

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Cricket Reference Group (CRG)

Meeting 2 Summary

May 13, 2021

Susan Fall – Supervisor, System Planning

Matt Bentley - Facilities Master Plan Project Manager

Alex Lavasidis - Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



Contents

- Attendees..... 2
- Introduction 3
- Meeting Goals..... 3
- Discussion 3
- Next Steps 6
- Contact Us..... 6

Attendees

Community Resource Group Members

Cricket Canada – Keith Deonaraine
Cricket Ontario – Shah Saleem Zafar
Global T20 Canada - Wendy Kane
Open Member (Scarborough League Player) - Kannan Rajagopal
Scarborough Cricket Association – Shiv Persaud

Regrets:

Bangla Warriors Cricket Club – Abu Rubaid Alam
Brampton-Etobicoke and District Cricket League – Prait Persaud
CIMA – Ranil Mendis
Cricket Canada Masters Council – Akshay Pandya
Greater Toronto Cricket Club – Qhinathullah Mohammed
Ontario Softball Cricket League – Kumar Jaipersaud
Ontario Twilight Softball Cricket League – Azeem Khan
Superstar Colts Coach – Abdool Mudassar Samad
Toronto & District Cricket Association – Mohammed Shaikh
Toronto Sports Council – Heather Mitchell
Toronto Police Cricket Club – PC Amir Butt

City of Toronto

Alex Lavasidis – Sr. Public Consultation Coordinator
Kathleen Stevens – Landscape Technologist
Matt Bentley - Facilities Master Plan Project Manager
Susan Fall – Supervisor, System Planning
Teresa Liu – Planner
Kelly Murphy – Manager, Policy & System Planning

These minutes are not intended to provide verbatim accounts of discussions. Rather, they summarize and document the key points made during the discussions, as well as the outcomes and actions arising from the CRG meeting.

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the virtual meeting of the Cricket Reference Group held on May 12, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

These meeting notes and the presentation, along with more information about the CRG and the development of the City's Cricket Strategy can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/CricketStrategy

Meeting Goals

Meeting goals included:

- Review and confirm the April 21 meeting discussion summary including confirming Field Typologies (size) and provide opportunity to raise suggested edits to the CRG Terms of Reference
- Discuss new field location opportunities and considerations based on Field Typology (size)
- Discuss how to prioritize improving existing fields
- Share next steps

Discussion

City staff presented:

- A review of the April 21 CRG meeting outcomes around design standards and field typology sizes.
- An overview of opportunities for new cricket fields, the assessment process for each facility type, a shortlist of evaluation criteria, and examples of types of new cricket fields being considered.
- Ideas for improving cricket fields including a proposed prioritization of field improvements and a chart depicting critical amenities by classification.

The CRG discussion is summarised by topic, below.

Reviewing Design Standards

Reviewing the outcomes of the Design Standards Discussion from CRG Meeting 1, CRG members suggested:

- 70m x 70m diameter is the minimum/standard regulation size for adults playing traditional cricket, but fields smaller than 70x70 are useful for youth:
 - 60m x 60m diameter would be considered a junior level field for non-competitive playing.
 - 50m x 50m diameter could also be good for junior fields and in some cases, this could also be used for youth under 15.
 - Having a 60m x 60m field dedicated to junior players will be good as it enables the seniors and juniors to have their own fields.
- Different types of non-traditional cricket such as soft-ball cricket can be played on fields smaller than 60m x 60m (e.g. 50m x 50m or even 40 m x 40 m) because the ball does not travel as far.
- Overall, cricketers just need more space to play. Everything else presented on slide 15 is accurate.

Field Typology

Staff presented an updated Field Typology (based on size):

- Full: 140m x 120m minimum
- District: 120m x 120m minimum
- Community: 100m x 100m minimum
- Neighbourhood: 70m x 70m minimum
- Local: Partial Fields

CRG members were happy with these names and sizes and all recognized that the larger fields are the most advantageous as they can accommodate a greater range of player skill on the same field at different times of the day

New Field Locations

Staff presented a range of different types of new cricket fields that are currently in the **early stages of investigation**. Examples were for discussion purposes only. Examples were selected based on recommendations collected through the Cricket Town Hall and Social Pinpoint survey in October 2020. A set of priority locations will be identified and investigated over the next 4 months. CRG members provided feedback on each type of field:

New Field in Existing Park through a Master Plan (Centennial Park example)

- Central location and a third field would be welcome at this location
- Parking is the main issue at Centennial Park, especially the entrance and exits of the park can become overcrowded during popular events/games and a third field will increase this issue.
 - Consider extending the parking to the East side because it is closest to the field.
- Wayfinding is also difficult here and there needs to be better signage at the Eglinton Avenue West entrance

Conversion or Shared Use of Ball Diamond (Jack Goodlad Park example)

- Include a shaded seating area for each team, separated in the middle by a walkway.
- This is a great location and has the amenities needed for cricket.
 - Cricketers have approached the city previously, who said this space was in high demand by baseball teams.

Converted Ball Diamond and New Use in Underused Park Space (Goldhawk Park example)

- Generally a good option.

Shared Use in a Lit Park (McCleary Park example)

- This is a good choice because:
 - This was a league cricket field in the past (with rolled grass) so we know it can be a good space for cricket/ is a known cricket field.
 - It has practice pitches built in the park already.
 - It has lights, so it can be used for more hours and would be the only cricket field in the city with lights.
- *Staff Note: Time allocation policies in shared fields such as this will be important.*

School Board Lease (Joyce Trimmer Park example)

- Great potential for a facility for Cricket Canada if the size can be 140m x 140m, with a more central location (move north), and a long-term lease.
- This could be a turf field since it is not a shared facility.

Hydro Corridor Lease (L'Amoreaux Park example)

- Concerns with the location of the overhead power lines. These may be a safety concern, therefore this would not be a good location for international cricket play.
- A 120m x 120m field or smaller, for junior players, would be appropriate here because they won't be able to hit the ball as high/hit the electrical wires.
- A 140m x 140m field would need to be located away from any overhead wires.

Prioritizing Improved Field Quality and Supporting Amenities

- Amenities to include in the high impact/high priority list:
 - Grass length and removal of clippings (especially for youth play)
 - Shade
 - Side screens (safety concern)
 - Parking (safety concern)
- The amenities on the high priority list can stay the same but those on the lower priority list should vary depending on the location. Different locations will have different needs (e.g. some of the facilities being considered already have some of the amenities shown).

Critical Amenities by Classification (Chart)

Suggested revisions to this chart include:

- Include side screens for Premier fields
- Grass length/maintenance:
 - 7-15 mm in length is ideal
 - Aeration is important to prevent the grass from getting too thick
 - Tractor rolling after cutting
 - Cut twice a week
 - Adjust schedule to have one cutting Wednesday and one on Fridays so grass is shortest for weekend play (this was an effective solution in Winnipeg)
 - Level the fields/fill in any holes, and roll the field at the start and end of each season (safety concern)
 - Weekly rolling is not required
- Note that washrooms being referred to are structures (not portable washrooms)

Other

- Thanks all-around between staff and participants for helping move the Cricket Strategy forward.
- CRG meetings are a great way to get cricket experts together, the sessions are valuable.
- Members noted that cricket is a low maintenance sport, with very little rolling required. Grass cutting is the main form of maintenance required.

Next Steps

- Email any additional feedback on April meeting notes or Terms of Reference by Wednesday May 19, after which both will be considered finalized and posted to the project webpage.
- Provide a brief bio of your organization if not yet submitted.
- Staff will circulate a meeting summary after May 19. Please review and provide any edits by the end of the month.
- At future meetings there will be time allotted for CRG member Announcements. Please use this forum to share information with each other.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

Susan Fall

Supervisor, System Planning

Telephone: 416-392-1341

Email: Susan.Fall@toronto.ca

Matt Bentley

Facilities Master Plan Project Manager

Telephone: 416-392-3949

Email: Matt.Bentley@toronto.ca