



Memo

2022 January 11

To: Mayor Gondek and Members of Council
From: Kyle Ripley, Director, Calgary Parks and James McLaughlin, A/Director, Calgary Recreation
Re: **Administrative Inquiry – Pickleball**

This memo responds to an Administrative Inquiry submitted by Councillor Chu and Councillor Farkas regarding pickleball in July 2021:

The City's recent \$154 million investment in recreation facilities underscored the importance of community recreation in the city. Access to facilities is particularly important for older adults to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. The increasingly popular sport Pickleball is a wonderful recreation option for people of all ages and abilities.

1. *Has The City looked at investment in community pickleball courts?*
2. *Is there anything more The City can do to make pickleball more accessible to Calgarians?*
3. *What existing facilities could most easily accommodate pickleball courts?*
4. *What is Calgary Recreation doing to provide access to affordable community recreation opportunities for older adults?*

Has The City looked at investment in community pickleball courts?

The City has been investing in a pickleball marking program to include pickleball lines in all City tennis courts as they are lifecycled. This allows people to use the courts for either tennis or pickleball and has expanded the location of pickleball courts across the city as these amenities are improved through lifecycling. In 2021, 34 courts were available for pickleball use, and that program will continue in 2022 to create more locations (specific numbers for 2022 are still being planned).

Is there anything more The City can do to make pickleball more accessible to Calgarians?

Along with the pickleball markings on lifecycled courts, there was also a [pickleball booking](#) pilot successfully implemented in 2021. The City worked with the Calgary Pickleball Club to make tennis/pickleball courts available for booking exclusively for pickleball users. The bookings were well-used and the results are being reviewed now to see what improvements can be made for the 2022 season.

What existing facilities could most easily accommodate pickleball courts?

As mentioned, existing tennis courts are the best place to make pickleball available and this program continues to expand the number of locations pickleball players can access City facilities. There are 66 tennis courts across the city that already serve our communities with 34 marked for pickleball; it's a great opportunity to improve that service to include both sports.



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What is Calgary Recreation doing to provide access to affordable community recreation opportunities for older adults?

The Active Aging Strategy is The City's commitment to providing access for older adults to affordable recreation opportunities. The Strategy is embedded in the [Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy](#) approved by Council in 2015. The outcome of the Active Aging Strategy is that older adult Calgarians become more active and creative more often. Calgary Recreation is achieving this in a variety of ways, including partnering with other business units and community organizations, ensuring staff are well-trained to provide safe and supportive environments, providing targeted programs (e.g. Gentle Fitness), and addressing barriers to participation (e.g. 65+ admission and pass rate, access to Fee Assistance through The City's Fair Entry program).

The past two years have impacted the recreation activities of older adults. Acknowledging that many older adults may not be comfortable returning to indoor recreation, Calgary Recreation is providing low and no cost outdoor recreation opportunities for older adults while promoting free fitness resources online at calgary.ca/athome. Calgary Recreation has also partnered with the University of Calgary to participate in two research projects to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on older adults' participation in physical activity, including identifying approaches to support their return to recreation. Finally, Calgary Recreation is working with Calgary Neighbourhoods towards the development of the Age-Friendly Calgary Social Isolation Awareness campaign.

For more information, please contact:

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