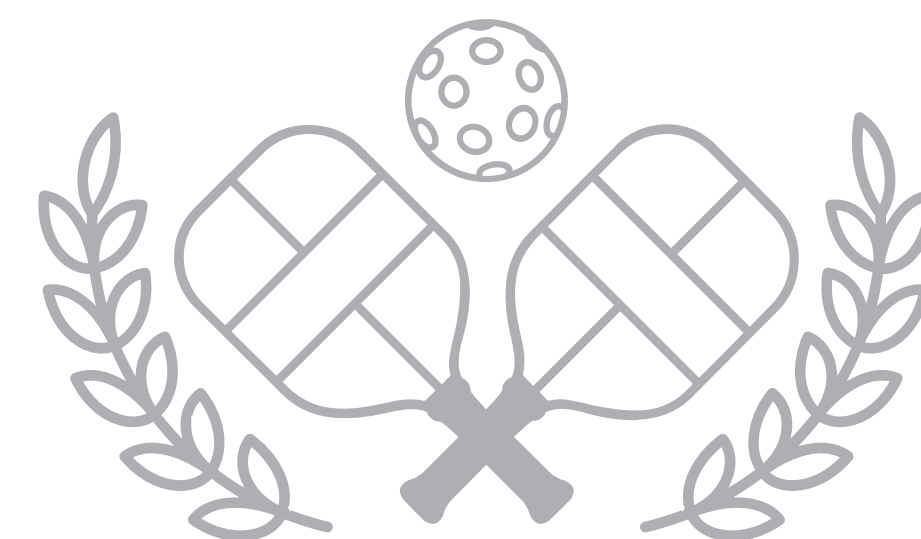


# Outdoor pickleball and tennis in Saanich Parks



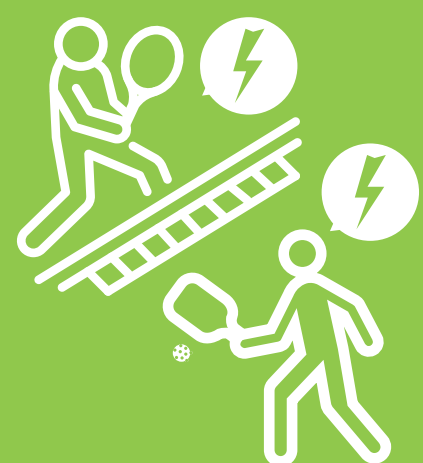
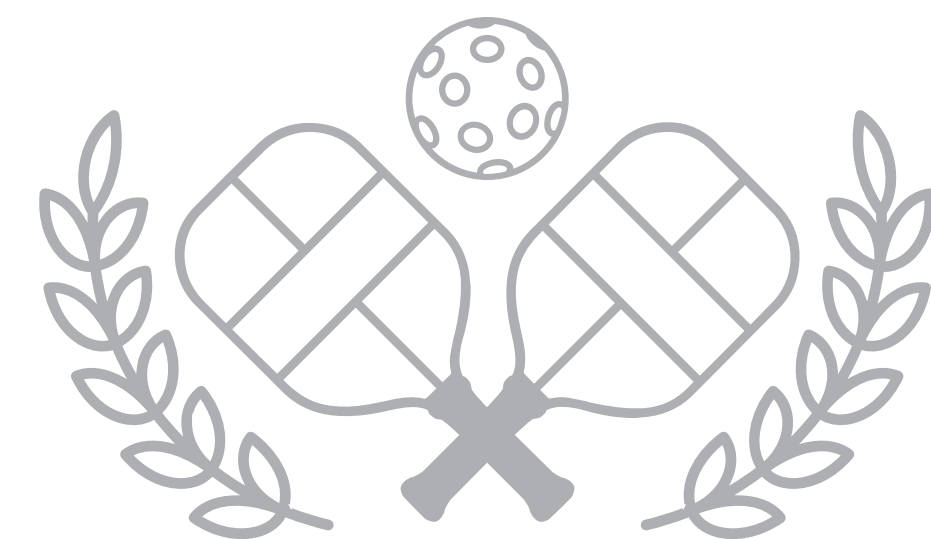
## 2011-2019

Tennis courts at six parks have pickleball lines added to become 'shared courts.'

- **2015** Growing demand for pickleball (PB) facilities.
- **2016** First dedicated PB courts built at Tolmie Park.
- **2017** Dedicated PB courts built at McMinn Park. Noise complaints received about PB courts at Tolmie Park from nearby residents.
- **2018** Sound-reducing panels installed at Tolmie Park, noise complaints continue.
- **2019/2021** Saanich Parks explores other mitigation measures for Tolmie Park; none are successful. Council approves time restrictions at Tolmie, adopts guidelines for siting future pickleball courts, and moves to close Tolmie PB upon completion of new PB courts, at which time the PB court will be re-imagined into a more appropriate sport court.
- **2022** Time restrictions imposed on PB courts at Tolmie Park.
- **2023** Six dedicated PB courts and 1 dedicated tennis court approved for Fowler Park.
- **2023** The District of Saanich, Victoria, Esquimalt, and Oak Bay jointly fund a strategy to learn how to accommodate and manage pickleball.
- **2024** (SPRING) *The Pickleball Strategy for Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt* is completed (Pickleball Strategy).
- **2024** (JUNE) Saanich Parks Staff meet with representatives of the tennis and pickleball communities to discuss current amenities, the Pickleball Strategy, and opportunities for improvement.
  - Conversations Summary**
  - Tennis Meeting Summary, Key Take-Aways:
    - Generally happy with level of service
    - Shared courts don't work well, willing to lose them to gain dedicated courts
    - Expressed desire for more hubs
    - Prospect Lake courts not well used (too far out)
  - Pickleball Meeting Summary, Key Take-Aways:
    - Victoria Regional Pickleball Assosiation 1000+ members
    - Would like many more courts, preferably dedicated and indoors
    - Recognize the challenges of siting them outdoors
    - Don't think shared courts work well but better than nothing
    - Support paddle-in system to reserve time on dedicated courts
    - Owl paddles and sound mitigation significantly reduce noise level
    - Prospect Lake courts not well used (too far out)
    - Willing to help finance sound mitigation
- **2024** (FALL) Saanich Parks develops options guided by the PB Strategy and input from pickleball and tennis communities.

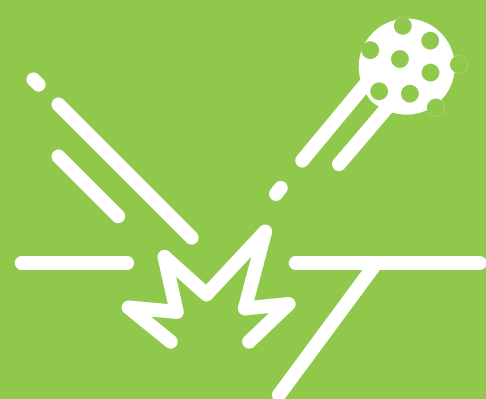


# Challenges



## CONFLICT WITH TENNIS

Tennis is the sport most impacted by pickleball. Shared courts are unpopular with both groups due to different game length and structure, difference in net height, and confusion caused by dual markings.



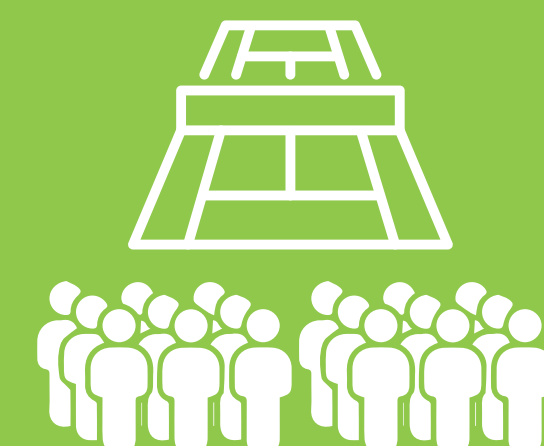
## NOISE LEVELS

The noise generated by pickleball and the disturbance it can cause to neighbours is arguably pickleball's greatest challenge. If sound-reducing equipment becomes more commonly used, siting outdoor pickleball courts may be less challenging in future.



## BUDGET AND LAND AVAILABILITY

The majority of outdoor parks are too close to homes, and sound attenuation can be expensive and difficult.



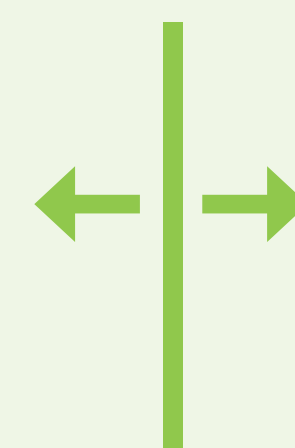
## UNDER-SUPPLY OF FACILITIES

Greater Victoria has been struggling to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing pickleball community.

### Council endorsed siting requirements

In 2021 Saanich Council approved guidelines for siting pickleball courts in Saanich:

- No courts within 50 m (164') of homes unless major sound abatement is installed.
- Courts between 50 m (164') and 110m (350') of residential structures require mitigation measures.
- Locations further away to be considered on a case-by-case basis.



## Understanding tennis and pickleball requirements

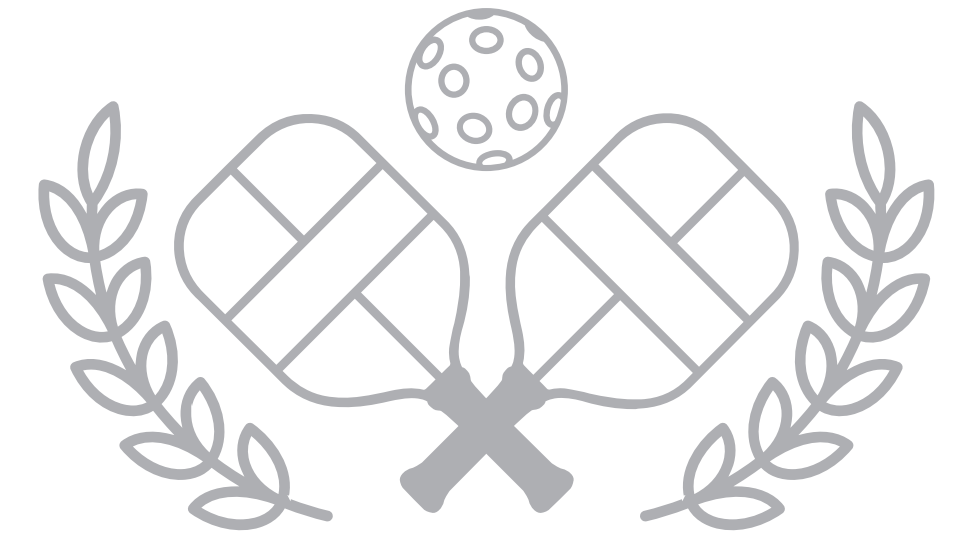
To learn how to effectively manage pickleball, Saanich, Victoria, Esquimalt and Oak Bay jointly hired a consulting firm to complete a study called *'The Pickleball Strategy for Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt'*. The Pickleball Strategy assesses needs and challenges, and makes recommendations to address them, however consultants did not conduct site assessments to confirm that their site-specific recommendations were feasible.



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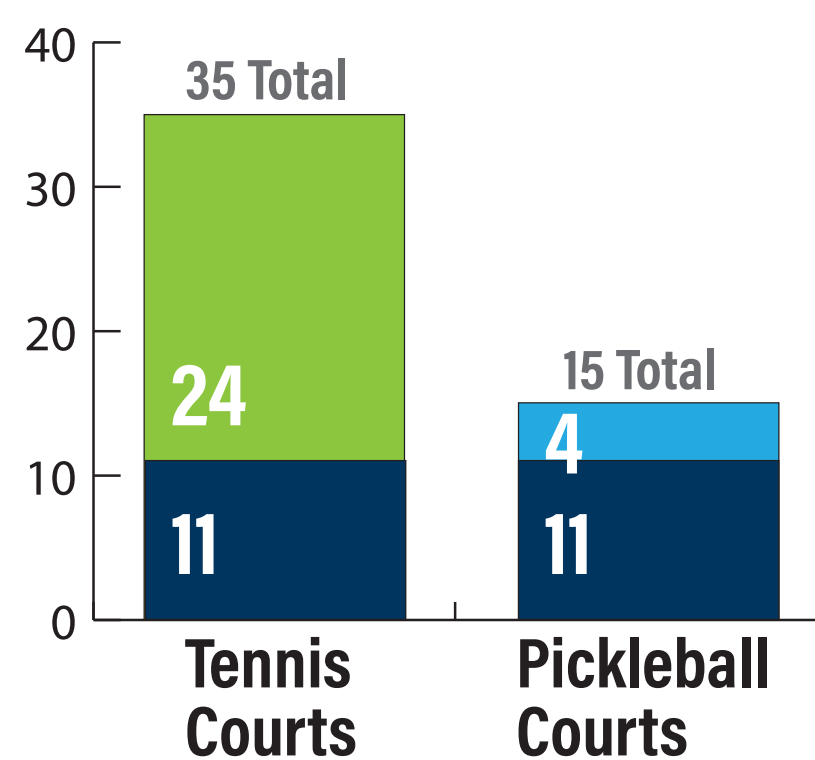
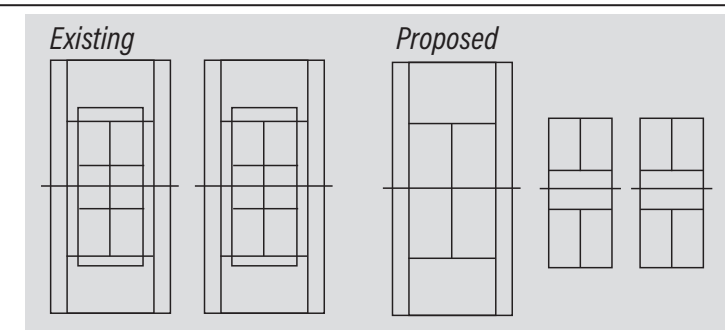
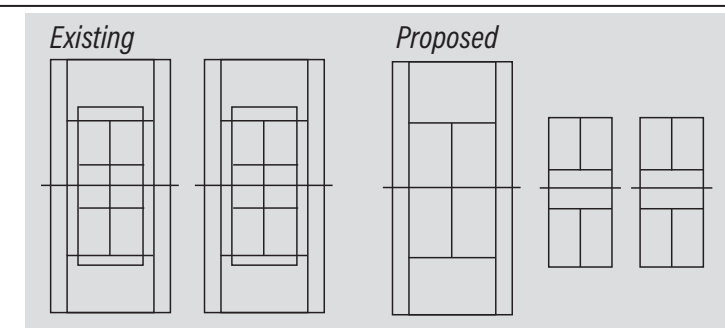
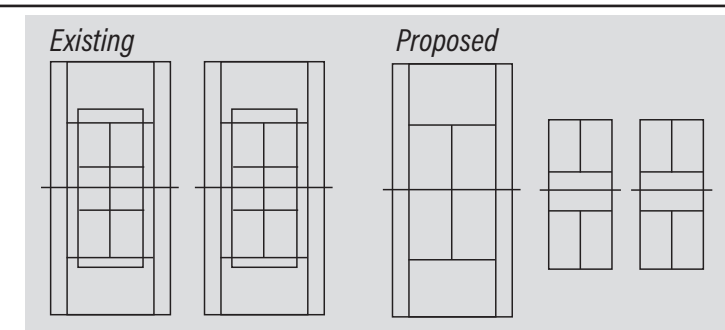
# Expanding access to pickleball and tennis in outdoor parks



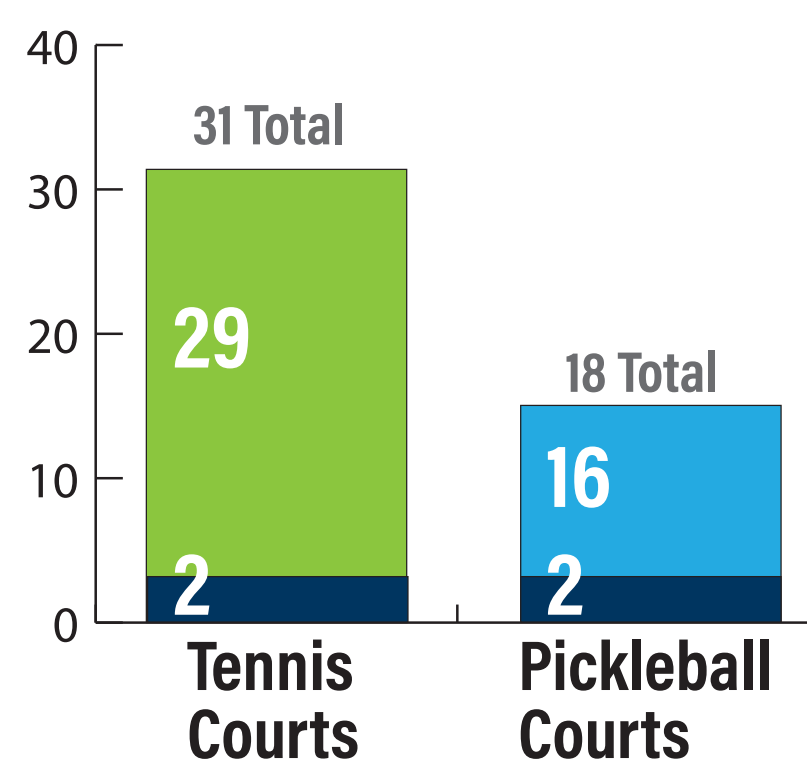
The Pickleball Strategy makes recommendations for courts at eight Saanich Parks. The Parks Division reviewed these recommendations and assessed their site-specific feasibility. Saanich's recommendations are shown in the green column below.

| Park          | CURRENT Courts                                 | Pickleball Strategy RECOMMENDATION  | Saanich RECOMMENDATION   | Notes  |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|
| Copley West   | 2 Shared (2T, 2 PB)                            | Add 2 new PB courts on far side of field if possible.                     | Reflect desire to move away from shared courts. Add sound mitigation and convert to 1 dedicated tennis and 2 dedicated PB courts.*         | Popular tennis location. No space is available for additional courts. Convert and add sound mitigation when funding permits.               |
| Fowler        | None   | Build new 6-court hub.  | 6 dedicated pickleball and 1 dedicated tennis.   | As per concept presented by Saanich Parks in 2023.   |
| Hampton       | 2 Shared (2T, 2 PB)                            | Convert PB court to tennis only or other use.                             | Reflect desire to move away from shared courts. Add sound mitigation and convert to 1 dedicated tennis and 2 dedicated PB courts.*         | Convert court furthest from homes to dedicated PB, and add sound mitigation when funding permits.  |
| Majestic Park | 1 Shared (1T, 1 PB)                            | Convert PB court to tennis only or other use.                             | Remove PB lines from court.  | Convert to dedicated tennis court when funding permits.  |
| McMinn        | 2 Dedicated pickleball and 2 Shared (2T, 2 PB) | Add 6 new PB courts.  | Add sound mitigation and convert to 1 dedicated tennis and 4 dedicated PB courts.*   | Currently the most popular Saanich Park for PB. No room for more PB courts without displacing other users. Conversions subject to funding. |
| Prospect Lake | 2 Shared (2T, 2 PB)                            | Add 4 new PB courts.  | Keep as is.  | Ample separation from neighbors. Distance from populated areas makes it unpopular with both tennis and pickleball players.                 |
| Rosedale      | 2 Shared (2T, 2 PB)                            | Will comply if effective sound mitigation added, convert to dedicated PB. | Reflect desire to move away from shared courts. Add sound mitigation and convert to 1 dedicated tennis and 2 dedicated pickleball courts.* | Heavily used by pickleball players. Convert court furthest from homes to dedicated PB and add sound mitigation when funding permits.       |
| Tolmie        | 2 dedicated pickleball and 1 dedicated tennis  | Convert PB courts to tennis only or other use.                            | Remove PB lines and re-purpose courts, keep tennis court.  | Remove PB lines from courts when Fowler complete, and re-purpose when funding permits.   |

T= tennis PB = pickleball



■ Tennis Courts ■ Pickleball Courts ■ Shared Courts



■ Tennis Courts ■ Pickleball Courts ■ Shared Courts

\*Court conversions are subject to future budget approvals.

**Currently** Saanich Parks provides:  
**35 tennis courts** (24 dedicated / 11 shared) and  
**15 pickleball courts** (4 dedicated / 11 shared)

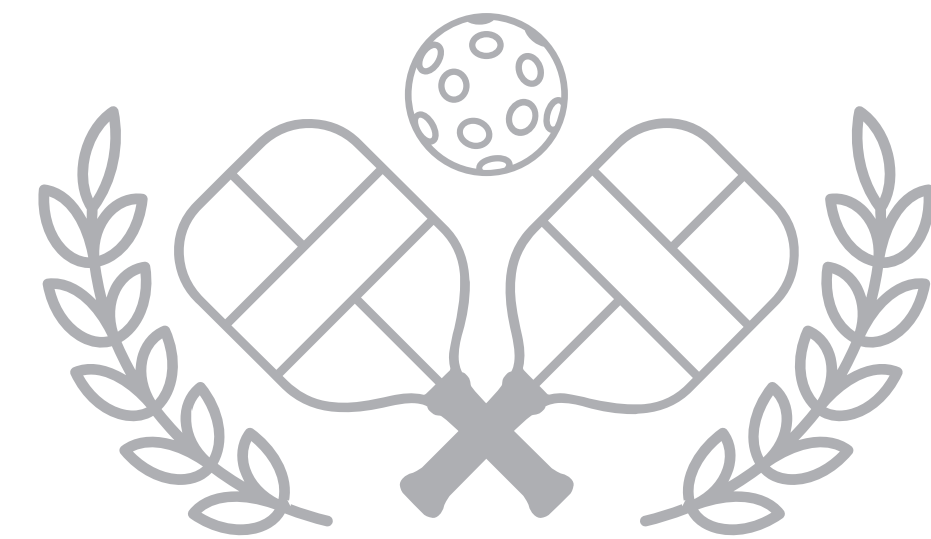
**After** all Saanich recommendations are implemented, Saanich Parks will provide:  
**31 tennis courts** (29 dedicated / 2 shared) and  
**18 pickleball courts** (16 dedicated / 2 shared)



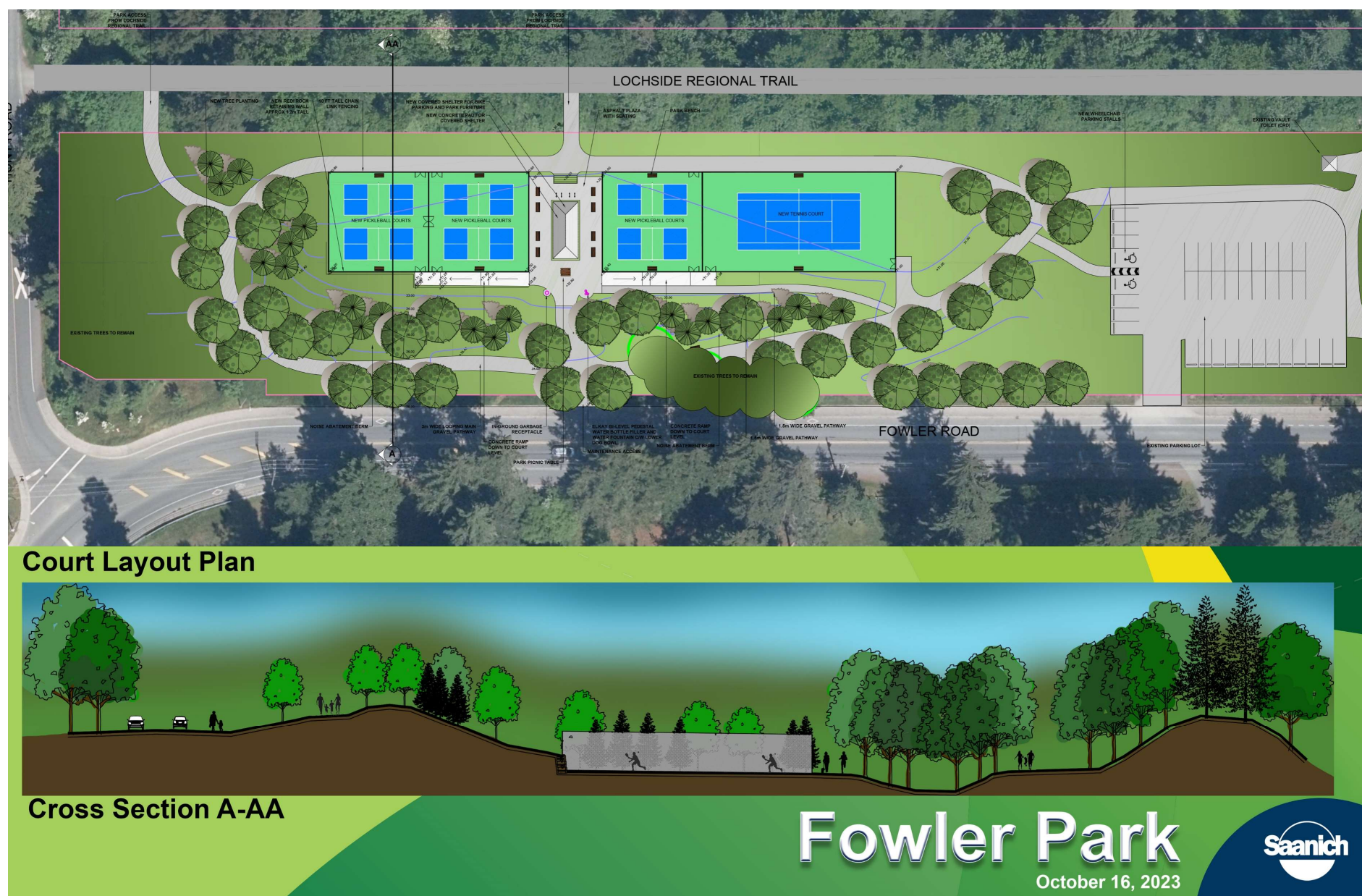
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# Upcoming and proposed projects



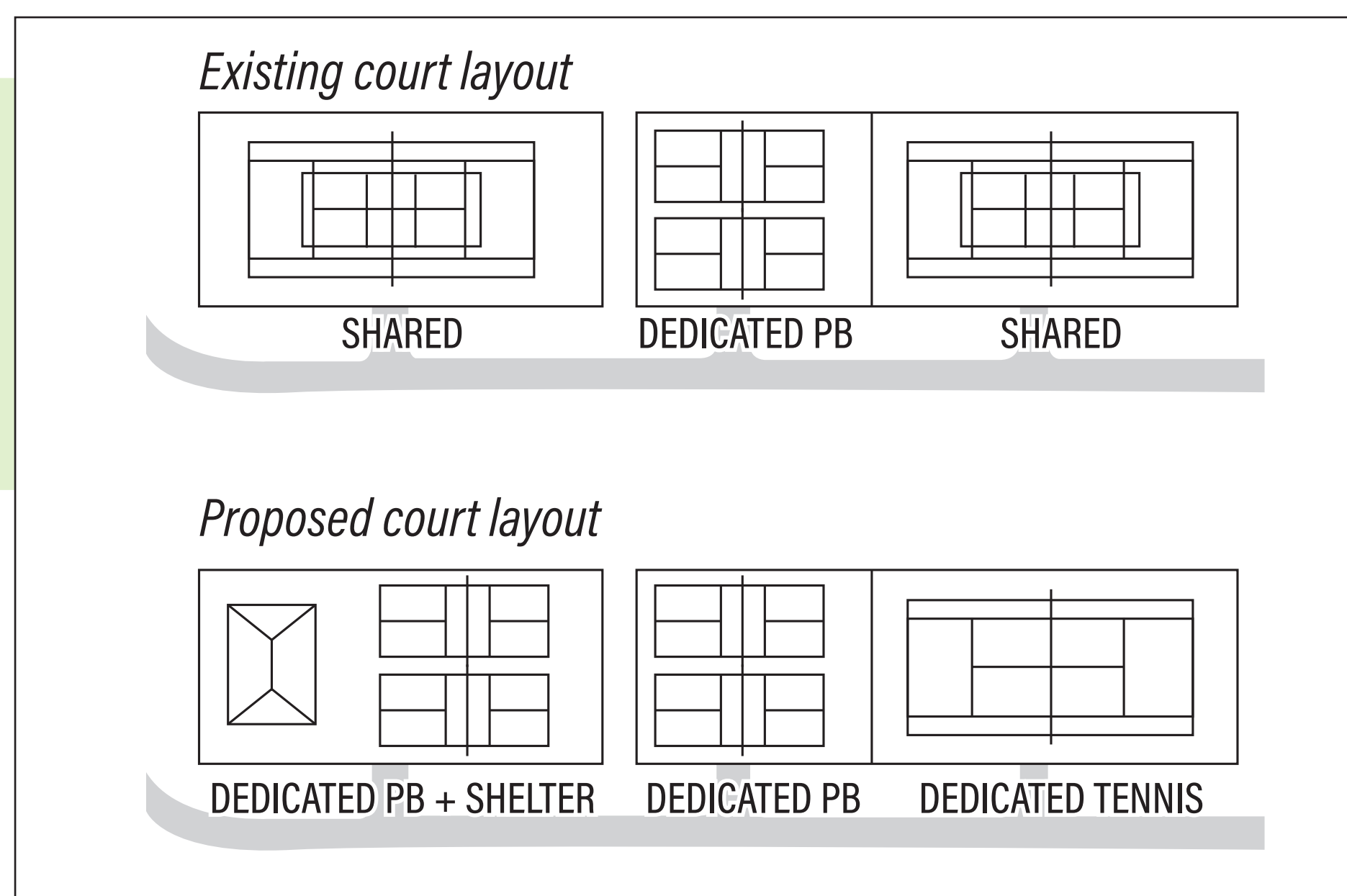
## Fowler Park



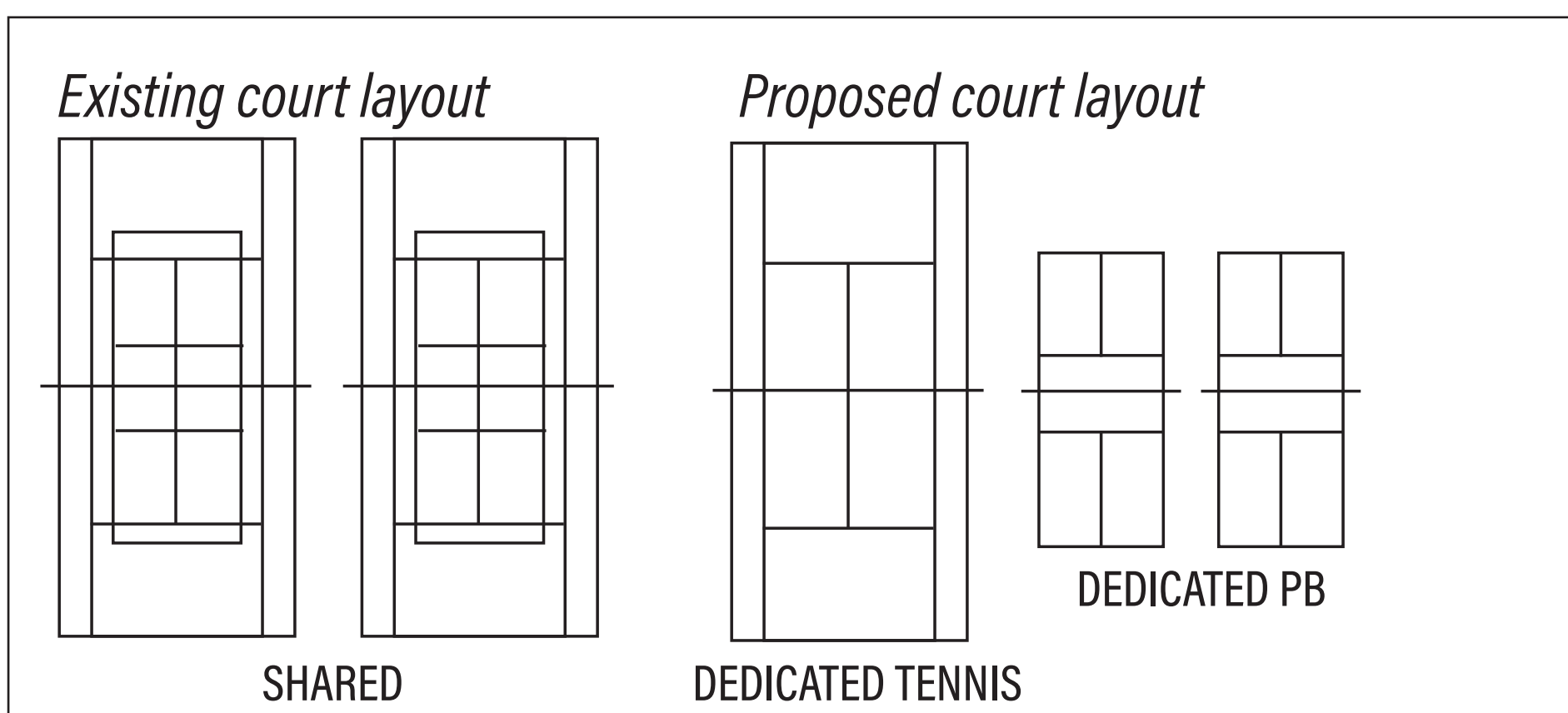
Improvements are currently underway. Six new dedicated pickleball courts, and one new tennis court. Estimated completion in late 2025.

## McMinn Park

The existing courts are proposed to be relined to result in 1 dedicated tennis court and 4 dedicated pickleball courts. Subject to future budget approvals.



## Proposed court layout at: Copley W, Hampton, and Rosedale Parks



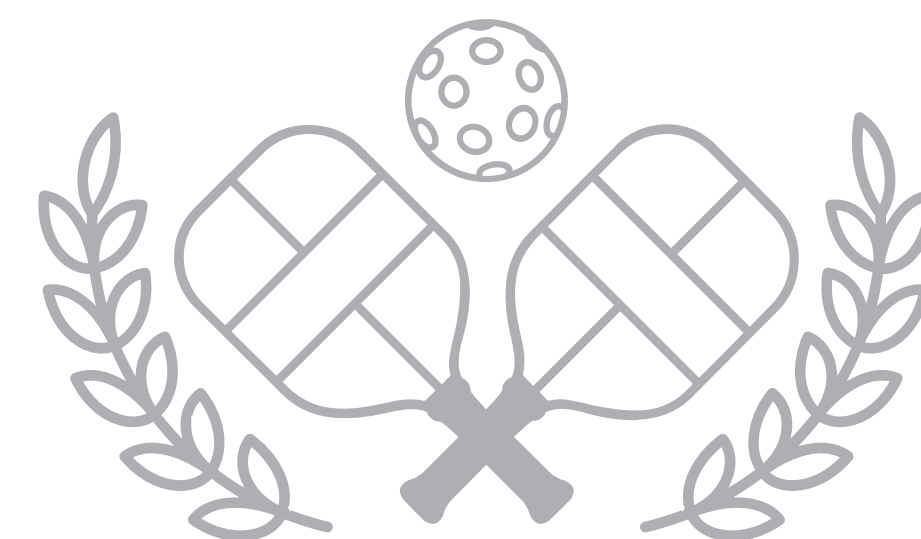
Subject to future budget approvals.



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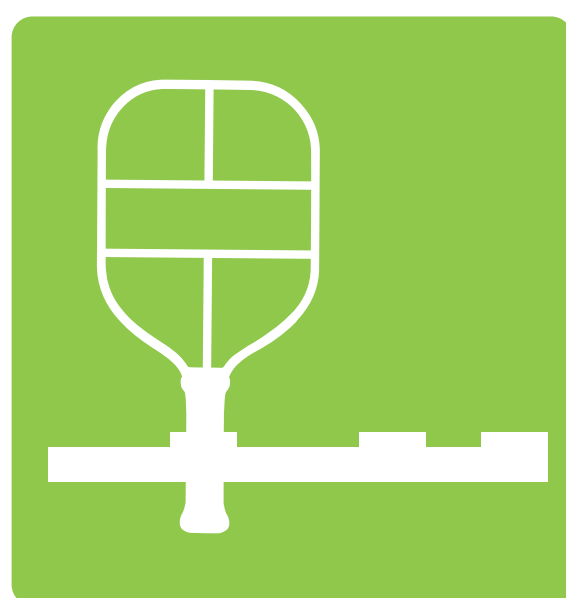


# Saanich Parks – other actions



## Court Booking

Saanich Parks is committed to serving the whole community, accommodating everyone from beginners to advanced players, individuals to organized groups, and spur-of-the-moment play to matches organized well in advance. In line with the Pickleball Strategy, Saanich will offer a diversified allocation system including organizational and individual paid bookings, as well as free public drop-in. This mixed approach will cater to varying play preferences while optimizing court usage.



## Paddle-In, Paddle-Out

This method of reserving a turn on the pickleball court is very popular in the Victoria area. It will be installed at McMinn Park on a trial basis, and if successful it may be installed at other dedicated PB courts.



## Tolmie Park

The pickleball lines will be removed from the courts because of their proximity to homes. Saanich is reviewing possible new uses for this space.

Note: Pickleball will no longer be allowed on this court upon completion of new pickleball courts at Fowler Park.



## Partnerships

Explore working with volunteers and organized groups to offer programming, and to manage pop-up / seasonal PB courts, as well as the potential to co-fund sound abatement.



## We want your feedback!

Please complete the online questionnaire by October 6, 2024 at [saanich.ca/pickleball](https://saanich.ca/pickleball)



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