

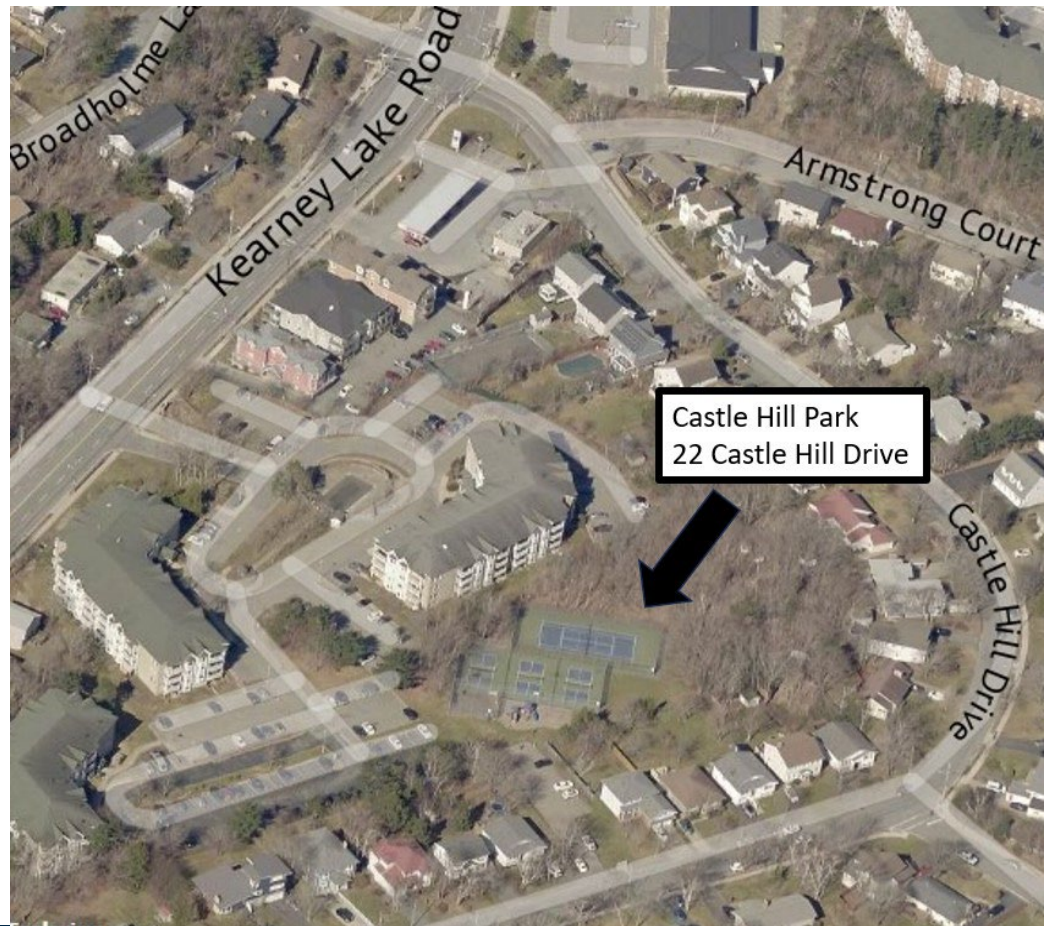
December 12, 2024

HALIFAX
Item 13.1.2

Addressing Castle Hill Pickleball Court Noise

Castle Hill Park

- Established in 1996
- Residential setting
- Abutting the park are 3 multi-unit buildings & 12 single unit dwellings



Noise Concerns

- 2019 two tennis courts at Castle Hill Park were converted
- By 2023 the courts became very busy leading to noise complaints
 - Frequency of play
 - Paddle / ball impact
- Nov 28, 2023 Regional Council motion to address noise issues



Mitigation Measures

- Efforts to curb pickleball noise in the Summers of 2023 & 2024:
 - 2023 Hours of operation 9am - 9pm
 - 2024 Locking of court gates
 - 2024 Deploying foam pickleballs
- Complaints continued through the Summer of 2024
- Periodic staff visits, difficult to enforce



Pickleball Noise

- An increasing issue across North America
- Pickleball noise can become potentially disruptive
 - Sharp popping sound
 - Socialization
- Jurisdictions are starting to address noise issues through sound mitigating measures

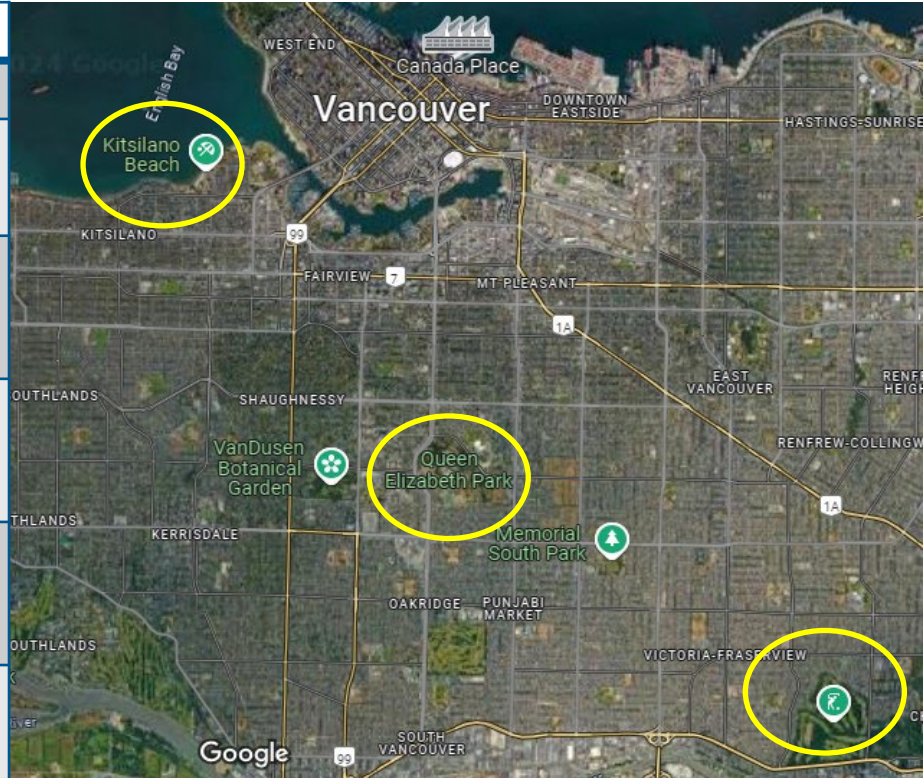


Vancouver Case Study

- In 2018 multiple tennis courts were converted to pickleball courts
- Lawsuits emerged in 2021 and 2022 due to excessive noise
- Hired a firm to complete a study on pickleball noise
- Results of that study have led to the application of setback standards and court centralization

Vancouver Case Study

Number of Courts	Setback Distance Required to Meet 50 dB (m)			
	No Noise Mitigation		3m Noise Barrier*	
	Hard Ground	Soft Ground	Hard Ground	Soft Ground
2 (1 X 2 grid)	65	50	35	30
4 (2 X 2 grid)	90	75	50	45
6 (3 X 2 grid)	105	85	55	50
12 (3 X 4 grid)	160	115	75	60



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Recommendation For Castle Hill Park

- For 2025 covert the pickleball courts back to 1 tennis court and 1 multi-purpose court
- Rationale:
 - The courts are located too close nearby residences
 - The attempted noise mitigation measures in 2023 and 2024 did not resolve the noise issues

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Recommendation for Mainland Common

- Develop a new centralized pickleball facility at the Mainland Common:
 - 6 – 8 courts with room to expand in the future
 - Parking is available nearby
 - Funding for the design would be included in the 2025/26 Capital Budget
 - Construction anticipated for 2026/27

Mainland Common

Mainland Common 2008 Plan

Location that avoids passive areas

Set-Back Guidelines

Various options available that meet the setback guidelines



Conclusion

In following the recommendations in the staff report:

- The pickleball noise issues at Castle Hill Park would be resolved
- A centralized multi-court pickleball facility at the Mainland Common would provide needed pickleball courts
- Best practice setback distance guidelines for locating new pickleball courts would be used on a go forward basis