


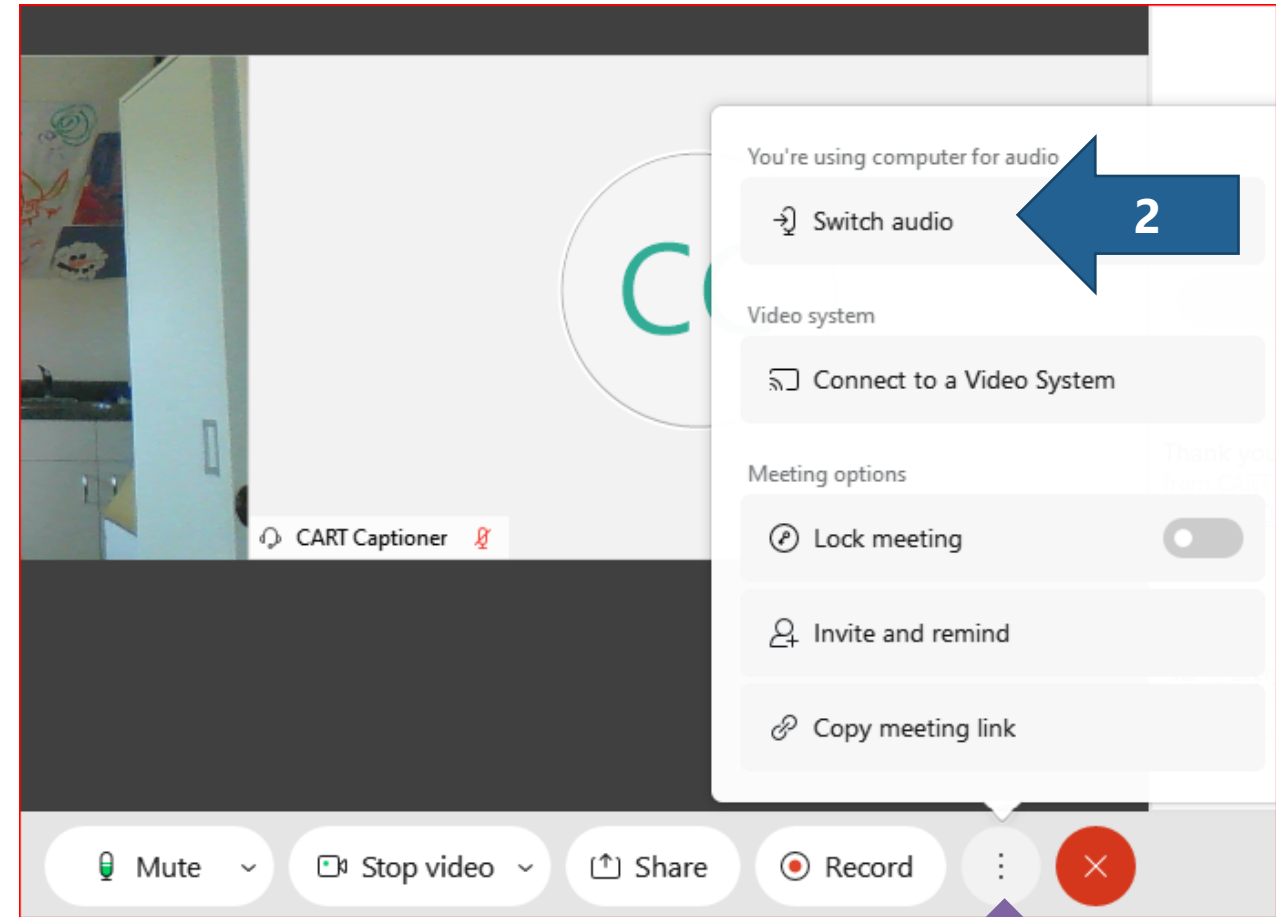
TO Pickleball Advisory Group

Meeting 1 – Wednesday, May 15, 2024



Webex Audio Trouble?

1. Click the **More Options** button at the bottom of the screen 
2. Click **Switch Audio**
3. Use the **Call me at** function
 - a) Enter your phone number
 - b) Webex will call your phone (no long distance charges)



HOW TO PARTICIPATE: RAISE YOUR HAND OR USE THE CHAT

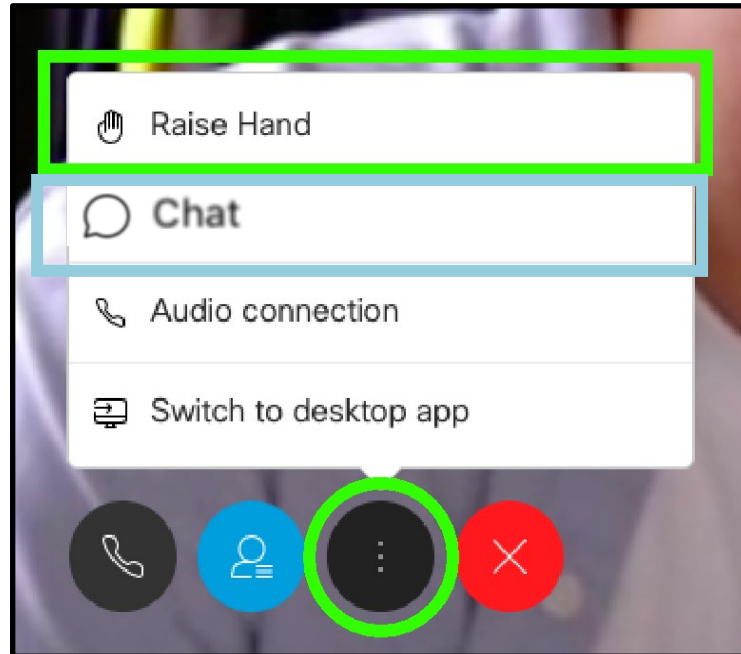
To ask a question and share feedback, you can virtually raise your hand.

IF YOU ARE
USING A
COMPUTER



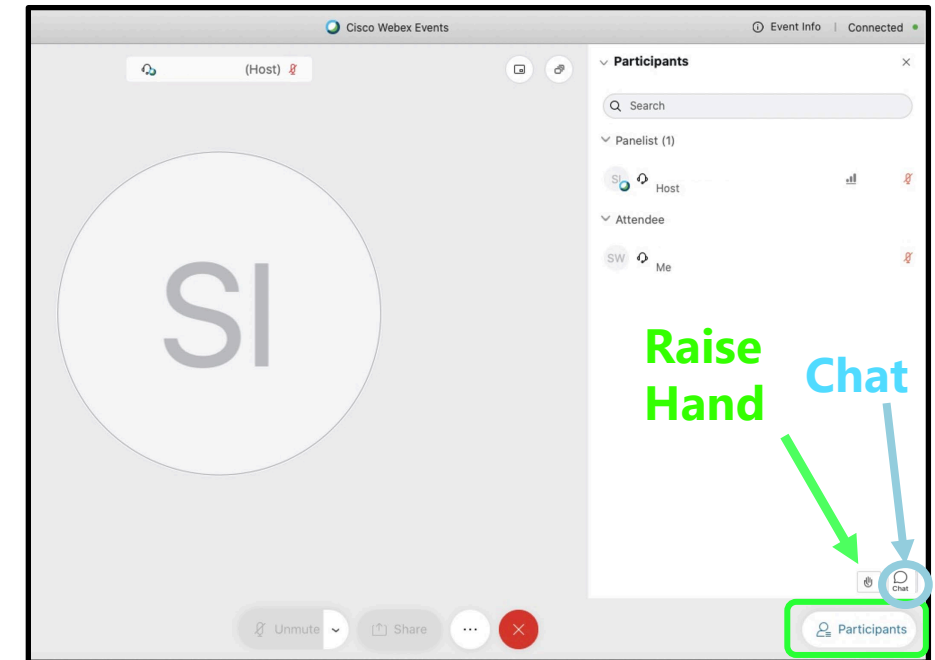
Via the internet browser

Click the "..." button at the bottom of the video window and select "Raise Hand" or "Chat".



Via the Webex App

Click the Participants button at the bottom of the video (the Participants panel will open to the right). Then click the "Raise Hand" or "Chat" button at the bottom right.



Agenda



Welcome and Introductions



Announcements



Building the Advisory Group & Terms of Reference



Setting the Agenda and Meeting Dates



Policy & Program Context



Next Steps

thank
you!

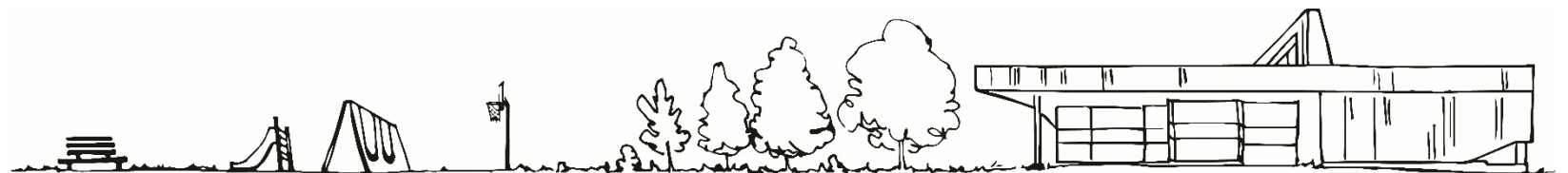
Adjourn



Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by honouring the land that I'm on. If you are not currently in Toronto, I encourage you to learn about the lands you're on.

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



African Ancestral Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past - and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



Codes of Conduct

As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Be an active listener and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with kindness and respect.
- Critique ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid cursing as well as language or behaviours that could otherwise be considered rude or offensive.
- Abide by the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy by refraining from making racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist, or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments and questions. These will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or process.

As City staff & process stewards, we commit to:

- Maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful of all participants and other staff members.
- Ensuring that that project outcomes and/or staff recommendations are informed by participants' concerns, interests, and desires.
- Being advocates for the integrity of the public process and ensuring it reflects as much as possible directions contained in relevant Council-approved strategies.
- Undertaking and encouraging actions by other City staff that build trust and credibility for the process among all participants.
- Providing the information participants need to meaningfully participate.



Meeting Participation



All participants are currently muted for the presentation.



You will be able to participate in discussion by using the raise hand and unmuting when called on, or through the chat bar.



Make space to hear from and listen to all participants. **Share speaking time** and do not talk over others.



Thank you for being with us!

Introductions

Parks Forestry & Recreation Staff

Parks

Chris Clarke, Manager, Etobicoke York District

Capital Projects and Design & Delivery

Elijah Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Community Recreation

Sandra McCallum, Manager, Community Recreation Toronto East York

Natalie DiFonzo, Program Standards & Development Officer

Client & Business Services

Kevin Carr, Manager Client Services

Park Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Matt Bentley, Senior Project Manager, Facilities Master Plan

Vanessa Cipriani, Policy & Project Advisor

Policy and Strategic Planning

Kelly Murphy, Manager Policy Development Unit



Stakeholder Members

Advisory Group

Annette S – Probus Club of North York
Albert B – Toronto Gay Pickleball Association
Anthony C – South District Community Player
Carolyn C – Ramsden Park
Daniela C – West District Community Player
Ed M - Scarborough Seniors Games
Jeff V– Leaside Pickleball Association
John C – Etobicoke Pickleball Association
Junior B – Pickleball Ontario
Karl M – West District Community Player
Katherine R - East District Community Player
Margaret J - Probus Club of Etobicoke
Maria L – South District Community Player
Mark J - Passion for Pickleball
Mary Beth D – East Toronto Pickleball Association
Mike K – North District Community Player
Sara M – Toronto Pickleball Club
Selina L – East District Community Player
Sharon C – North District Community Player
Sid I – Baldwin Village Pickleball Club



Updates & Announcements

Opportunity for all members to share pickleball news

Announcements & Acknowledgements

We will **end each meeting** moving forward with opportunity for all members to share pickleball updates and announcements:

- Recognize the (volunteer) contribution to the sport
- Celebrate each other's wins including those traveling to compete
- Share opportunities to play and learn
- Staff updates on new courts/programs if not otherwise on the agenda

➤ **Members encouraged to email in articles to include in the deck ... and discussion will be captured in the meeting notes.**



Pickleball's soaring popularity has created quite a racket. Toronto is scrambling to find space for its players

With the sport surging in popularity, players in Toronto find themselves scrambling to find suitable space to play on.

By Ghada Alsharif Staff Reporter

Saturday, July 2, 2022 5 min to read

f X in e b u

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Tom Keatts, president of East Toronto Pickleball Association, says the sport has helped him create a new social circle. R.J. Johnston / Toronto Star



L-R: Annette Sonneveld, Brenda French and Margo Mingay. Photo Suzanne Park.

Are you in a pickle? If not, are you ready to get pickled in Leaside? If so, it seems you're not alone.

Network Effect

Mary Beth Denomy is a co-founder of the East Toronto Pickleball Association, which works with stakeholders across Toronto to identify and build new places to play. It's an ambitious goal in a space-strapped city. But, with demand at an all-time high, ETAPA has big dreams for pickleball's future.

When did your obsession with pickleball begin?

I picked up a paddle during Covid. And, like many people, the first time I picked up a paddle, I was hooked. You can learn the game quickly, but it takes a lot of time to get good. We started the ETAPA in 2021 to pull our community together, speak as one voice and create more opportunities to play.



Why do you think pickleball took off like it did?

It's a game that everyone can play. It's so social and community oriented. You show up, you don't need a partner, and there's anywhere from eight to 12 to 24 people out, and you cycle on the court. Typically, people will go out for drinks afterward. The ETAPA is not only a pickleball association—it's a community social activity.

I hear there aren't enough places to play in Toronto.

Demand way exceeds places and opportunities to play. I think the city is doing the best it can to try to keep up, but in Toronto, space is expensive. We've had to get resourceful. The ETAPA had lines painted on outdoor hockey rinks last summer—very Canadian. It is the wild west of pickleball right now, and the rush is on.

Is the future of pickleball big business?

You'll see more private pickleball facilities popping up along with public courts. We have professional basketball, baseball, soccer and tennis tournaments. Why not pickleball? Also, pickleball tourism is going to be huge. I'm going to Palm Springs to play. Naples, Florida, is the mecca of pickleball. We would love to make Toronto a pickleball destination. It's not just for old people anymore. Don't let the quirky name fool you—this is a serious sport.

Correction: A previous version of this article stated that Fairgrounds was open for play in Midtown. In fact, the Midtown location has closed, and the company will be announcing new locations this summer.

Pickleball, Anyone?

Asking you need to know about North America's fastest growing sport

BY LAKE WHITE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE BARTHELEMY | APRIL 15, 2022

Building the Pickleball Advisory Group and drafting a Terms of Reference

Draft for discussion and confirmation

Building the Pickleball Advisory Group

establish a divisional stakeholder advisory group to guide policy and program-related decisions for pickleball in the City of Toronto, similar to the Toronto Tennis Liaison Committee, and to ensure an accessible mix of programs and permits for all ages.



Pickleball Play in Toronto

Date: May 18, 2023
To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee
From: General Manager, Parks Forestry & Recreation
Wards: All

SUMMARY

Interest in pickleball, an indoor/outdoor paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, continues to grow. This report outlines the City's approach to accommodating this fast-growing sport, including a review of the demand, distribution and scheduling of pickleball courts in the City of Toronto parks and community recreation centres. The report also identifies future opportunities to support pickleball, including mechanisms to permit pickleball on underutilized flat surfaces in 2023.

In response to increasing demand, the City has expanded outdoor courts from one to 165 over the last five years. With the addition of more than 30 new outdoor courts (either shared with other sports or dedicated to pickleball), this total will reach nearly 200 by the end of 2023. Pickleball programming is now offered in more than 50 community recreation centres across Toronto.

This report also recommends amending the scope of work for three new tennis court complex projects in Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2023-2032 Council Approved Capital Budget and Plan to include dedicated pickleball courts, located in North York, Scarborough and Toronto-East York. A purpose built dedicated pickleball court complex in Centennial Park has also been identified through the Centennial Park Master Plan, and will be delivered as part of the plan's implementation.

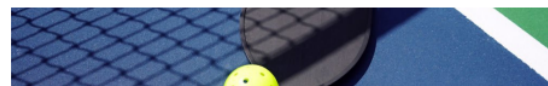
Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff continue to assess demand of this growing sport by measuring indoor attendance, tracking requests for new courts and evaluate under-used public tennis courts in areas with access to alternative tennis court locations for conversion to pickleball courts. Pickleball court lines will also continue to be painted onto outdoor hard surfaces based on demonstrated demand.

Starting in 2023, as part of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) Five Year Review, staff will review the need for further pickleball provision across Toronto.

Resident Players



Join the Pickleball Advisory Group
Help the City develop and support the sport!



The City is forming a Pickleball Advisory Group!

Pickleball has quickly emerged over the past five years as a new and popular sport in Toronto. A Pickleball Reference Group is being established, at the direction of Toronto City Council, to support the development of the sport, and to guide policy and program related considerations.

Fill out the online survey to express your interest in joining the City of Toronto's Pickleball Advisory Group (PAG). You must not represent a pickleball related organisation, and you must be over 18 to express interest in joining the PAG.

Join the Pickleball Advisory Group!

Visit the project webpage to learn more and apply to become a member of the PAG.

Not for Profit Groups



Not for Profit Pickleball Clubs

Club Name	Year Formed	2021 Membership	2022 Membership	2023 Membership	2024 Membership?
Baldwin Village Pickleball Club	2021	30	30	40	40
East Toronto Pickleball Association	2021	50	300	600	800
Etobicoke Pickleball Association	2021	323	605	1104	1500+
Leaside Pickleball Club	2022		22	71	85
Passions for Parkinson's	2019			23	30
Probus Club of Etobicoke	2021	40	40	40	40
Probus Club of North York	2019	15		75	tbd
Ramsden Park Pickleball	2022		300	1400	tbd
Scarborough Seniors Games Association	1997			12	62
Toronto Gay Pickleball Association	2023			150	300
Toronto Pickleball Club	2019		110	140	200



Resident Community Recreation Player Members

Outreach:

- Individual recreational players including:
 - Players from all areas of the city
 - Non-club players
 - Diversity of ages & abilities
- Posters at community centres with pickleball programming
- Social media posts
- Selected at random (by computer software) from 281 applications

Resident Community Players

South District

Anthony
Maria

North District

Mike
Sharon

West District

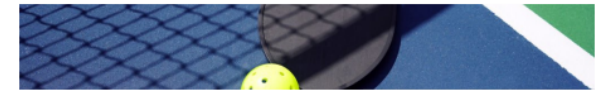
Daniela
Karl

East District

Katherine
Selina



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Not-For-Profit Resident Community Pickleball Group Members

Outreach

- All not-for-profit Toronto resident community based pickleball groups
 - Meet at 90% residency requirement
 - Indoor and outdoor permit holders
 - Pickleball Alliance members (2022)
- Groups established before 1st meeting

➤ **Is any group missing?**

Not for Profit Groups Invited:

Baldwin Village Pickleball Club
East Toronto Pickleball Association
Etobicoke Pickleball Association
Leaside Pickleball Club
Passion for Parkinson
Pickleball Ontario
Probus Club of Etobicoke
Probus Club of North York
Ramsden Park Toronto Pickleball Association
Scarborough Senior Games
Toronto Gay Pickleball Association
Toronto Pickleball Club



How will we engage all pickleball players?

- Keeping informed:
 - Created a PAG website
 - Posting all meeting slides and notes
 - Establishing a Listserv for player to subscribe to stay informed about updates
 - PAG members sharing our discussions with others and directing players to the website
- Participating:
 - Posting survey questions to gauge wide opinion on topics discussed at our meetings

➤ Other ideas?

Pickleball Advisory Group

Share Print Translate



Contact Information

Email: pickleball@toronto.ca

Related Information

[Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)

Pickleball has quickly emerged over the past five years as a popular new sport in Toronto. The number of pickleball courts, programs and court permits has grown exponentially during this time demonstrated by increasing demand by all ages and skill levels to play. A Pickleball Advisory Group is being established, at the direction of Toronto City Council, to support the development of the sport, and to guide city-wide policy and procedure related considerations such as programming, permitting and court provision.

Expand All + Collapse All —

About	+
Meetings	+
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	+
Pickleball Programs	+
Reports	+



Drafting a Terms of Reference

Mandate:

The Pickleball Advisory Group members will offer perspective, guidance and advice to the City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division to inform and advance the development of short and longer-term plans for more pickleball access across the City of Toronto for all ages, and to guide policy development and program considerations.

Members:

- Individual recreational Toronto resident players
- Not-for-profit resident community pickleball groups (one representative) who meet a 90% residency requirement (and in existence at the first meeting of the year)
- Pickleball Ontario
- Parks, Forestry & Recreation staff



Approach:

- PAG is a non-legislative, non-decision-making body
 - Open discussion of ideas, perspectives and viewpoints.
 - A consensus-based approach, seek general agreement on guidance and advice.
 - Different opinions will be documented in the meeting notes.
- Meetings are open to members only unless otherwise discussed to ensure continuation of conversation.
 - All meeting materials and minutes will be posted to the website.
 - PAG members will share meeting outcomes and opportunities for wider community input within your networks.
- 1.5 to 2 hour meetings online (will meet once a year in person)
- Review Terms of Reference annually with Year End Report



Draft for discussion

- Staff will circulate a draft Terms of Reference following this meeting that outlines the mandate and roles of PAG members in more detail.

➤ **Please provide any suggested edits prior to the next meeting for a full discussion and approval.**

Pickleball Advisory Group (PAG) Terms of Reference

Pickleball has quickly emerged over the past five years as a new and popular sport in Toronto. The number of pickleball courts, programs and court permits has grown exponentially during this time demonstrated by increasing demand by all ages and skill levels to play. A Pickleball Advisory Group is being established, at the direction of Toronto City Council, to support the development of the sport, and to guide policy and procedure related considerations such as programming, permitting and court provision planning.

1. Mandate

The Pickleball Advisory Group members will offer perspective, guidance and advice to the City of Toronto Parks Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division to inform and advance the development of short and longer-term plans for more pickleball access across the City of Toronto for all ages, and to guide policy development and program considerations.

2. Membership

The Pickleball Advisory Group (PAG) will represent recreational community pickleball players, and not-for-profit community pickleball groups, such as clubs and leagues from within the Toronto Pickleball community. Membership includes:

- **Individual recreational resident players, to a maximum of 8,** including:
 - Players residing in each Community Council District.
 - Non-club players.
 - A diversity of ages, including 18-34 year olds (the fastest growing age group among Canadian players)
- **Not-for-profit resident community pickleball groups in Toronto**
 - One representative from not-for-profit Toronto resident pickleball organizations which have been established before the first meeting of the year.
 - Each representative to be selected by their respective organization.
- **Ex-Officio member**
 - Pickleball Ontario

The City of Toronto may propose expansion of the PAG to include additional community members as required, to ensure broad representation. A list of the members will be posted on a City of Toronto Pickleball Advisory Group webpage. The PAG membership will be reviewed annually. The PAG is voluntary, and no compensation is provided.



Setting the Agenda

What are the issues, ideas & opportunities PAG need to address?

How to accommodate the growing number of players

Improving & standardizing the city permits process

Instructional / coaching availability for new players

Building, upgrading & converting existing outdoor courts

The number one issue is the lack of dedicated outdoor (and indoor!) pickleball court facilities

Regular registered programs vs drop-in only as well

Access to indoor facilities

Opportunity for club development

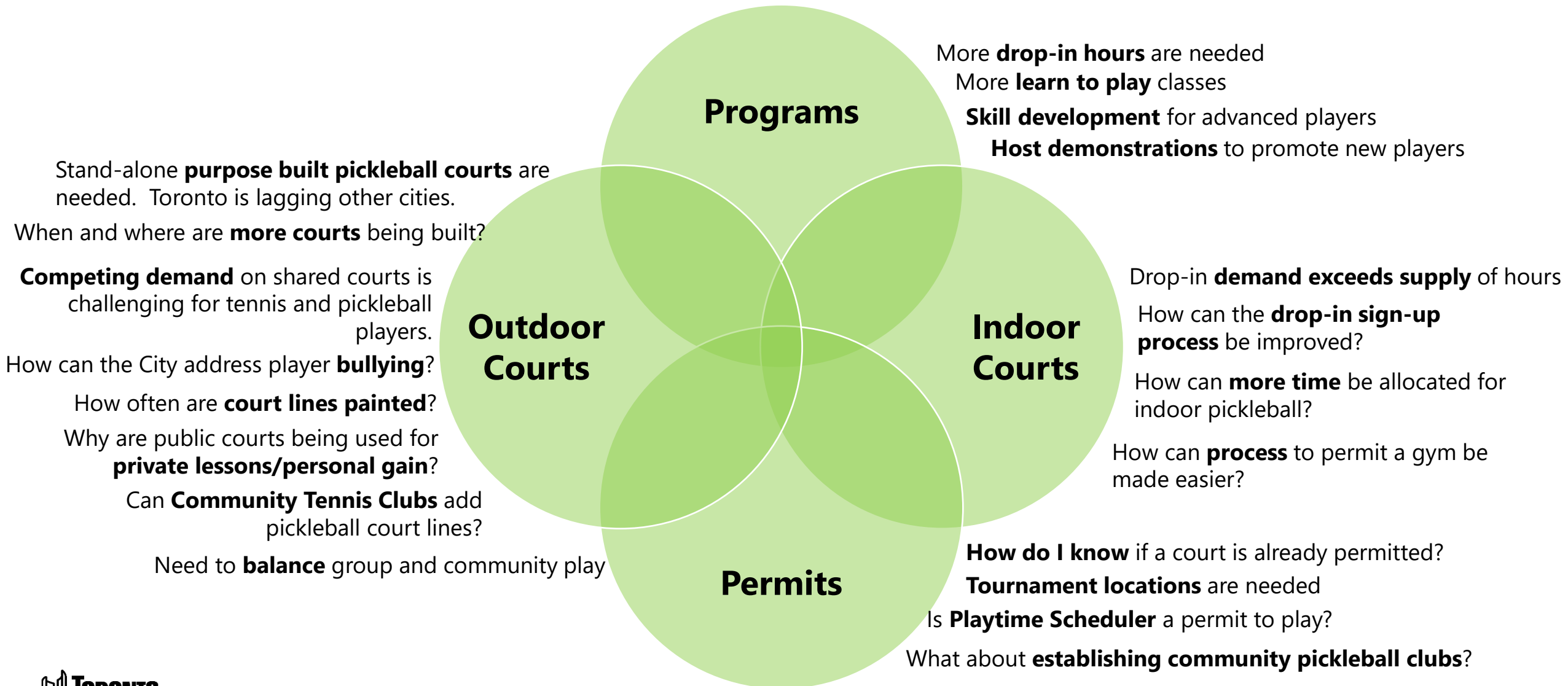
Selling/leasing land to small business at a reasonable rate to create a pickleball facility

Events with partners including tournaments that will bring players to Toronto

Accessibility of courts for community play

Accessibility and inclusivity including Para Pickleball

Questions & ideas focus on four key agenda topics:



Proposed Agenda and Schedule

May 15 th	Welcome & Work Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Plan and Terms of Reference• Policy Context
June 12 th	Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demand and supply of programs and drop-in play• Drop-in protocol
July 17 th	Outdoor Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design standards, signage, maintenance• Court provision, new courts, Facilities Master Plan
September 11 th	Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocation Policy, 3rd Party permitting• Outdoor vs indoor permit process
October 23 rd	Supporting Pickleball	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pickleball at Community Tennis Clubs• Other outstanding issues
November 27 th	Year End Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review work to date and Year End Report• Identify outstanding issues for 2025

Proposed Meeting Dates

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

July

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	28	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

What Council directed policies apply to pickleball play?

Programs

Recreation Service Plan and Toronto Sport Plan



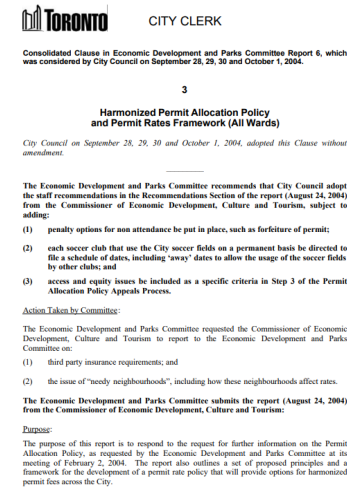
Outdoor Courts

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038



Outdoor Permits

Permit Allocation Policy



Park Users

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608 – Parks “the Parks By-law”



Next Steps

- Staff to send Terms of Reference and meeting notes for review and approval at next meeting
- Next Meeting:
Wednesday June 12th 7-9 pm
(Webex)
Agenda: Programs



HAVE A NICE DAY

 **TORONTO** Parks & Recreation

end