



TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL SERVICES AND FACILITIES STRATEGY 2017 – 2037



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Introduction

The City is facing a rapidly growing, increasingly diverse and demographically changing population. Coquitlam's growth and transformation requires a focus on planning to meet the needs of an ever-changing population, and the resulting demand on its current and future infrastructure, programs and services.

The outcome, recommendations, and action items identified in the *Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy* will support Parks, Recreation and Culture Services in responding to several key strategic directions in the *Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan* including:

- Enhancing service delivery through partnerships;
- Developing a funding plan for infrastructure sustainability and renewal;
- Recognizing the evolving role of community recreation; and
- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

The City of Coquitlam currently maintains an inventory of 34 outdoor tennis courts, two outdoor half-tennis courts, a covered tennis facility consisting of five courts, three outdoor pickleball courts, and a variety of indoor drop-in pickleball opportunities. Through the continued delivery of services and facilities, equaling or exceeding what neighbouring communities offer, the City of Coquitlam provides outdoor and covered tennis and pickleball amenities that create destinations and that provides accessible recreation opportunities in neighbourhoods. The distribution and availability of courts invites participation at low or no cost, and makes for a healthier community.



RATIONALE

The *PRC Master Plan* rated the “Racquet Sports” service area as currently providing a “Basic” level of service. The plan identified a number of issues that resulted in a recommendation to complete a tennis and racquet sports strategy in 2016. After careful consideration, the focus of this strategy was targeted to only the sports of tennis and pickleball due to their potential to share the same outdoor amenities.



BACKGROUND

In 2012 the City conducted the *2012 Tennis Feasibility Study* which demonstrated continued growth in tennis participation and identified a number of options for future tennis court development. This *2017 – 2037 Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy* builds on the information in the *2012 Tennis Feasibility Study* along with the current context and findings, and includes the consideration of pickleball as an emerging racquet sport.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *2017 – 2037 Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy* is to plan for tennis and pickleball services in light of a rapidly changing size and face of the community. The outcome of this strategy will assist the City in responding to the current and future needs for tennis and pickleball services, which is demonstrated through a defined understanding of demand utilizing locally, provincially and nationally recognized standards.



PROCESS

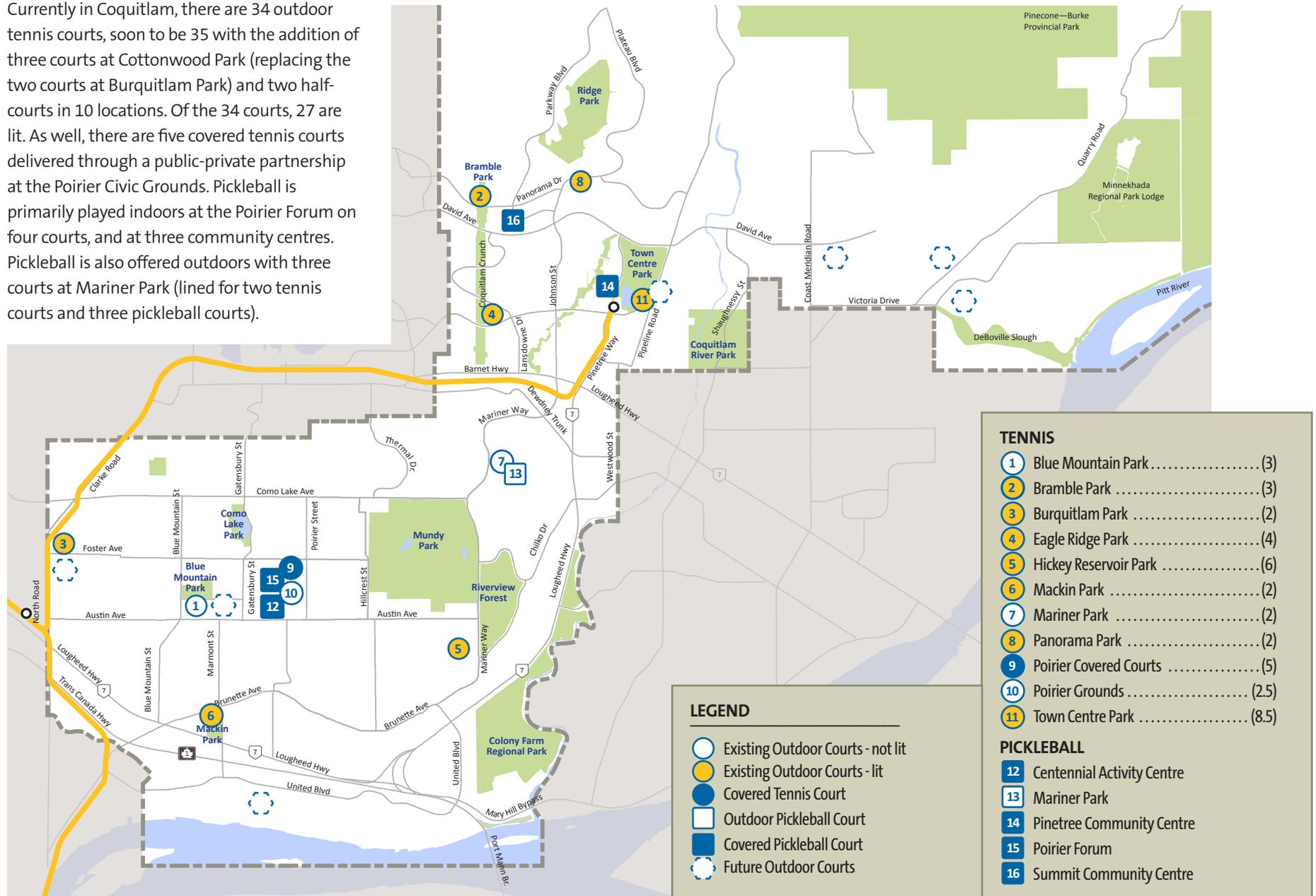
The development of the *2017 – 2037 Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy* included a review and analysis of:

- The City’s current service delivery model for covered tennis facility services;
- Current participation, distribution and capacity of tennis and pickleball programs and facilities in Coquitlam;
- Overall trends, participation and demand in tennis and pickleball;
- Service standards for tennis and pickleball in comparison with other municipalities in the Lower Mainland; and
- Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration based on best practice and other municipal examples.

This analysis informed the development of a long-term strategy that includes recommendations to guide the delivery of tennis and pickleball services and facilities spanning the next 20 years.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE INVENTORY AND DISTRIBUTION

Currently in Coquitlam, there are 34 outdoor tennis courts, soon to be 35 with the addition of three courts at Cottonwood Park (replacing the two courts at Burquitlam Park) and two half-courts in 10 locations. Of the 34 courts, 27 are lit. As well, there are five covered tennis courts delivered through a public-private partnership at the Poirier Civic Grounds. Pickleball is primarily played indoors at the Poirier Forum on four courts, and at three community centres. Pickleball is also offered outdoors with three courts at Mariner Park (lined for two tennis courts and three pickleball courts).





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *2017 – 2037 Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy* provides a vision and sets the strategic direction for the delivery of services and facilities for these sports over the next twenty years. The goals of this strategy are to set priorities for sustaining existing courts and facilities, as well as to provide for future needs as the community grows, as the sports evolve, and within the context of the *Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan*.

CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

The consultation process included discussions with representatives from the Coquitlam Tennis Club, the City's covered tennis provider, Tennis BC, North East Tennis Society, Dogwood and Glen Pine Pavilion's Tennis Club, Pickleball BC, and the Dogwood Pickleball Club. It also included a variety of inputs from City staff and an online survey to gather input from the general public. These conversations with stakeholders focused on a review of current issues and challenges, as well as consideration of potential opportunities and threats that may be on the horizon affecting the delivery of tennis and pickleball services. Taking trends and best practices from a scan of international, national, provincial and local sources into consideration, the focus of the strategy development was on planning for future needs. The results of the consultation and research can be found under a separate cover in the *Key Findings Report* prepared by David Hewko Planning and Program Management.

PARTICIPATION AND DEMAND

Tennis

Casual and recreational players tend to use neighbourhood park locations. While the exact number of casual players cannot be precisely estimated (no comprehensive user counts exist), Tennis Canada suggests one in four Canadians will play tennis at least three times per year; extrapolated to Coquitlam, this would mean 35,000 participants would generate about 37,500 hours demand per year (blended singles and doubles). This suggests a demand equivalent to all existing 34 outdoor courts being utilized for five hours per day, every day for roughly eight months of the year.

This calculation of demand shows the equivalent of using only about 40% of available capacity during the extended summer months, again meaning there is significant existing capacity to absorb additional new demand. In addition, about 400-450 youth

participate in the City of Coquitlam's Learn to Play Tennis programs generating a further one hour per week per court demand over the playable season.

Pickleball

Pickleball at this time remains very much a new and growing sport but has potential to grow more significantly if more court time is made available (which needs to consider both physical space and schedule). Currently organized recreational and league play is offered through the Dogwood Pavilion at the adjacent Poirier Forum and the morning timeslot is filled to capacity. Centennial Activity Centre and Pinetree Community Centre also offer a popular drop-in pickleball time in their gymnasiums. If demand continues to increase, more days and different times should be added. Currently there is limited use of the City's three outdoor pickleball courts due to lack of interest, weather considerations, location and configuration issues.

A major consideration influencing actions and investments in tennis courts and pickleball venues should be the prospect of a demographic drop-off starting in about 15 years. The Coquitlam Tennis Club core membership is almost entirely made up of adults over the age of 50, with a median age of about 55. New Canadians bring an interest in playing tennis but few are part of organized tennis and are unlikely to fill the void that attrition will bring. Tennis BC and Tennis Canada are both working to increase participation in the sport through the development of a variety of initiatives, however it is unknown whether those initiatives will suffice to make up the participation loss from an aging regular player base. Therefore, careful monitoring of participation trends will be important. The City should plan for new and upgraded facilities to be adapted to other uses in the future, where deemed appropriate.

CURRENT INVENTORY

The existing inventory of tennis courts is strategically well distributed throughout the community and the only need for additional courts will be in the new residential development areas in the northeast or modest additions in redeveloped and densified neighbourhoods. Currently, the City operates 34 (soon to be 35) outdoor courts, meeting Tennis Canada's recommended number of .25 courts per 1,000 residents, based on the City's current population of 140,000.

STRATEGIC THEMES

This strategy aims to support the City in delivering sustainable tennis and pickleball services and facilities to meet the needs of a growing and changing community while ensuring the City's limited resources are directed towards projects that have the greatest impact for the community.

The City will accomplish this purpose through the regular maintenance of existing courts, while planning for additional courts as required in developing neighbourhoods, as well as in neighbourhoods that are experiencing re-development and increased density.

The following strategic themes were identified through the development of this Strategy:

- Ensuring the sustainability of existing courts
- Optimizing the utilization of existing courts
- Maintaining an even distribution of courts throughout the community
- Planning for community growth and development
- Delivering indoor tennis services and programming through partnerships

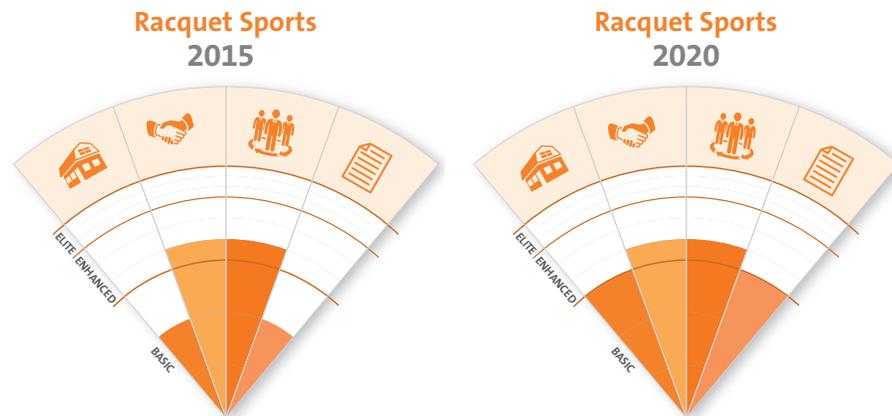


Figure 1: Service assessment of racquet sports from the *Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan*



GOALS AND ACTIONS

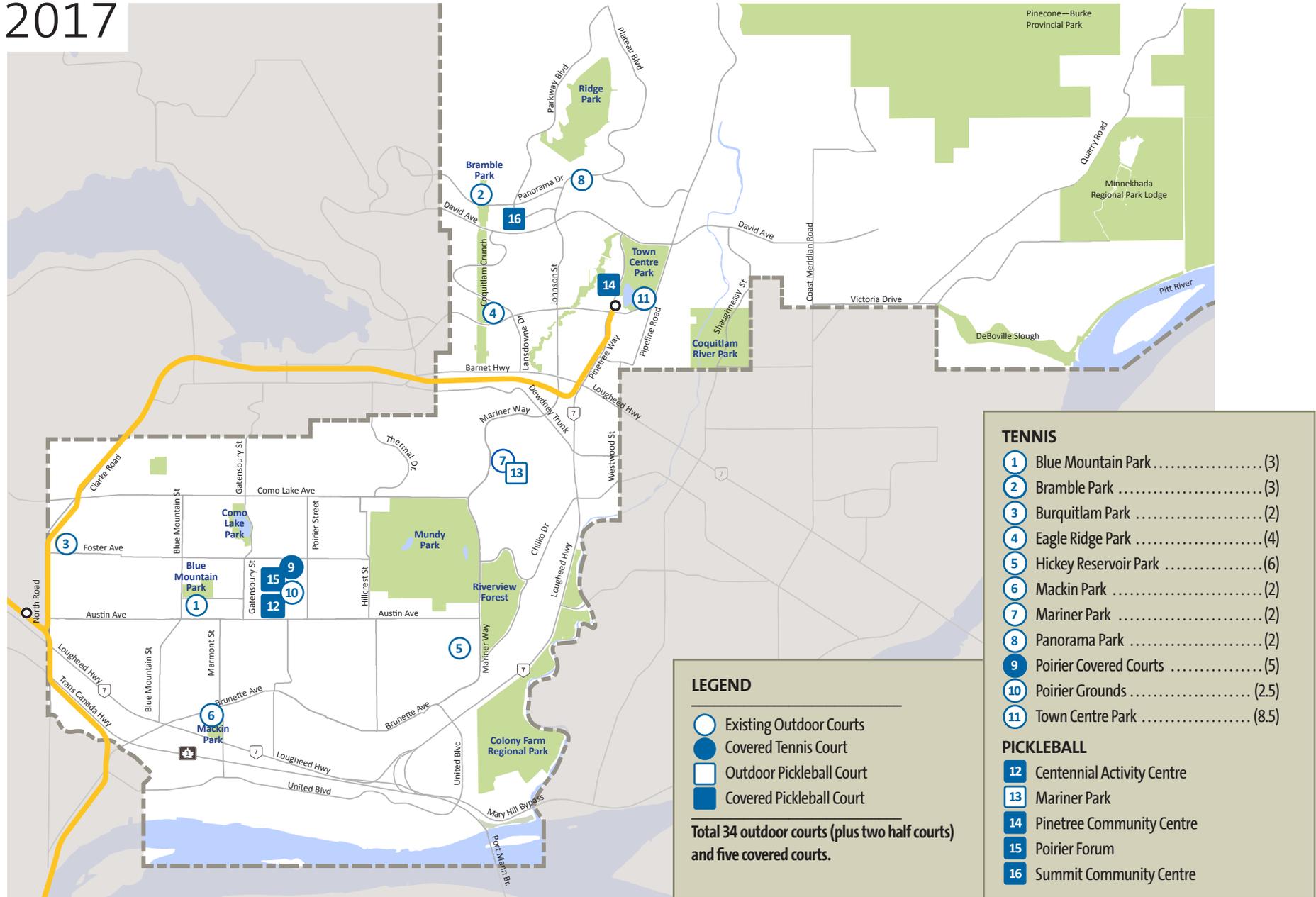
The following goals and actions provide a framework for the delivery of tennis and pickleball services in the next 20 years:

- Continue to plan for the ongoing repair and replacement of outdoor courts as required.
- Over the next 20 years, provide up to 17 additional courts in areas of new development or increased density.
- Explore the potential for making courts multi-sport to increase and or maintain optimal use of assets.
- Maintain an even distribution of paired courts within 1-2 km walking distance of residents, as well as to provide clusters of courts in the Southwest, City Centre, and Northeast neighbourhood areas.
- Add servicing and infrastructure such as washrooms, water fountains, benches and lights to existing courts as deemed appropriate and as resources permit.
- Ensure programming and public play opportunities are available to the community through partnerships, community clubs, and at accessible times at local community facilities.
- Plan for pickleball courts and programming in new indoor and outdoor facilities as demand requires and capacity permits.
- Explore opportunities should they be presented, for the development and delivery of additional covered tennis facilities to residents in partnership with private operators.

Other actions in this strategy will also support the noted strategic themes, such as strengthening the City's relationship with the community's various tennis and pickleball clubs, and increasing participation through delivery of learn-to-play tennis and pickleball programming to the community.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE INVENTORY AND DISTRIBUTION

2017



TENNIS	
1	Blue Mountain Park (3)
2	Bramble Park (3)
3	Burquitlam Park (2)
4	Eagle Ridge Park (4)
5	Hickey Reservoir Park (6)
6	Mackin Park (2)
7	Mariner Park (2)
8	Panorama Park (2)
9	Poirier Covered Courts (5)
10	Poirier Grounds (2.5)
11	Town Centre Park (8.5)
PICKLEBALL	
12	Centennial Activity Centre
13	Mariner Park
14	Pinetree Community Centre
15	Poirier Forum
16	Summit Community Centre

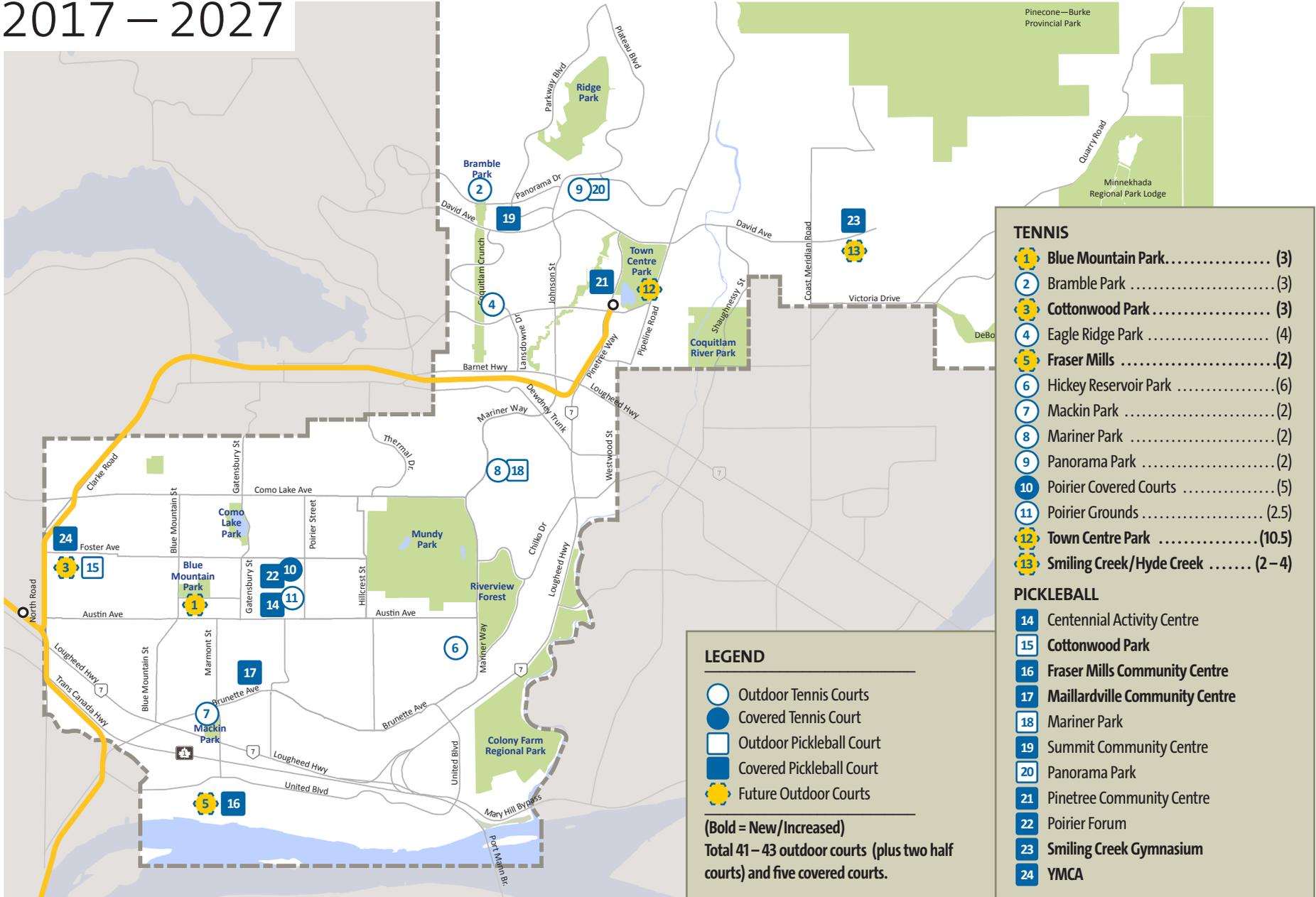
LEGEND

- Existing Outdoor Courts
- Covered Tennis Court
- Outdoor Pickleball Court
- Covered Pickleball Court

Total 34 outdoor courts (plus two half courts) and five covered courts.

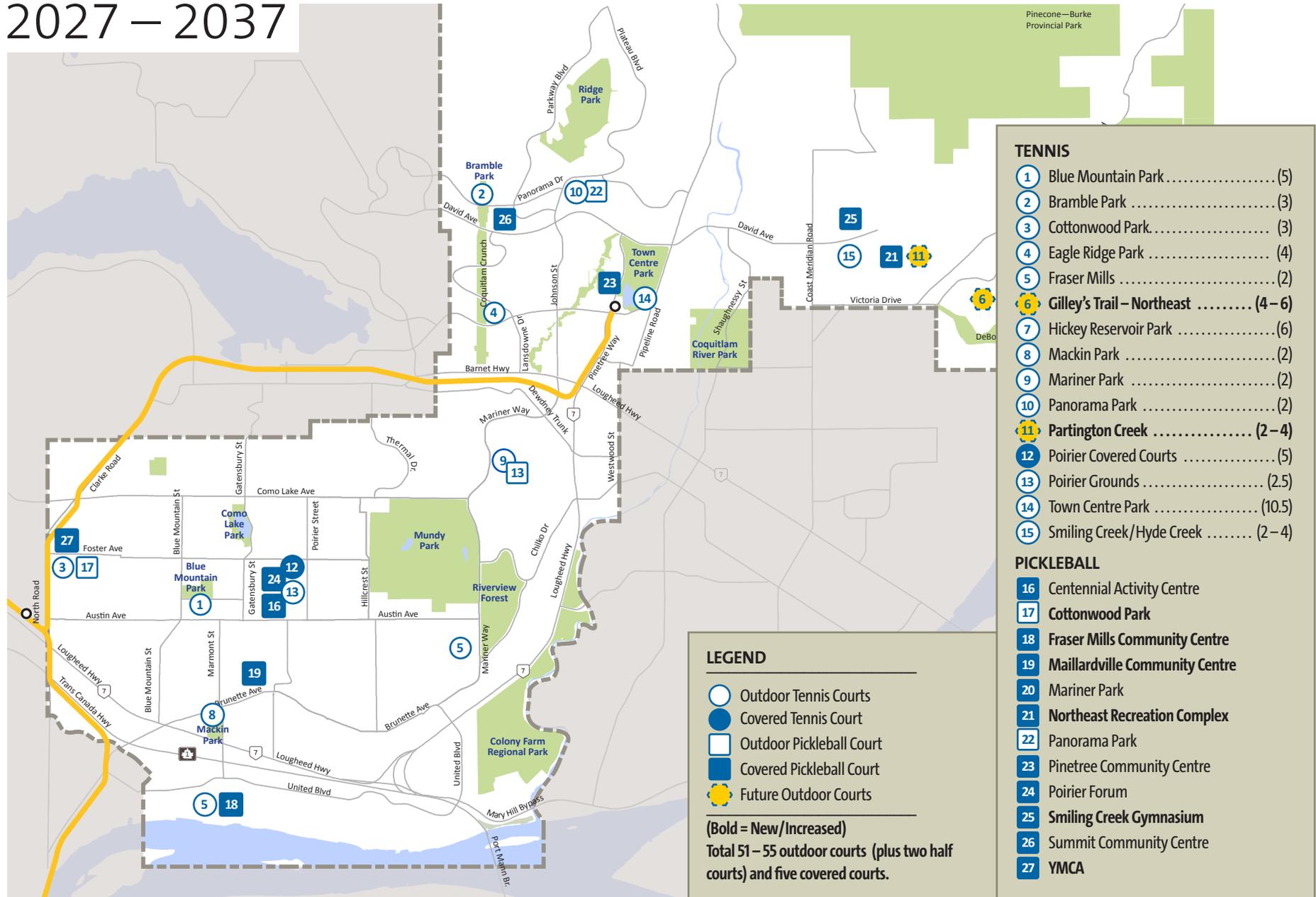
CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE INVENTORY AND DISTRIBUTION

2017 – 2027



CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE INVENTORY AND DISTRIBUTION

2027 – 2037



TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL SERVICES AND FACILITIES STRATEGY 2017 - 2037

VISION - To provide tennis and pickleball services and facilities that will serve the community today and into the future.

MISSION - To maintain the current distribution and ratio of courts available to the community while planning for community growth, and to upkeep and update infrastructure as needed to ensure a suitable mix of opportunities to meet the needs of the entire community.

PRINCIPLES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Pairs of neighbourhood courts for ease of community access. → Larger clusters of courts in select neighbourhood areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Courts will primarily serve first-come, first served users; with secondary use for league play and lessons. → Provide innovative services and facilities to promote the inclusivity of all people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → All Coquitlam residents will have ease of access to a very well distributed inventory of courts. → Courts developed in parks with other and related support amenities as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Provide no-charge access to outdoor courts on a first-come, first-served basis. → Core mandate is casual-use, publicly accessible facilities and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Commitment to upholding a balanced representation of gender in sport.
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STRATEGIC THEMES

Ensuring the sustainability of existing courts	Optimizing the utilization of existing courts	Maintaining an even distribution of courts throughout the community	Planning for community growth and development	Delivering covered tennis services and programming through partnerships
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GOALS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Manage, maintain and re-invest in courts to ensure recreational playability and resident enjoyment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Monitor trends of participation in tennis and pickleball as well as the usage of existing courts. → Consider deploying outdoor pickleball and multi-use markings. → Identify methods to encourage and increase participation. → Improve site accessibility for people of all abilities with court development or re-development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Distribute courts throughout the community within a 1 – 2 km walking distance of residents. → Ensure the addition of pickleball court lines in new indoor facilities. → Provide at least two clusters of 4 – 6 courts in the City Centre, Southwest, and Northeast neighbourhood areas for organized, club and tournament play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Maintain approximately .25 outdoor courts per 1,000 residents, roughly distributed with population growth in developing and re-developing neighbourhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continue to offer covered tennis in partnership with private operators, with an emphasis on public access. → Offer a mixture of introductory programming in partnership with local clubs and businesses. → Support league and competitive tennis and pickleball play in partnership with local clubs and private operators.
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TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL SERVICES AND FACILITIES STRATEGY 2017 - 2037

Ensuring the sustainability of existing courts	Optimizing the utilization of existing courts	Maintaining an even distribution of courts throughout the community	Planning for community growth and development	Delivering programming and covered tennis services through partnerships
ACTIONS				
<p>Short Term 2017 - 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Re-pave Eagle Ridge and Poirier Courts. → Renew surface of Hickey Courts. → Include outdoor court infrastructure as a component of the entire park infrastructure sustainability project to ensure sustainable future funding. <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Renew courts as scheduled or required. 	<p>Short Term 2017 - 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Add pickleball lines to Panorama outdoor courts. → Consider adding pickleball lines to Poirier outdoor courts. → Initiate a Tennis Equipment Library Program. → Develop signage for courts to inform users of proper etiquette and nearby amenities. <p>Medium Term 2022 - 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Work with partners to explore opportunities to increase participation. <p>Long Term 2027 - 2037</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Consider options to monitor court usage. <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Consider the appropriate addition of multi-sport markings to new and repainted courts. → Consider the addition of rebound walls to courts when existing courts are upgraded and new courts are developed. → Plan for accessibility improvements to existing courts as part of court renewals and incorporate accessibility features in new courts. → Continue to add pickleball court inventory and programming if demand exists. 	<p>Short Term 2017 - 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Plan for new courts in Smiling Creek and Fraser Mills Neighbourhoods. → Consider adding pickleball courts at Smiling Creek, Maillardville Community Centre, and YMCA gymnasiums. → Add three courts to replace the two at Cottonwood Park, with pickleball lines. <p>Medium Term 2022 - 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Plan for new courts to accompany development in Northeast Coquitlam, City Centre, and other areas as appropriate. <p>Long Term 2027 - 2037</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Plan for a cluster of courts at Gilley's Trail (Northeast Coquitlam). → Plan for new courts to accompany re-development in Austin Heights. 		<p>Short Term 2017 - 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Finalize new operating agreement for covered tennis facility and tennis programming at 1650 Foster Avenue. <p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Offer programming and public play opportunities. → Consider any proposals from external organizations to increase the City's inventory of covered tennis courts should there be demand. → Encourage programming that enables more females to fully and equitably participate. → Encourage partnerships that provide opportunities for people of all abilities.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The recommendations in this strategy can be achieved through intentional planning to capitalize on other park projects, bonus density funds, developer contributions and long term capital planning. This strategy document identifies recommended capital projects along with approximate implementation timelines. Staff will prioritize capital projects and present them to Council for consideration as a part of the annual capital budget development and approval process. Staff will also continue to plan for ongoing court maintenance and upgrades for existing infrastructure.

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2017 – 2022 (Short Term)	CAPITAL PROJECTS 2023 – 2037 (Medium to Long Term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Colour coat & re-line the following courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Town Centre Park ❖ Blue Mountain Park ❖ Bramblewood Park ❖ Hickey Street Reservoir Park ❖ Mariner Park → Resurface the following courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Panorama Park ❖ Eagle Ridge Park ❖ Poirier Outdoor → Add two pickleball courts to Poirier Forum (completed) → Build three or four Cottonwood Park Tennis Courts → Explore, with SD43, adding pickleball lines at Smiling Creek Joint-Use Gymnasium → Explore, with SD43, having pickleball lines painted on school gymnasium floors when these are due for repainting → Ensure pickleball lines are added to Maillardville Community Centre Gym → Add one or two courts to Blue Mountain Park along with neighbourhood development → Explore, with YMCA, adding pickleball lines to YMCA Gym → Add two to four courts in Smiling Creek Area (Burke Mountain secondary school site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Colour coat & re-line the following courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Town Centre Park ❖ Eagle Ridge Park ❖ Mackin Park ❖ Panorama Park ❖ Hickey Park ❖ Cottonwood Park ❖ Blue Mountain Park ❖ Poirier (Outdoor) → Add two outdoor courts in Partington Creek Area (Northeast Coquitlam) → Ensure pickleball lines are included in the future Northeast Recreation Complex Gymnasium → Continue to prioritize resurfacing of courts as required → Colour coat and re-line courts every five to seven years or as required → Develop a cluster of four to six courts at Gilley’s Trail (Northeast) → Replace and expand courts at Town Centre Park as a part of Town Centre Park Master Plan park re-development (8.5 to 10.5 courts) → Add two courts in Fraser Mills along with neighbourhood development
\$2,260,000	\$4,800,000

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Potential Projects Funded through Partnership

- Expansion of the Foster Avenue Covered Tennis Facility
- Construction of a new covered tennis facility at an appropriate site within the City
- Fraser Mills – two courts funded by developer
- Smiling Creek Neighbourhood Courts – City/SD43 partnership opportunity
- Blue Mountain Park court expansion – possible developer contribution



Coquitlam

CITY OF COQUITLAM

Parks, Recreation and Culture Services

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