
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.8	ACTION			Ward: All
--------	--------	--	--	-----------

Any time is a good time for pickleball: meeting growing demand for healthy recreational activities - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to develop a mechanism for permitting playing outdoor pickleball this summer on various underutilized flat surfaces in City parks and City Council request the General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation to include an update on this information in the report on pickleball requested by the Infrastructure and Environment Committee at its meeting on April 26, 2022.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consider adding, where feasible, pickleball court lines to be painted on underutilized flat surfaces and facilities this summer – such as outdoor hockey rinks, various flat dry pad locations, and underutilized tennis courts.

Summary

Pickleball is the fastest growing sports in the world and Toronto is no exception. A recent Ipsos survey reports more than 900,000 households are now playing pickleball, compared to 350,000 pre-pandemic. The City of Toronto recognized the growth of pickleball in its 2017 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

It is a game for all ages but is especially popular among seniors because it affords a great opportunity for exercise as well as the health benefits derived from remaining active.

The number of facilities currently available do not come close to serving the demand and the number of players. Though the Infrastructure and Environment Committee has requested a report in the first quarter of 2023 on expanding pickleball facilities in Toronto, there are interim steps that can be taken to meet the quickly growing needs of Torontonians for access to pickleball facilities and the health benefits ensuing from physical recreation.

The Toronto Pickleball Alliance is a volunteer group of pickleball leaders acting on behalf of more than a dozen grassroots pickleball associations, clubs and sports groups across Toronto.

They are reporting that their members are told when seeking permits to play scheduled outdoor pickleball on various underutilized flat surfaces that Parks and Recreation “does not permit pickleball”.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.8