



DUNSMUIR COMMUNITY PARK SPORT COURT BOOKING REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Dunsmuir Community Park (Electoral Area H) sport court booking procedure (Attachment 1) be approved to take effect March 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND

There have been significant upgrades over the course of 2021-2022 to Dunsmuir Community Park (326 Horne Lake Road) located in Electoral Area H, including the creation of a sport court. The sport court is suitable for pickleball, ball hockey, basketball, and other recreational activities. As updates to the park have been completed the demand for use of the sport court has increased, both by groups wishing to book the space for organized play and by individuals seeking to use it on a casual basis.

At the June 14, 2022, Regional District of Nanaimo Board meeting the following motion was adopted:

#22-332

That staff be directed to provide the Oceanside Services Committee a report outlining the options for booking policies and procedures specific to the sport court at Dunsmuir Community Park in Electoral Area H.

The booking of public fields and courts within the Oceanside area is managed by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Recreation and Parks in accordance with agency agreements with the Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, and School District 69. Attached is the recommended booking procedure specific to Dunsmuir Community Sport Court (Attachment 1). The attached procedure would supplement the established field/court booking procedure adhered to by Regional District of Nanaimo staff. The development of this procedure took into consideration established permitted use trends, feedback provided by community residents and park neighbours. Allocation procedures in place from other communities were also reviewed for best practice purposes. The balanced approach of the recommended procedure is intended to meet the needs of both casual users and groups looking to reserve the space.

The following are the key points of the recommended procedure.

Dunsmuir Community Park Sport Court Considerations:

- Reservations can be made for the following sports: pickleball (lines but no nets), tennis (the courts are not lined for tennis and there are no nets) basketball (4 hoops), road hockey (4 goal nets on site)
- No permits will be issued for use on Saturdays. Only drop in use allowed.
- The sport court is bookable from 9am-3pm Sunday-Friday.

- Sunday- Friday 3pm-7pm and all-day Saturday are to be blocked for drop in use.
- A maximum of four hours per day (Sunday-Friday) will be allocated for permitted uses.
- Individual permits will be limited to three hours per day.
- Pickleball permits will be limited to two courts. *The third court may be used by permitted group if drop in users are not waiting.*
- Tournaments and special use permits may be issued at the discretion of the RDN. Advance notice of such bookings will be posted on site.

An alternative approach to be considered is that no bookings be permitted and that the sport court at Dunsmuir Community Park only be used on a first come first serve basis. Signage encouraging the practice of allowing 30-minute use times when others are waiting could be posted.

The other option, in terms of booking procedure, is to continue to manage the sport court use as it has been to date, allowing for both reserved and drop in use with no established limit to the number or duration of permits allowed per day. The key challenge with the status quo approach has been when there are conflicting demands for use. Having no established procedure to refer to makes finding a balance between user groups hard to address in a consistent and fair manner. Having no set limit on the volume or duration of permits can also lead to issues when attempting to address the noise concerns raised by park neighbours.

Allowing for only permitted use of the sport court is not a practical option as there are no resources in place to monitor and enforce adherence.

Regardless of the approach chosen, signage outlining the expectations of use would be placed at the entrance of the sport court.

It is recommended that the approach that is selected take effect March 31, 2023, to align with the existing field and court booking request intake cycle.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that existing staff and scheduling software resources will be able to manage the expected volume of bookings for the court. However, both staffing levels and scheduling resources will need to be maintained to fulfill the staff recommendation and may need to be increased should the volume of bookings increase. These costs are currently allocated to the operational budget of Northern Recreation Services function.

The only measurable cost implication of the recommended approach would be associated with the design, and installation of signage. These costs would be attributed to the Area H Community Parks budget and are estimated to be \$500.00.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Social Wellbeing - Make the Region a safe and vibrant place for all, with a focus on children and families in programs and planning.

ATTACHMENT

1. Dunsmuir Community Park Sport Court Booking Procedure

REVIEWED BY:

Mark Dobbs, Superintendent of Parks Operations & Capital Projects

Dean Banman, Manager Recreation Services

Tom Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks

Douglas Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer