



Sports & Games

Part of the City of Kitchener's Parks Master Plan



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Acknowledgement

Places & Spaces is focused on the park service provided to the Kitchener community. Parks and open spaces are integral to communities, providing spaces where people play, explore, and build connections with the environment and with others.

The City is uniquely positioned to provide, care for, maintain, and secure public access to parks and open spaces for all members of its communities. The City of Kitchener recognizes that these public spaces are planned and built on land that is the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We recognize our responsibility to serve as stewards for the land and honour the original caretakers who came before us. Our community is enriched by the enduring knowledge and deep-rooted traditions of the diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Kitchener today. The significance of this land to Indigenous communities is respected, and we value the role that parks and open spaces can play in Reconciliation.

The City of Kitchener acts as a steward for almost 2,000 hectares of land as part of a parks and open space system. Through the implementation of Places & Spaces, we will work to better understand and address community needs and the barriers preventing use of these spaces, so that all community members in Kitchener might feel welcome, safe, and able to use our parks and open spaces.



Introduction

This section focuses on the background information and specific details that inform the context for the recommendations made for this topic.

Background

Spaces for organized sports that support a range of physical activities and participation are a key component of a healthy parks and open space network. They are often focal points in park spaces, and in some cases an economic driver leading to growth through sports tourism while supporting local sports groups, development and activities.

This booklet will define sports infrastructure standards in Kitchener, locations for fields and courts within the parks and open space network, and identify and plan for emerging trends within the sports and games inventory.



Projecting sport demand

Parks are home to many of Kitchener's sports facilities - from paved courts in local parks to premiere outdoor sportsfields. As interest in various types of sports ebbs and flows over time, the supply of the supporting public inventory is adapted to suit. Converting field types, re-lining courts, installing or removing lighting, or outright removing fields or courts have been fairly common actions taken by the City over time. These actions ensure that infrastructure remains relevant and is used by the communities they are located within.

The City plans and projects sport infrastructure needs through its Leisure Facilities Master Plan (LFMP). This plan provides a strategic framework and specific actions for continued investment, development, and re-development of the City's sportsfield inventory to better adapt to changing trends. It also determines the need for and quantity of each field type within the city.

Sportsfield demand is largely driven by organized sports. This allows for the projection of needs and inventory based on registration trends locally, regionally and provincially.

The LFMP, however, does not project use or future demand for outdoor court spaces such as tennis, basketball and pickleball facilities, nor does it suggest how to manage the current outdoor sport court inventory. Courts are not a bookable resource in Kitchener, and their uses are primarily community-driven on a first-come-first-serve system. It is also important to note that organized sport registration trends does not account for trends in sport activities not currently offered.

This booklet will begin to inventory and identify gaps in sports court recreation and take the **parks perspective** on managing the City's sportsfield inventory.



Sportsfields:

Existing inventory

Sportsfields in Kitchener come in many shapes, sizes, types, functions, and locations; they are dedicated to specific sports and are most often reserved for use by organized sports.

In Kitchener, there are two primary sportsfield types: **baseball diamonds** and multi-use rectangular **athletic fields**.

Less common but still within the sportsfield definition are cricket fields, disc fields, and athletic tracks that are designed and used for their intended sport.

Sportsfields are further classified by their surface quality, how often the turf is cut, and if irrigation systems are in place or not. Other amenities and facilities are variable within each category such as lighting, washrooms, parking and fencing. The following table illustrates the inventory of sportsfields managed by the City of Kitchener:

Sportsfield	Features & amenities						
	Total	School grounds	Artificial turf	Lighting	Irrigation	Parking	Washrooms
Baseball diamonds	71	18	0	12	13	37	33
Athletic fields	70	25	4	6	21	34	34
Cricket fields	3	0	0	0	1	2	1
Disc fields	7	0	0	0	7	7	0
Athletic tracks	2	0	0	0	0	2	0

Sportsfield classifications

Common across all types of sportsfield facilities are classifications, which in Kitchener is determined by service level.

Service levels are associated with each sportsfield classification below include factors such as surface quality, mowing, grooming, and line painting frequency, as well as available supporting amenities like lighting, irrigation, parking and washrooms.

See the appendix in this booklet for supporting amenities for each class of sportsfield.

Class	Location	Mowing	Irrigation	Line painting (athletic fields)	Grooming (ball diamonds)
T*	Park	N/A	N/A	Permanent	Daily
A1	Park	2" target	Yes	Weekly	Daily
A2	Park	2" target	No	Weekly	Daily
B	Park	2 week rotation	No	2 week rotation	Weekly
S	School	2 week rotation	No	2 week rotation	Weekly

*Artificial turf surface



Artificial turf surfacing

Since the adoption of the 2010 Parks Strategic Plan, the City has developed two sets of artificial turf sportsfields. The first set is a pair of fields at Woodside Park which opened in 2012. The second set is another dual field facility at RBJ Schlegel Park opening in 2020.

Artificial turf is engineered to replicate the playability of natural turf as closely as possible, balancing both performance and player safety needs. Costs to install artificial turf are high. Benefits of artificial turf include consistent quality and performance of the turf surface year-round, and near 100% cost recovery due to lower operating costs and an extended playing season.

Woodside Park was due for artificial turf replacement at the end of the 2024 playing season, and was replaced accordingly, marking 13 seasons in use. The true costs of installation, maintenance, resources, and replacement in can be directly compared against the same number of natural turf fields that provide the same amount of bookable hours.

Artificial turf can be booked in shoulder seasons and for greater intensity uses than natural turf. The target user hours for artificial turf is 1,200 per year up to a maximum of 1,500 hours. Natural turf targets 450 hours per year, up to 500 hours depending on user group demand. It takes five natural turf fields to provide the same overall number of hours as two artificial turf fields.



Environmental considerations

The environmental trade-off between artificial turf and natural turf is the resources required to maintain natural turf compared to the production of the materials for artificial turf systems.

Artificial turf systems are made up of polypropylene filaments, thermoplastic elastomer backing, and sand infill with a recycled foam shock pad. The original fields at Woodside Park (2012) used processed recycled tires as infill and shock absorbing material. The black pellets created a heat-island effect similar to flat asphalt roofs and commercial parking lots.

All plastics and rubber used for artificial turf are re-usable or recyclable; however, globally there is increasing attention being paid to pervasive micro plastics in the environment.

Newer artificial turf systems have been used at RBJ Schlegel Park (2020). Rubber has changed to a re-usable green thermoplastic to absorb less solar energy, a blend of 83% sand by weight to reduce overall rubber

use, and a recycled foam shock pad layer to further reduce the volume of infill required.

Artificial turf eliminates the use of potable water, fertilizers, and various machinery to maintain high quality, resilient natural turf. The City will continue to support modern technologies as they adapt to changing restrictions. New infill materials such as cork and coconut husk have been used at the highest professional levels in North America and have already had a positive environmental impact. As these products are tested and become more common place, they will be adopted for municipal use.

Numbers that help illustrate the cost comparison between installation and maintenance of artificial and natural turf fields are shown in the chart on page 15, which compares the artificial turf fields at Woodside Park against a similar area of natural turf field over a 13 year period.

Cost comparison and analysis

Over its 13 year span, Woodside Park's two fields have delivered the same number of play hours as five natural turf fields for \$600,000 less. Those hours were played on a consistently high quality surface and were reliably available following even the most significant of weather events.

Note that the total revenue in the following chart does not account for the cost of land required for the fields. Three fields use 2.1 hectares of land plus additional land for parking, access, amenities, and other supporting infrastructure. These land costs are substantial and not factored into this analysis.

When comparing Woodside Park fields against five natural turf fields, the cost of irrigating five natural turf fields is about the same as the cost to install and maintain two artificial turf fields for the same lifespan.

This analysis supports continued investment into artificial turf facilities from a cost perspective.

Overlaying actual costs of land would further support the decision to use artificial turf.

Chart notes:

**Annualized total to correct for COVID-19 interruptions beginning in 2020*

^Inflation adjusted from 2011, excluding market value increases. Includes lighting installation

" Water use determined to be 15,000 gallons per cycle, ran 80 days per season at \$5.49 per cubic metre of water. Artificial turf systems do not include an irrigation system

& Infill refers to annual top ups of rubberized pellets, Cultural practices refer to turf maintenance including aerating, topdressing, overseeding and fertilizing throughout each season

Cost comparison - artificial turf vs. natural turf

Cost category	Woodside Park	Natural turf field equivalent
Hours & revenue		
Number of fields	2	5
Years in use	13	13
Booked hours (2012-2019)*	19,200	18,000
Annualized bookings	1,200	450
Total hours	31,200	29,250
Rental fee (hourly)	\$111.21	\$69.86
Total revenue	\$3,469,752	\$2,043,405
Costs		
Capital installation^	\$2,128,000	\$0
Life-cycle replacement	\$1,400,000	\$0
Annual operating costs		
Equipment	\$1,500	TBD
Water" (May to October)	\$0	\$124,843 (22,740 cubic meters)
Electrical	Same	Same
Grooming / cutting	\$9,000	\$66,000
Infill / cultural practices &	\$5,000	\$25,000
Testing	\$8,000	\$0
Repairs	\$5,000	\$0
Annual total cost	\$28,500 (2 fields)	\$215,843 (5 fields)
Total operating costs (13 years)	\$371,000	\$2,805,954
Summary (13 years)		
Total Hours	19,200 (2 fields)	18,000 (5 fields)
Revenue	\$3,469,752	\$2,043,405
Operating Costs	\$371,000	\$2,805,954
Capital Costs	\$3,262,000	\$0
Net Costs	\$163,248	\$762,549
Net cost per rented hour	\$5.23	\$26.07



Sport courts

Existing inventory

Courts are typically paved surfaces with painted markings denoting intended sport use.

Similar to sportsfields, Kitchener's sport courts are seen in a variety of shapes, sizes, orientations, and locations.

There are two primary types in Kitchener: basketball courts and multi-use courts. Courts in Kitchener can serve as winter rinks and be overlaid with multiple ball and net sports such as tennis, pickleball, road hockey, and various combinations of any of the above sport uses.

Court type	Features & amenities						
	Locations with courts	Total nets#	Purpose built	Shared space	Lighting	Parking	Washrooms
Basketball	28	71	47	24	4*	16	17
Tennis	20	48	35	12	12*	16	16
Pickleball	7	23	4	19	8*	4	4
Winter rinks (on courts)	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	10^	12	12
Total locations with courts	37						

* Includes full court lighting only. Flood lamps used for winter rinks are excluded

^ Includes single post flood light as required by winter rink operations

Includes 1 single tennis court, and multiple versions of basketball (both full and half courts)

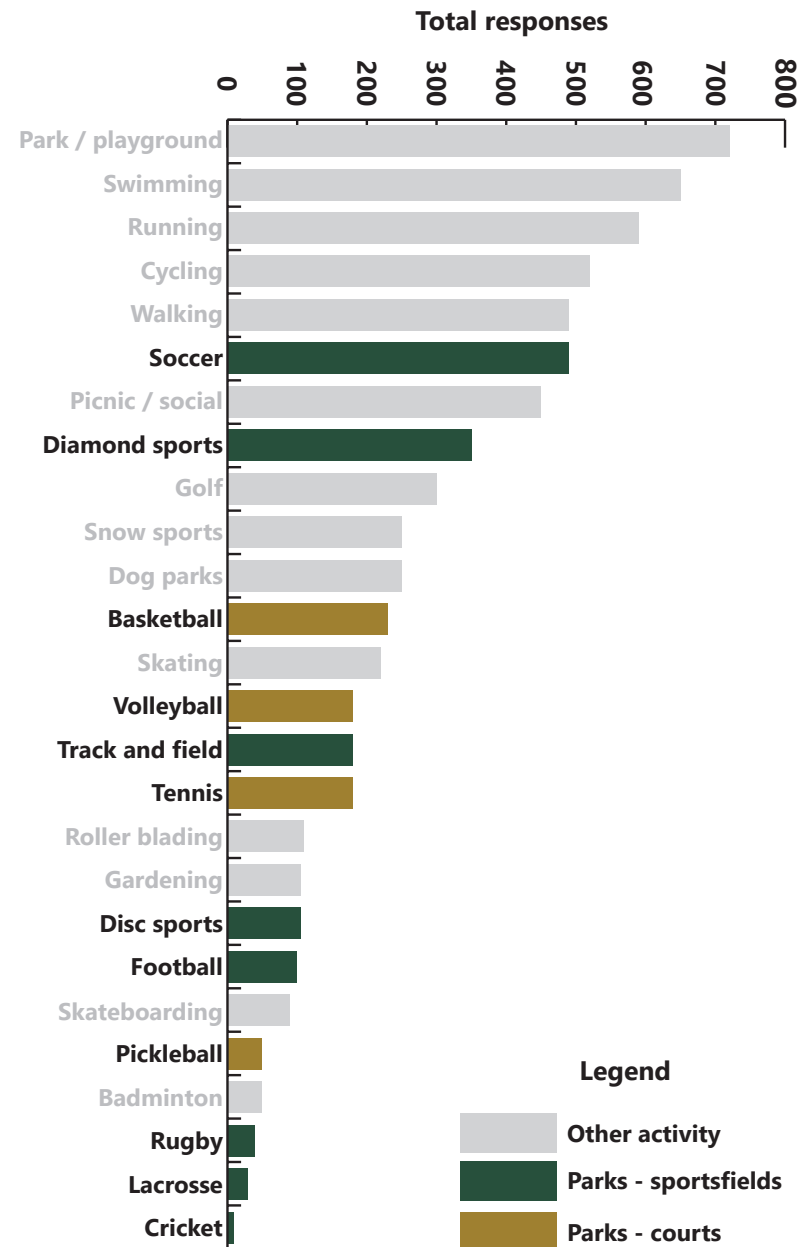


Recreational trends

Popular organized sports that use the City's sportsfields inventory drive their development, re-development, and investment. Their influences are captured within the City's Leisure Facilities Master Plan (LFMP, 2019) which evaluates local registration and projected uses, balanced with provincial trends in each sport. This includes diamond sports, soccer, football, field hockey, lacrosse, and ultimate frisbee. The plan in turn, projects infrastructure needs to properly support each sport.

To inform recommendations made in the LFMP, survey respondents were asked in 2019 to **rank their favourite outdoor recreational activities**. The results are shown here. Recreational activities impacted by the sportsfield and court inventory located within parks and open spaces are highlighted.

Following completion of this survey, COVID-19 interrupted all indoor activities in 2020. Recreational opportunities were limited strictly to outdoor activities in smaller groups and has shifted the sentiment of outdoor, public, and local recreation. This chart gives a snap shot of the relative popularity of each recreational activity prior to the pandemics influence.





Emerging trends

Park developments completed since the 2019 LFMP update have been influenced by trends in local sporting communities and changing demographics. Cricket and pickleball are two sports that have seen an increase in demand in Kitchener in recent years.

Cricket

Though one of the lowest ranked activities within the LFMP, the plan acknowledges this sport has seen significant growth across Ontario. In 2023, Kitchener was identified as one of the most diverse cities in Canada. International immigration accounts for two thirds of the Region's growth in 2022. Sportsfields adapted to suit a range of interests and changing communities needs are a valuable asset within park spaces.

The challenge with creating new full-size cricket fields is the size of the facility necessary. Nearly three hectares are needed to accommodate the minimum 137 metre regulation-sized boundary. This is equivalent to two full sized soccer fields by area.

At the time of opening in 2021 RBJ Schlegel Park was the only cricket field in the city. The field on its own is not enough to meet the growing demand for the sport in Kitchener.

Adaptions to existing park sportsfields in 2023 and 2024 have created one additional full sized field (Kiwaniis Park), one temporary location (Resurrection Park), one trial location (Laurentian Park), and one practice pitch (Westwood Park). Likewise the community has adapted the sport to facilities that are available. Street or Garden Cricket is being played on baseball diamonds and in other limited space areas in the city.

The purpose of the parks master plan is not to project need, but to acknowledge changing trends and establish cricket field standards in Kitchener. If the anticipated growth continues, future locations, needs and limitations are better understood and inform future infrastructure decisions.



Pickleball

Similar to cricket, pickleball ranked relatively low in the 2019 LFMP survey but has seen a significant growth in popularity since. Demand for pickleball and requests for adapted tennis courts have increased substantially since the first tennis courts in Kitchener were painted with pickleball lines in 2019. Since then, 15 more courts at five locations have been painted and adapted for pickleball.

In 2021, the second phase of RBJ Schlegel Park proposed adding active recreational amenities and sports courts to the previously developed playground, splashpad, and sportsfield facilities. Demand for pickleball was re-examined through public engagement and an overwhelming desire for dedicated pickleball courts was heard. As a result, four courts have been built and opened in 2023. These are the first and currently only single-use, lit pickleball courts in the city.

Pickleball is particularly popular among people over age 55, with the average participant age continuing to trend downward as popularity of the sport spreads. COVID-19 saw an unexpected spike in the sports popularity, likely driving public support for the courts at RBJ Schlegel Park. Traditional team sports and indoor racket sports were unavailable during COVID closures allowing an outdoor, accessible sport that is quick to learn and adaptable to existing court spaces primed to take off.

As the sport continues to grow, shared space within tennis courts will continue to be evaluated as existing courts are renovated or replaced. The dedicated court spaces at RBJ Schlegel Park will be monitored for use by on-site staff and through user feedback. Court usage at peak times is being monitored, and input from user groups for the City to create posted court rules is intended to reduce user wait times and conflicts.





Data Sources

This section highlights the relevant sources of information and research used to develop recommendations for this topic. A total of 12 data sources, including engagement, have informed the Parks Master Plan recommendations. For more detailed information on each data source, please refer to the Places booklet.



Legislation



Equitable engagement



Engagement with the broader community



Engagement with City of Kitchener departments



Engagement with partner organizations



Comparative analysis



External research



Policy



City of Kitchener strategies



Region of Waterloo strategies



Best practices



City of Kitchener staff experience



Findings

Several themes emerged across topic areas, engagement audiences, and data collection methods. The following section reflects major themes that cut across several datasets from engagement methods. Findings relevant to more than one theme are reflected in each. For more detailed information on the overall engagement effort, please refer to the Places booklet.

Inclusion

The feeling of courts being overcrowded, making it difficult to find space to participate in sports, surfaced as a concern.

Engagement data also suggests that culturally recognizable programming and games can contribute positively to a welcoming space in which community members interact with each other. Space to play board games, including cultural games with tutorials emerged, as an opportunity to foster interactivity in parks. The current method of assessing sportsfield and court needs reinforces existing facilities; it does not take into account sports and games that are not yet available in Kitchener. Understanding these gaps will support creating truly inclusive opportunities in the city.

Other engagement themes related to this theme included a desire for cost-friendly methods to play sports and games, and building multi-use courts for all ages.

Health and wellbeing

Multiple data sets from public engagement show an equal balance of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the availability of courts, court amenities, and court surface quality.

Information

Respondents expressed uncertainty about the locations of sportsfields and courts and when they can use them. Some respondents recommended sharing this information publicly and clearly.

Safety

Respondents shared that existing courts and fields could be better maintained, sometimes illustrating the condition of the courts and fields as a safety risk.



Recommendations

This section summarizes the recommendations specific to this topic that are informed by the broad and local context, data sources, and findings. Each recommendation begins with a number representing the order in which its implementation is prioritized. For a comprehensive list of all recommendations made for this master plan update and the implementation framework, please refer to the Places booklet.

09: Public use of outdoor sportsfields facility program

Support the development of a public drop-in program for outdoor bookable sport facilities within public park settings.

When not in use by organized sport leagues fields are generally open for public use. These locations are valued open spaces and in some cases make up a large portion of the parks open space. There are some location exceptions such as artificial turf fields being fenced and gated during non-booked play.

Public engagement indicates a desire to know when fields and courts are available for general use. Evidence of damage to gates and fencing at higher class sportsfield facilities clearly show use of the facility outside of booked times.

This Parks Master Plan supports development of a drop-in program to establish a common, regularly occurring time when anyone can use the fields. Additional parameters will need to be established to assist with reducing wait times, frustration and conflict, such as posted facility rules and guidelines created with input from user groups.



23: Comprehensive court strategy

Conduct a complete asset management review and demand analysis for all sport courts in parks to inform the strategic renovation, replacement, or addition of sport courts.

One of the clearest conclusions drawn from public engagement is low court quality, both in surface and available supporting amenities.

There are two ways to address this. The first is to provide funding for like-for-like investment in restoring the courts to their original level of service.

The second is strategic re-investment. This goes beyond basic replacement of what exists and evaluates each court beyond its physical elements. Is it the right type court for the neighbourhood? Is it better suited as something else? Would lighting the court augment its use?

Demographics and recreational trends in sport courts fluctuate more quickly than the lifespan of courts, so re-assessing each court has many benefits and will maximize the investment made into each facility.

This Parks Master Plan supports the second option to invest strategically and look beyond basic like-for-like replacement.

The recommended sport court strategy should address regulating for-profit use of sports courts. All court facilities are currently free to use, non-bookable and for-profit use is restricted. Lack of indoor opportunities have driven various business interests outdoors such as private lessons and training. This should be comprehensively reviewed while maintaining public use interests as the priority.

Service levels for sport courts the following categories indicate size, function, amenities. See the Appendix in this booklet for detailed information and appropriate park classifications for each category.

Destination court

Destination courts focus on single sport uses that are high quality public sport court infrastructure. These courts are lit with performance surfacing, adequate parking facilities, and necessary supporting amenities like expanded seating and shade.

Community court

An “upgraded” version of a Local Court, the Community Court category can be variable pavement types, support multiple sport courts in one location, and could be eligible for lighting should the context allow for it.

Local court

Designed for local use and informed by local demographics and public input. Local Courts are smaller, unlit, multi-use half-court type pavement areas intended to be walked to and used for many court sports.



34: Strategic locations for sportsfield lighting

Continue or support future initiatives to install sportsfield lighting in parks that enable increased programming. Priority given to City Wide classified parks with available parking and meaningful separation from residences.

Lighting any outdoor sport facility extends each night by an average of 2 hours, doubling its playing time by adding a second bookable time slot. Lighting can also extend playing seasons when days shorten. It promotes efficient programming and operating logistics by focusing increased use in fewer locations. Lights throughout the city's sportsfield inventory provides a tool to adapt to park use trends by transitioning lesser used sportsfields to other recreational uses in park locations.

Fields eligible for lighting need to be selected carefully to support parking, minimize neighbourhood disruption, and provide potential for sport pairing or multi-use facilities to optimize the investment in lighting.

Standards for lighting sportsfields and sport courts are established below. In addition to the illumination targets, all performance lighting in parks will employ:

- Commitment to the latest technology. LED sportsfield and court lighting is now industry standard, widely available with cost-effective installation and operation.
- Reduction in energy by 40-60% compared to previous HID technology.
- Minimization of light spill/glare with shields and use of indirect light.
- Dimming capabilities to reduce light output by 80% during periods of non-use and shoulder times after field bookings.

Implementation

Modern LED technology has been used in all new sportsfield and courts since 2018 and is the standard going forward.

The existing inventory, however, remains predominantly high intensity discharge (HID), which is less efficient and uses more energy as a comparable output of LED light. Of the 18 sportsfields that are lit at the time of writing this master plan, only Breithaupt installed in 2019, and RBJ Schlegel Park installed in 2020 use LED lamps.

Retrofitting sportsfield lighting should be done at the end of its life span, as significant infrastructure repair or as replacement is needed. Due to its seasonal and restricted hourly usage, the cost to replace older HID systems far exceeds the power reduction savings despite the 40-60% energy reductions from using LED lights.

Converting to modern systems and using updated lighting targets and control methods will be achieved through replacements and new development scenarios.

Type	Sport or court category	Illumination (fc)	Colour rendition index (CRI)	Uniformity	Colour (K)
<i>Park* (for reference)</i>	<i>General</i>	<i>0.8-1.5</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>2:1</i>	<i>2700-3000</i>
Field	Baseball diamond	50 (infield) 30 (outfield)	75	1.7:1	4000-4500
Field	Athletic	30	75	2:1	4000-4500
Field	Cricket	50 (infield) 30 (outfield)	75	1.7:1	4000-4500
Court	Destination	50	75	1.7:1	4000-4500
Court	Community	20	60	2:1	3000-4000

Table: Illumination guidelines for active park settings

Future lighting considerations

Recent Provincial policy changes, specifically through Bill 23 impact on the Planning Act in November 2022, will, over time, result in a reduction of 50-85% of new parkland for all future residential development. Even prior to these policy changes, residential development over the past 20 years has not yielded adequate total park or open space area for new sportsfield development - typically due to size constraints.

As an example, a single regulation sized soccer field is 7,000 m². Of the ten parks in the Doon South community built between 2000 and 2010, only one, Wetland Way, is large enough at 7,300 m². The remaining parks cannot host full-sized, programmable sportsfields and the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support them.

Recognizing the impact of policy changes on the inventory, investment into sportsfield lighting, artificial turf, and amenity supports such as parking and washroom facilities, is the recommended route to best manage sport infrastructure in parks to maximize programmable use.

Consolidating organized sport use in fewer sportsfield with higher service levels will, in effect, open existing sportsfield locations for other park uses such as mini soccer fields, practice cricket pitches, blastball backstops, scrub diamonds, or open fields for any recreational purpose.



37: Artificial turf for sportsfields

Continue to invest in the conversion of eligible natural turf sportsfields to artificial turf, subject to future demand analysis.

Woodside Park, containing the city's first two artificial turf fields, demonstrates the potential success of artificial turf fields. Continuing to consider eligible natural turf fields for conversion to artificial turf applications will support maximizing programmed use of outdoor sportsfields.

Converting sportsfields to artificial turf addresses the pressures of limited future park acquisitions and a reduction of park provision through changes in provincial legislation. Artificial turf contributes to sustainable management through water conservation, creating more a more resilient sportsfield inventory as more extreme weather patterns emerge like droughts and storms.





*Photo by Steve Bendo,
R.K. & Associates Consulting*



Appendix: **Design standards**

Introduction

Many standards inform sportsfield and sport court construction, for bench types and lengths, fencing and surface types, to backstop heights that suit each sportsfield or court type.

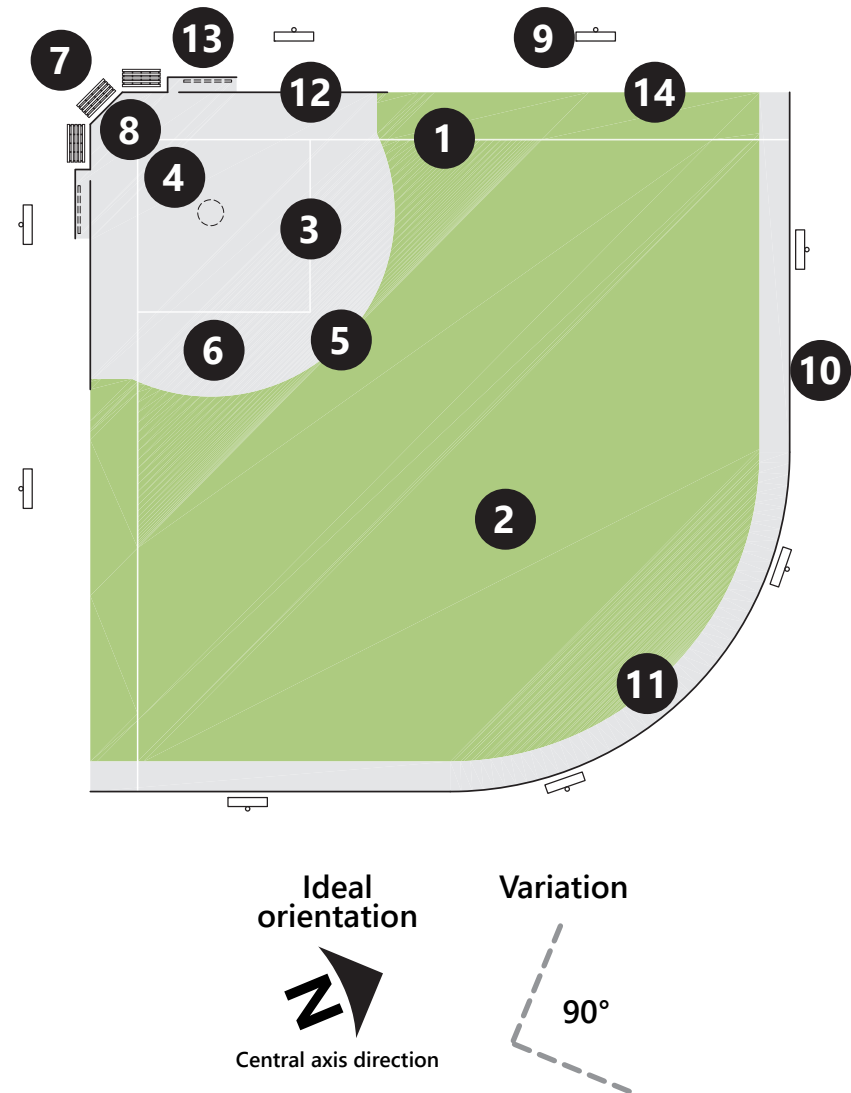
The following appendix details the standards that apply to varying service levels and the required supporting amenities for sportsfields and sport courts in Kitchener. These standards will inform new park development and park renovation.

Sportsfields: baseball diamonds

Baseball diamonds can be built in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. There are nearly three dozen different combinations of age groups and sport types, often each with their own unique recommended dimensions for mound, basepath and outfield fence distances. There are four general types of diamond sports: baseball (also referred to as hardball), Fastpitch, Slo-pitch and T-ball. A variation of cricket can also be played on baseball diamonds.

This master plan recommends four consolidated dimensions of infield and outfield distances to maximize play on each type of facility, and allow flexibility for park specific spatial restrictions. These layouts accommodate baseball (from T-Ball to Senior levels), Fastpitch (from U6 to Masters) and Slo-pitch (from U6 to 40+)

To date there are no artificial turf baseball diamonds. As an “air sport” that has less wear and tear on turf surfacing, there is little to no shutdown period required to prevent over-compaction and over-use of the grass.



Feature		Field type				Field class		
		Hardball / stadium	Multi-purpose (large)	Multi-purpose (small)	T-Ball or local	B	A2	A1
1	Outfield distance - fines (feet)	320	280	230	180-200	By Type		
2	Outfield distance - centre (feet)	380	320	260	200-230	By Type		
3	Baseline distance (feet)	90	75	75	45-60	By Type		
4	Pitching distance (feet)	60.5	46	46	35	By Type		
5	Infield diameter (feet)	95	80	80	50	By Type		
6	Infield surface	Grass and clay	Clay or stone	Clay or stone	Stone	By Type		
7	Bleacher seating	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	By Type		
8	Backstop height (feet)	30	20-30	10-20	10	By Type		
9	Lighting	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
10	Outfield fence	5' minimum	5' minimum	Optional	No	Optional	Yes	Yes
11	Warning track	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Optional
12	Players fencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Players benches	Covered	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Covered
14	Line fencing	Yes	Optional	Optional	No	No	Optional	Yes
N/A	Parking spaces*	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	None	No	Yes	Yes
	Appropriate park location by classification	City	Neighbourhood Community City	Neighbourhood Community City	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Community	City

* Zoning refers to the minimum number of parking spaces required by land use regulations. Lighting refers to the doubling of parking demand when fields are lit due to the overlapping turnover of booked time slots

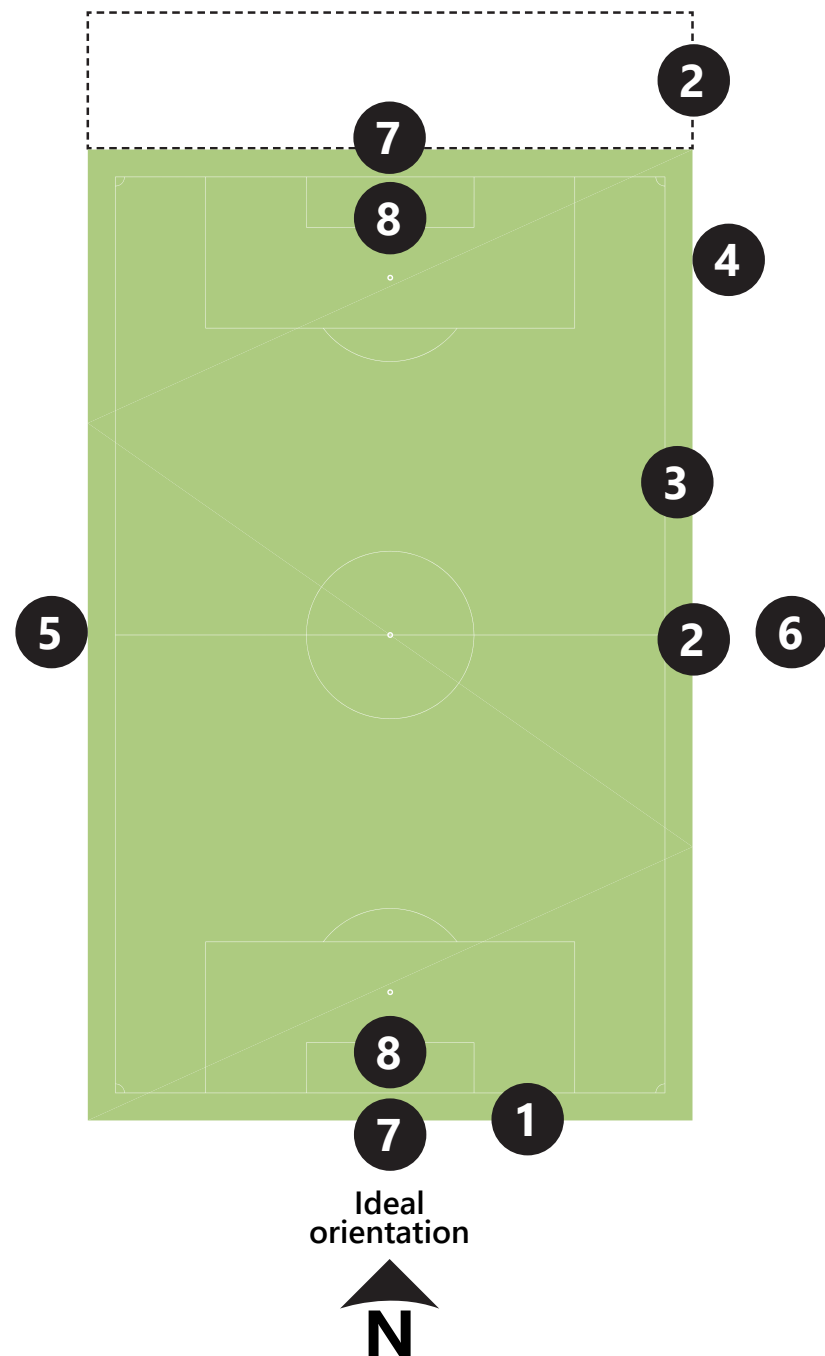


Sportsfields: athletic fields

The most common use of rectangular athletic fields in Kitchener is soccer. Over 75% of the entire inventory is booked by soccer organizations serving all ages. The standards developed as part of this master plan reflect the three most common sizes in demand from local and regional organizations - full sized, half sized, and mini (1/6th sized). Sizes are selected for each park to suit the park context, balancing the organized sport demand with what the park can support.

Other sports such as field hockey, lacrosse, disc sports, and football with additional space for end-zones, can all be accommodated in these full sized dimensions.

One exception that falls outside of these categories is a full sized FIFA field. The field of play for the highest level of FIFA play is 105 x 68 m, with an additional 2 m "pitch area" outside the 3m grassed run out space. Should the City pursue construction of an international competition level pitch within a park, this additional area would be accounted for, in addition to unique considerations for stadium seating and parking for example.



Feature		Field size			Field class			
		Full	Half / 9v9	Mini	B	A2	A1	T (Artificial turf)
1	Width (meters)	60	45	18	By Size			
2	Length (meters)	100 (+36 for Football)	60	27	By Size			
3	Runout (meters)	3	3	3	By Size			
4	Lighting	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Required
5	Players benches	Permanent	Portable	Portable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Covered
6	Bleacher seating	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Backstops	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	As required	15-20'	15-20'
8	Goals (feet)	8'x24'	6'x18'	6'x16' (confirm)	By Size			
N/A	Parking spaces*	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Appropriate park location by classification	By classification	Neighbourhood Community City	Community City	Neighbourhood	Community	City	City

* Zoning refers to the minimum number of parking spaces required by land use regulations. Lighting refers to the doubling of parking demand when fields are lit due to the overlapping turnover of booked time slots

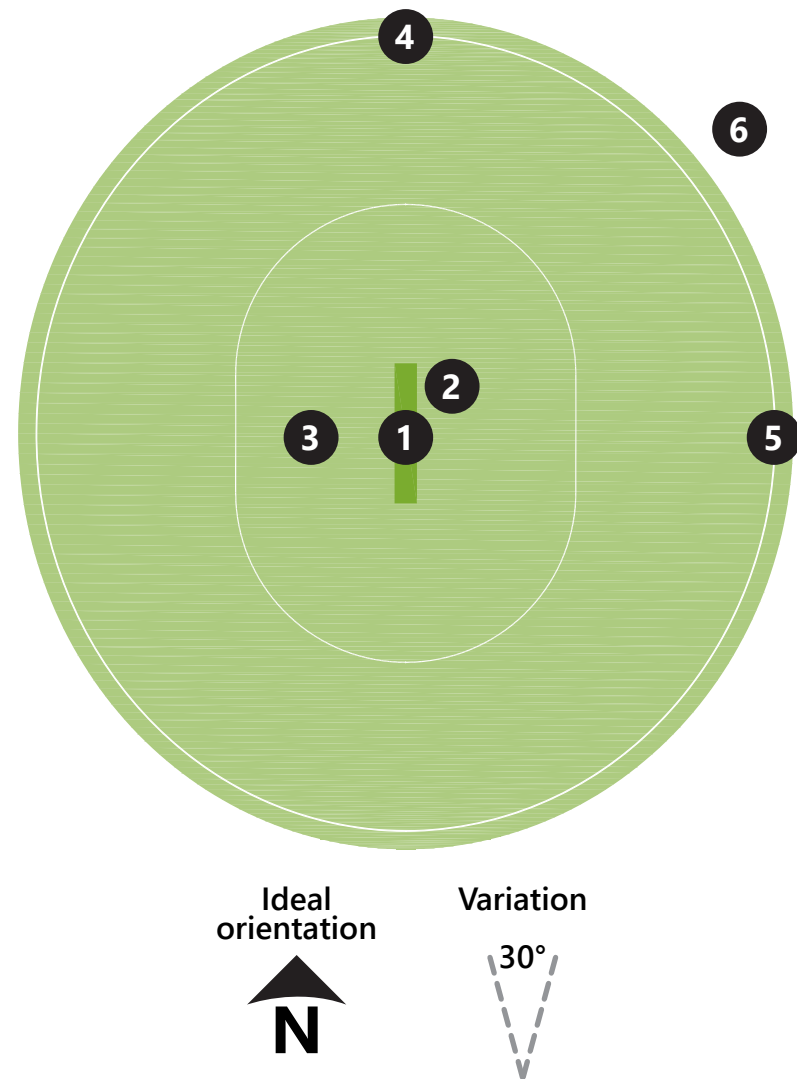


Sportsfields: cricket fields

Regulation size cricket fields are the largest sportsfields by area among all sport uses. A full sized field with maximum boundary limits is over 17,000 m². By comparison, the largest versions of baseball diamonds and athletic fields are approximately 9,000 m² and 7,000 m² respectively.

There are relatively few regulation size cricket fields in Kitchener. Only 2 regulation sized at the time of this master plan with an expectation of growth moving forward.

To accommodate the growing demand while balancing the sheer size of a regulation sized pitch, two additional cricket field size categories have been proposed as part of this strategy. These reflect a similar approach to ball diamonds - to select the appropriate sized facility for a variety of age groups, and adapt to restrictions of park sizes.



Feature		Field size			Field class		
		Regulation	Junior	Practice / Other	B	A2	A1
1	Pitch material	By classification			Stonedust	Stonedust	T - Artificial turf
2	Pitch dimensions (meters)	51.7 x 3.6	22.5 x 3.6	22.5 x 3.6	By size		
3	Infield distance (meters)	27.4	27.4	27.4	By size		
4	Outfield Distance - long (meters)	150	137 (minimum)	Variable	By size		
5	Outfield distance - square (meters)	137 (minimum)	Variable	Variable	By size		
6	Lighting	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
N/A	Parking spaces*	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	Zoning - 20 Lighting - 40	No	Yes	Yes
	Appropriate park location by classification	Community City	Neighbourhood Community City	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Community	City

* Zoning refers to the minimum number of parking spaces required by land use regulations. Lighting refers to the doubling of parking demand when fields are lit due to the overlapping turnover of booked time slots

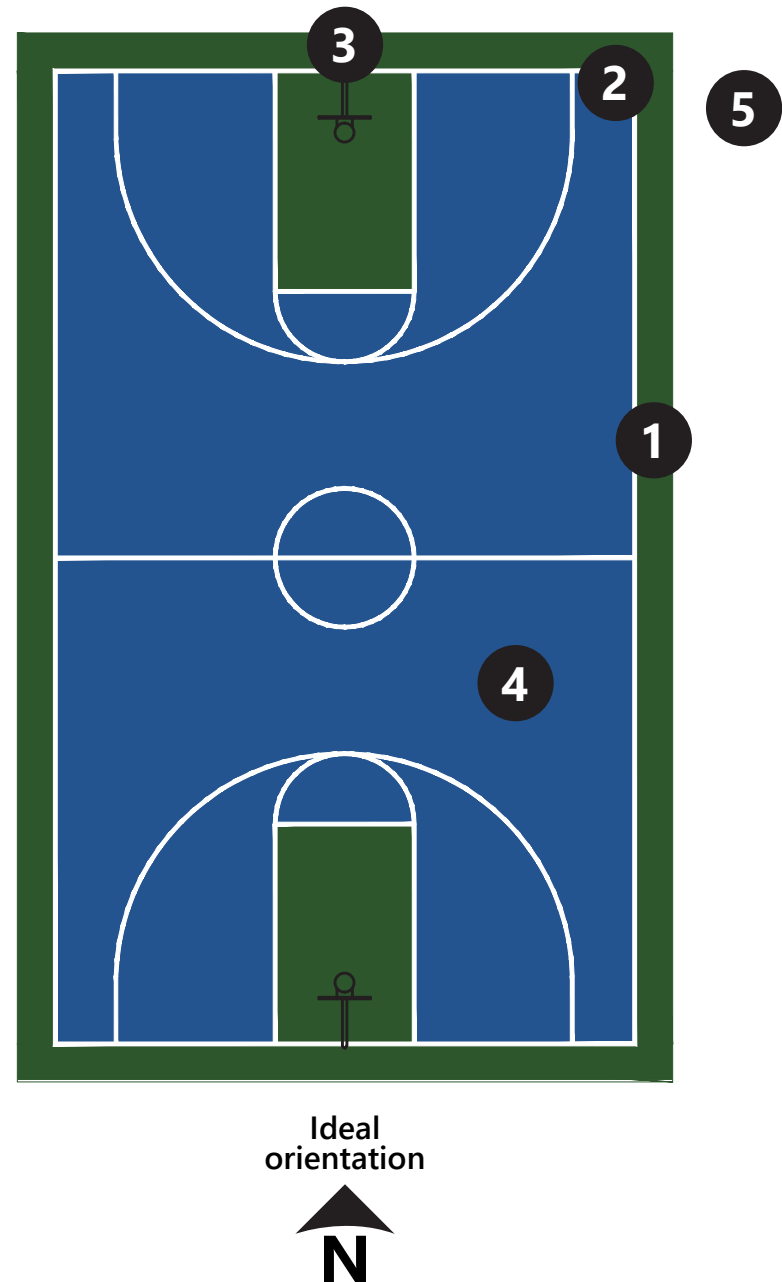


Sport courts: basketball

When situated in the right location and context, basketball courts can be immensely popular community gathering spaces. They can also exist as local amenity for multi-use courts because of their hard surface.

The categories proposed in this master plan will help designers and community members determine what works best for any given park location by outlining the expected amenities and usage of each courts service level. For example, performance surface types combined with lighting will draw more users, leading to a demand for parking.

Note that basketball courts, particularly half courts, can be oriented in many different configurations beyond the traditional rectangle. Half courts, or a combination of full and half courts, can be more engaging and interesting if integrated within a larger park environment, oriented to allow for unique shapes, positioning, and informal seating opportunities.



Feature		Local	Community	Destination
1	Spacing - runout (feet)	3		
2	Dimensions and line painting (feet)	Dimensions: 50 x 84 Painting: 2" white		
3	Net height - full court (feet)	10		
3	Net height - half court (feet)*	8 to 10	8 to 10	10
4	Surface treatment	Asphalt	Asphalt	Performance / Coloured
5	Lighting	No	Eligible#	Yes
N/A	Parking (per court)	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 4
N/A	Seating (per court)	1	2	2
N/A	Shade	Tree planting	Tree planting or structure	Tree planting and structure
	Appropriate park location by classification	Neighbourhood	Community City	City

* Consider lowered nets for half court, local or community fields to encourage youth and accessible play

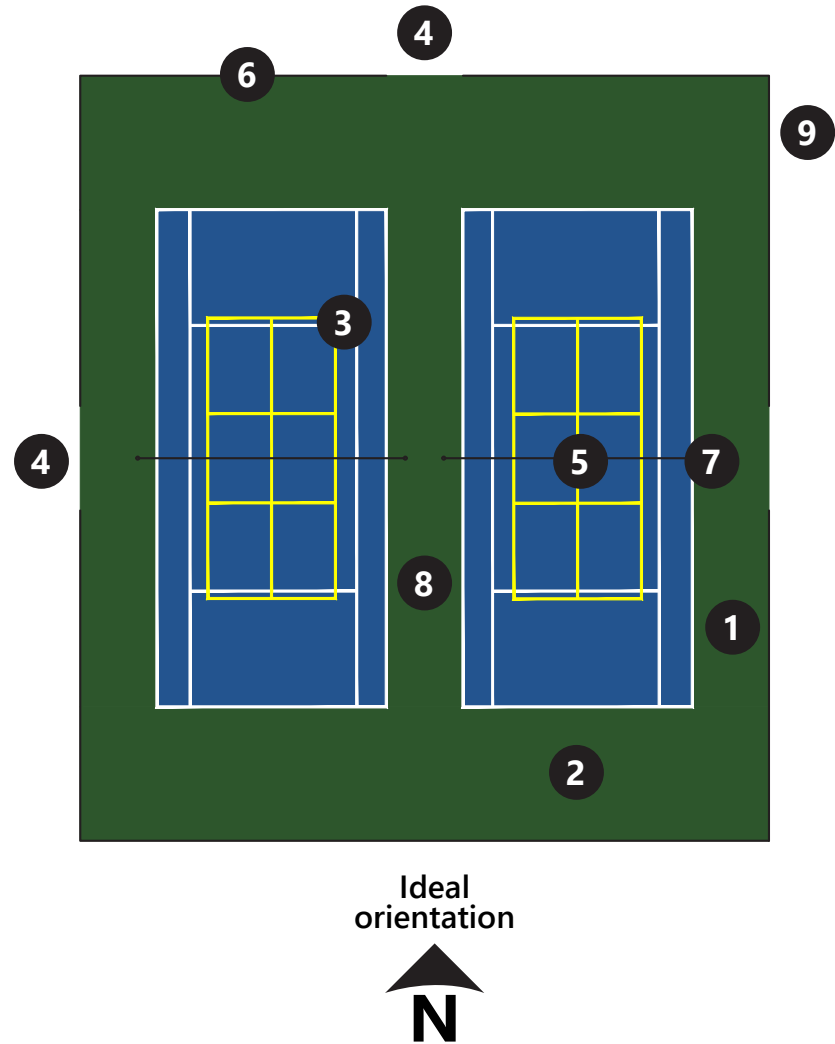
Follow lighting guidelines in Trails & Lighting to determine application of lights for a Community Court



Sport courts: tennis

Tennis courts provide the best opportunity for multi-use sport facilities. Lines can be doubled to include pickleball, cross court basketball lines and nets, and removable net posts to adapt to other uses such as road hockey, soccer or unplanned pavement games.

Multi-use sport court facilities should only be designed in Local or Community Courts. Destination level court will remain single sport to avoid conflicts between user groups, as all courts in Kitchener remain first come first serve.



Feature		Local	Community	Destination
1	Spacing - sides (feet)	12		
2	Spacing - ends (feet)	21		
3	Dimensions and line painting (feet)	Dimensions: 27 x 78 Painting: 2" white and 2" yellow (secondary)		
4	Entries	Open, no gates		
5	Net height	42" at post, 36" at middle		
6	Fencing height (feet)	8	8 to 10	10
6	Windscreens	No	No*	Yes
7	Posts	Removable	Removable	Removable
8	Surface treatment	Asphalt	Asphalt	Performance / Coloured
9	Lighting	No	Eligible#	Yes
N/A	Parking (per court)	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 4
N/A	Seating (per court)	1	1	2
N/A	Shade	Tree planting	Tree planting or structure	Tree planting and structure
	Appropriate park location by classification	Neighbourhood	Community City	City

* Windscreens may be used if high volume of pickleball play is anticipated

Follow lighting guidelines in Trails & Lighting to determine application of lights for a Community Court



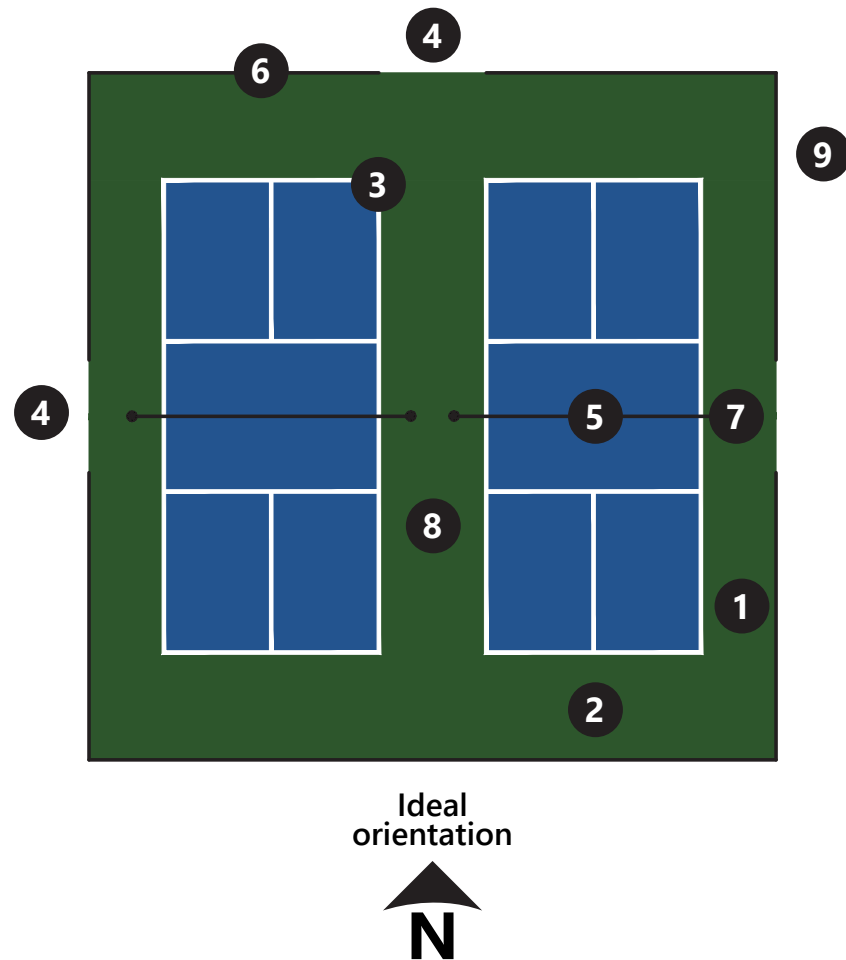
Sport courts: pickleball

Outdoor pickleball courts in public parks are relatively new in Kitchener, particularly compared to dedicated tennis and basketball facilities.

Kitchener's first dedicated, purpose-built pickleball courts were built and opened in 2023 at RBJ Schlegel Park. As the facility is used over time, the City will continue to improve the court space and its amenities to suit Kitchener's pickleball community.

Similar to tennis courts, removable netting is recommended to utilize the courts for multiple purposes during shoulder seasons (road hockey as an example), and potentially during seasons as needs may arise.

Due to the low inventory of dedicated pickleball courts, it is expected that the initial development of these court spaces will attract large numbers of users as the sport continues to grow. This will lend itself to the development of Community Courts or higher service level courts to consider any expansion scenario.



Feature		Local	Community	Destination
1	Spacing - sides (feet)	7 at end, 10 in between		
2	Spacing - ends (feet)	10		
3	Dimensions and line painting (feet)	Dimensions: 20 x 44 Painting: 2" white		
4	Entries	Open, no gates		
5	Net height	36" at post, 34" at middle		
6	Fencing height (feet)	8		
6	Windscreens	No	Yes	Yes
7	Posts	Permanent	Removable	Removable
8	Surface treatment	Asphalt	Asphalt	Performance / Coloured
9	Lighting	No	Eligible#	Yes
N/A	Parking (per court)	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 2	Zoning - 2 Recommended - 4
N/A	Seating (per court)	1	1	2
N/A	Shade	Tree planting	Tree planting or structure	Tree planting and structure
	Appropriate park location by classification	Neighbourhood	Community City	City

Follow lighting guidelines in Trails & Lighting to determine best practices and decision making for lighting a Community Court



Recommendations summary

09: Public use of outdoor sportsfields facility program

Support the development of a public drop-in program for outdoor bookable sport facilities within public park settings.

23: Comprehensive court strategy

Conduct a complete asset management review and demand analysis for all sport courts in parks to inform the strategic renovation, replacement, or addition of sport courts.

34: Strategic locations for sportsfield lighting

Continue or support future initiatives to install sportsfield lighting in parks that enable increased programming. Priority given to City Wide classified parks with available parking and meaningful separation from residences.

37: Artificial turf for sportsfields

Continue to invest in the conversion of eligible natural turf sportsfields to artificial turf, subject to future demand analysis.



Photo by Gone Flying

