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**TAMRMS#:** B05

## **INFORMATION REQUEST (IR) - Future Plans for Tennis Courts**

Requested by: Councillor Biermanski

Date of Request: May 5, 2026

Date Response Due: June 5, 2026

Confidential Response: No

### **QUESTION**

Please confirm if there are plans or future plans to convert any neighborhood tennis courts into Pickleball courts and if further consideration has been given to convert tennis space into additional Pickleball courts at Larose Park.

### **RESPONSE**

St. Albert is a growing community. Changes in demographics, community needs, and land allocation mean that the City must think, plan, and act strategically in managing its parks and open spaces to address the issues of today with a vision for tomorrow.

In 2022, Recreation & Parks completed a Recreation Amenity Needs Assessment. The assessment included 39 recreation amenity types, ranking them as High, Medium/High, Medium, and Low need (pickleball was ranked Medium/High). This work was instrumental in the planning for the Community Amenities Site. It was also a foundational piece for current work focused on developing a comprehensive set of strategies for managing/planning our parks and open spaces and the provision of recreational spaces within them.

Phase 1 and 2 of the work (2026) focuses on mapping our current system, affirming community values, and exploring how residents prioritize these values. Phase 3 (Q4 2026 through 2027) focuses on building strategies that will guide park and open space management as the city grows toward 100,000 residents.

Phase 3 incorporates an outdoor sport strategy which includes a section on outdoor sport courts (e.g., tennis, pickleball, basketball). This work will address opportunities for developing and redeveloping outdoor sport courts to meet a variety of community needs, including those of pickleball, and will identify site-specific opportunities such as the outdoor courts at Larose Park.

Whether it is outdoor courts, sports fields, or ball diamonds, our municipal strategies consider both public and private opportunities in the region. In Administrations experience (public feedback, and current usage patterns), residents who are interested in competitive opportunities often appear more prepared to travel farther to access amenities, and many seem open to pay more when they perceive those amenities to be of higher quality. To this end, we anticipate that the current operation of indoor pickleball in the region alongside the opening of The Centre, North (September 2026) will address

some of the local demand for pickleball courts and may create an opportunity for municipal investments to focus more on recreational service provision.

As the planning work proceeds, Administration is committed to maintaining current service levels. Any changes to outdoor courts or other amenity inventories would be proposed in consideration of all information gathered during the planning. Investments under the parks plan would start to be included in capital budget deliberations and the 10 Year Capital Plan as early as 2028.

Report Date: June 5, 2026

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