrie's courts, while 51% were satisfied or somewhat satisfied. More than one-third of competitive/expert players were dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied, compared to 7% for beginners and 19% for recreational players.

FIGURE 52: SATISFACTION WITH THE NUMBER OF TENNIS COURTS



The majority of recreational (64%) and beginner (60%) players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the distribution of the City's tennis courts, while only 43% of competitive/expert players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied. One-third (36%) of competitive/expert players were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the distribution of courts, compared to 11% for beginners at 13% for recreational players. These results suggest that there is room for improvement.

FIGURE 53: SATISFACTION WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF TENNIS COURTS

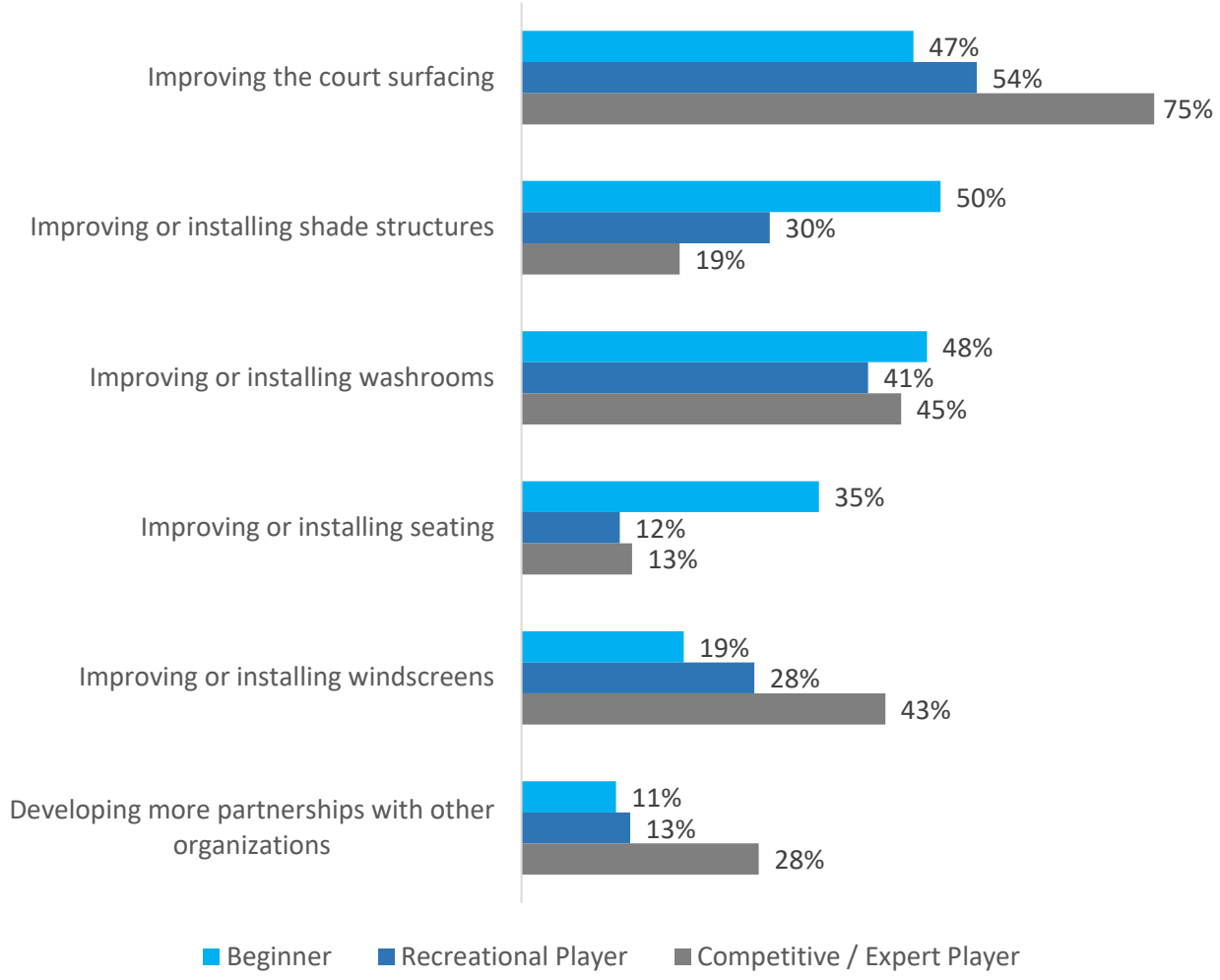


Responses were provided an opportunity to suggest where new or additional tennis courts could be considered. Queen's Park was identified as the most common suggestion as it was felt that this would allow the Barrie Community Tennis Club to grow their membership, and that it is a central location for residents to play tennis. Additional suggestions were expressed such as at Painswick Park, Strabane Park, Golden Meadow Park, and others as respondents felt that there should be a greater supply and distribution of tennis courts to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to play.

A.11 Improving Outdoor Tennis Court Opportunities

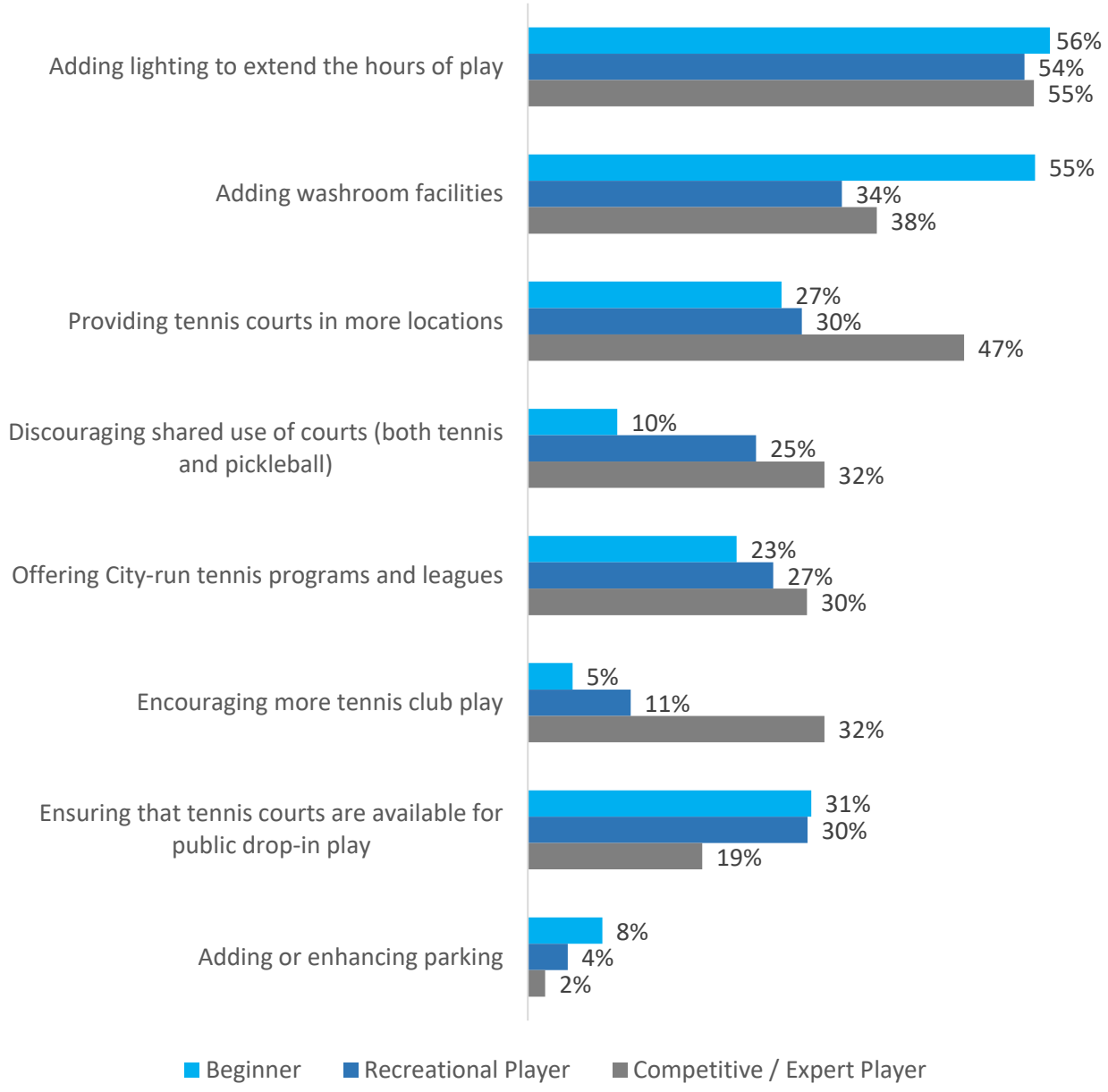
To enhance the quality of existing tennis courts, improving the court surfacing was the most common suggestion among all skill levels (the City is currently undertaking a court surfacing study). Other top suggestions included improving or installing washrooms and shade structures. There was also a desire from competitive/expert players for improving or installing windscreens. Shade structures and seating was also a common suggestion from beginner players.

FIGURE 54: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EXISTING TENNIS COURTS



Respondents identified options to potentially increase access to outdoor tennis courts. The most common response among all skill levels was to add lighting to extend the hours of play; though it is noted that the majority of tennis courts already have lighting, including the courts that are most frequently used. Other top suggestions included adding washroom facilities and providing tennis courts in more locations.

FIGURE 55: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO TENNIS COURTS



Appendix B – Sports User Groups Workshop

Sports User Groups Workshop Summary

An in-person workshop with community outdoor tennis and pickleball user groups was held on October 26, 2023, to learn about each group, trends they are experiencing, concerns, and potential solutions to address needs. Seven individuals, representing four groups, were in attendance and one organization provided written comments. Participants included:

- Barrie Community Tennis Club
- Barrie Pickleball Club
- Simcoe County District School Board
- Simcoe Tennis
- Taylored Pickleball Academy (written input submitted)

B.1 Participation Trends

All user groups reported that their membership levels have been growing, particularly for the pickleball organizations that have experienced strong interest in their programming. For example, the Barrie Pickleball Club reported that in the past year, their membership more than doubled to 585 participants. The pickleball program offered by the St. Peter's Catholic Secondary School also increased nearly four-fold to 44 members. Anecdotally, the pickleball group identified that members are mostly older adults, although the activity is attracting younger players.

Each year the Barrie Community Tennis Club caps their membership at 120 players as they indicate that they are limited to the number of courts available to the group and as a result, they typically cap their waitlist to 30 players. At this time, the Club offers memberships to adults (18+). Another tennis organization is the Simcoe Tennis, which offers children and youth programming throughout Simcoe County. The organization reported that participation that typically fluctuates between 50 and 100 members and three-quarters of its membership are Barrie residents (37 to 75 players).

According to user groups, interest in outdoor racquet sports is driven by broad trends that make the sports popular such as the international appeal and the success of professional Canadian players on the international stage. Pickleball groups anticipate that interest in the sport will continue to grow as the sport continues to become more mainstream for residents, noting that it is accessible and is a social activity. Groups noted that international tennis players who are taking up and promoting pickleball have also helped generate interest in the sport. The Barrie Community Tennis Club noted that they are unable to accommodate additional players due to the limited availability of permitted tennis courts.

B.2 Inclusion and Access

User groups recognize the importance of accommodating all residents to ensure that outdoor racquet sports user groups are inclusive of everyone. For example, the Barrie Community Tennis Club noted that they are open to providing financial assistance to any member who may be experiencing financial constraints. The Barrie Pickleball Club is also open to providing financial support, although they noted that membership fees are considered to be affordable compared to other organized sports. Some groups noted that they have members who have a physical disability, and the use of courts has generally not been an issue as the playouts of competitive courts are generally suitable for wheelchair users, based on feedback from group members. Barrie has some courts that can accommodate persons with disabilities such as the new pickleball courts at Painswick Park. Barrie Pickleball Club also mentioned that they typically have demonstration paddles for non-members to try the activity.

B.3 Use of Barrie Tennis Courts

The Barrie Community Tennis Club identified that they are based in Queen's Park where they have exclusive use of four of the five tennis courts during permitted periods, which are typically during the weekday evenings and on the weekends. The Club primarily play doubles games, although they noted that there is a desire from members to play singles games, particularly among younger members; the Club noted that they generally prefer to play doubles games as it allows the Club to accommodate more members on the courts per game. The group expressed that the courts at this park are very high quality, and they consider them to be the best courts in Barrie, which will be further enhanced with planned lighting upgrades that are expected to take place in the short-term. It was noted that the courts are not accessible as there is no designated pathway, and paid parking has also been viewed as a barrier.

The user group reported pent up demand for their programming, resulting in a capped waiting list of 30 potential participants. To alleviate this pressure, the group expressed the desire to increase the number of tennis courts at Queen's Park to add three additional courts to create a tennis court complex with a total of eight courts – six for club play and two for public use. It was noted that there is currently no available space to construct three additional tennis courts and as a result, any such court expansion would require re-purposing the existing ball diamond.

The group has provided their tennis programming at satellite locations at other courts in Barrie in the past on a temporary basis, but this has created challenges with players having a preference to play at specific locations. Other concerns were also raised regarding the quality of courts at other City locations and the fact that the Club does not have any storage facilities to store any equipment. They indicated that there would be a cost and liability associated with establishing satellite storage facilities and equipment requirements. Additionally, the group expressed the desire to remain at one location to create the Club atmosphere and playing environment that members seek, as well as the amenities that are currently at Queen's Park, such as the Barrie Community Tennis Club clubhouse and washrooms.

The Club expressed that an ideal facility would be a single location with 12 tennis courts with a broad range of supporting amenities that would be appropriate for varying levels of play, as well as major tournaments. Recognizing that this vision could not be accommodated at Queen's Park, the Club

expressed an openness to relocating to a new location that would also offer other on-site amenities such as indoor meeting space that's part of a larger multi-use community centre. Potentially consideration could be given to establishing tennis courts for club play in the south end of Barrie to complement the existing offering at Queen's Park.

Simcoe Tennis primarily uses the courts located at Eastview Community Park and provides weekday daytime and evening programming. It was mentioned that the court surface is beginning to age and requires resurfacing. It is noted that this group provides programming regionally as it also offers indoor tennis programming at Barrie North Winter Tennis in Midhurst.

B.4 Use of Barrie Pickleball Courts

The Barrie Pickleball Club primarily provides their programming at the new Painswick Park courts. The Club expressed praise for the new facilities, with specific mention of the court surfacing, shade structure, lighting, bleachers, and fencing. This location has been used for tournaments and there is interest from groups in holding additional events in the future. The pickleball courts at the Eastview Community Park are also used by the Club, as well as by the Simcoe County District School Board for their programming and have indicated that adding lights at this location would be beneficial to extend playing times (light installation is expected to take place in the short-term).

The Barrie Pickleball Club identified that the future outlook for court needs is unknown at this time given that the pickleball courts at Painswick Park were recently completed. There has not been sufficient time to establish a thorough understanding of how the courts fit with their membership and programming. While the courts are generally meeting the needs of the Club at the present time, this may change in the future as new members join the club and skill levels are developed.

The Simcoe County District School Board identified that the primary factor in accessing pickleball courts is proximity to schools, which makes the courts at Eastview Community Park and Painswick Park ideal locations for programming. It was mentioned that this should be considered as new pickleball courts are developed.

B.5 Future Design Considerations

Groups mentioned that key design features need to be considered such as lighting and location to minimize negative impacts on adjacent land uses, particularly if it is adjacent to residential land uses. The need for walkable courts was identified, including along transit and within proximity of schools, particularly if there is a desire to engage children and youth participants. High quality asphalt material and acrylic paint was expressed as desirable to increase the life of the playing surface. To ensure that courts are physically accessible, suggested design considerations included wide gates, tall fencing to keep balls within the playing boundaries, and having a pathway to the courts. It was noted that some of the City's outdoor racquet sport courts were not accessible, such as at Queen's Park, as there is no walking pathway from the parking lot or sidewalk to the courts. Consideration for other amenities was identified including, but not limited to, paved parking, seating, shade covering, permanent washrooms, drinking fountains and electricity. It was mentioned that the availability of these amenities would be helpful for running special events and tournaments.

The need to ensure that the City's racquet sport courts are designed to appropriate playing dimensions was also identified, specifically to the standards endorsed by the International Tennis Federation and International Federation of Pickleball. It was mentioned that some of the City's courts do not meet these standards. To support high quality club play, user groups expressed that outdoor tennis and pickleball should be played on dedicated courts to avoid confusion about playing lines, although they were open to dual lining at non-permitted, neighbourhood courts.