

13.5 Koolbardi Park - Future of Multi-Use Courts

Location	Carlisle
Reporting officer	Coordinator Project Support
Responsible officer	Strategic Projects Manager
Voting requirement	Simple majority
Attachments	1. West Coast Sporting Surfaces - Recreational Areas [13.5.1 - 3 pages] 2. Volleyball WA [13.5.2 - 10 pages]

Recommendation

That Council notes the recommended options for the multi-use courts at Koolbardi Park and for further investigations into a final preferred multi-use at Koolbardi Park.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of investigations undertaken into the feasibility of using the multi-use courts at Koolbardi Park for other sports and to seek direction on the future use of the courts.

In brief

- At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18 October 2022, the Council resolved:
That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - remove the remaining basketball infrastructure from the Koolbardi Park basketball court area due to the existing infrastructure being unable to be modified to bring it within acceptable noise levels set by the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.*
 - investigate alternate locations to locate a similar multi court facility with consideration to offering basketball, netball hoops and any other court-based sports that can be accommodated on the facility, with a report, detailing locations, and costings, to be presented back to Council by April 2023.*
 - investigate the feasibility of using the multi-use courts for other sports such as volleyball or netball in addition to the existing tennis courts and report back to Council by December 2022 on the possible future uses for these courts.*

Background

- This report only covers the request by Council to undertake investigations into the feasibility of using the multi-use courts for other sports such as volleyball / netball in addition to the existing tennis courts. The remaining items will be reported on to the April 2023 Council Meeting.
- Advice was sought from multiple sporting bodies and Consultants on options available for the multi-use courts at Koolbardi Park in line with the requirements of the October 2022 Council resolution and the advice is outlined in the analysis.
- The issue of noise is becoming a major concern across local governments and before we implement any of the potential multi-uses at Koolbardi Park, the Town will need to undertake appropriate noise investigations to ensure we adhere to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.

Strategic alignment

Environment	
Community priority	Intended public value outcome or impact

EN4 - Increasing and improving public open spaces.	To improve the function and nature of Koolbardi Park multi-use recreational facilities
EN5 - Providing facilities that are well-built and well-maintained.	The review of the multi-use courts will provide the community with additional sporting options which promotes a healthy lifestyle

Engagement

Internal engagement

Stakeholder	
Leisurelife Sports and Programs Coordinator	Advice on multi-use courts; Pickleball and bookings software
Place Planning	Alignment with the implementation of the Public Open Space Strategy through the Public Places Program. Workshopping of other sports that could potentially be collocated.
Infrastructure Operations	Parks information. Workshopping of other sports that could potentially be collocated.
Environmental Health Services	Provide advice on noise modeling and potential impact to nearby noise sensitive premises of various usages

Other engagement

Stakeholder	
Tennis West	Advice on Tennis and Netball sharing facilities
Volleyball WA	Advice on Tennis and Volleyball sharing facilities
Pickleball WA	Advice on Tennis and Pickleball sharing facilities
West Coast Synthetic Surfaces	Advice on multi-use court recreational space
Netball WA	Advice on Tennis and Netball sharing facilities
Herring Storer Acoustics	Verbal advice on noise

Legal compliance

Not applicable.

Risk management consideration

Risk impact category	Risk event description	Consequence rating	Likelihood rating	Overall risk level score	Council's risk appetite	Risk treatment option and rationale for actions
Financial	Implementing a change to the multi-use courts will incur unbudgeted expenses.	Moderate	Likely	High	Low	TREAT risk by allocating funds for changes.
Environmental	Complaints are ongoing due to the noise created by the multi-use sporting activity.	Minor	Likely	Medium	Medium	TREAT by determining best use and minimising noise generating activity.
Health and safety	Park users can continue to use the facilities to the betterment of their health.	Minor	Likely	Medium	Low	TREAT by promoting the benefits of the facility.
Infrastructure/ ICT systems/ utilities	Equipment required for new multi-use purpose.	Minor	Likely	Medium	Medium	TREAT by allocating funding to provide appropriate equipment.
Legislative compliance	Breach of noise regulations is raised again by the public.	Moderate	Possible	Medium	Low	TREAT Achieve the noise regulations to meet the Legislative compliance.
Reputation	Negative media.	Major	Likely	High	Low	TREAT by making an informed decision on best use of multi-use area and undertaking ongoing communications strategy.
Service delivery	Not applicable.				Medium	

Financial implications

Current budget impact	Unknown at this time until a multi-use sport is determined. Any change to use will incur expenses.
Future budget impact	Unknown at this time until a multi-use sport is determined. Any change to use will incur expenses.

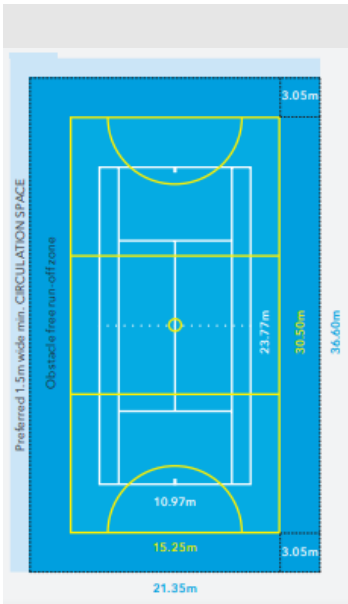
Analysis

Option 1 - Netball

- 4. Advice has been sought from Tennis West on the multi-use courts and other sports that are compatible with tennis. Multi-use venues are a practical solution to support a range of sports and make effective use of available community infrastructure. Tennis has several compatible sports in which multi-use line marking can be implemented, including netball and hockey. The type of tennis court surface will ultimately determine the suitability for other sport line marking.
- 5. Where multi-purpose courts are designed, consideration needs to be given to line marking and court furniture fittings, such as net posts and lights. If converting existing courts to multi-purpose line markings, blended lines should be consistent with existing surface colour to minimise the impact on existing activity whilst activating new sports and activities within the facility. Site specific elements will determine if a site is appropriate for multi-sport and multi-use line marking and should meet the playing area standards of each relevant sport or sporting activity.
- 6. Technical specifications are shown in the table below. The most common alignment of multi-line court marking is tennis and netball due to their similar sized playing areas and hard-court surface preferences.

Multi-use sport comparison

Tennis Court Dimensions	Netball Court Dimensions	Hockey Court Dimensions
Length: 23.77m Width: 10.97m (doubles) Width: 10.97m (singles) Surface: Acrylic/asphalt /synthetic grass Run off zone dimensions Sideline: 3.05m Baseline: 5.48m Between courts: 3.66m Lighting levels Recreation: 250 lux Competition: 350 lux	Length: 30.5m Width: 15.25m Surface: Acrylic/asphalt Run off zone dimensions Sideline: 3.05m Baseline: 3.05m Between courts: 3.65m Lighting levels Recreation: 100 lux Competition: 200 lux	Length: 91.4m Width: 55m Surface: Synthetic grass Run off zone dimensions Sideline: 3m Baseline: 2m Between pitches: 6m Lighting levels Recreation: 250 lux Competition: 500 lux



- 7. Advice was sought from Netball WA on any noise modelling and advice was that nothing has been undertaken.
- 8. Herring Storer has advised they do not have any sound data on netball either but provided the following comments:
- 9. No backboard, so any 'clanging;' would likely be less:

- (a) There is no need by the sport to continuously bounce the ball – so the bouncing of the ball would be less often
 - (b) The netball is slightly softer than a basketball also – so both above points would likely result in a lower noise level also.
- *Herring Storer makes an educated assumption that the noise impact would be less than basketball.
10. Netball WA advises that they do not recommend installing any hoop in this space. The space is not supervised, and sports balls of all kinds come in different shapes and sizes, so any goal/hoop installed creates an opportunity for play (e.g., basketball using the netball hoop) that could continue the disturbance to residents. Town Officers agree with this.
 11. The existing courts could accommodate netball with the installation of the appropriate line marking to differentiate netball from tennis. This is a common practice with multi-use courts in other local government areas.
 12. Although netball does not "bounce" the ball like basketball, the game essentially has two types of passes. Air Passes, where the pass travels between players without hitting the floor, and bounce passes, where the pass is thrown to the floor so that it bounces to the intended receiver. Although not to the same extent as basketball, the bounce may create the same noise issues the Town faced with basketball.
 13. The game of netball also has the umpires using a whistle to control the game, so short sharp bursts of the whistle during a game may become an annoyance to residents.
 14. The posts for netball are situated in the centre of the back line, which would cause a safety issue when tennis is played. The poles should also be padded to protect players. To attach netball posts to the ground, the most common and widely used method for outdoor goal posts is the sleeve system, allowing the posts to be inserted into sleeves that are then concreted into the ground so that the post can simply be pulled out whenever another sport is to be played. As an added safety feature, caps can be placed over the holes. The removal of the posts will also require a suitable storage area so that they are not left on the court or removed from the site.
 15. The netball courts could be line marked to face northwest to the southeast, which would then remove the issues with the goalposts. However, there would be very little room between the two courts during play.
 16. If netball was to be implemented, a booking and potentially locking system would need to be set up to ensure court usage is supervised and conflict does not happen.
 17. It is not considered favourable that tennis and netball share the courts at Koolbardi Park.

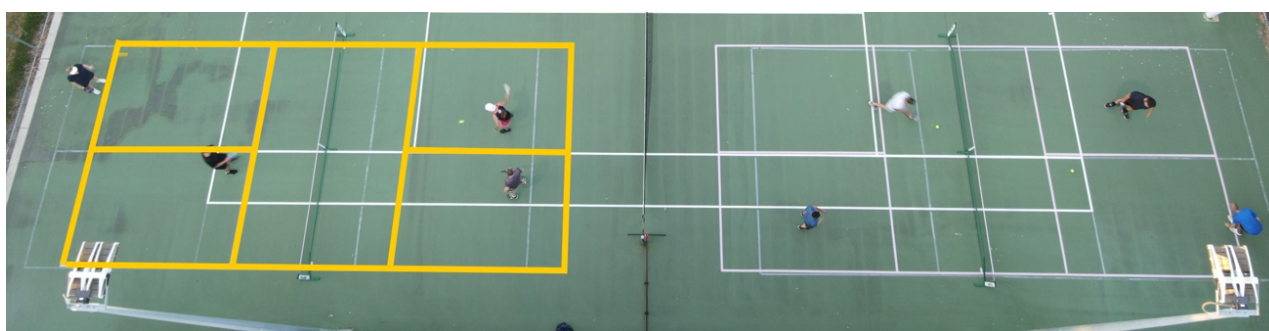
Option 2 - Volleyball

18. Officers met with a representative from Volleyball WA who expressed an interest in holding volleyball for Juniors 6-12 years of age and potentially wheelchair and seated volleyball.
19. Kids Volley is a program aimed at primary school children from 6 to 12 years old to teach them the fundamentals of volleyball by participating in fun and energetic activities. Kids Volley increases coordination and social skills and is a non-contact gender-equal sport. Volleyball WA could trial a weekly 1hr program to engage with local primary schools.
20. Volleyball WA and its affiliates are making volleyball accessible to all by running programs for Seniors, people with intellectual disabilities, autism, and people with physical disabilities. Chair volley for seniors will also work well on the court surface.
21. Volleyball WA advises that their proposal is a long-term program and would involve some investment by the Town in permanent poles and nets.
22. Volleyball WA would like to propose that a partnership could start with:

- (c) A come and try day and sign up for a 4-week program to start with. Saturday mornings may be the best time to avoid the warmer temperatures.
 - (d) Build a relationship with primary schools around the area to encourage participation in after school programs throughout all four terms.
 - (e) All other programs could be added as court space, community and club interest is identified throughout 2023.
23. There will be a requirement to provide new line markings and implement a booking system through their VolleyMates app, which will allow users access to balls and ball pump on site and leave the equipment onsite using a locked box system for the next user.
24. It is considered that volleyball is a potential multi-use sport at Koolbardi Park.

Option 3 – Pickleball

25. Pickleball is a paddle sport that originated in the USA. The game is a mix between badminton and tennis and is played on a badminton sized court (6.09 m x 13.41 m) with a ball similar to a wiffle ball (variant of a baseball played with a plastic perforated ball). A tennis-like net is required and is hung 91.5cm on the ends and 86.4cm at the centre. The game can be played as singles (two) players or doubles (four) players.
26. Pickleball West advises that generally eight pickleball courts can be painted in the space of two tennis courts. The tennis nets remain up as they act as a fence to stop balls from rolling from one pickleball court to another. It is quite easy to transform the space since no structural changes are required. The dimensions of a pickleball court are 13.41m x 6.10m. The image below shows the Pickleball court lines in yellow.



27. The equipment required for eight courts would be:
- (f) 8 portable nets
 - (g) 32 paddles
 - (h) 16 balls (for now – these do break with use)
28. Pickleball can supply this equipment, and as a guide, the Town would be looking at a total cost of \$3,000 for the cheapest version of each item of equipment.
29. Pickleball runs organised social sessions, where players pay to play on a casual basis, and they have a paid coach who runs the sessions by organising matchups and teaching new players how to play. This has been the most effective way to encourage participation while the sport is quite new, since players need someone to teach them how to play, and attendees need to be organised on courts.
30. Pickleball West has offered to introduce social sessions or competitions and have their coach run the first session (or multiple sessions) for the Town to then teach all new players and our sports staff how to play at the cost of \$200 per session.
31. Leisurelife intends to launch a social program at the centre, and bookings for Pickleball would need to be managed through the Town's Community Development Officer (Clubs, Events & Bookings),

although further discussions would need to be held to determine the implementation of this sport (i.e., bookings, training, equipment, storage).

32. Pickleball is a fast-growing sport and could be a popular replacement sport for young adults that were playing basketball. This option is considered suitable for the multi-use courts, subject to further discussions with the Community Development Officer (Clubs, Events & Bookings) over its operation.

Option 4 - Outdoor Badminton

33. Badminton can be played both indoors and outdoors. Playing indoors is recommended, but playing outdoors is enjoyed by many. Those who are playing just for fun don't mind the various obstructions the outdoors pose.
34. To play badminton on a tennis court, it will require the removal of the tennis net and replacement with a portable badminton net. Additional court lines will need to be painted. A system will need to be implemented to changeover nets and store them in a secure manner. The shuttlecock used is a light projectile, so playing outside with any wind will become impossible. Any weather but a dry, slightly overcast day will also be a problem for the shuttle's visibility if it's too bright and for ruined shuttles and slippery courts if it's raining.
35. For most badminton games, the shuttlecock is above head height, meaning most of the time, the players are looking up constantly. If it is a sunny day, or the sun is low in the sky, then players could find themselves blinded constantly by the sun.
36. The current outdoor location of Koolbardi courts is not conducive to playing badminton, and therefore this multi-use cannot be achieved.

Option 5 - Recreational Space

37. In keeping the existing two tennis courts, the Town could use one court as a recreational space for children in the community to congregate and spend time, whether to hang out with their friends, play a quick game or watch others.
38. There are several 'games' that can be painted onto the court surface, including a running track, bean bag tossing, artwork, four square, math games, alphabet snake, hopscotch, checkers and jumping lines. Attached is a brochure outlining these activities.
39. The existing tennis court lines can be retained so that the two courts will be fully functional and available for players.
40. This option would be an extension of the other recreational facilities provided in the park for the children to use and is a recommended multi-use for the court area.



Option 6 – Hockey

41. Hockey is the world's third most popular team sport and there are now over 30 million people playing hockey. Fast, technically skillful, and requiring good levels of personal fitness, the sport is renowned for its social inclusiveness, gender equality, and ability to attract players of all ages.
42. The International Hockey Federation has developed standards to allow hockey to share facilities for community and school venues. The Federation has developed a GEN 2 concept based on sand dressed synthetic turfs and textile sports surfaces, with stiffer shock pads, hockey friendly multi-sport surfaces. As a GEN 2 surface has a firmer shock pad it allows a tennis ball to bounce to a height, that means a hockey field or HOCKEY5s court can also be used for school-level and community use.
43. The current surface of the Koolbardi courts is not conducive to playing hockey and therefore this multi-use cannot be achieved.

Option 7 - Single Use Tennis Courts

44. The Town has the option to remove the multi-use purpose of the courts and allocate the space to tennis court use only.
45. Additional Information
46. Dependent on the preferred multi-use court options, Council will also need to consider implementing a booking system so that court usage is controlled. The Town currently uses an online system for some specific courts at our facilities. However, further investigations will need to be undertaken as to its suitability for Koolbardi Park.
47. If a booking system is implemented, this will also require an amendment to the scheduled Town's Annual Fees & Charges for hire and booking fees.
48. At this stage, no costings for any options have been undertaken. There are no funds within the 2022/23 budget to implement any changes to the courts.
49. The table below summarises the options available for the multi-use court area.

Sport	Recommendation
Option 1 - Netball	Not recommended
Option 2 - Volleyball	Potential for 6–12-year-olds, wheelchair and seated volleyball to work with Tennis – Favourable option
Option 3 - Pickleball	Potential – Starting up at Leisurelife and could be managed at Koolbardi Park – Favourable
Option 4 - Badminton	Not recommended
Option 5 - Recreational Space	Potential – Favourable
Option 6 - Hockey	Not recommended
Option 7 - Tennis	Remove multi-use and retain as tennis courts only

50. Further investigations are required to be undertaken on favourable Options 2, 3, 5 and 7.

Relevant documents