

SAVE OUR TENNIS COURTS



Tennis is a great sport. We are lucky here on the North Shore to have great places to play tennis – the many public outdoor tennis courts and the amazing North Vancouver Tennis Centre. And, we are thankful to those who went before us for building this court system. That legacy is now under serious threat. It is a clear and present danger.

WE ARE LOSING COURTS AND THE SITUATION IS URGENT

Like the rest of Canada, tennis is experiencing a growth boom here on the North Shore. But, even as tennis is growing, we are losing courts – to development and to pickleball. Almost a third of our courts are being lost in North Vancouver and almost a quarter lost in West Vancouver, with almost 20 per cent under threat.

See: **Save Our Tennis Courts – A Report of the North Shore Tennis Society** – December 2021

CALL TO ACTION – LET’S RALLY FOR TENNIS

The North Shore Tennis Society is calling on North Shore tennis players to **RALLY FOR TENNIS**. We need to **SAVE OUR TENNIS COURTS** and fight to replace these lost courts. We support dedicated pickleball courts, but oppose multi-lining and the loss of tennis courts.

And, we need to plan for the future, building new tennis courts and dedicated pickleball courts. We also need more indoor courts, because the current facilities no longer meet the demand.

Municipal elections are being held in all three North Shore municipalities next October. We need to understand where each candidate stands and support candidates that support tennis.

Meanwhile, we need to build our **RALLY FOR TENNIS** campaign.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

To ensure that your voices are heard, we need to grow and strengthen the North Shore Tennis Society. Together our voice is stronger. We need your support.

Grow Our Membership

- Recruit tennis players and supporters to join the North Shore Tennis Society
- Help sign up new members at local tennis facilities and courts
- New members can sign up for free at www.northshoretennis.ca

Support Our Rally For Tennis Campaign

- Talk to your fellow tennis players, friends and neighbours about the issues
- Speak and write letters to your Mayor and municipal councillors
- Engage with relevant senior municipal staff
- Join campaign events

For more information or to get involved

Please contact us at: northvantennis@gmail.com

Or visit our web site: www.northshoretennis.ca

SAVE OUR TENNIS COURTS



A REPORT OF THE NORTH SHORE TENNIS SOCIETY – DECEMBER 2021

North Shore Tennis Courts Are Being Shut Down: The Numbers

North Vancouver City

The City of North Vancouver shut down four tennis courts in the upper Lonsdale neighbourhood and then cancelled plans to replace these courts with four new courts on the roof of the new Harry Jerome Recreation Centre. They also multi-lined one of the two Tempe Heights courts and, with large pickleball crowds, these courts are often unavailable for tennis. Recently, the City has moved to eliminate two more tennis courts at Derek Inman Park in the lower Lonsdale neighbourhood, with no plan to replace them. **There is no plan to replace any of these lost tennis courts!**

North Vancouver District

The District of North Vancouver shut down a tennis court and practice wall at Murdo Fraser to create pickleball courts. They are now shutting down 11 more tennis courts to create pickleball courts, including two courts at Little Cates Park and one court at Institute Road in Lynn Valley, and eight more tennis courts across the District. We don't know which courts, because they won't tell us. **There is no plan to replace any of these lost tennis courts!**

West Vancouver

In 2014, the District of West Vancouver reneged on its promise to replace three tennis courts on Gordon Avenue, which were destroyed to make room for a temporary parking lot. More recently, West Vancouver has shut down one of the two 29th Street tennis courts to create dedicated pickleball courts and has multi-lined tennis courts in five other locations. They planned on multi-lining tennis courts in another seven locations where there is more than one court. Recognizing that tennis and pickleball do not mix, the District of West Vancouver recently put this plan on hold and they are currently exploring opportunities to build dedicated pickleball courts. But, they could change their mind again. Meanwhile, one of the two locations slated for a new arts centre is by Ambleside beach, and those plans entail the destruction of the immensely popular three tennis courts there, with another promise to replace these in another unidentified location.

THE RESULTS ARE DEVASTATING TO TENNIS

<u>Tennis Courts Threatened or Lost to Development, Pickleball or Multi-Lining</u>		
North Van City	7 of 18 courts	38%
North Van District	12 of 44 courts	27%
North Van Total	19 of 62 courts	31%
West Van	9 of 39 courts	23%
West Van Total (if 7 more courts are multi lined)	16 of 39 courts	41%

THE PICKLEBALL SITUATION

Pickleball is not the enemy. They are our friends and neighbours and they love pickleball the way we love tennis. In fact, many people play and enjoy both sports.

Pickleball is a new and growing sport. Pickleball groups, including the North Shore Pickleball Club, have successfully lobbied municipal governments to superimpose pickleball lines onto tennis courts and to convert existing tennis courts to exclusive pickleball usage. It is clear that their campaign is far from over. Although newer and much smaller than the tennis community, pickleball players need and deserve courts to play on. But this should not be done through an arbitrary process and not at the expense of the tennis community.

We support dedicated pickleball courts, but oppose multi-lining and the loss of tennis courts.

City of North Vancouver

The City multi-lined the Tempe Heights tennis courts, superimposing four pickleball courts over one of the two tennis courts. With 16 or more pickleball players on the court at a time, the 30-minute rule is ignored and playing tennis on the adjacent court is impossible. The City recently built four dedicated pickleball courts at Mahon Park. With these new courts, the Tempe courts should be returned to tennis. If more pickleball courts are needed, the City should build more.

West Vancouver


West Vancouver has shut down one of the two 29th Street tennis courts to create dedicated pickleball courts and has multi-lined tennis courts in five other locations. They planned on multi-lining tennis courts in another seven locations where there is more than one court. Recognizing that tennis and pickleball don't mix, they recently put this plan on hold and they are currently exploring opportunities to build dedicated pickleball courts. But, they could change their mind again.

North Vancouver District

In North Vancouver District, the pickleball issue came to a head at Little Cates Parks in Deep Cove. The Pickleball Club wanted the District to multi-line these courts. The Tennis Society opposed this and suggested several other tennis courts in the area that could be used for pickleball courts, especially Myrtle Park, which had room to create a pickleball hub, a dream of the Pickleball Club.

The two groups had many meetings with District staff and NV Sports Council representatives. At first there was a commitment to collaboration. But, the Pickleball Club was committed to one solution only – securing pickleball courts where there are existing tennis courts – whether by multi lining the Little Cates tennis courts or converting them to exclusive pickleball use.

Eventually the District hired a mediator. But, this ended up being a flawed process. It appeared that the Pickleball Club had a back channel to the District and was being provided with information not available to the Tennis Society or the public. We learned that the District had “research” prepared by the Pickleball Club, which they refused to share it with the Tennis Society representatives. The District even ignored a freedom of information request to release the report.



Last summer, the Tennis Society agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with the District providing for temporary multi-lining at Little Cates Park, pending discussion to reach a permanent solution. But when we learned that this Memorandum of Understanding was never shared with the Pickleball Club, we withdrew from the mediation process out of frustration and held a very successful Rally for Tennis at Little Cates Park. As a result, the District suspended its plans to multi-line the courts, pending further discussion, involving both Tennis and Pickleball.

However, within weeks, and out of the blue, the District Mayor intervened, cancelled the discussion process, and announced a new, arbitrary decision. The District would not multi-line courts but would be shutting down 11 tennis courts to create dedicated pickleball courts. This includes two of the four courts at Little Cates Park, one of the two courts at Institute Road in Lynn Valley and eight more tennis courts across the District, whose locations are being kept secret despite our legitimate requests to be informed. Apparently the Mayor had been to Cates Park on an occasion when no one was playing tennis, and that was all the research and evidence he needed to make his decision.

The District Mayor and Council made this arbitrary decision to shut down tennis courts without even discussing it with the Tennis Society. And, they won't even tell us what courts will be shut down. Moreover, their decision is inconsistent with the best practices outlined in the Tennis BC's Recommendations for the Construction or Installation of Public Pickleball Courts in BC Communities (February 2021). This decision should be reversed and new, dedicated pickleball courts built. And, the Tennis Society should be informed and consulted about any impact on the tennis community.

Again, pickleball is not the enemy. They need and deserve courts to play on. But this should not be done through an arbitrary process and not at the expense of the tennis community.

A SOLUTION THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF BOTH SPORTS

A Joint Report and Recommendation of Tennis BC and Pickleball BC

Tennis BC and Pickleball BC established a task force to analyze the issues, research, and best practices and produce a recommendation for BC municipalities. Their recent joint report concluded that:

- Both tennis and pickleball are growing in popularity and participation
- Pickleball is underserved, particularly with respect to dedicated courts
- Tennis and pickleball are different sports with different needs
- Multi-lining tennis courts has not worked out well for either sports and has often led to on-going frustration and conflict
- More pickleball courts are needed while minimizing the impact on tennis courts.
- Pickleball court locations must account for sound and parking issues
- When contemplating making a significant change to any municipal sport facility, municipalities should consult with local representatives from all affected sports.

Their joint recommendation was to build dedicated pickleball courts and pickleball hubs.

We support dedicated pickleball courts, but oppose multi-lining and the loss of tennis courts.

For more information or to get involved

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SAVE OUR TENNIS COURTS



NORTH
SHORE
TENNIS
SOCIETY

A REPORT OF THE NORTH SHORE TENNIS SOCIETY – DECEMBER 2021

APPENDIX

North Vancouver City – Loss of 7 of 18 tennis courts = 33%

Location	Total Courts	Lost to Dedicated PB	Lost to Multi-Lining	Lost to Closure
Cloverly Park	4			
Derek Inman Park	2			2
Grand Boulevard Park	4			
Mickey McDougal Field	2			2
Ridgeway School	2			
Roger Burnes Park	2			2
Tempe Heights Park	2		1	
Total	18		1	6

North Vancouver District – Loss of 12 of 44 tennis courts = 27%

Location	Total Courts	Lost to Dedicated PB	Lost to Multi-Lining	Lost to Closure
Cleveland Park	2			
Delbrook Centre	3			
Delbrook Park	2			
Eldon Park	2			
Evelyn Park	1			
Garibaldi Park	2			
Glenwood Park	2			
Grousewoods Park	2			
Indian River Park	2			
Institute Park ¹	2	1		
Kirkstone Park	2			
Little Cates Park	4	2		
McCartney Creek Park ²	2			
Murdo Fraser Park	5	1		
Myrtle Park	4			
Pemberton Park (Fire Hall)	1			
Princess Park	2			
Welch Strip Park (Norgate)	2			
Westover Park	2			
Unknown locations		8		
Total	44	12		

West Vancouver District – Loss of 9 of 39 tennis courts = 23%

[See Note 4: If 7 more tennis courts multi-lined = Loss of 16 of 39 courts = 41%]

Location	Total Courts	Lost to Dedicated PB	Lost to Multi-Lining	Lost to Closure
29 th Street Park ³	2	1		
Altamont Park	2		* ⁴	
Ambleside Park ⁵	3		*	
Benbow Park	3		1	
Burley Park	1			
Caulfield Elementary School	1			
Cedardale Park	1			
Chairlift Park	1		1	
Cypress Falls Park	2		*	
Cypress Park School	2		1	
Glenmore Park ⁶	2		1	
Gordon Avenue ⁷				3
Horseshoe Bay Park Park	1			
Larson Bay	1			
McKechnie Park	2		*	
Normanby Park	2		*	
Parc Verdun	2		*	
Plateau Park	2		*	
Westbridge Park	1			
Westwood Park	1			
Whytecliff Park	2		1	
Unknown locations	2			
Total	39	1	5 + 7 under threat	3

¹ Institute Park (DNV) – Lost one court to multi-lining. DNV has indicated that this will now become a dedicated pickleball court.

² Murdo Fraser Park (DNV) – One court was converted to a practice wall. DNV converted this practice wall and the adjacent tennis court to dedicated pickleball courts.

³ 29th Street Park (WV) – WV is looking to relocate these pickleball courts. Presumably they will return the courts to a tennis court.

⁴ Courts with Asterisk – WV is to multi-line one court when locations with more than one court are resurfaced. This could result in the loss of seven more courts. This policy is being paused in December 2021.

⁵ Ambleside Park – These three courts are threatened by a possible new arts centre at Ambleside Beach. WV has promised to relocate the courts if necessary.

⁶ Glenmore Park – DWV has indicated that temporary multi-lining will be eliminated when courts are resurfaced in 2022.

⁷ Gordon Avenue – WV converted three courts to a temporary parking lot during construction of a nearby building, which included 40 public parking spaces. They subsequently reneged on their promise to restore the tennis courts.