

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Cricket Strategy

Online Mapping Tool Feedback Summary Report

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Susan Fall, Senior Project Coordinator

Matt Bentley, Project Manager

Alexandra Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



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Project Background

Cricket is popular in Toronto and is one of the fastest-growing sports across the region. City staff are in the process of developing a Cricket Strategy to better meet this growing demand.

As part of the 20-year [Facilities Master Plan \(FMP\)](#), City staff reviewed Toronto's existing cricket facilities to determine if improvements and/or new facilities are required to keep up with demand. The review recommended the following actions over the next 20 years:

- Upgrade three existing cricket pitches:
 - Upgrades will increase the overall capacity of existing fields to support more opportunities for play
 - Upgrades may include improvements to field quality and support amenities like washrooms, seating, lighting, etc.
- Create up to five new cricket pitches:
 - New pitches will be regulation size and may be shared with other recreational activities (e.g. across two full-size soccer fields)
 - Accommodating new pitches may require the City to explore opportunities for land use partnerships, acquiring new land and or redesigning existing parks

City staff are in the process of developing a Cricket Strategy to support and inform this work. The strategy will help the City:

- Understand the needs of the cricket community, including facility needs, field design, locations, unstructured play options, and supporting amenities.
- Build relationships with the cricket community and other partners and ensure that the cricket community is fully engaged in the process.
- Support the growth of cricket across Toronto's communities through programming and partnerships.

The Cricket Strategy will include:

- Identified locations for new cricket pitches and opportunities for upgrading existing pitches.
- Guidelines for the design of cricket pitches and supporting facilities including practice wickets.
- A recreation plan for supporting cricket in Toronto through activities such as coaching support and youth programming.

Online Mapping Tool Objectives

An online mapping tool was used to collect feedback about potential new and existing cricket field locations from October 16 to November 2, 2020. Participants were able to:

- Mark locations across the City where they would like to see new Cricket Fields. This was followed by a short survey to gather additional information about the proposed field, including who would likely use the field, the minimum size, and any additional details.
- Mark locations across the City where they currently play cricket in an informal space (e.g. not on a cricket field, but instead on a baseball diamond, soccer field, hydro corridor, open space, etc.). This was followed by a short survey to gather additional

information about the space including who plays there, how often people play there, if the space should become a formalized cricket field, and any additional details.

- Rate and provide suggestions for improvement for the City's 28 existing cricket fields.

In total, there were:

- 171 suggestions for new cricket fields
- 39 locations of cricket play in informal spaces identified
- 302 surveys completed to date
- 150 unique users interacting with the site through one of the above listed options
- 1,574 unique visitors viewing the site

The feedback from the online mapping tool will inform the development of the City's Cricket Strategy.

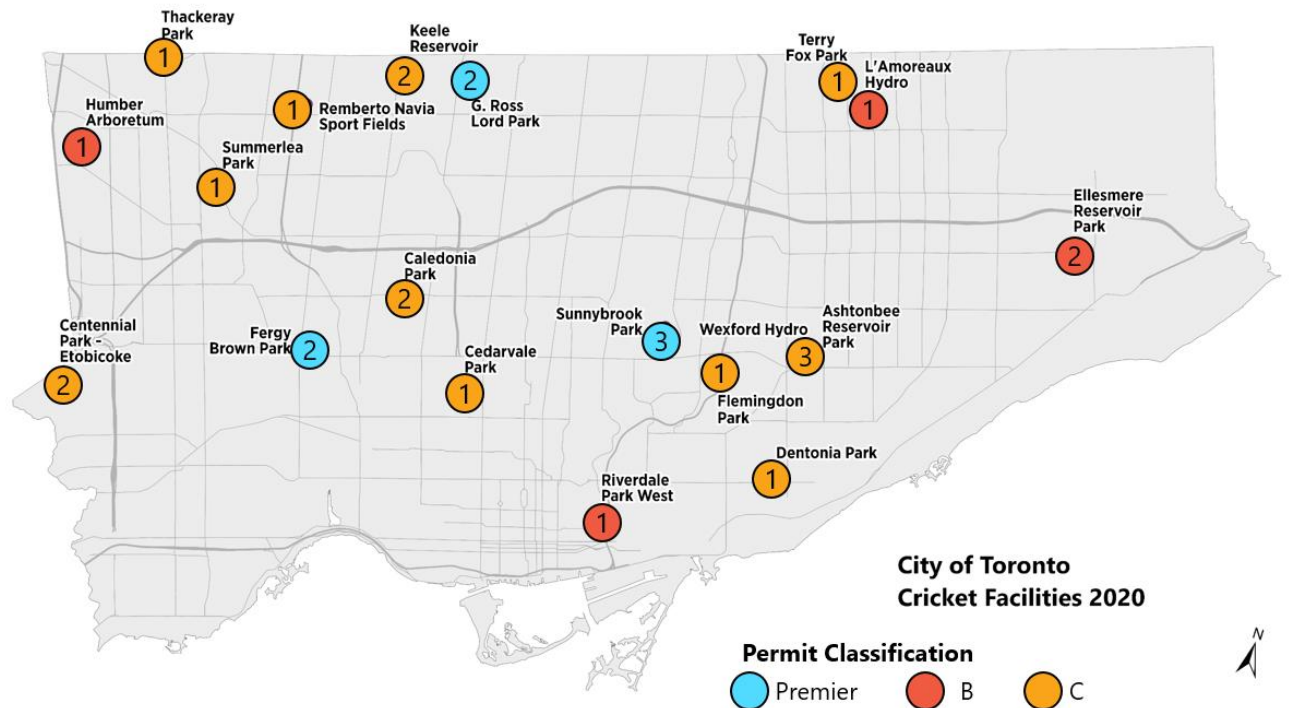
Notification

The online mapping tool was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting people who live in Toronto and have an interest in cricket
- At the virtual public meeting
- Through the cricket stakeholder group's networks
- On the project webpage: www.toronto.ca/CricketStrategy
- Through email notifications:
 - Through City Councillor's offices
 - Through the Facilities Master Plan E-updates listserve
 - Through the Cricket Strategy E-updates listserve

Feedback on Existing Cricket Pitches

Participants were asked to fill out short surveys about existing cricket pitches. The following pages summarise the feedback received on each of the 28 existing City-owned cricket pitches. Use the map below as a reference for the location of each pitch. Pitches on the following pages are listed in alphabetical order.



Ashtonbee Reservoir Park 1

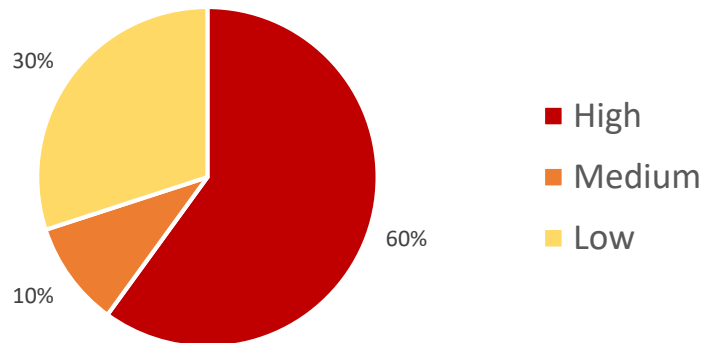
Responses Received:

10

Pitch Rating

3.6/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Correct the uneven ground, which can cause injury.
- Improve maintenance by cutting grass shorter to allow the ball to travel.
- Replace turf
- Change or repair the pitch matting. Routinely sweep sand on the matting to control the bounce of the pitch. The base is concrete so without sand it can be very bouncy.
- Relocate the practice cages closer to the existing pitches. Current cages are useful for practice but the distance makes supervision of students/players difficult if coaches need to remain by the main pitches.
- Install AstroTurf in the Practice areas.

Ashtonbee Reservoir Park 2

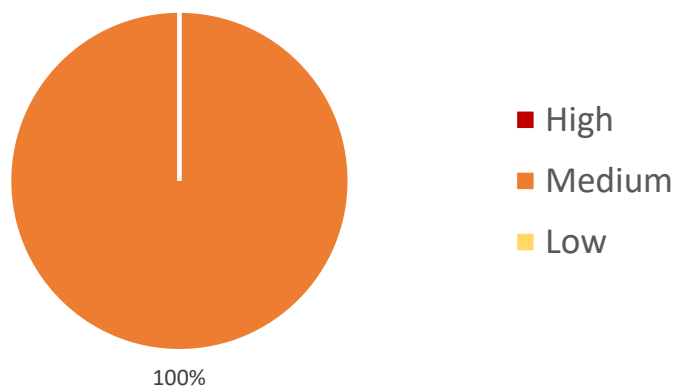
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

3.5/5 Average pitch rating **N/A** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Correct the uneven ground, which can cause injury.
- Improve the practice area by installing better netting and AstroTurf.
- Replace the carpet-like pitch surface with turf. This will make play more fun, make the pitch appropriate for more competitive play for both adults and youth, and serve as an example of a great pitch for those who are new to cricket.

Caledonia Park 1

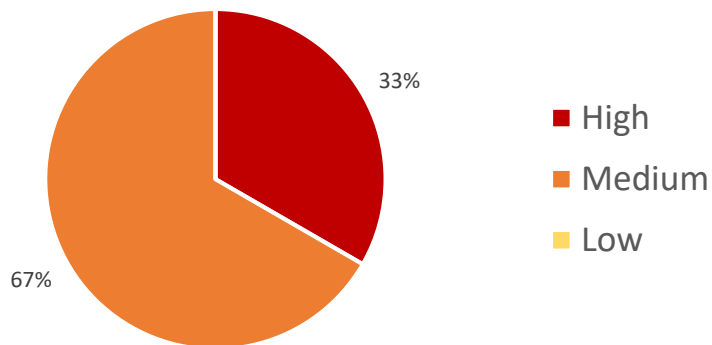
Responses Received:

3

Pitch Rating

2.3/5 Average pitch rating **2/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield quality.
- Improve outfield maintenance by cutting grass.
- Provide facilities including a scoreboard and a pavilion for storing equipment.
- Ensure proper drainage so the field is playable.

Caledonia Park 2

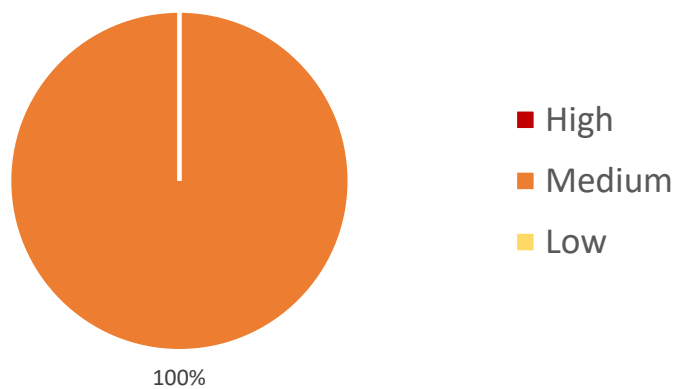
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

2/5 Average pitch rating **2/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Lengthen the pitch, which is currently short at both ends.
- Improve the pitch is in poor condition and should be improved, including the additional of more support under the AstroTurf.
- Keep the grass shorter and use a machine roller to roll the grass a few times a year.
- Provide facilities including a scoreboard and a pavilion for storing equipment.

Cedarvale Park

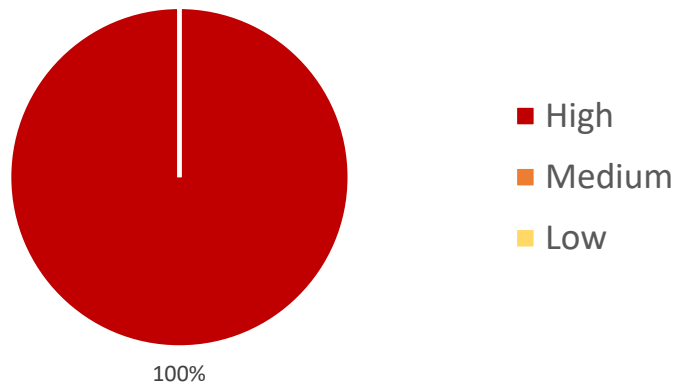
Responses Received:

1

Pitch Rating

1/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Install a proper cricket wicket.
- Grade the outfield and keep the grass short.
- Provide facilities including a scoreboard and a pavilion for storing equipment.

Centennial Park 1

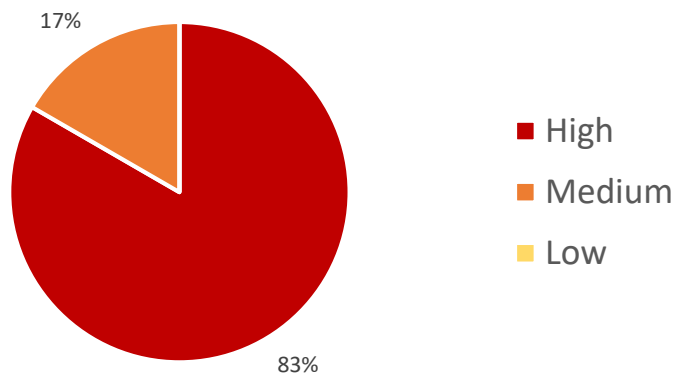
Responses Received:

6

Pitch Rating

2.7/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Increase ground maintenance including keeping grass cut short.
- Install more practice nets, for a total of 4-5 practice nets.
- Improve the patchy bowling run up.
- Put up a net in front of the wooded area to prevent stray balls from getting lost.
- Replace the AstroTurf pitch with real turf. Currently the AstroTurf needs to be removed once it becomes wet. Generally, the pitch is hard and uneven, which results in more bounces causing injuries. If real turf is installed (e.g. mud or clay), it should be properly groomed with rollers during summer season.
- Install washroom facilities.

Centennial Park 2

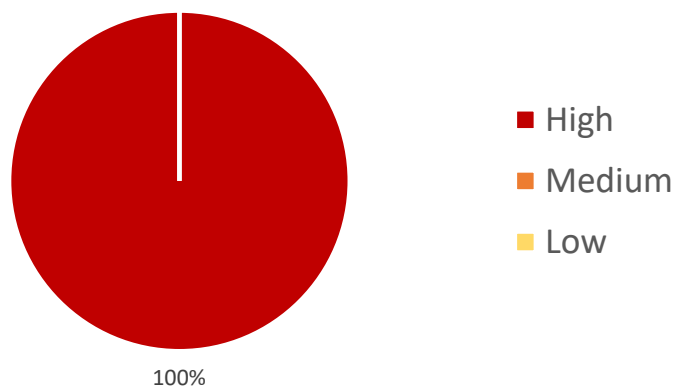
Responses Received:

8

Pitch Rating

2.6/5 Average pitch rating **2/5 and 3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Increase ground maintenance including keeping grass cut short (7-20 mm), removing grass clippings after mowing (not keeping them on the field), and planting finer grass.
- Replace the AstroTurf pitch with real turf, or new AstroTurf. Currently the AstroTurf needs to be removed once it becomes wet. Generally, the pitch is hard and uneven, which results in more bounces causing injuries. If real turf is installed (e.g. mud or clay), it should be properly groomed with rollers during summer season.
- Ensure there are no uneven areas in the outfield. The ideal cricket outfield should be firm, fast, even and present no hazards to any player as a result of a ball popping up from an uneven surface or players tripping over uneven surfaces.
- Install washrooms. With more women and girls using this facility to play and practice the lack of washrooms makes it very difficult. Players have to drive to nearby restaurants or other facilities causing play disruptions.
- Installation of flood lights similar to the adjoining baseball fields could increase the hours of play possible at both the pitches in the park, allowing for play on summer nights.
- Install more parking as the current lot is too small.

Dentonia Park

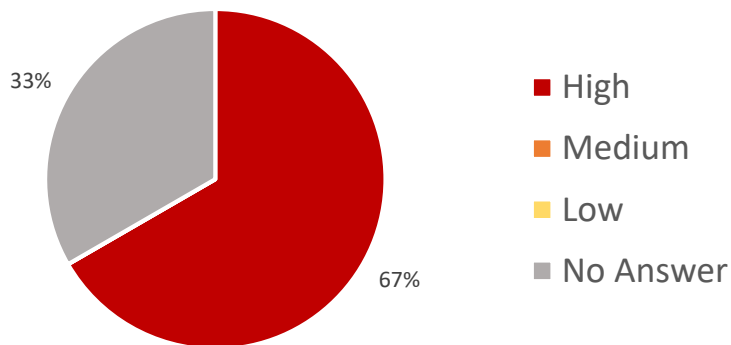
Responses Received:

3

Pitch Rating

1.7/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- The playground beside the field and constant foot traffic across the field makes playing difficult.
- Improve maintenance, including the grass maintenance and ground landscaping. This field is unplayable and has not been maintained enough to be considered a working cricket pitch.

Ellesmere Reservoir Park 1

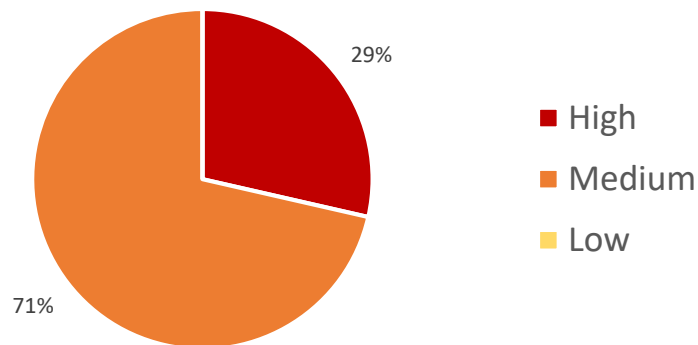
Responses Received:

7

Pitch Rating

2.4/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Resurface or replace the existing pitch, wicket, and batting area.
 - Keep the real turf (rather than using AstroTurf).
 - Roll the pitch area.
 - Extend the width and length of the pitch.
 - Make the pitch ground hard (it is currently quite soft).
 - Install more turf wickets.
- Improve maintenance by mowing the outfield lawn consistently, to ensure the ball travels well on the ground. Long and unmaintained grass changes game play.
- Improve parking.
 - There is a private company that is handing out tickets that look like the City of Toronto tickets. This should be investigated.
- Establish a permanent and clear boundary around the field.

Ellesmere Reservoir Park 2

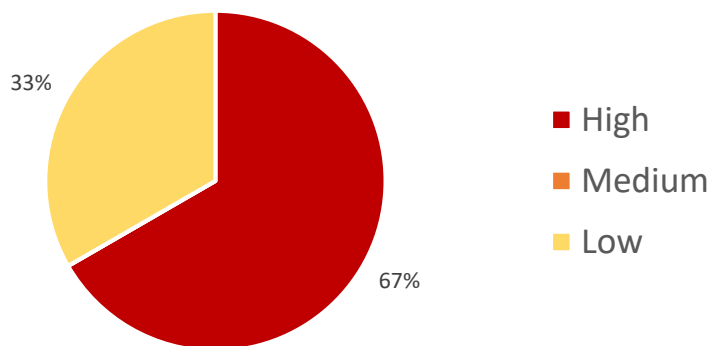
Responses Received:

3

Pitch Rating

2.3/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace the pitch. Half of the pitch is torn apart. Overall, it is dangerous and unplayable.

Fergy Brown Park 1

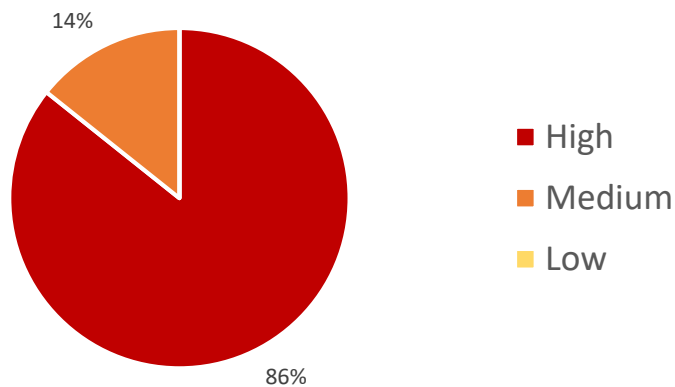
Responses Received:

7

Pitch Rating

2.1/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve maintenance by cutting the grass shorter and more often. Currently the ball does not travel well across the outfield.
 - Improving grass maintenance would improve the pitch, especially for youth play.
- Improve or replace the pitch, which is currently very uneven with little bounce.
 - If improving the pitch, the matting on the pitch should be replaced. Currently the matting on the pitch is very low bounce, and it is unplayable if it has rained within 24 hours.
- Install more nets for practicing.

Fergy Brown Park 2

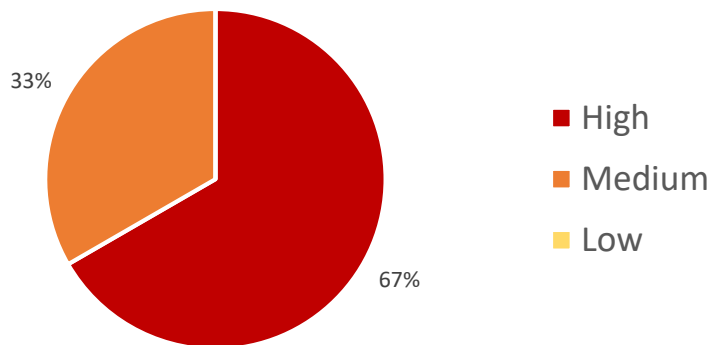
Responses Received:

3

Pitch Rating

1.7/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace the pitch, especially the matting. Currently the pitch is
- Remove nearby sand, as this makes the ground slippery and presents a hazard for players.
- Improve field maintenance by cutting the grass on a more regular basis. This ground is probably one of the worst grounds to play cricket on. Currently, the matting on the pitch is very low bounce, and it is unplayable if it has rained within 24 hours.

Flemingdon Park

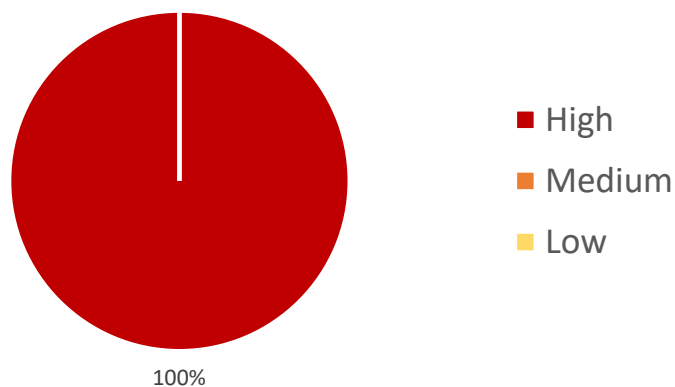
Responses Received:

6

Pitch Rating

1.5/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield quality and maintenance by cutting grass shorter and more frequently, irrigating the field, and filling in any holes (currently a safety hazard for players).
- Expand the field size.
- Regrade, even out, and expand the pitch. Currently, the pitch is ripped and uneven which is dangerous for players due to unpredictable ball bounces.
- Even out the run up for bowlers. Currently the run up area is uneven which is especially dangerous for fast bowlers.
- Provide a scoreboard, team benches, practice cages, and a pavilion for storing equipment.
- Remove the asphalt path that cuts through this field.

G. Ross Lord Park 1

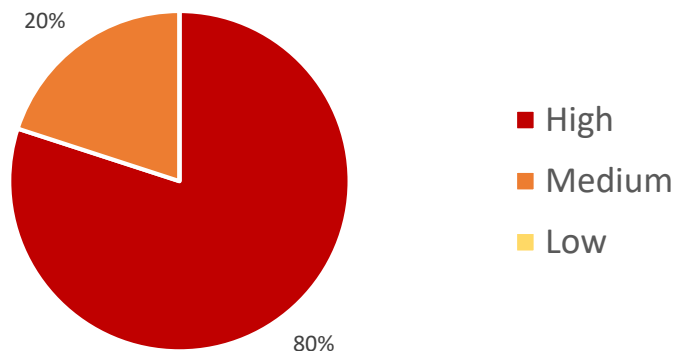
Responses Received:

5

Pitch Rating

1.4/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve field maintenance by keeping grass below 1 inch tall.
 - The current length of the outfield grass takes away from the quality of the game. The ball must be able to roll freely and quickly along the grass.
 - Do not leave grass clippings on the field as this impedes the ball from rolling.
- Improve the pitch and wicket.
 - Replace or convert the pitch and wicket matting to AstroTurf.
 - Improve wicket maintenance by regularly fixing wicket matting, the wooden strips around the wicket
- Improve or replace surrounding drainage systems.
- Add floodlights to enable night play and meet field demand.
- Replace or refurbish the practice cages.
 - Replace and extend the netting at the top of the cage to almost the full length of the cage. This will stop the balls from hitting those around the facility.
 - Install padding approximately 0.5 - 1 meters high around the bottom of the practice cages to improve longevity. This will prevent the netting from tearing, as is currently occurring.
 - Replace the practice cage AstroTurf, ensuring a solid concrete foundation beneath the AstroTurf.
 - Look to public practice facilities in Australia as an example of what is required to make good cricket practice facilities.

G. Ross Lord Park 2

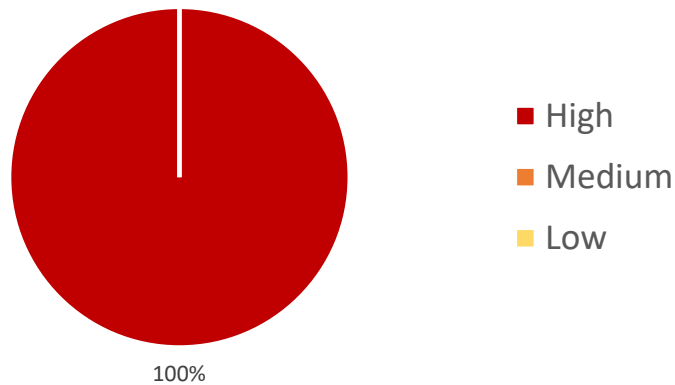
Responses Received:

7

Pitch Rating

1.6/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace the pitch with new AstroTurf.
 - Last year games were rescheduled to different grounds because of bad pitch conditions.
- Improve field maintenance by keeping grass below 1 inch tall.
 - The current length of the outfield grass takes away from the quality of the game. The ball must be able to roll freely and quickly along the grass.
- Add floodlights to enable night play and meet field demand.

Humber Arboretum

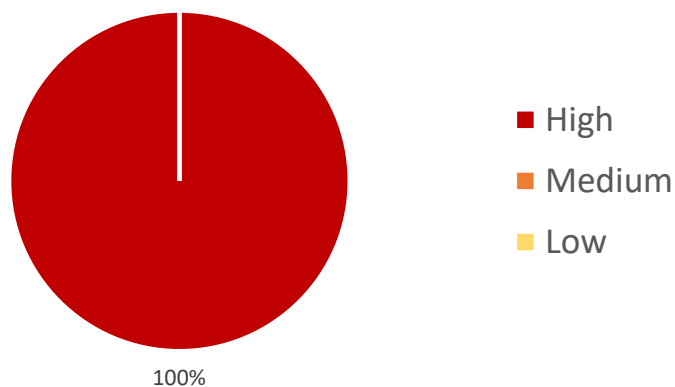
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

N/A (No ratings provided)

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace the pitch matting with AstroTurf. Currently the pitch is uneven and presents a safety hazard to players due to unpredictable bounces.
 - Natural play is difficult in wet conditions. This is common in this location because the pitch is on low ground behind a school.
- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass below 1.5 inches tall.
- All cricket pitches should be facing North-South, as East-West facing pitches position the sun into players' eyes, posing a safety hazard.

Keele Reservoir 1

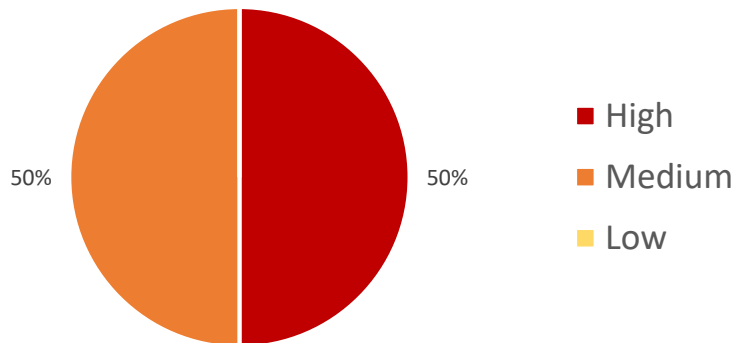
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

3/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Even out the bowler run up and wicket area to reduce chances of injury.
- The pitch has improved since the matting was replaced.
- Geese faeces is an issue at this field.

Keele Reservoir 2

Responses Received:

1

Pitch Rating

3/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:

(None provided)

Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Even out and regrade the outfield. Currently balls do not travel to the outside of the field due to the outfield quality.
- Geese faeces is an issue at this field.

L'Amoreaux Hydro

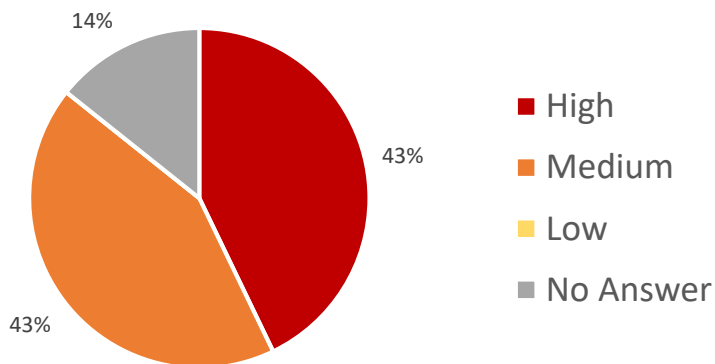
Responses Received:

7

Pitch Rating

3.6/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short and removing grass clippings.
- Repair and roll the pitch.
- Fix the existing and install more practice cages.
- Install a second shed and table area near the practice cages.
- Provide more washroom access.

Remberto Navia

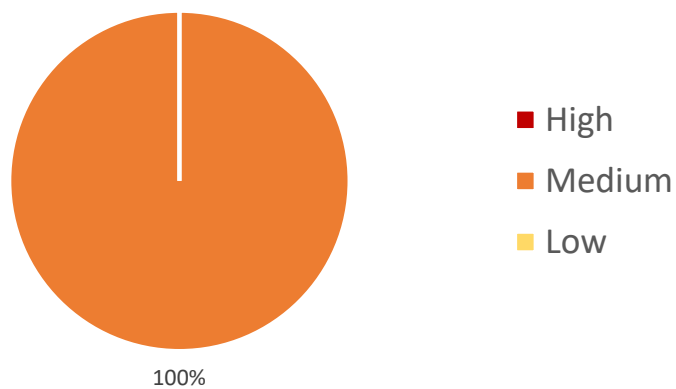
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

2.5/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Make the pitch level with the field.
- Even out the outfield and run up area.

Riverdale Park West

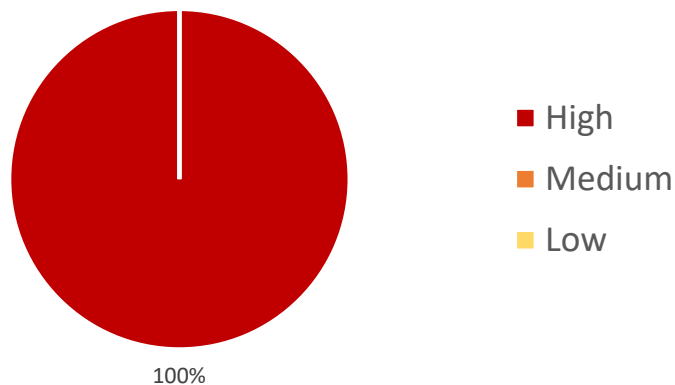
Responses Received:

6

Pitch Rating

1.3/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Set up a safe space for on lookers, dog walkers, joggers and players.
 - Right now, the space is a dog park and playing cricket here is very challenging.
 - The location has potential for lots of cricket play because of its proximity to downtown.
- Improve outfield quality and maintenance by keeping grass short and leveling the field.
- Provide facilities including a scoreboard and a pavilion for storing equipment.
- Replace the pitch.
- Install a new practice net.

Summerlea Park

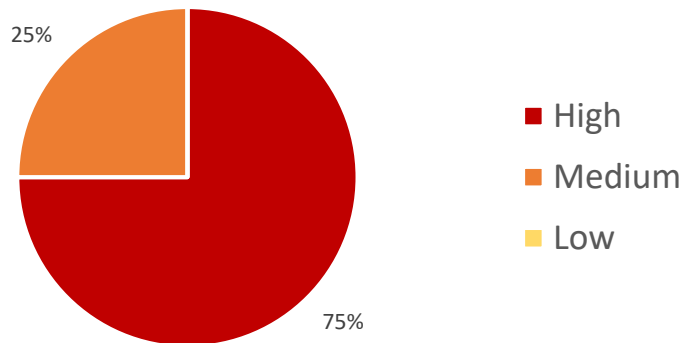
Responses Received:

4

Pitch Rating

1.8/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace, resurface, and level the pitch with real turf (instead of AstroTurf).
 - A participant noted that AstroTurf is hard and uneven which leads to unpredictable bounces that can cause injury.
 - Groom new turf pitches with rollers throughout the summer season.
- Improve outfield quality and maintenance by keeping grass short.

Sunnybrook Park 1

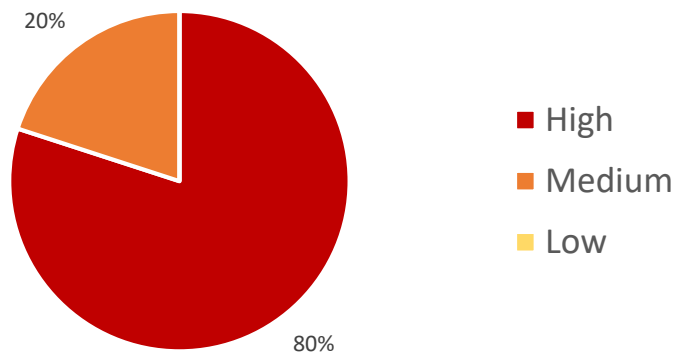
Responses Received:

5

Pitch Rating

2.4/5 Average pitch rating **2/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short and thin to allow the ball to roll further.
- Improve the wicket so it has a proper track (e.g. like the pitch at Ashtonbee).
- Improve and even out the pitch.
- Improve practice area maintenance and replace the practice area pitch with a harder surface.
- Install benches for competitive teams.

Sunnybrook Park 2

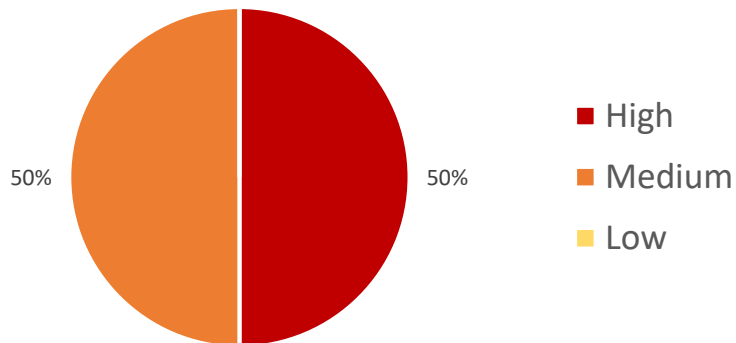
Responses Received:

2

Pitch Rating

3/5 Average pitch rating **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short and thin to allow the ball to roll further.
- Improve practice area netting and maintenance.
- Improve pitch maintenance.
- Install benches for competitive teams.

Sunnybrook Park 3

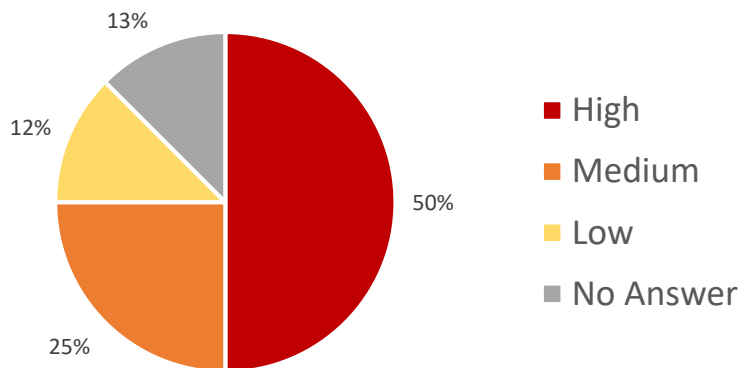
Responses Received:

8

Pitch Rating

2.75/5 Average pitch rating **1/5, 2/5, and 4/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short and thin to allow the ball to roll further.
- Replace practice area netting and improve maintenance.
- Replace the pitch with real turf (not AstroTurf), ensure the new pitch is even, and improve maintenance.
- Install benches for teams.

Terry Fox Park

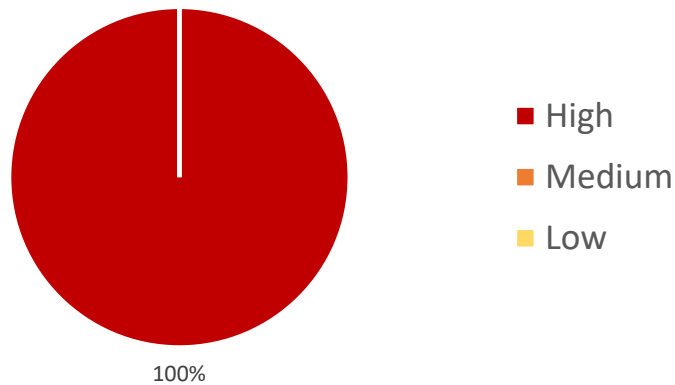
Responses Received:

8

Pitch Rating

1.8/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace or resurface the uneven pitch, which is currently a safety hazard.
 - If replacing, roll the layer underneath the AstroTurf to even out the pitch.
- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short and thin to allow the ball to roll further.
- Add lights to enable night play and meet field demand.
- Replace the wickets.
- Add a second pitch here to allow the space to be used for tournaments.

Thackeray Park

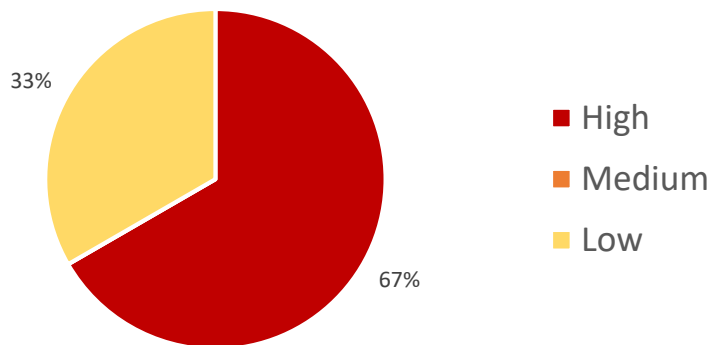
Responses Received:

3

Pitch Rating

1.7/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:



Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Replace the AstroTurf wicket with natural turf, as natural turf is better in wet conditions, less hard, and less uneven (if groomed and maintained with a roller).
- Level the outfield and bowling run up.
 - The bowling run up is currently in bad condition, which is dangerous for bowlers.
- Expand the field. Currently, you can only bat from the North side because you lose too many balls if you bat from South to North.

Wexford Hydro

Responses Received:

6

Pitch Rating

2.3/5 Average pitch rating **1/5** and **3/5** = Mode pitch rating

Priority Ranking:

(None provided)

Suggested Pitch Improvements:

- Improve drainage as this field is often damp.
- Improve outfield maintenance by keeping grass short, filling any holes, leveling, and rolling and flattening the surface.
- Improve the run up area.
- Convert the baseball diamond here so they can also be used for cricket.
- Simplify the booking system.
- Install AstroTurf in the practice areas.

New Cricket Pitch Suggestions and Areas of Informal Play

Participants were asked to share where:

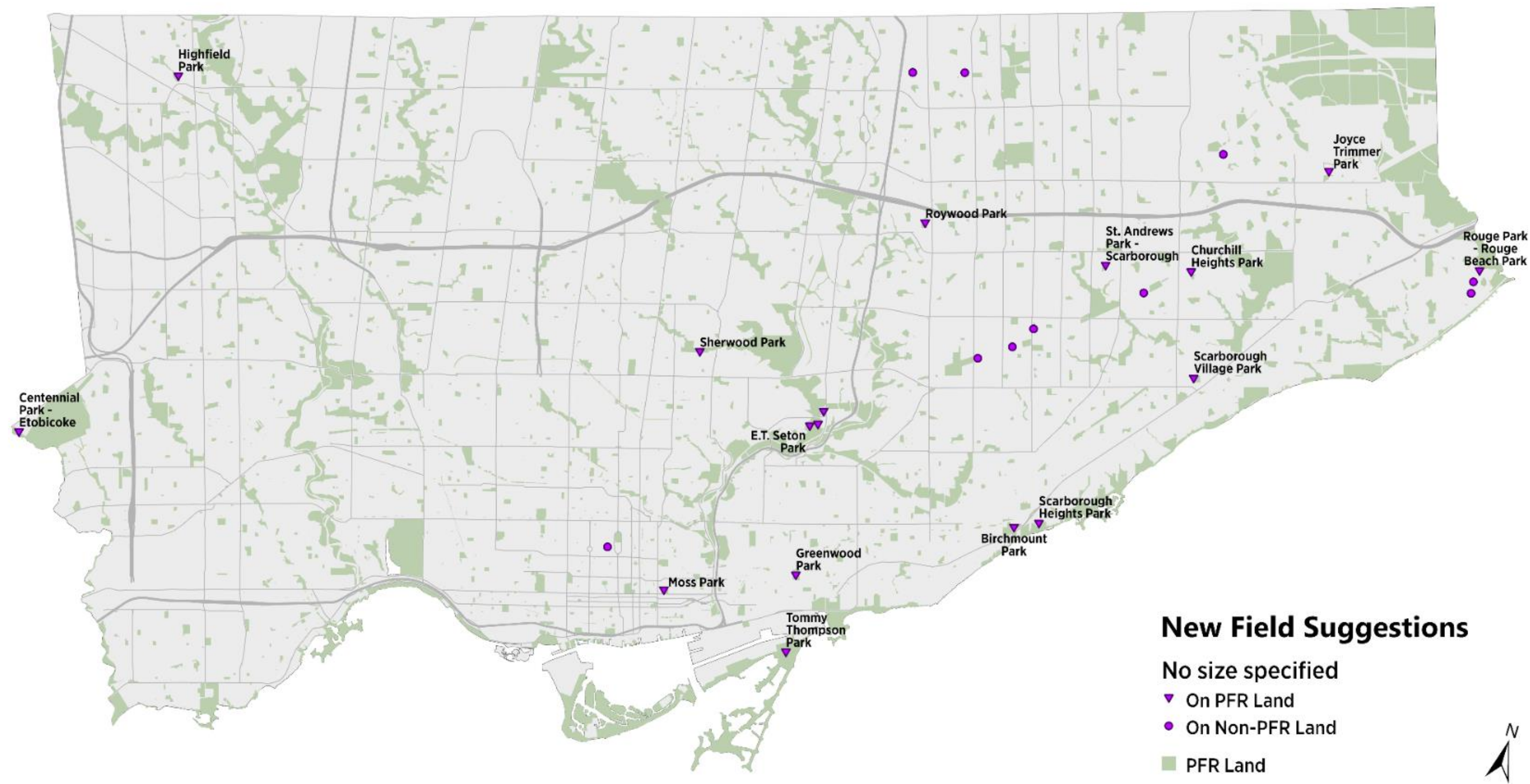
- They currently play cricket on informal cricket spaces (e.g. on a baseball diamond, soccer field, Hydro corridor, open space, etc.)
- They would like to see a new cricket field.

Participants used the online mapping tool to drop pins in these locations. The maps on the following page visualize key information¹ from the suggestions received.

¹ If you would like copies of the full data sets collected, please contact alex.lavasidis@toronto.ca . The data is available in excel format with geographic information included and any personally identifiable information of respondents removed.

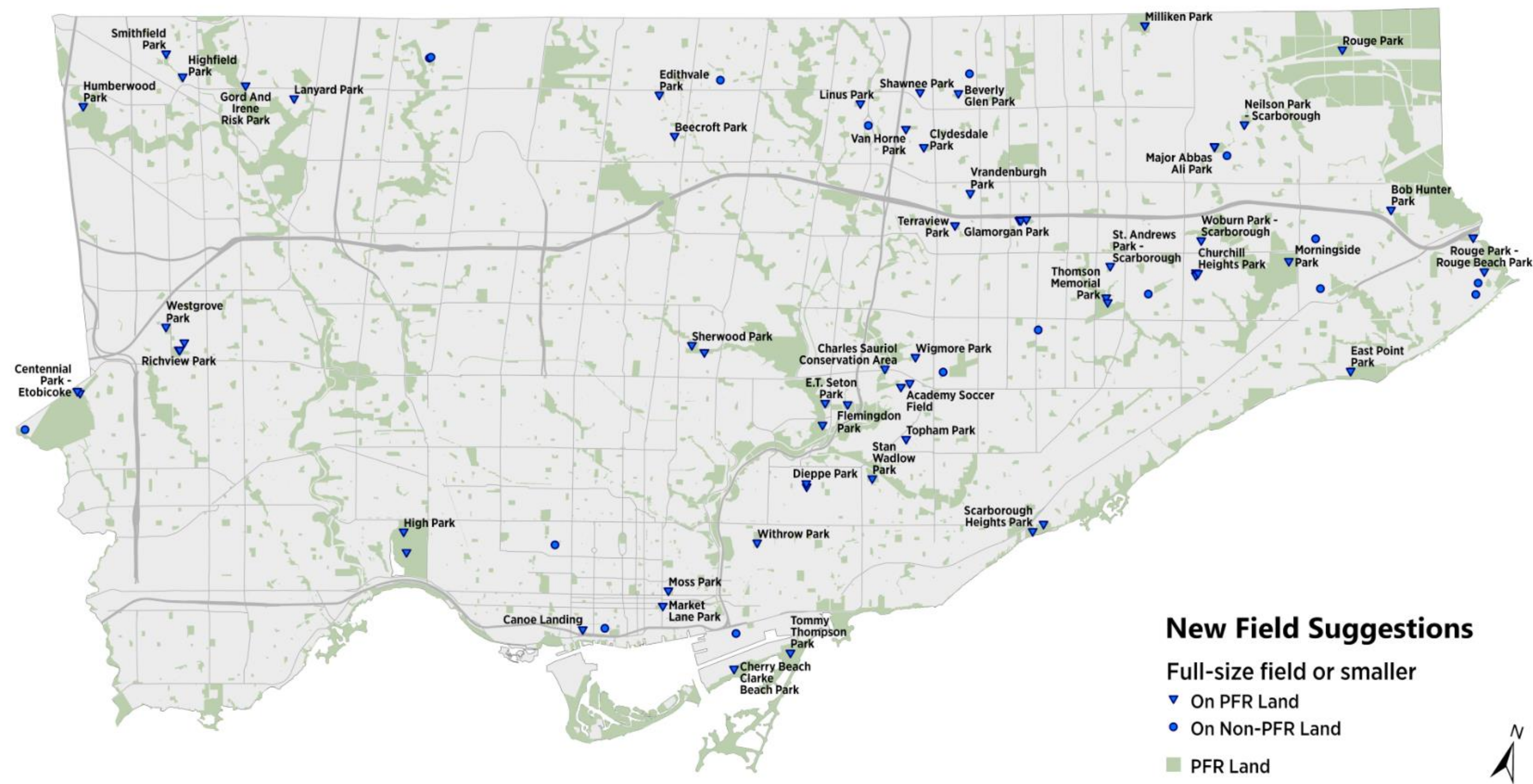
New Field Suggestions: No Field Size Specified

The following map identifies suggested locations for new cricket fields where no minimum field size was identified.



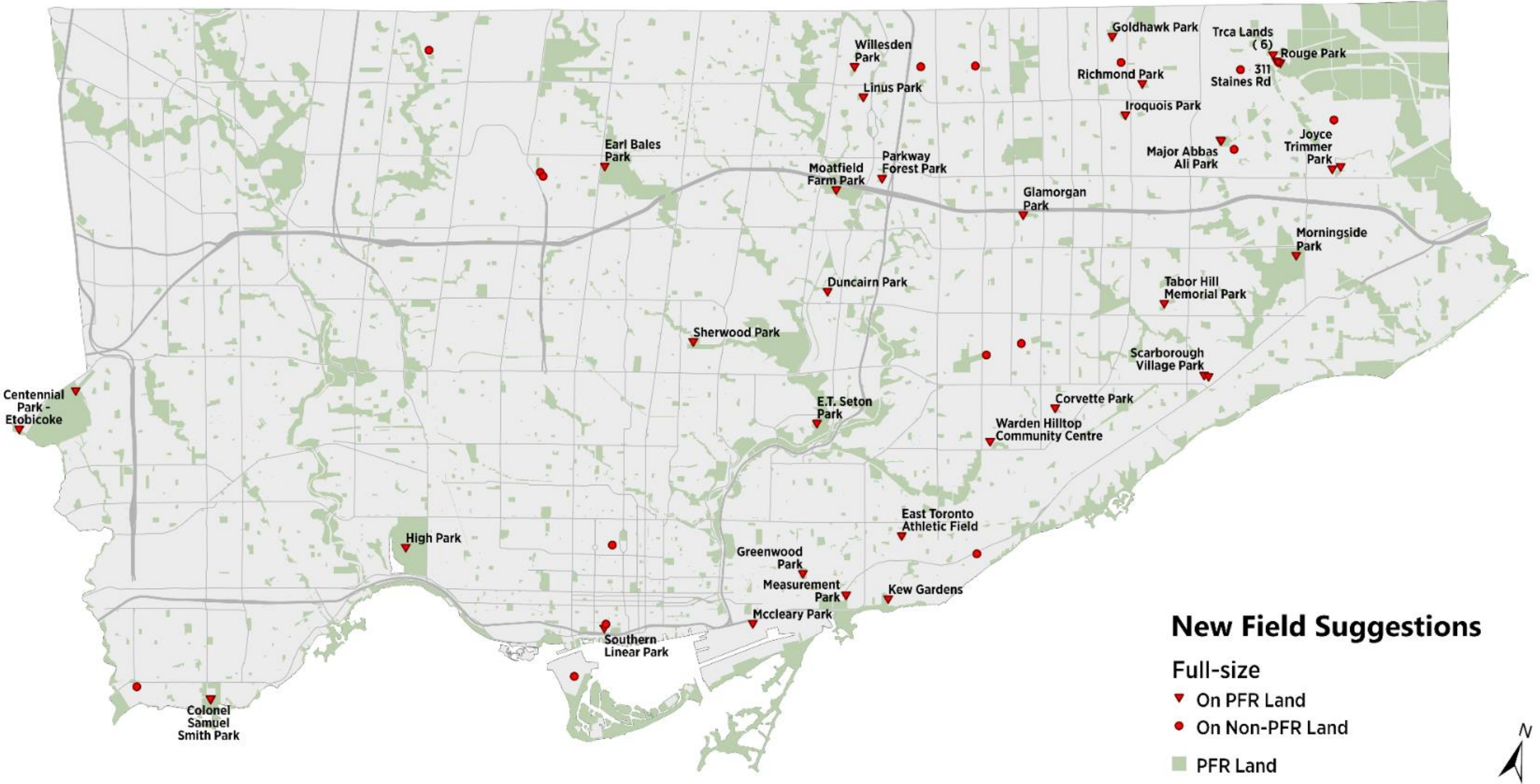
New Field Suggestions: Full-Size Field or Smaller

The following map identifies suggested locations for new cricket fields where participants said a smaller than full-size field was acceptable.



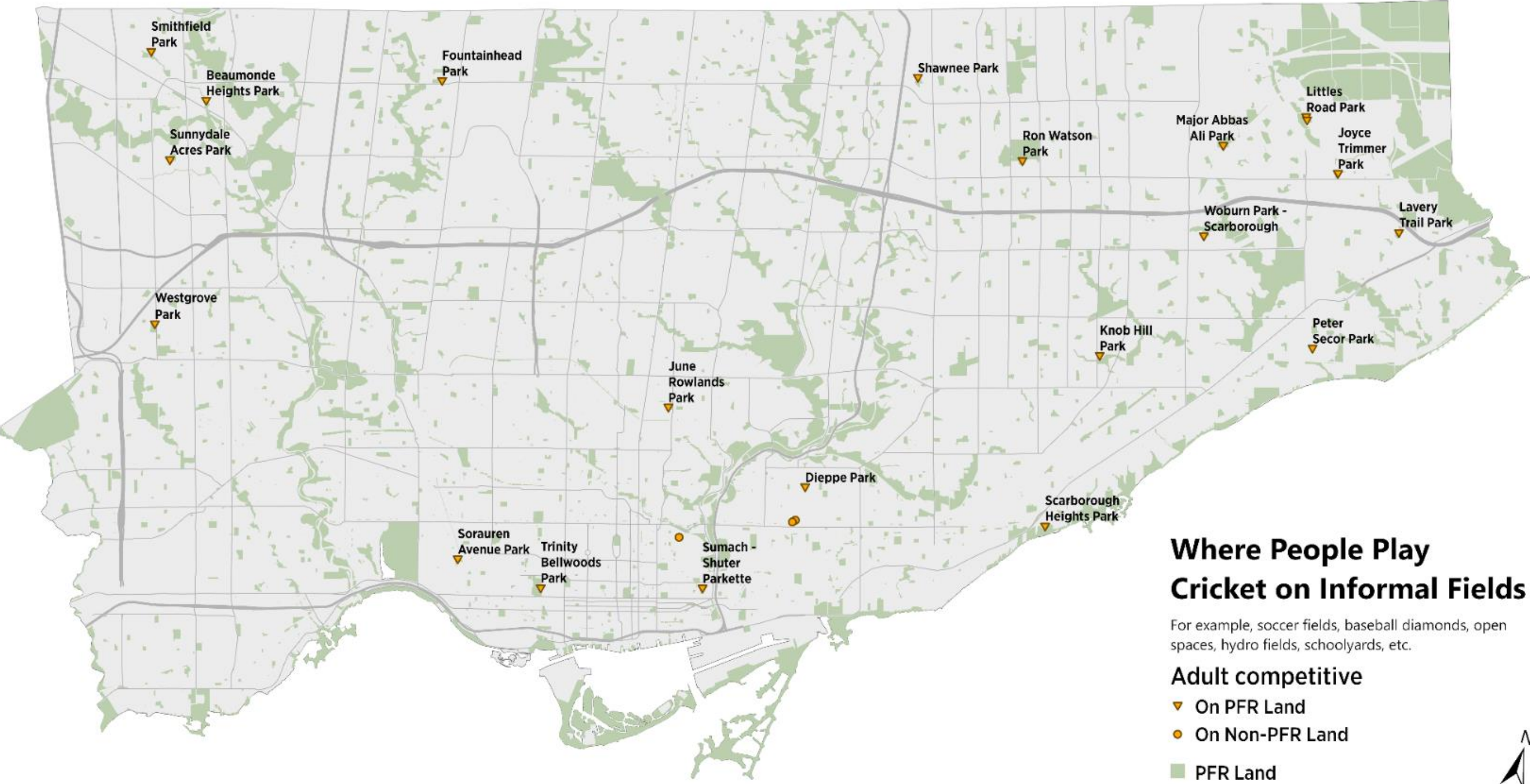
New Field Suggestions: Full-Size Field

The following map identifies suggested locations for new cricket fields where participants said a any new field at this location must be full-size.



Informal Play Spaces: Adult Competitive

The following map identifies where adult competitive cricket play occurs in spaces that are not formal cricket fields.



Informal Play Spaces: Adult Non-Competitive

The following map identifies where adult non-competitive cricket play occurs in spaces that are not formal cricket fields.



Informal Play Spaces: Kids

The following map identifies where kids' cricket play occurs in spaces that are not formal cricket fields.



Informal Play Spaces: Youth

The following map identifies where youth cricket play occurs in spaces that are not formal cricket fields.

