



Township of/CANTON DE **Tiny**

Pickleball Strategic Planning 2026–2029

Building an Inclusive, Active, and Connected Community Through Pickleball

Township of Tiny

Recreation and Special Events Department

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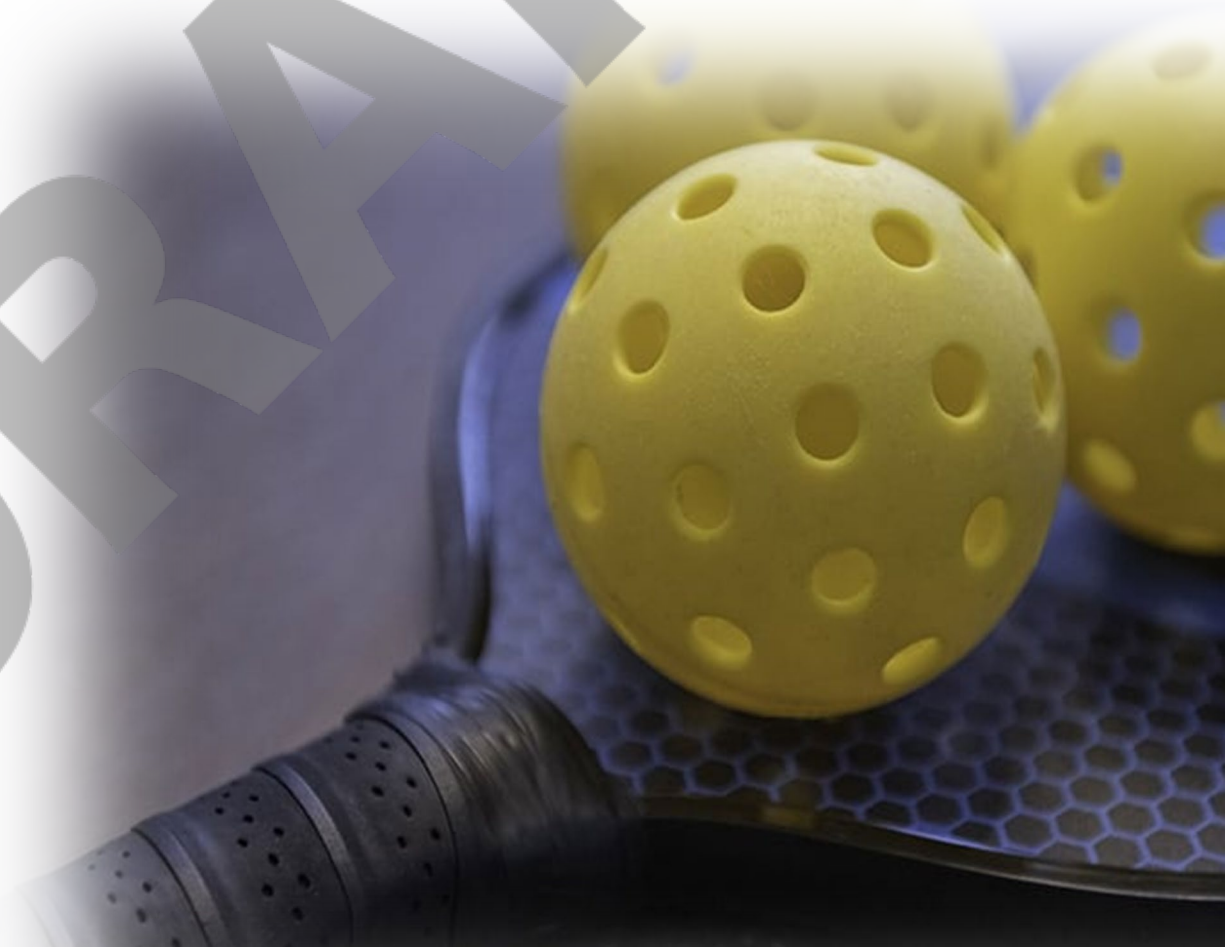


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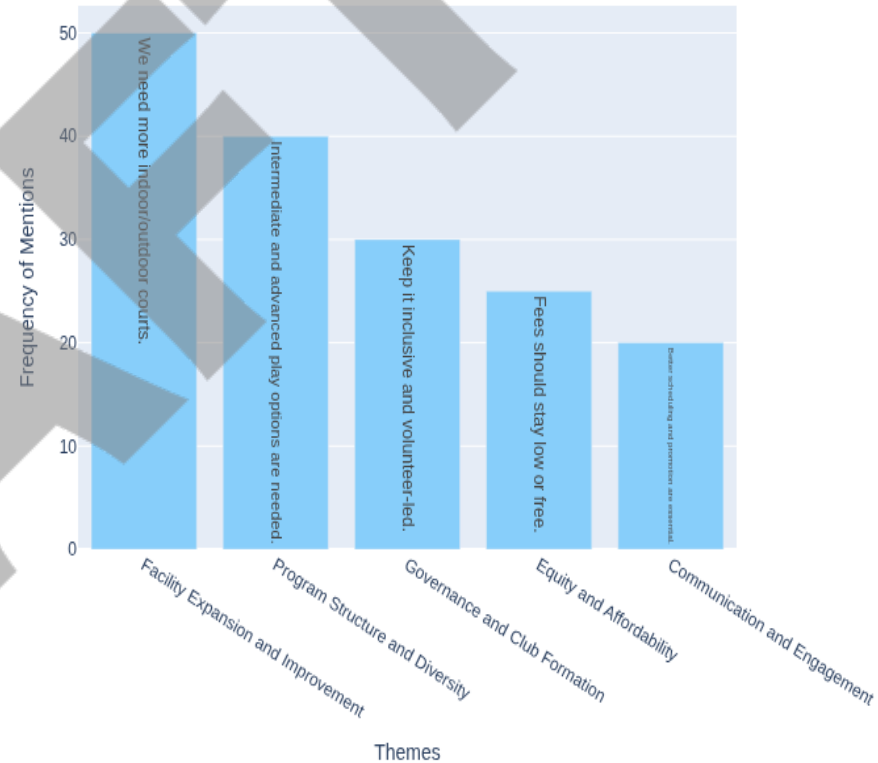
1. Introduction

Pickleball has quickly become one of the fastest-growing recreational activities in the Township of Tiny. The sport’s accessibility, social nature, and adaptability across ages and skill levels have made it a cornerstone of community recreation. With participation increasing steadily since the Township introduced its first organized play opportunities in 2017, pickleball now serves as both a fitness outlet and a social connector for residents of all ages.

In response to this growth, Township staff conducted a Community Pickleball Survey (October 2025) and hosted a Pickleball Open House and Focus Group Series. The combined engagement attracted strong participation, providing valuable insight into current experiences, emerging needs, and future priorities for pickleball in Tiny.

This Pickleball Strategic Plan (2026–2029) outlines a coordinated approach to improving facilities, expanding programming, strengthening community connection, and developing a governance model that supports sustainable growth while maintaining the inclusivity and affordability that define the Township’s recreation culture.

Community Priorities from Pickleball Survey Comments



2. Community Engagement Overview

2.1 Survey Summary

The 2025 Pickleball Community Survey received 156 responses, capturing data on participation, satisfaction, and aspirations for the sport's future.

Key findings include:

- 53.9% of respondents currently participate in Township-run programs.
- 49.67% play several times per week, highlighting pickleball as a year-round recreation staple.
- 81.05% prefer open play; 28.76% value beginner lessons; 37.91% expressed interest in leagues or tournaments.
- 94.08% believe pickleball fosters community connection.
- 63.33% support forming a Tiny Pickleball Club, with another 22% “maybe”, suggesting strong openness to a formalized structure.
- 53% cited a lack of indoor or winter facilities as a key barrier.
- 37.84% supported modest membership fees under \$75 per year, while 18.92% preferred free access.

Qualitative themes reinforced these data points, emphasizing:

- Pride in Tiny's volunteer-run drop-in sessions.
- Desire for better scheduling tools, communication, and skill-based play opportunities.
- Lafontaine was the most frequently suggested location for additional courts
- Strong interest in improved facilities, social events, and long-term sustainability.

Township of Tiny Pickleball Survey – Summary Table of Themes

The following table summarizes the key themes identified from community comments in the Pickleball Survey, including descriptions and representative quotes.

Theme	Description	Example Quote
Facility Expansion and Improvement	Need for more indoor/outdoor courts, maintenance, amenities	We need more indoor/outdoor courts.
Program Structure and Diversity	Structured play, leagues for youth/women/seniors	Intermediate and advanced play options are needed.

Governance and Club Formation	Support for inclusive, volunteer-led club with Township oversight	Keep it inclusive and volunteer-led.
Equity and Affordability	Maintain low or no-cost access, voluntary fees	Fees should stay low or free.
Communication and Engagement	Better scheduling tools, promotion, and community updates	Better scheduling and promotion are essential.

2.2 Open House and Focus Group Summary

The **Pickleball Open House** provided in-depth, discussion-based feedback from active players, volunteers, and interested residents. Five interactive stations explored facilities, programming, social connection, and governance ideas.

Common themes:

- Appreciation for free and inclusive access to Township courts.
- Requests for facility upgrades, indoor partnerships, and consistent court maintenance.
- Strong interest in more structured programming for all skill levels.
- High enthusiasm for community social events like BBQs, tournaments, and mixers.
- Cautious optimism toward forming a club, balanced by a desire for Township oversight and inclusivity.

Together, the survey and open house provided a clear and unified vision: Tiny residents want more places to play, more ways to connect, and a coordinated structure to sustain the sport's growth.

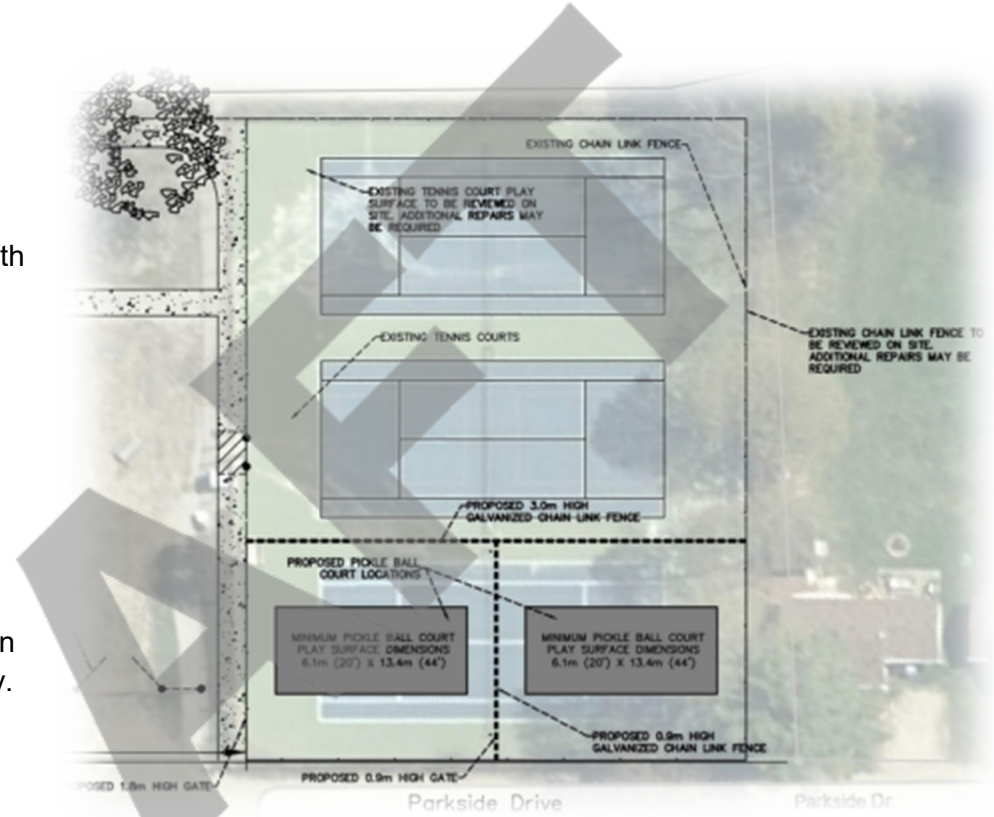
3. Current State of Pickleball in Tiny

3.1 Facilities

Pickleball is currently offered at several Township sites:

- **Parkside Park (Balm Beach):** Two dedicated outdoor courts with high seasonal use.
- **Perkinsfield Park:** Multi-use tennis/pickleball courts with drop-in play.
- **Wyevale Community Rink:** Seasonal outdoor surface for pickleball (spring–fall).
- **Wyebridge Community Centre:** Indoor play during winter months; limited weekly time slots.
- **Emilio Place (Bluewater Beach):** Shared tennis/pickleball surface for informal play.

While these courts serve the community well, increasing participation is straining capacity. Residents expressed concern over surface wear, inconsistent layouts, and limited indoor play. Expansion opportunities exist at Perkinsfield, Lafontaine, and Woodland Beach, alongside potential shared-use partnerships with local schools or community halls



3.2 Programs and Participation

The Township's current programs include outdoor drop-in play, instructional lessons, and volunteer-supported leagues. Attendance is consistently high, particularly at Balm Beach, where participation required a lottery system during peak months.

There is strong demand for intermediate and advanced play, women's and youth leagues, and year-round opportunities. Participants support maintaining the Township's volunteer-based model while adding

3.3 Community and Social Value

Pickleball is widely recognized as a social lifeline in Tiny, especially for older adults and seasonal residents. 94.08% of survey respondents stated that it helps build friendships and reduce isolation. The Open House highlighted pickleball's power to connect residents through casual play and community events.

3.4 Governance and Leadership

The sport is currently coordinated through Township recreation staff with volunteer support. However, both the survey and focus groups identified a need for greater organization and advocacy.

- 63.33% of survey participants supported forming a Tiny Pickleball Club,
- 22% were open to the idea if inclusivity and affordability could be maintained.

This strong statistical base supports a phased governance model, beginning with the establishment of a Pickleball Working Group in Year 1, which would evolve into a community-led Tiny Pickleball Club by Year 2 under Township partnership and oversight.



4. Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

A connected, active, and inclusive community where residents of all ages have access to high-quality pickleball facilities, programs, and opportunities to play, learn, and belong.

Guiding Principles

1. **Inclusivity:** Ensure all residents, regardless of age, skill, or income, can participate.
2. **Accessibility:** Maintain affordable or no-cost options and expand access across all geographic areas.
3. **Partnership:** Foster collaboration between the Township, volunteers, and the community-led Pickleball Club.
4. **Sustainability:** Prioritize facility quality, efficient scheduling, and volunteer capacity to support long-term growth.
5. **Engagement:** Maintain open, transparent communication with players and residents.

5. Key Strategic Directions

I. Facility Development and Maintenance

Expand and enhance pickleball infrastructure by addressing surface wear, lighting, drainage, and court layout consistency. Plan for additional outdoor courts in underserved areas (Lafontaine, Perkinsfield, Woodland Beach) and explore shared-use indoor options through partnerships. Add shade structures, seating, and paddle hangers to improve user experience.

II. Program Growth and Diversification

Introduce structured play options that complement drop-in sessions, including beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Develop leagues, challenge courts, and DUPR-rated play. Create programs for youth, seniors, and women to broaden engagement. Strong support shown for winter leagues and retaining current volunteer-run drop in programming.

III. Community and Social Engagement

Leverage pickleball's social nature by offering quarterly community events, mixers, and friendly tournaments. Encourage intergenerational participation and volunteer-led social opportunities to foster belonging.

IV. Governance and Club Development

Establish a Pickleball Working Group in 2026 to oversee communication and guide program development. In 2027, evolve this group into a Tiny Pickleball Club, a community-led, Township-supported body responsible for structured programming, volunteer coordination, and event hosting.

V. Equity, Access, and Affordability

Maintain low or no-cost participation options while offering voluntary memberships for advanced programs. Prioritize equitable facility distribution, accessibility improvements, and financial inclusivity.

VI. Marketing and Communication

Create a dedicated pickleball webpage with schedules, updates, and facility information. Introduce an online scheduler tool and use Township newsletters and social media to communicate program details and community stories.

6. Implementation Plan (2026–2028)

Year	Focus Areas	Key Actions	Outcomes
2026 – Foundation and Engagement	Governance and Communication	Establish Pickleball Working Group; develop Terms of Reference; launch dedicated webpage.	Coordinated leadership structure and improved communication.
	Facilities and Maintenance	Repair court surfaces; improve lighting and signage at Balm Beach and Perkinsfield.	Safe, standardized, and well-maintained play spaces.
	Programs and Community	Pilot beginner and intermediate sessions; host quarterly social events.	More inclusive programming and social connection.
	Volunteer Development	Begin volunteer recruitment and orientation for future club roles.	Increased leadership and event support.

2027 – Expansion and Club Formation	Governance and Structure	Transition Working Group into community-led Tiny Pickleball Club with Township support.	Established club with bylaws, executive committee, and inclusivity principles.
	Programming	Launch skill-based leagues, youth programs, and challenge courts.	Broader program diversity and engagement.
	Marketing	Implement a Township-branded pickleball campaign.	Stronger community identity and participation.
	Scheduling and Coordination	Conduct court utilization study; balance public and club play.	Efficient and equitable access to courts.
2028 – Sustainability and Optimization	Facilities and Accessibility	Install amenities (shade, seating, wind screens, signage); evaluate site accessibility.	Enhanced player experience and accessibility.
	Events and Partnerships	Host the annual Tiny Pickleball Festival; develop regional partnerships for tournaments.	Regional recognition and community pride.
	Evaluation and Planning	Review participation data, satisfaction, and governance success.	Data-driven direction for the next strategic cycle.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The success of this plan will be measured through:

- Participation data (program registrations and drop-in counts).
- Facility utilization and satisfaction surveys.
- Volunteer and club membership growth.
- Community feedback through online engagement and annual reporting.

The Township will prepare annual progress updates to Council, outlining achievements, emerging challenges, and next-step recommendations.

8. Partnership Opportunities with Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada

Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada serve as the sport's recognized provincial and national governing bodies, providing structure, guidance, and resources to support the safe and sustainable growth of pickleball across the country. Both organizations work collaboratively with municipalities and community clubs to enhance programming quality, ensure participant safety, and promote consistent standards in play, coaching, and facility development.

I. Program Development and Enhancement

Municipalities and community-based pickleball clubs benefit from access to structured programming frameworks, coach development pathways, and event sanctioning offered through Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada.

- **Coaching and Instruction:** Certified coaching and instructor training programs help ensure skill development and player safety while promoting consistent instructional quality across all levels of play.
- **Youth and Beginner Pathways:** Both organizations provide adaptable curriculum models for youth, schools, and adult beginners, resources municipalities can adopt to expand recreation offerings efficiently.
- **Tournament and Event Support:** Sanctioned tournament frameworks and event management tools allow clubs and municipalities to host local and regional events that attract participants, support tourism, and strengthen community engagement.

II. Safe Sport and Player Welfare

Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada are committed to Safe Sport principles that prioritize respect, fairness, and athlete protection in all programming.

- **Training and Education:** Members gain access to nationally recognized Safe Sport training modules covering topics such as harassment prevention, ethics, inclusion, and responsible coaching.
- **Policy and Compliance Tools:** Standardized codes of conduct, complaint procedures, and risk management templates help municipalities and clubs align with best practices for participant safety.
- **Insurance Coverage:** Affiliated clubs and their members benefit from comprehensive sport liability insurance, offering municipalities assurance that local play and programs are protected under recognized national standards.

III. Club Development and Organizational Support

By affiliating with Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada, local pickleball clubs gain structured support to operate effectively and sustainably.

- **Governance Resources:** Templates for bylaws, membership management, and volunteer coordination assist new clubs in establishing transparent and inclusive governance models.
- **Membership Systems:** Centralized registration platforms help streamline participant tracking, communications, and data collection to inform local planning and facility usage.
- **Networking and Mentorship:** Clubs gain access to a provincial network of peers, best-practice sharing opportunities, and guidance from experienced administrators and certified officials.



IV. Alignment with Municipal Goals

Partnership with Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada aligns directly with municipal priorities related to community health, inclusion, and safe recreation. Working together, municipalities and local clubs can:

- Deliver **evidence-based programs** that meet diverse community needs.
- Enhance **player safety and program credibility** through adherence to recognized standards.
- Strengthen **community capacity** by supporting volunteer leadership and club sustainability.
- Access **funding and grant opportunities** available through provincial and national sport development initiatives.

By leveraging the expertise and resources of Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada, the Township of Tiny and its emerging Pickleball Club can build a strong foundation for long-term growth. This partnership approach ensures programs are safe, inclusive, and professionally supported while aligning local recreation initiatives with national sport development standards.



9. Conclusion

The Township of Tiny's Pickleball Strategic Plan provides a clear roadmap to guide the sport's next phase of growth, anchored in community input, affordability, and inclusivity. With over 63.33% of residents supporting the creation of a Tiny Pickleball Club and overwhelming recognition of pickleball's social value, this plan positions the Township to strengthen recreation opportunities, deepen community connection, and reinforce Tiny's reputation as a leader in active, accessible living.

Through phased implementation, strategic partnerships, and continued volunteer engagement, Tiny will nurture a vibrant pickleball culture that supports residents of all ages and skill levels for years to come.

