

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting (June 25th, 2024)

Thank you for this invitation to speak to you. This brief is an overview of the presentation Richmond BC Pickleball Association (RBCPA) will be bringing forward.

RBCPA is grateful for the existing 9 pickleball courts in Richmond parks. However, pickleball's popularity has rapidly grown in recent years resulting in an immediate demand for additional outdoor courts in Richmond.

OVERVIEW

- RBCPA membership has experienced substantial growth, increasing from approximately 75 members in 2020 to 713 members as of June 7, 2024. Notably, 77% of the membership resides in Richmond.
- The existing 9 outdoor pickleball courts are unable to meet the current demand of both our members and the public.
- Recent growth in Pickleball participation has been seen across multiple age groups and demographics -- it is no longer just a game for seniors. Our members range from 13 to 84 years old, highlighting the inclusivity of this sport. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a Demographic Summary as of June 7th, 2024.

BENEFITS

- Pickleball promotes physical activity and supports an environment for social interaction. It helps to keep older adults in Richmond connected and active, aligning with the vision of Richmond's Seniors Strategy (2022-2032) "that seniors living in Richmond are safe, respected, healthy and engaged in their communities."
- Pickleball is an inclusive sport that appeals to both female and male players. RBCPA's membership base is split between 47.5% female and 52.5% male participants.
- Pickleball contributes to an active, vibrant community.
- Pickleball is an accessible, low financial barrier sport.
- RBCPA promotes volunteerism through a Court Ambassador program.
- RBCPA contributes to local charities through donations from tournaments and fundraising (Since 2020: \$12,000 to KidSport Richmond and \$7,043 plus 35 boxes of food to the Richmond Food Bank).

DEMAND

- In Richmond, pickleball is one of the few sports that can be played all year round. Many of the Richmond community centres are over subscribed for indoor play and often sessions are full within minutes of registration beginning. Building additional outdoor courts would alleviate such demand.
- Pickleball's lower entry barriers contribute to its popularity, with the relatively low costs of a paddle, ball and court shoes. Public outdoor courts further enhance accessibility by offering free play opportunities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that the existing 9 pickleball courts in Richmond no longer meet the demand and we hope that Council will consider more additional pickleball courts in the 2025 budget process.

We wish to extend an invitation to each one of you to come out with your families and play one of the fastest growing sports in North America.

Thank you for your time today, we are happy to take questions.



Membership Summary
As of June 7, 2024

Demographic Summary - by region	Richmond	Vancouver & North Shore	Delta & Surrey	Burnaby & New West	Other	Total							
# of members	549	84	57	14	9	713							
%	77.0%	11.8%	8.0%	2.0%	1.3%	100.0%							
Female %	49.2%	39.3%	49.1%	35.7%	33.3%	47.5%							
Male %	50.8%	60.7%	50.9%	64.3%	66.7%	52.5%							
Median Age: Female	60	55	59	43	58	59							
Male	59	54	58	49	45	58							
Overall	60	55	58	46	58	59							
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Overall %
# under 21	1	3		1							1	4	0.7%
21 - 30	17	36	2	5	1	1	1	2		3	21	47	9.5%
31 - 40	11	21	4	5		2	1	2	1		17	30	6.6%
41 - 50	27	20	4	5	2	1	3	1			36	27	8.8%
51 - 60	82	69	15	17	13	15		2	2	1	112	104	30.3%
61 - 70	99	81	8	15	12	7		1		2	119	106	31.6%
over 70	33	49		3		3		1			33	56	12.5%
TOTAL:	270	279	33	51	28	29	5	9	3	6	339	374	100.0%
Youngest / Oldest:	14 / 85	14 / 77	23 / 77	26 / 78	26 / 66	14 / 85							

Postal Code for Richmond			
	PC	#	%
NORTHEAST	V6V	14	2.6%
SOUTHEAST	V6W	3	0.5%
NORTH	V6X	58	10.6%
CENTRAL	V6Y	97	17.7%
SOUTHEAST	V7A	59	10.7%
SEA ISLAND	V7B	6	1.1%
WEST	V7C	98	17.9%
SOUTHWEST	V7E	214	39.0%
	TOTAL	549	100.0%

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A typical busy day at the courts = 8 groups of 4 paddles (players) waiting. That equates to 24 players playing on the 6 courts and 32 players waiting for their turn to play on a court!

The paddle rack rotation system was purchased and installed by the RBCPA at both Hugh Boyd Park and South Arm Park pickleball courts.



Spectators watching one of many games at the RBCPA Charity and Fundraising Tournament.



\$7,000 Donation to KidSport Richmond

Dominic Au, Maggie Keatley, Geoff Chong, Basil Quan, Gordon Farrell, Alexa Loo, Ingrid Defert, Tony Wong-Hen, Even Dunfee



Richmond Food Bank

\$1,638 cash donation and 20 boxes of food in 2022