

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Rob Pollock
Director, Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries

Date: June 16, 2022

Subject: Pickleball Court Locations – Community Building Grant Funded

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The five locations identified for construction of a total of ten new pickleball courts be constructed in the communities of Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, Tilbury, and Wallaceburg be approved.

Background

On September 13th, 2021 administration submitted a report to Council seeking approval to apply for the Community Building Grant Fund for the purpose of constructing pickleball courts at up to 5 locations on existing municipal park property in Chatham-Kent. The full report is found in Appendix A.

The following was approved:

1. Chatham-Kent apply for the Community Building Grant Fund – Capital Stream through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for the purpose of constructing pickleball courts at up to five locations on existing municipal park property in Chatham-Kent.
2. If successful in receiving the grant, Chatham-Kent would be required to pay 20% of the total project costs up to a maximum of \$125,000 to be funded from the Strategic Reserve.
3. The Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries maintenance budget will increase \$5,586 per location, per year to cover the incremental costs associated with the new asset. This cost will be referred to the 2022 budget process as a Council Previously Approved item.

4. The annual lifecycle requirement of \$4,082 per location will be fully funded through the Asset Management Plan beginning in 2022. This cost will be referred to the 2022 budget process as a Council Previously Approved item.
5. If applicable, consideration will be given to apply for incremental investment at existing pickleball courts in Chatham-Kent.

The items in number 3 and number 4 above were approved during the 2022 budget deliberations.

In January 2022, staff received notification that the grant funding was approved.

The grant application did not indicate where the pickleball courts would be installed but there were limitations on the construction:

- Must be on municipal land
- Must be new construction and could not be used to revitalize current courts

Comments

Location Selection

Due to a quick one year timeline, staff analyzed where the ten pickleball courts should be constructed in Chatham-Kent and used the criteria defined below to identify locations would be suitable for the new pickleball courts:

- Community need
- Current recreational assets in communities
- Existence of pickleball groups for organized play
- Locations with appropriate space for court construction
- Accessibility
- Parking availability

After considering the above criteria, staff determined the following locations were most suitable for the pickleball courts to meet the demand for pickleball while considering current recreation assets throughout Chatham-Kent. The following locations were identified:

Community	Location	# of Courts
Chatham	Ellis Park	6
Wallaceburg	Jaycee Park	2
Dresden	Jackson Park	2

Community Engagement

Staff conducted a community engagement survey through Let's Talk CK to get feedback on the proposed locations. The survey asked if community members were in favour, not

in favour or indifferent for the locations selected and were asked for comments on each location as well as general comments at the end of the survey.

The survey had 773 visitors with 678 responses from 634 contributors. Results of the survey questions and general comments are shown in Appendix B.

The following were the responses to the locations proposed in the survey:

Community	Location	Yes Responses	No Responses	Indifferent
Chatham	Ellis Park	178	400	105
Wallaceburg	Jaycee Park	312	116	251
Dresden	Jackson Park	331	104	240

Staff analyzed the community engagement and determined that there was a high demand to have the pickleball courts spread throughout Chatham-Kent instead of having the majority of courts in Chatham. Preference for the communities of Blenheim and Tilbury were prevalent in the general comments given in the survey.

Using the survey results, staff determined that due to the demand for pickleball courts in these communities they would be added to the grant funding and the number of courts to be installed in Chatham would be reduced to two with possible expansion to eight courts in the future with further grant funding or fundraising completed by a community group(s).

The following locations are recommended:

Community	Location	# of Courts	Reason for Selection
Blenheim	Centennial Park; 417 Talbot Street East	2	Access to parking and washrooms with other recreational activities at the same location.
Chatham	Ross Babcock Park - Erikson Arena; 341 Delaware Avenue	2	Access to parking and washrooms on site as well as a pavilion. There is also opportunity to have larger events and/or tournaments by utilizing the arena floor when the ice is out. Potential for additional courts in the future if required.
Dresden	Jackson Park; 319 Brown Street	2	Access to parking and is a well-utilized park already with the available space that is centrally located in the community.
Tilbury	Memorial Park; 24 Stewart Street	2	Access to parking and washrooms along with tree coverage. The park has other recreational activities at the same location.

Community	Location	# of Courts	Reason for Selection
Wallaceburg	Steinhoff Park - Wallaceburg Tennis Courts; 157 Park Street	2	This area has players that can play both pickleball and tennis. It is already an established area for these sports to be played.

Drawings of the pickleball court locations are shown in Appendix C.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

- ☐ Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- ☒ A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- ☒ People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- ☐ Environmental Sustainability:
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report support the following critical success factors:

- ☐ Financial Sustainability:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- ☐ Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- ☐ Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- ☒ Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

Financial Services has reviewed the financial implications.

Financial Implications

Chatham-Kent's one time funding share of \$125,000 for construction costs as well as annual maintenance and lifecycle costs for ten pickleball courts were approved during the 2022 budget process.

Total Project Costs for Pickleball Courts

Item	Amount
Estimated Construction Costs - Ten Pickleball Courts	\$544,600
Ontario Builds Signage	\$10,000
Total Construction Costs	\$554,600
Municipal Funding - 20% of Project Cost -Previously Approved	(\$125,000)
Provincial Funding- Community Building Grant	(\$419,600)
Provincial Funding - Ontario Builds Sign	(\$10,000)
Total Funding	(\$554,600)

Prepared by: Rob Pollock, Director Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries

Reviewed by:

Ryan Brown, Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Matt Torrance, Director, Financial Services

Attachment(s):

Appendix A - Proposal for Community Building Fund Application – Pickleball Courts

Appendix B - Community Engagement Results: Pickleball Court Survey

Appendix C: Pickleball Court Location Drawings