

# Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy



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# Executive Summary

The Sports Courts Optimization Strategy provides a comprehensive plan for managing and optimizing outdoor sports courts over the coming years. The strategy aims to sustain existing courts and accommodate future community interests, growth and evolving sports trends.

Key challenges identified in the strategy include aging infrastructure, budget constraints, compatibility issues among user groups, and space limitations. The document outlines several key considerations and recommendations for the development and maintenance of sports courts, with a focus on tennis, pickleball, lacrosse, basketball and multi-use courts.

The main themes of the strategy revolve around the management and optimization of these outdoor sports courts to ensure they continue to serve the community effectively and efficiently.





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# Background

## Purpose

The purpose of the Outdoor Sports Courts Strategy is to provide direction and set priorities for planning and managing outdoor sports courts across the District. The main objectives of the Strategy are to identify community interests and trends, understand the condition of the existing sport court inventory, and identify opportunities for meeting current and future demands by optimizing existing assets and adding new assets where feasible.

The District must strategically plan for its current and future infrastructure, programming, and services to address the needs of the community.

Over the years, the resources available for the maintenance and development of outdoor sports courts in the District have not matched an increase in demand from residents due to population growth, changing demographics, and a heightened interest in a variety of outdoor sports and recreation opportunities.

Some of the existing challenges include:

- An aging inventory of sports courts requiring improvements and maintenance to ensure optimal conditions and a safe and accessible play experience.
- Budget constraints resulting in limited funding for ongoing maintenance, renewals and replacement of sports courts. Unmaintained courts result in increased usage and demand on other courts.
- Compatibility challenges arising from user groups sharing courts for multiple types of sports.
- Site constraints, space limitations, and noise impacts.

Strategic planning is essential to address these challenges and to help prioritize investment for the provision of a high-quality system of outdoor sports courts. By implementing the recommendations in this strategy, the District will be better positioned to address both present and future demands.

## Process

The development of the Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy included the review and analysis of:

- Current participation, distribution and capacity of sports courts programs and facilities.
- Overall trends, and demand for various sports.
- Service standards for sports courts in comparison with other municipalities.
- Best practices and other municipal examples.



# Policy Context

The Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy aligns with the Official Community Plan (2011), and the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan (2012), and will be informed by other District strategies, plans, bylaws and policies.

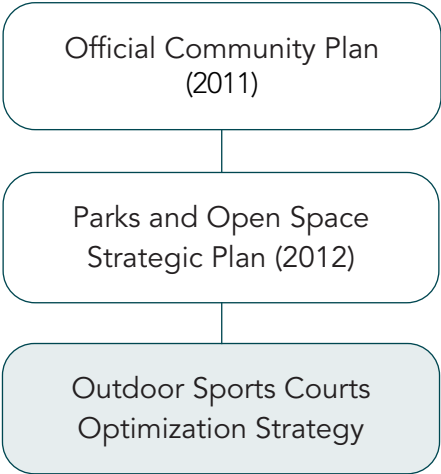
This Strategy addresses the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan’s recommendation to provide a comprehensive outdoor sports court program to meet the needs for tennis, basketball, lacrosse, and roller hockey.

The recommendations in this Strategy will help address several objectives in the Official Community Plan, including:

- Support the provision of passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities within reasonable walking distance of every neighbourhood.
- Explore means to utilize parkland more efficiently including opportunities for joint use with schools.
- Update and adapt local park facilities to suit current needs and changing demographics.

This Strategy also aims to achieve various recommendations in the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan including:

- Undertake an assessment to evaluate existing condition and future needs of tennis and outdoor sports courts.
- Consider which courts are underused and consider potential for conversion to multi-purpose courts and explore possibility of integrating pickleball.
- Consider lighting courts.
- Continue to work with North Vancouver Recreation & Culture, and other user groups.









# Existing Inventory

## District of North Vancouver

The District of North Vancouver operates 68 sports courts across 23 parks.

The following courts are distributed across the District within neighbourhood and community parks, that support tennis, pickleball, basketball, lacrosse, roller hockey, and other casual uses, as standalone amenities or in shared configurations:

-  43 tennis courts at 19 parks
-  14 pickleball courts (12 stand-alone and 2 shared) at 4 parks
-  4 lacrosse boxes at 4 parks
-  7 basketball / multi-use courts at 7 parks

There are also 4 existing tennis practice courts, and 1 basketball court to be constructed in the near future.

See Appendix A for sport court inventory and service area maps.

Historically, the District has established sports courts within new residential developments to support neighbourhood level walk-up play and casual use, generally locating one or two courts in each location.

Over the years, District staff have responded to the current and future needs of the community and carried out various sports court improvement projects.

Below is a list of improvements and additions to date:

- 2013 - added 2 pickleball courts at Institute Park (shared with tennis courts)
- 2019 - added 6 dedicated pickleball courts at Murdo Fraser Park (converted 2 existing tennis courts)
- 2019 – added 1 lacrosse box (with basketball and roller/ball hockey) at Inter River Park
- 2022 - added 4 dedicated pickleball courts at Cates Park / Whey-ah-Wichen (converted 2 existing tennis courts)
- 2022 - added 2 dedicated pickleball courts at Myrtle Park (converted tennis practice area)
- 2022 - resurfaced tennis courts at McCartney and Myrtle Parks
- 2023 - resurfaced tennis courts at Grousewoods and Pemberton Parks
- 2024 - resurfaced tennis courts at Delbrook Park, Indian River Park, and Karen Magnussen Community Centre
- 2024 - tree removal and pruning at all tennis and pickleball sport court locations
- 2025 - resurfaced tennis courts at Eldon Park
- 2025 - renewed basketball court at Strathaven Park
- 2025 - resurfacing tennis courts scheduled at Evelyn and Cleveland Parks



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## Other Sports Courts

### North Vancouver School District 44

North Vancouver School District 44 has 45 sports courts across 22 properties. Amenities are available for recreational community use outside of school hours.

The following courts are distributed across School District 44 sites:

- 7 tennis courts (not maintained for playing tennis) at 3 locations
- 6 multi-use courts at 5 locations
- 32 basketball courts (half and full) at 21 locations

Although the School District has sports courts with line markings for tennis. They either do not have the appropriate surfacing or are used as multi-use sport spaces, and the School District does not hang nets or maintain courts for playing tennis (see Appendix A).

### North Vancouver Recreation & Culture

North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC) provides space for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and ball hockey at 5 recreation centres in the District of North Vancouver. Pickleball, basketball and ball hockey are in shared gymnasiums.

NVRC provides the following in the District:

- 9 tennis courts at 1 recreation centre
- 17 pickleball courts at 4 recreation centres
- 5 indoor basketball / multi-use sports courts at 4 recreation centres
- 1 outdoor basketball / multi-use sports court at 1 recreation centre

### Private Courts

There are a few outdoor sports courts in the District on private property or that require payment for use. There are 18 sports courts across 11 properties including tennis courts, multi-use courts and basketball courts of various sizes.

The following courts are distributed across the District on private property:

- 12 tennis courts at 5 locations
- 6 pickleball courts at 2 locations
- 6 basketball courts at 5 locations
- 2 multi-use courts at 2 locations

Many private schools allow the public to use their courts after school hours.

If these private courts were no longer available for use, the demand on District courts could increase.

### The City of North Vancouver

The City of North Vancouver maintains 26 sports courts in 7 parks. Due to close proximity, residents may be utilizing amenities in both the City and the District.

The City provides the following:

- 12 tennis courts in 4 locations
- 9 pickleball courts in 3 locations
- 5 basketball courts at 5 locations

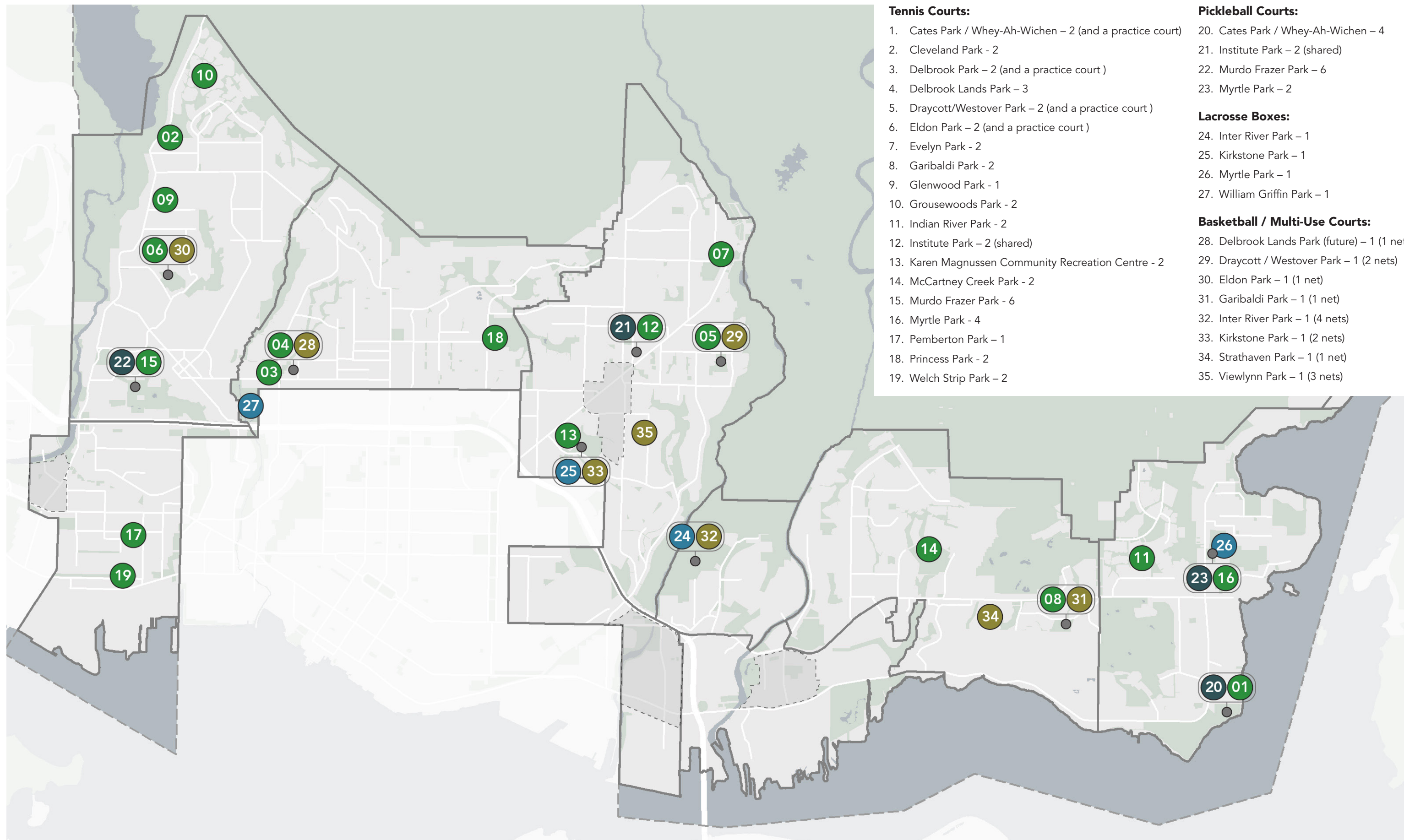


Figure 1: Current Inventory of District of North Vancouver Sports Courts



# Community Engagement

There has been extensive community engagement throughout the development of the Strategy.

## Stakeholder Engagement

During the initial stages of the project, North Vancouver sport groups, such as the North Shore Tennis Society, North Shore Pickleball Club, and local roller hockey and lacrosse organizations, were surveyed to better understand demand, concerns, and ideas related to the existing sport court inventory.

A summary of the draft strategy was shared with the Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee, North Vancouver Sports Council, and the North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee. Feedback received was incorporated into the Strategy.

The North Shore Tennis Society and North Shore Pickleball Club also reviewed a summary of the draft Strategy, provided feedback and gave support. Draft information was also shared with NVRC and the City of North Vancouver for review and comment.

## Public Engagement

Community engagement was conducted June 15-29 2023 through an online survey hosted on the District of North Vancouver webpage to better understand who uses the outdoor sports court facilities, what sports are played, and how existing and proposed facilities can be improved to ensure everyone in the community has access to play the sports they love. The engagement was promoted through the District website, social media, outreach to sports user groups, and signage that was posted at sport court locations throughout the District.

Of the total 521 online surveys that were completed, 56% indicated they play tennis, 32% indicated they play pickleball, 3% indicated they play ball hockey or lacrosse, 2% indicated they play basketball, and 7% selected “other” or did not provide a response.

This engagement was conducted at “consult” on the Public Engagement Spectrum.

For details, visit [DNV.org](https://dnv.org) for the Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy: Engagement Summary Report (July 2024).



## NVRC

NVRC is working with the District and City of North Vancouver on the development of a Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Assessment for North Vancouver.

The goal is to provide a principle-based approach for prioritizing capital investment in indoor and outdoor recreational infrastructure in alignment with the proposed updates to the NVRC mandate and strategic plan.

An initial round of community engagement was completed in 2023 and the preliminary results helped inform the District's Outdoor Sports Courts Optimization Strategy.





# Goals & Guiding Principles

## Goals

The overarching objective of the Strategy is to optimize the utilization of sports court facilities and services in a growing and changing community, and ensure resources are prioritized for improvements that will have the greatest positive impact on residents.

Over the next decade, the District aims to achieve its objective through specific goals and actions.

These goals were shaped by community input, including feedback from residents, stakeholders, and staff, as well as through research and analysis.

While existing sports courts serve the community well, there is a need to improve court conditions and accessibility and an indicated need for additional facilities.



### 1 Optimization

- Continue planning for the maintenance and investment of sports courts to ensure recreational playability and enjoyment.
- Monitor trends in participation and use of existing sports courts to inform future planning.
- Explore additional opportunities to fund maintenance and development of sports courts.



### 2 Access

- Maintain an equitable distribution of courts throughout the District to provide residents with ease of access.
- Plan for community growth and development and focus investment in areas where there would be the largest benefit.







### 3 Experience

- Prioritize investment in parks with existing services and infrastructure (such as parking, washrooms, lighting etc.) and consider additional services as resources permit.
- Improve barrier-free access to sports courts.

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## Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles outline the District's approach to developing and enhancing sports court facilities:

-  Improve access and geographic equity of sports courts where feasible.
-  Ensure appropriate amenities are available (parking, washrooms, bike racks, drinking water etc.)
-  Prioritize spontaneous and casual “walk up and play” type use of sports courts for residents.
-  Mitigate the noise impacts of pickleball courts on existing park users and residential areas.

## Site Selection Criteria

Finding suitable sites for new sports courts in the District presents several challenges, including limited park space, high demand for new amenities, population growth, and the steep topography of the North Shore.

The following criteria should be considered when determining a suitable site for new sports courts in the District:

- 1. Space Availability:** Confirm there's a large, open space of adequate size on the proposed site for the sports court (considering court dimensions and buffer zones). Consider sites that would permit multiple courts.
- 2. Topography & Drainage:** Assess whether the site is generally flat and provides adequate drainage to prevent water damage or adverse impacts on surrounding areas.
- 3. Proximity:** Determine whether the proposed site is located in an area with demand. Avoid placing a new court close to an existing court of the same type when feasible.
- 4. Noise Disturbance:** Ensure the site is at an adequate distance from residential or other noise-sensitive areas to minimize disturbances (see section on pickleball).
- 5. Accessibility:** Determine if the site would allow for barrier-free access to the court, and consider how the site would follow Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines.
- 6. Traffic:** Assess availability of on-street or off-street parking. Consider potential traffic impact impacts. Locations with parking should be prioritized.
- 7. Utilities, Infrastructure & Amenities:** Locations with existing amenities should be prioritized to enhance the user experience. Consider the possibility for the location to support adding lighting, washrooms, or drinking water in the future.



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# Actions

This section outlines the recommended actions towards achieving the Strategy's objective of optimizing the utilization of sports court facilities and servicing a growing and changing community.

Action		Time frame
1.0	Improve accessibility at sports courts by reducing physical barriers.	Ongoing
2.0	Carry-out ongoing maintenance (power washing etc.) and maintain existing standards.	Ongoing
3.0	Carry-out ongoing sports courts improvements and resurfacing as required (estimated 2 per year).	Ongoing
4.0	Pursue opportunities to mitigate the noise impacts of pickleball on existing park users and residential areas.	Short term
5.0	Improve sports courts information on the District website.	Short term
6.0	Add new basketball court: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delbrook Lands</li></ul>	Short term
7.0	Explore feasibility of adding new pickleball courts at new park locations. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inter River Park</li><li>• Parkgate Park</li><li>• William Griffin Park</li></ul>	Short term
8.0	Explore and identify a comprehensive and fair approach to bookings and user fees for sports groups in the District.	Short term
9.0	Explore opportunities and feasibility of monitoring usage of sports courts (for future planning and decision making).	Short term

Action		Time frame
10.0	Develop and implement a consistent approach to signage at sports courts.	Medium term
11.0	Identify opportunities for additional sports courts amenities to support user needs (seating, bike racks, waste receptacles etc.).	Medium term
12.0	Add new pickleball courts at new park locations (dependent on feasibility studies).	Medium term
13.0	Add new basketball courts near key town and village centres where feasible. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lions Gate Village Centre</li> <li>• Maplewood Village Centre</li> <li>• Lynn Creek Town Centre</li> </ul>	Medium term
14.0	Explore feasibility of improving lacrosse boxes. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirkstone Park</li> <li>• Myrtle Park</li> </ul>	Medium / Long term
15.0	Explore feasibility of adding lighting to courts to extend play time.	Long term



# Research

This section of the report includes a regional comparison of sports court amenities, demographic projections, and information shared by sport user groups and from related studies. Research was completed by consultants and the District of North Vancouver.

## Regional Comparison

The District provides many types of facilities that meet or exceed the amount offered by neighbouring communities. The District currently exceeds the number of tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts and lacrosse boxes per capita compared to other jurisdictions in Metro Vancouver.

### Tennis

The District of North Vancouver provides more tennis courts per capita than the regional average for thirteen municipalities / districts in Metro Vancouver (with BC Stats projecting the District's 2024 population at 94,000). The District of North Vancouver operates 43 tennis courts, or 0.46 tennis courts per 1,000 residents, which is significantly more than the average of 0.31 per 1,000 residents.

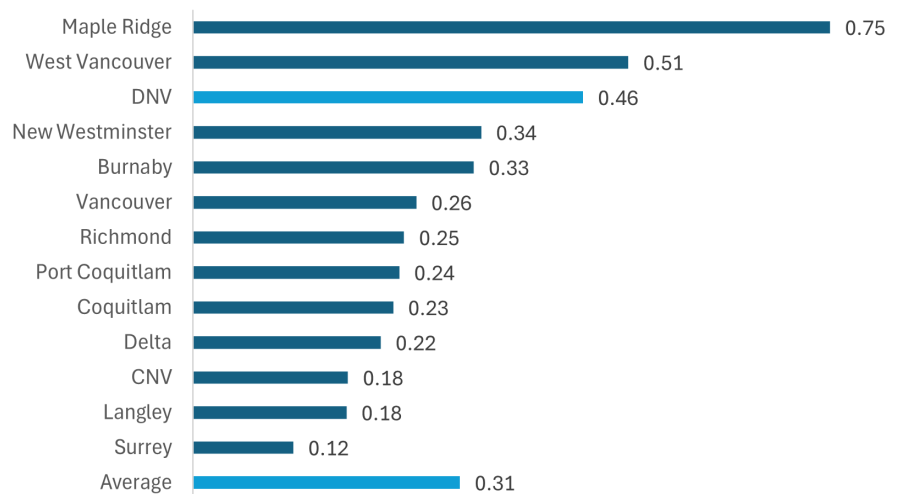


Figure 2: Number of Tennis Courts per 1,000 residents

### Pickleball

The District of North Vancouver provides more pickleball courts per capita than the regional average. The District of North Vancouver operates 14 pickleball courts, or 0.15 pickleball courts per 1,000 residents, which is more than the average of 0.12 per 1,000 residents.

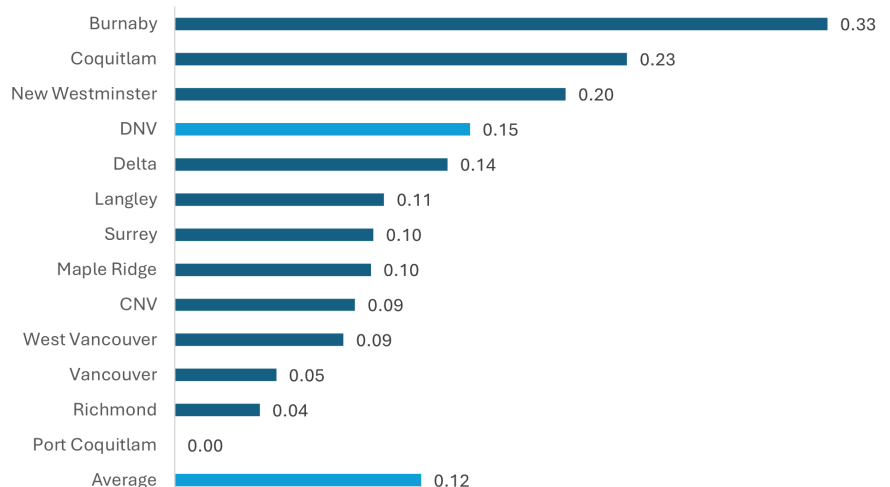


Figure 3: Number of Pickleball Courts per 1,000 residents

## Lacrosse

The District of North Vancouver provides more outdoor lacrosse boxes per capita than the regional average. The District of North Vancouver operates 4 lacrosse boxes, or 0.04 lacrosse boxes per 1,000 residents, which is more than the average of 0.02 per 1,000 residents. Some of the courts included in the analysis are shared multi-use surfaces (ball hockey), and the lacrosse box at William Griffin Park needs significant repairs.

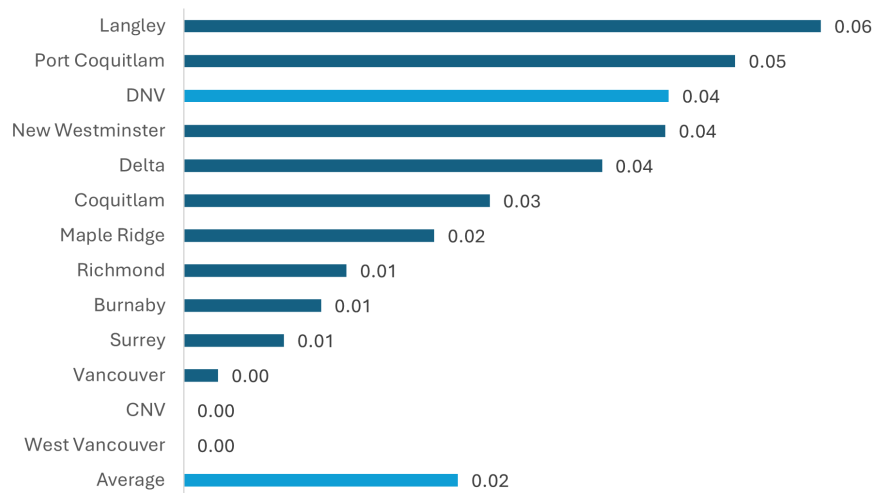


Figure 4: Number of Lacrosse Boxes per 1,000 residents

## Basketball

The District of North Vancouver provides more basketball courts per capita than the regional average. The District of North Vancouver operates 8 basketball courts (including Delbrook Lands Park), or 0.09 basketball courts per 1,000 residents, which is slightly more than the average of 0.08 per 1,000 residents. Some courts are shared multi-use surfaces and both half and full courts are included.

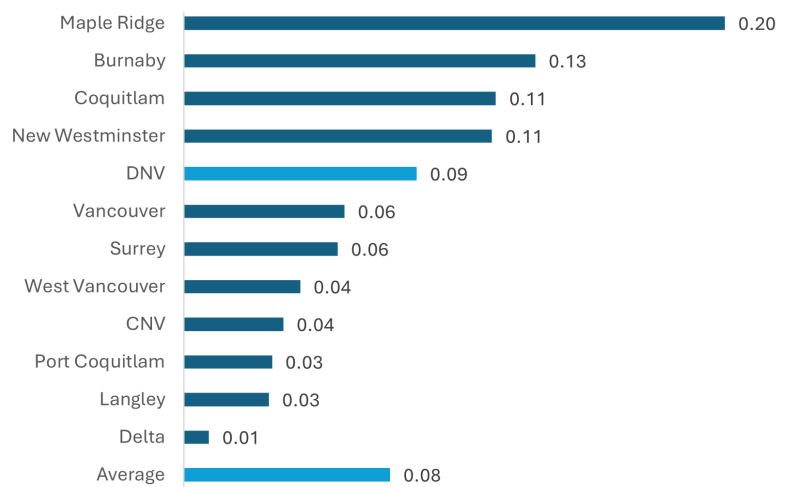


Figure 5: Number of Basketball Courts per 1,000 residents

## Additional Research

Additional research was conducted to support this Strategy's recommendations and includes information from sports user groups and relevant outdoor recreation and sports agencies.



### Tennis

#### Tennis Canada

Tennis Canada suggests 0.25 courts per 1,000 residents should be provided, or about 24 tennis courts (with BC Stats projecting the District's 2024 population at 94,000). The District of North Vancouver meets and exceeds that recommendation at a current inventory of 43 outdoor courts (0.46 courts per 1,000 residents).<sup>1</sup>

An additional nine indoor courts at the North Vancouver Tennis Centre brings the total inventory to 52 courts (0.55 per 1,000 residents).

If we assume that the District will reach a population of 111,168 by 2040 (BC Stats), the District would still meet and exceed Tennis Canada's recommendation.

#### North Shore Tennis Society

According to the North Shore Tennis Society, registrations have doubled since 2019 and continues to trend upward modestly.

#### National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The NRPA determined in their 2022 Agency Performance Review that the typical park and recreation agency has one outdoor tennis court for every 5,608 residents. This would equate to 17 courts for the District's population, which is currently exceeded.

If we assume that the District will reach a population of 111,168 by 2040 (BC Stats), the District would still exceed the average calculated by NRPA.<sup>2</sup>



1 Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy 2017-2037, City of Coquitlam

2 National Recreation and Park Association. 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review. nrpa.org, 2022





## Pickleball

### Pickleball BC

Pickleball BC suggests 0.20 courts per 1,000 residents should be provided, or about 19 courts (with BC Stats projecting the District's 2024 population at 94,000).<sup>3</sup> The District provides 14 outdoor pickleball courts or 0.15 outdoor courts per 1,000 residents.

An additional 17 indoor multisport courts accommodate pickleball at four recreation centres, including the new Lions Gate and Lynn Creek Community Centres.

If we assume that the District will reach a population of 111,168 by 2040 (BC Stats), the District would need a total of 22 courts (or 8 more courts in addition to the existing 14 courts) by 2040 to meet Pickleball BC's recommendation.

Pickleball BC recommends having pickleball courts at locations with parking, washrooms, and potable water. Providing lighting (electrical power supply) should be considered to extend court hours.

### North Shore Pickleball Club

According to the North Shore Pickleball Club, there has been a significant increase in new members over the past year. The Club has expressed interest in additional dedicated pickleball court facilities including a covered facility.

### National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The NRPA determined in their 2022 Agency Performance Review that the typical park and recreation agency has one outdoor pickleball court for every 14,714 residents. This would equate to about 7 courts in total for the District's estimated population, which is currently exceeded.

If we assume that the District will reach a population of 111,168 by 2040 (BC Stats), the District would still meet and exceed NRPA's average.<sup>4</sup>



3 A Guide to Pickleball Court Planning and Operation, Pickleball BC, 2023

4 National Recreation and Park Association. 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review. nrpa.org, 2022



## Lacrosse

### North Shore Major Lacrosse League

According to the North Shore Major Lacrosse League, overall registrations have decreased significantly over the past few years and have not shown signs of rebounding. The existing supply of lacrosse boxes exceeds the current demand of the League.



## Basketball

### National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The NRPA determined in their 2022 Agency Performance Review that the typical park and recreation agency has one outdoor basketball court for every 7,403 residents. This would equate to 13 courts for the District's population, which is currently not met. 5 additional courts would need to be provided. However, if we include the 33 half and full courts provided by the School District, the District exceeds this number.

If we assume that the District will reach a population of 111,168 by 2040 (BC Stats), the District would need 15 courts, or 7 additional basketball courts by 2040 to meet the average calculated by NRPA. But, if School District courts are included in the calculation we would still exceed the average.<sup>5</sup>



## Multi-Use

Multi-use courts in parks serve an important role for recreation. These courts can accommodate various sports despite limited park space and funding.

However, it can be challenging to accommodate multiple sports on a single court surface. For example, shared tennis and pickleball courts can result in players feeling they are losing access to a facility. Shared courts also mean multiple sets of court lines, which can cause confusion during play.

During the community engagement process, tennis and pickleball user groups explicitly indicated that having separate courts (and lines) for these specific sports is preferable.

## General

Historical population growth in the District of North Vancouver has increased by 3-4% annually, and the projected linear trend is slightly faster at 4-5% per year (BC Stats). This may indicate that demand for outdoor sports courts will increase at a similar rate.

5 National Recreation and Park Association. 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review. [nrpa.org](https://www.nrpa.org), 2022

# Service Level Analysis

A service level analysis was undertaken to determine which neighbourhoods in the District are well served geographically by sports courts, and to highlight locations where new courts would improve access.

According to the Trust for Public Land, most people can walk 0.8 km in about 10 minutes. Based on this information, the analysis includes a 1.6 km or 20-minute walking radius from existing sports courts to determine service levels.<sup>6</sup>



## Tennis

The District is well served by tennis courts. However, there are neighbourhoods that are under served and mostly outside of a 20-minute walking radius from existing courts. These neighbourhoods include:

- Lynn Creek – Keith Lynn
- Lynnmore – Inter-River
- Maplewood
- Indian Arm Communities

If all tennis courts in the District are considered (including School District, indoor NVRC, and private courts), only Indian Arm Communities is mostly under served.



## Pickleball

Based on a 20-minute walking radius from existing courts, there are gaps in the provision of pickleball courts in the District.

The following neighbourhoods are mostly outside of a 20-minute walking radius:

- Upper Capilano
- Upper Lonsdale – Delbrook
- Lynn Creek – Keith Lynn
- Lynnmore – Inter-River
- Maplewood
- Seymour (West)
- Indian Arm Communities

If all pickleball courts in the District are considered (including indoor NVRC, and private courts), Upper Capilano, Upper Lonsdale – Delbrook, Maplewood, Seymour (West), and Indian Arm Communities are mostly under served.

6 Trust for Public Land. Parks on the clock: why we believe in the 10-minute walk. [tpl.org](http://tpl.org), 2016





## Lacrosse

Based on a 20-minute walking radius from existing courts, there are gaps in the provision of lacrosse boxes in the District.

The following neighbourhoods are mostly outside of a 20-minute walking radius:

- Upper Capilano
- Upper Lonsdale – Delbrook
- Lions Gate
- Maplewood
- Seymour (West)
- Indian Arm Communities



## Basketball / Multi-Use

The District is well served by basketball courts if both District and other courts (including indoor NVRC, School District 44 and private courts) are included in the analysis. However, if only District courts are considered there are neighbourhood areas outside of a 20-minute walking radius including:

- Upper Capilano
- Lions Gate
- Maplewood
- Seymour (East)
- Indian Arm Communities

If all basketball courts in the District are considered (including School District, indoor NVRC, and private courts), only Indian Arm Communities is under served.

See Appendix A for maps.

# Key Findings



## Tennis

- The regional comparison revealed that the District of North Vancouver provides more tennis courts per capita than the regional average.
- The District exceeds Tennis Canada's recommended provision of courts per capita.
- The service level analysis determined that residents in the District are well served geographically by tennis courts (considering a 20 minute walking radius).

**Key finding:** Continue to renew and improve the existing inventory to ensure quality tennis courts.



## Pickleball

- The regional comparison revealed that the District of North Vancouver provides more pickleball courts per capita than the regional average.
- The District is below Pickleball BC's recommended provision per capita when only outdoor courts are considered.
- The service level analysis revealed gaps in the provision of pickleball courts geographically (considering a 20-minute walking radius) in the District.

**Key finding:** Add additional courts where noise and parking impacts can be minimized, where other supporting amenities are available, and to improve geographic equity and access.



## Lacrosse

- The regional comparison revealed that the District of North Vancouver provides more outdoor lacrosse boxes per capita than the regional average.
- The service level analysis determined that there are gaps in the provision of lacrosse boxes in the District geographically (considering a 20 minute walking radius). However, research and input identified limited demand for new lacrosse boxes.

**Key finding:** Continue to renew and improve the existing inventory to ensure quality courts consistent to user needs. Explore opportunities to convert surplus lacrosse box to other uses.



## Basketball / Multi-Use

- The regional comparison revealed that the District of North Vancouver provides more outdoor basketball courts per capita than the regional average.
- The service level analysis determined that residents in the District are well served geographically by basketball courts.

**Key finding:** Look for opportunities to add new courts to serve youth and adult residents as new parks are developed near key town and village centers.



# Pickleball

Research and analysis indicate that there is unmet demand for pickleball courts compared to the current supply, and there are areas in the District that are under served geographically. Therefore, it's recommended to pursue ways to enhance access to pickleball facilities in the District. However, there are several important considerations.

## Noise Impacts

Noise from pickleball play can be significant and can impact other park users and neighbouring residents. Pickleball's sharp, repetitive sound carries differently than most other background noise.

To effectively reduce noise disturbances, it is advisable to position courts at a considerable distance from neighboring residences. BC Recreation and Parks Association's (BCRPA) Pickleball Noise Assessment provides guidelines that range between 50m and 160m depending on the number of courts.<sup>7</sup>

For District parks, an offset of approximately 100m from residential areas is recommended. This is based on previous experience and acoustic research

conducted to better understand the noise impacts of pickleball in District parks. It should be noted that noise impacts depend on site specific conditions such as terrain, background noise, the number of courts and other factors.

## Quieter Pickleball Equipment

Some municipalities are exploring ways to encourage players to use quieter paddles and pickleballs as a noise reduction measure, including outreach and education, and the introduction of new bylaws and regulations. The District could explore the feasibility of implementing a similar approach.

## Pickleball Hubs

Pickleball hubs, which typically include 6 or more pickleball courts, enhance the social aspect of pickleball by enabling tournament play and additional programming. However, some of the challenges with hubs include finding a site that is large enough to fit (6-8) courts, other competing interests on site, the capacity of existing amenities (parking, washrooms etc.) to serve a larger number of players, and increased noise at one location.

7 BC Recreation and Parks Association. Pickleball Noise Assessment. [bcrpa.bc.ca](https://bcrpa.bc.ca), 2023



Pickleball Site Selection

Based on site selection criteria and staff recommendations, the table below lists parks that could be explored as potential locations for new pickleball courts. Courts at these parks, depending on the amount and placement, could be located a significant distance from residential areas, have relatively flat, open space, washrooms, and parking.

Park	≈100m from Residential	Open Space	Flat Topography	Parking	Washroom
Inter River Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parkgate Park	Yes	Yes	Slight slope	Yes	Yes
William Griffin Park	Yes	Existing lacrosse box	Yes	Yes	Yes

There is an opportunity to renew the existing lacrosse box at William Griffin Park and explore the integration of pickleball in the redevelopment of this underutilized asset. Design feasibility work is needed to determine:

- The number of pickleball courts that can be developed on the site;
- The potential of developing courts with other sports such as basketball;
- Potential impacts on parking; and
- If additional site work is required (including drainage improvements).

Locations for new pickleball courts will be subject to additional feasibility analysis.

Feasibility analysis will include further discussion and engagement with the community.

In this section, washroom and parking availability is based on existing conditions and requires additional review during future feasibility analysis.

Inter River Park is in a central location in the District, and locating courts here could help balance out distribution of pickleball facilities. Design feasibility work is needed for newly built courts to determine:

- The exact location of courts within the park; and
- Potential impacts on parking.

Locating courts at Parkgate Park would improve access to pickleball facilities in this part of the District. Design feasibility work is needed for newly built courts to determine:

- Potential impacts on parking.

## Conversion Opportunities

An assessment was completed to determine if there are opportunities to convert existing sports courts into pickleball courts to address demand.

### Tennis Courts

There are no existing tennis courts that are approximately 100m from residential areas, therefore none would be appropriate to be converted to pickleball courts.

Park	Court Type	≈100m from Residential	Existing Distance from Residential
Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centre	Tennis (2)	No	≈60m
Princess Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈50m
Cates Park / Whey-Ah-Wichen (East)	Tennis (2), practice (1)	No	≈40m
Indian River Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈35m
McCartney Creek Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈35m
Garibaldi Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈30m
Grousewoods Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈30m
Murdo Frazer Park	Tennis (6)	No	≈30, 60, 90m
Myrtle Park	Tennis (4)	No	≈25m
Cleveland Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈20m
Delbrook Lands	Tennis (3)	No	≈20m
Delbrook Park	Tennis (2), practice (1)	No	≈20m
Eldon Park	Tennis (2), practice (1)	No	≈15m
Welch Strip Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈15m

Table continues on the next page.

Park	Court Type	≈100m from Residential	Existing Distance from Residential
Draycott / Westover Park	Tennis (2), practice (1)	No	≈10m
Glenwood Park	Tennis (1)	No	≈10m
Evelyn Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈10m
Institute Park	Tennis (2)	No	≈5m
Pemberton Park	Tennis (1)	No	≈5m

## Lacrosse Boxes and Basketball / Multi-use Courts

There is one existing lacrosse box in the District that is about 100m from adjacent residential areas at William Griffin Park.

Park	Court Type	≈100m from Residential	Existing Distance from Residential
William Griffin Park	Lacrosse (1)	Yes	≈90, 100m
Garibaldi Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈70m
Kirkstone Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈50m
Kirkstone Park	Lacrosse / multi-use (1)	No	≈45m
Myrtle Park	Lacrosse / multi-use (1)	No	≈45m
Inter River Park	Lacrosse (1), basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈25m
Viewlyn Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈20m
Strathaven Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈15m
Draycott / Westover Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	No	≈10m



# Assessment of Sports Courts Conditions

Assessments were completed to determine the condition of each outdoor sports court in the District, and to identify priorities for optimizing and improving the existing inventory.

The condition rating of each court was determined by assessments carried out by consultants and District staff, giving consideration to the physical condition of each court.

Of the 68 sports courts in the District, 15 (22%) are rated very poor, poor or fair, and 53 (78%) are rated good or very good.

- Of the 43 tennis courts, 3 (7%) are in poor condition, 5 (12%) are in fair condition, 14 (32%) are in good condition, and 21 (49%) are in very good condition.
- Of the 14 pickleball courts, 2 (14%) are in fair condition, and 12 (86%) are in very good condition.
- Of the 7 basketball / multi-use courts, 1 (14%) is in fair condition, 4 (57%) are in good condition, and 2 (29%) are in very good condition.
- Of the 4 lacrosse boxes 1 (25%) is in very poor condition, 2 (50%) are in fair condition, 1 (25%) is in good condition.

See table on the following page.



## Sports Courts Conditions

Park	Court Type	Year Upgraded	Condition Rating
William Griffin Park	Lacrosse (1)	1997	F - Very Poor
Delbrook Lands	Tennis (3)	2000	D - Poor
Glenwood Park	Tennis (1)	1990	C - Fair
Institute Park	Tennis (2), pickleball (2)	1990	C - Fair
Draycott / Westover Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	1990	C - Fair
Kirkstone Park	Lacrosse (1)	2000	C - Fair
Cleveland Park	Tennis (2)	2011	C - Fair
Myrtle Park	Lacrosse (1)	2019	C - Fair
Viewlyn Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	1986	B - Good
Kirkstone Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	2000	B - Good
Princess Park	Tennis (2)	2009	B - Good
Eldon Park	Tennis (2), and a practice court	2010	B - Good
Welch Strip Park	Tennis (2)	2010	B - Good
Garibaldi Park	Tennis (2)	2011	B - Good
Draycott / Westover Park	Tennis (2), and a practice court	2012	B - Good
Evelyn Park	Tennis (2)	2015	B - Good
Garibaldi Park	Basketball / multi-use (1)	2015	B - Good

Table continues on the next page.



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## Accessibility Audit

The District's goal is to create welcoming, inclusive parks for all residents and providing barrier-free access will be a priority when developing new or enhancing existing sports courts. The District has already improved accessibility at several locations including Delbrook Park which has new accessible washrooms and pathways, and several sports courts have recently been resurfaced or are planned to be resurfaced in the next year to improve access.

District staff carried-out an assessment of each sports court to identify opportunities to improve accessible pathways.

The assessment revealed that access to the following courts (listed in no particular order) would be greatly improved by providing barrier free pathways and curb-cuts:

- Cates Park / Whey-Ah-Wichen (East) – Tennis / pickleball
- Cleveland Park – Tennis
- Draycott / Westover Park – Basketball
- Glenwood Park – Tennis
- Myrtle Park – Lacrosse
- Pemberton Park – Tennis
- Strathaven Park – Basketball
- William Griffin Park – Lacrosse

## Court Bookings

Currently, the District of North Vancouver offers both a first-come-first-served drop in approach and a club bookings approach for tennis and pickleball courts. For club bookings, tennis and pickleball user groups have agreements with the District for standing court reservations, allowing the benefit of predictable time slots and no competition for courts.

For sports like baseball and soccer, user groups book time slots for a fee through North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC).

Some of the challenges identified through the development of this Strategy include an aging inventory of sports courts requiring improvements and high maintenance costs, as well as budget constraints resulting in limited funding for ongoing maintenance, renewals and replacements. This presents a need to identify additional sources of funding.

A concurrent study is underway, led by NVRC, to identify a comprehensive approach to bookings and user fees for all sports user groups in the District that would improve demand management, and equitability. Currently, fees are not being charged for groups to book tennis and pickleball courts and this will be reviewed as a part of the study.

This study could also help identify additional funding opportunities to support the ongoing maintenance and improvements for outdoor sports amenities.



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## Partnerships

### Potential Projects

Developer Contributions / Developments:

- Consider opportunities to add sports courts with new developments and consider leveraging developer contributions for new sports courts.

NVRC Recreation Centres:

- Consider adding sport court lines to gymnasium floors (when due for repainting).

District of North Vancouver School District 44:

- Consider adding sport court lines to school gymnasium floors (when due for repainting).

### School District 44

The following schools in the District have courts with line markings for tennis. However, none are maintained for playing tennis.

- Blueridge Elementary - 2
- Capilano Elementary - 1
- Windsor Secondary - 4

The courts at Blueridge Elementary, Capilano Elementary, and Windsor Secondary are located too close to residential areas, making them unsuitable for regular use or conversion to pickleball courts due to noise concerns.

## Next Steps

The District will maintain and improve existing sports courts while strategically adding new facilities as required. This includes maintaining user satisfaction, and maintenance levels, and improving the physical condition, accessibility, and ease of access and availability of sports courts where feasible.

# Appendix A

## Inventory of Sports Courts

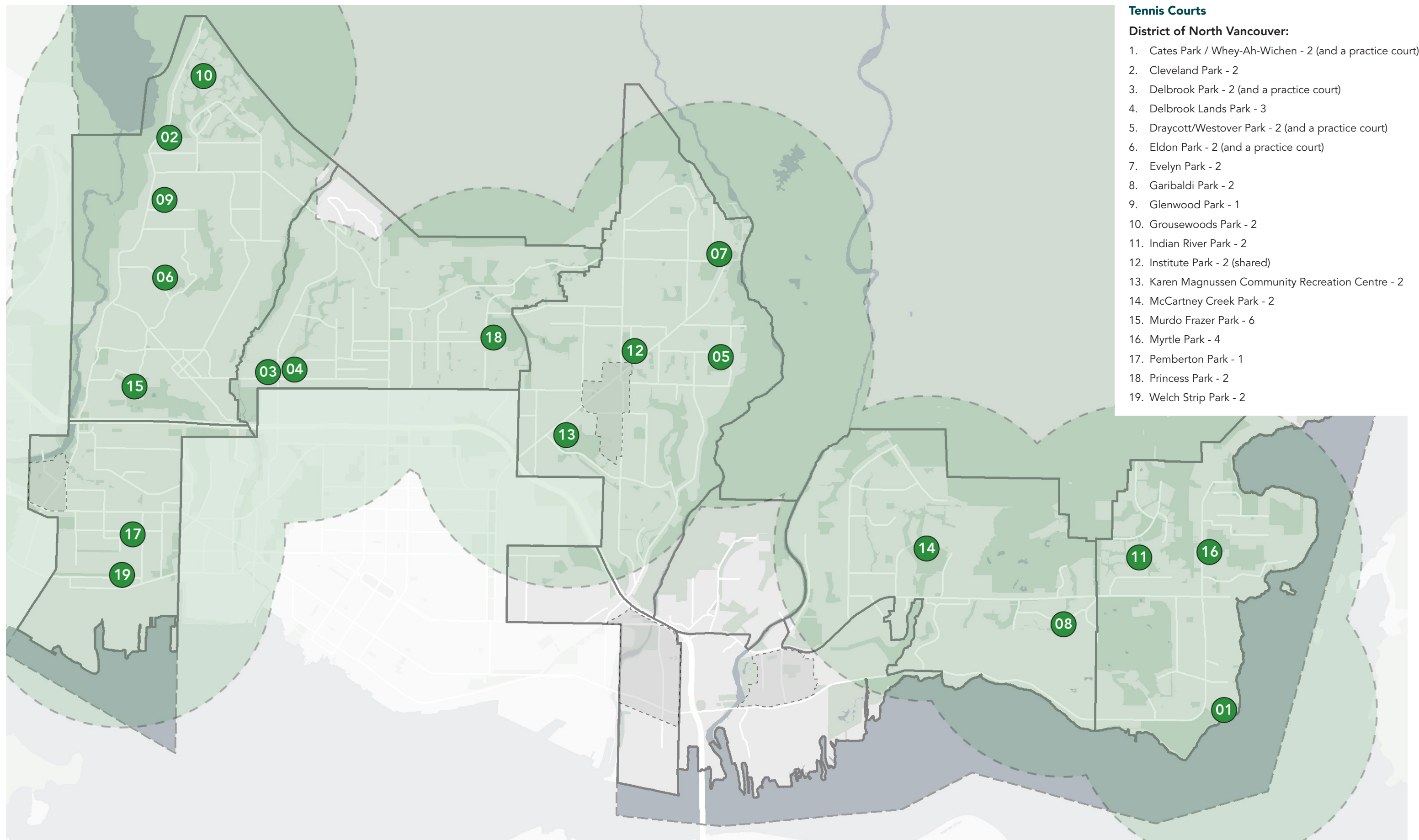


Figure 6: Inventory of tennis courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius

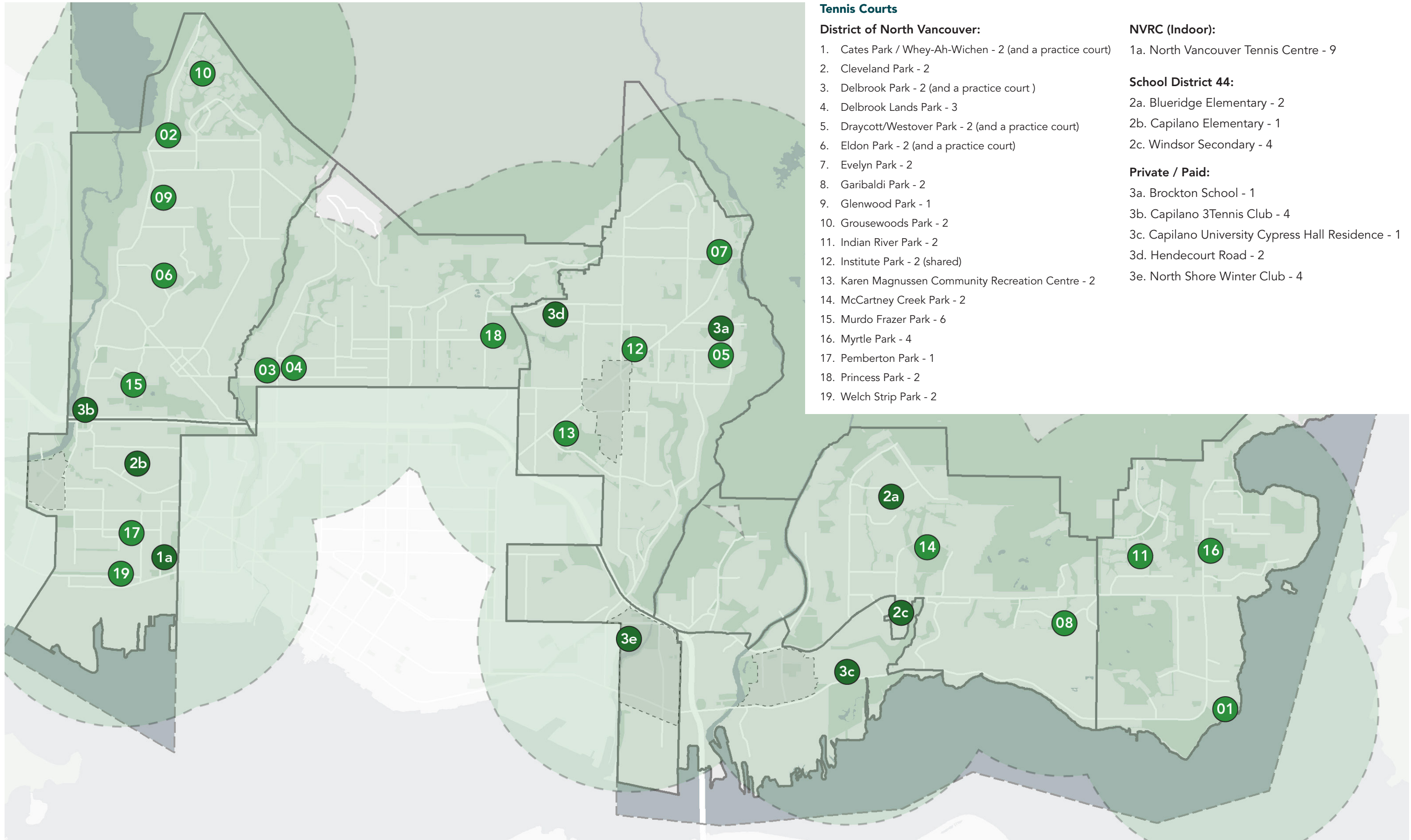


Figure 7: Inventory of tennis courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius



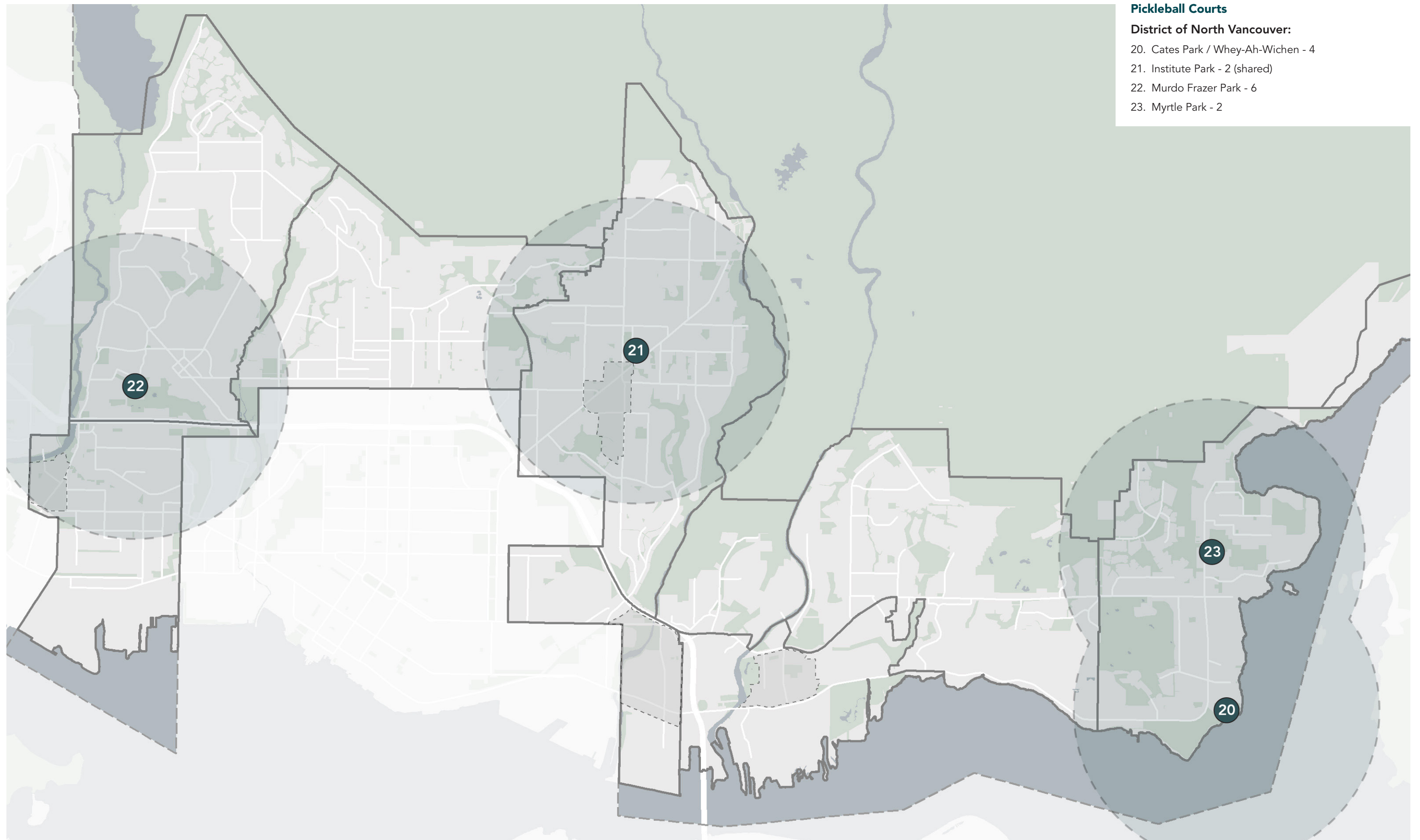


Figure 8: Inventory of pickleball courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius

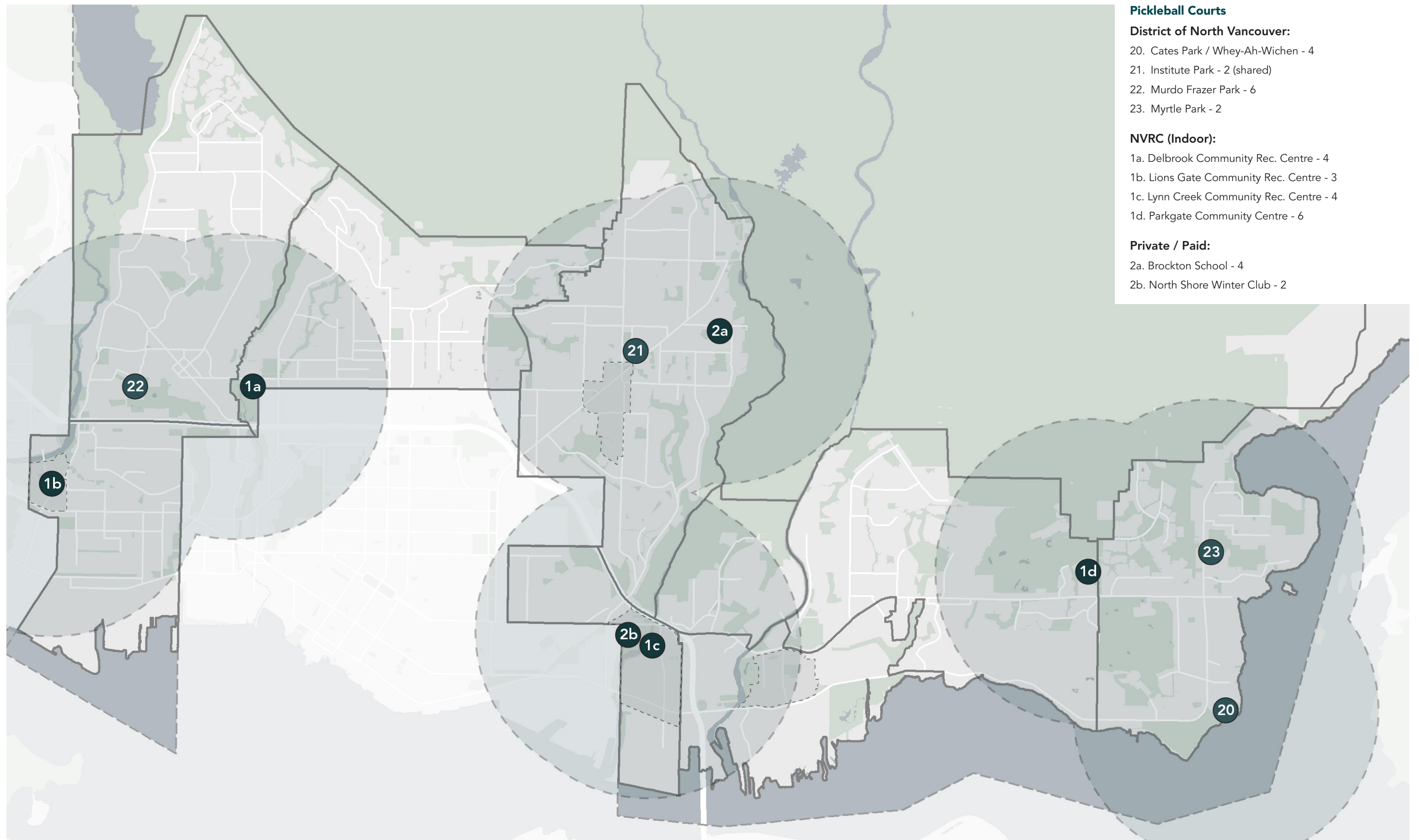


Figure 9: Inventory of pickleball courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius



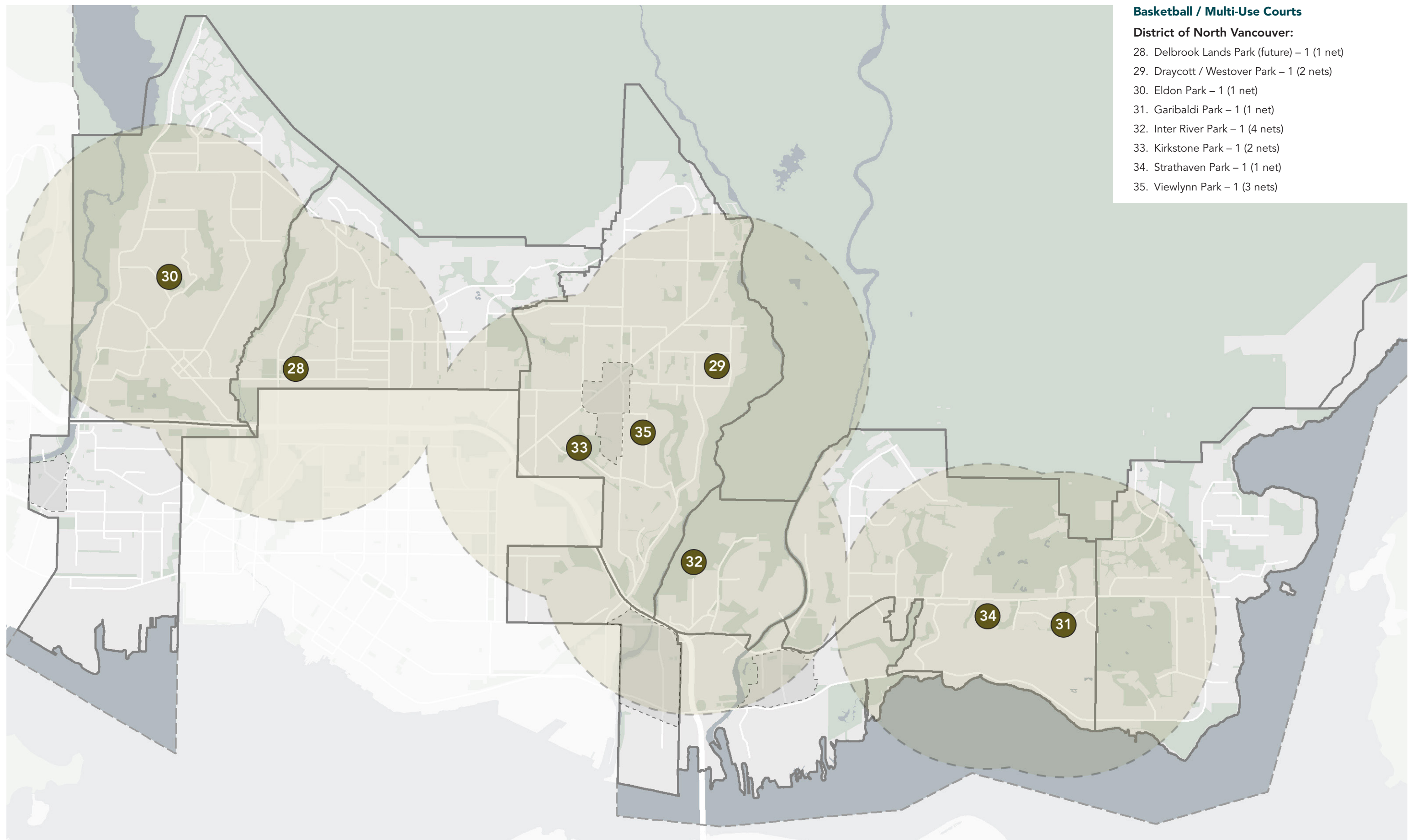


Figure 10: Inventory of basketball / multi-use courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius

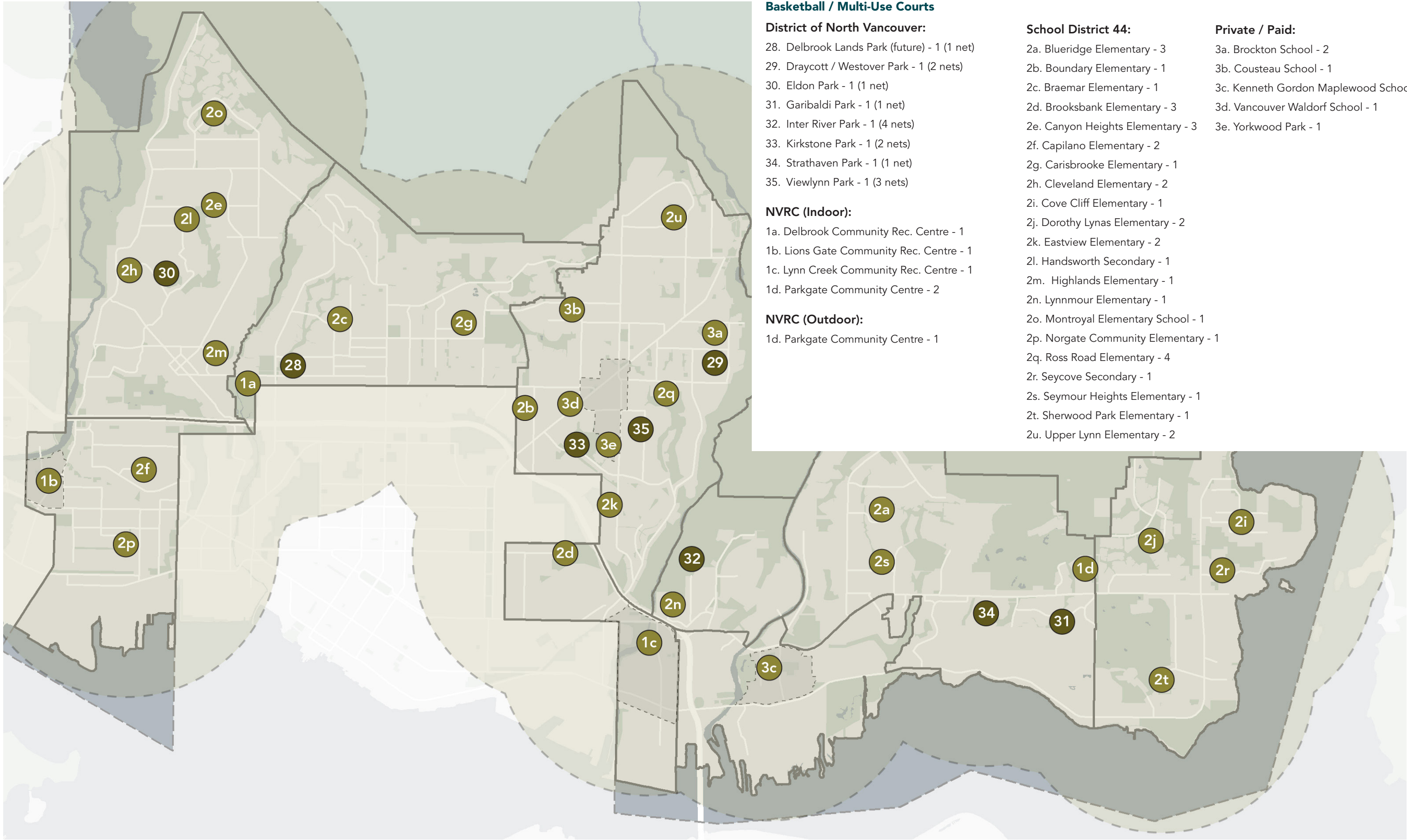


Figure 11: Inventory of basketball / multi-use courts and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius



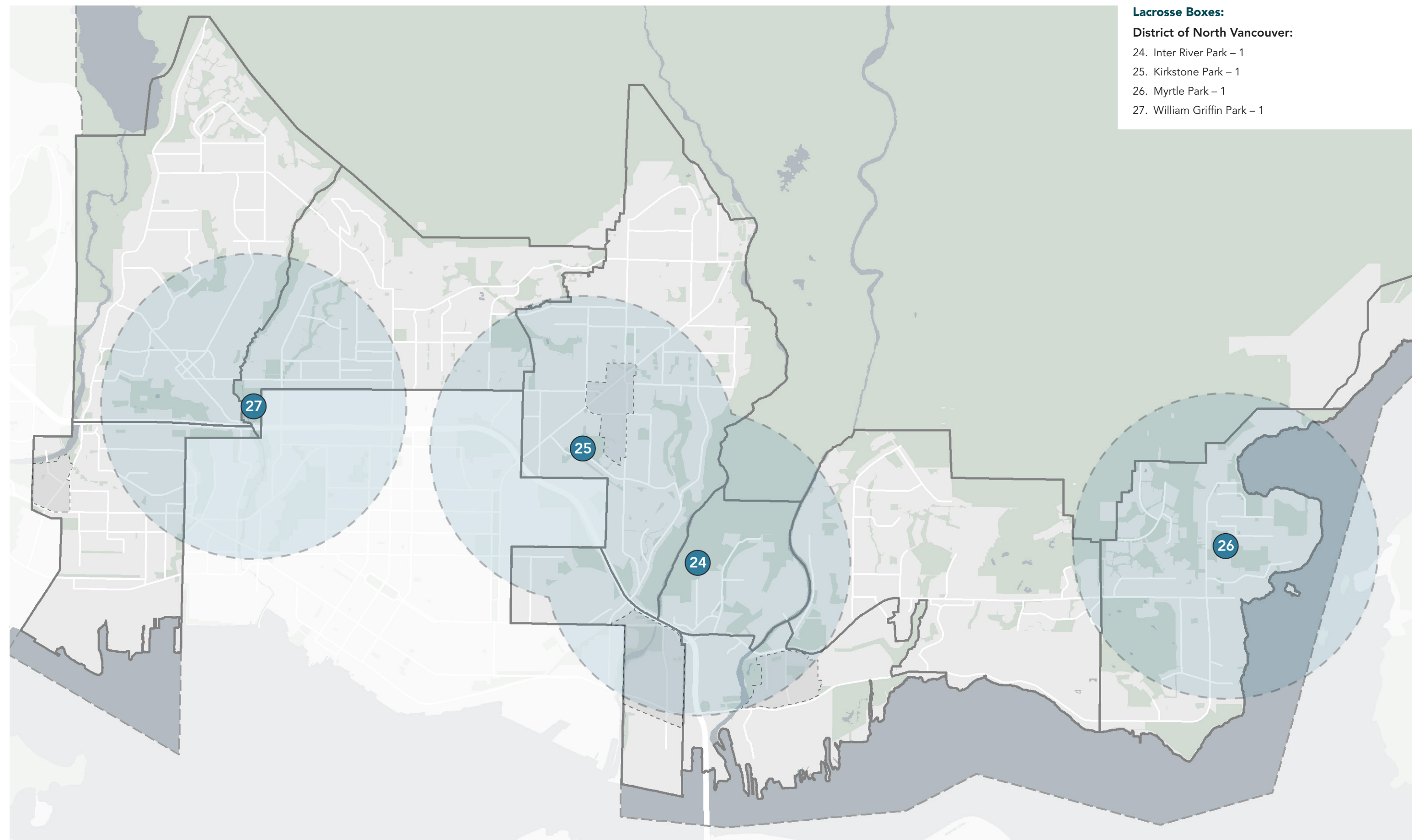


Figure 12: Inventory of lacrosse boxes and a 1.6 km (20 minute walk) radius



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