

City of Toronto Cricket Reference Group

Cricket Strategy – Review Draft Goals & Actions

January 16, 2024, 7-8:30 pm

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



African Ancestral Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past - and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



Codes of Conduct

As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Be an active listener and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with kindness and respect.
- Critique ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid cursing as well as language or behaviours that could otherwise be considered rude or offensive.
- Abide by the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy by refraining from making racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist, or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments and questions. These will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or process.

As City staff & process stewards, we commit to:

- Maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful of all participants and other staff members.
- Ensuring that that project outcomes and/or staff recommendations are informed by participants' concerns, interests, and desires.
- Being advocates for the integrity of the public process and ensuring it reflects as much as possible directions contained in relevant Council-approved strategies.
- Undertaking and encouraging actions by other City staff that build trust and credibility for the process among all participants.
- Providing the information participants need to meaningfully participate.



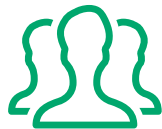
Meeting Participation



All participants are currently muted for the presentation.



You will be able to participate in discussion by using the raise hand and unmuting when called on, or through the chat bar.



Make space to hear from and listened to all participants. **Share speaking time** and do not talk over others.



City of Toronto Cricket Reference Group – Mandate

The Cricket Reference Group (CRG) will aim to provide perspective, guidance and expert advice to the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) Division on building organizational capacity and increasing access to community cricket programs and facilities across the city.

The CRG is a non-political advisory body that will provide a forum for feedback, guidance and advice to the City of Toronto to inform the development and implementation of the City's new Cricket Strategy.



**Thank you for being with us
again!**

Agenda



Welcome, Agenda, Introductions



Announcements



Cricket Strategy – Discuss Draft Goals & Actions



Next Steps

thank
you!

Adjourn by 8:30

Parks Forestry & Recreation Staff

James Honeyman – Community Recreation

Kevin Carr – Manager, Client & Business Services

Matt Bentley – Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Peter White – Manager, Parks Toronto East York

Sandra McCallum – Manager, Community Recreation

Susan Fall – Supervisor, System Planning

Titti Dunn – Client & Business Services



Cricket Organizations

Md Akib Akhter - Bangla Warriors Cricket Club
Akshay Pandya - Cricket Canada Masters Council
Amir Butt - Toronto Police Cricket Club
Azeem Khan - Ontario Twilight Softball Cricket League
Dharmwandra Kumar Jaipersaud - Ontario Softball Cricket League
Heather Mitchell - Community Sport Collective (*formerly Toronto Sports Council*)
Ian Baldeo – Ontario Softball Cricket League
Ingleton Liburd - Cricket Canada
Kannan Rajagopal – Cricket Player
Karan Kohli – Global T20
Melvin John – Canadian Police Cricket Club
Mohammed Shaikh – Toronto District Cricket Association
Praim Persaud - Brampton-Etobicoke and District Cricket League/Cricket Ontario
Ranil Mendis - CIMA
Shiv Persaud - Scarborough Cricket Association
Lorene Bodiam – Community Advocate
Mahendra Ram – TDSB High School Cricket Convenor & Coach

Updates & Announcements

Opportunity for all members to share cricket news

Draft Cricket Strategy Goals & Actions

CRG Perspective, Guidance and Expert Advice:

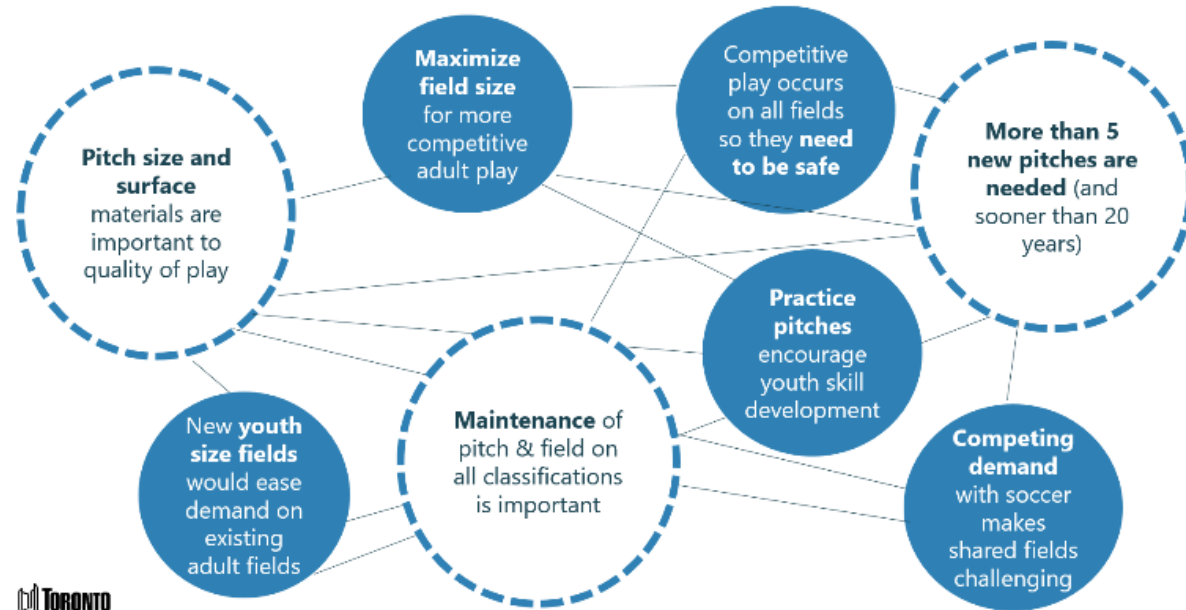
The Cricket Reference Group (CRG) was formed in 2021 to provide perspective, guidance and expert advice to the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PFR) Division on building organizational capacity and increasing access to community cricket programs and facilities across the city.

The CRG has been clear and consistent with their advice: Parks Forestry and Recreation needs to focus Cricket Strategy actions on three goals:

- **More fields**
- **Better Fields**
- **More Opportunities to Play**

This document is a summary of the CRG recommended actions to improve cricket play in Toronto forming the basis of the Cricket Strategy and a resource to the Facilities Master Plan 5-Year Review.

Stakeholder Feedback



Stakeholder Review



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



- Facilities Master Plan, adopted by Council, sets investment priorities for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. In 2017 the priorities were to:
- 5 Year Review in 2024 is the opportunity to revisit Council Direction and go-forward plan.



Summary of Cricket Reference Group Recommended Actions:

More Fields

1. Re-evaluate the Cricket Provision Target in the FMP 5 Year Review

- More than 5 new pitches are needed and sooner than in 20 years.

2. Adopt a Cricket Typology and pursue a range of cricket field sizes

- Not all players or games need to be on a full-size field. Support a variety of skill levels and types of play with a range of fields.

3. Pursue full size fields

- Continue to prioritize full size fields which allow advanced play, opportunities to grow and national/international competitions.

4. Convert underutilized ball diamonds

- Identify ball diamonds which are not being used and repurpose for community and neighbourhood scaled play.

5. Pursue lit fields

- More games can be played if the fields were lit (like they are for soccer and baseball).

6. Explore Grass Pitch Pilot

- Pilot grass pitches – mow a grass pitch (roll it) and permit the field ... not all types of cricket need an artificial turf pitch.

Better Fields

1. Improve existing fields

- Upgrade to increase usage and enhance capacity

2. Establish a Cricket Field Classification

- Recognize unique field needs for cricket play and player safety.

3. Encourage cricket league representatives to join the Sports Organization Reference Group (SORG)

- Improve consistency of maintenance standards across all districts.

4. Cut the grass shorter (or more often)

- When replacing existing mowers, invest in machines with on-site adjustable blade height.

5. Establish Design Standards for Pitch and Practice Pitches to improve player safety and reduce the need for repairs

- Include AODA requirements including accessibility and barrier free parking, washrooms for participants and spectators.

6. Reduce repair time to maintain play

- Establish a city-wide contract to quickly access professional cricket pitch related repairs that are beyond the expertise of park staff to allow play to resume safely.

7. Improve staff knowledge of cricket

- Work with the CRG and Cricket Ontario to provide staff training about how to play cricket and the field requirements.

More Opportunities to Play

1. Invest in practice pitches

- These provide important skill development opportunities and reduce pressure on cricket fields.
- Prioritize improvements of existing practice pitches to meet new design standard to improve playability.

2. Explore programming to broaden participation

- Develop an introductory cricket program in each District
- Offer Coaching Certification
- Partner with local, Provincial and National Cricket organizations to support development objectives

3. Improve Permit Allocation Practices

- Support renewing league play and find permit opportunities for new teams too
- Identify opportunities for better communication between Parks and Permit staff.

More Fields

1. Re-evaluate the need for more cricket fields in the Facilities Master Plan 5 Year Review
2. Adopt Cricket Typology and pursue a range of cricket field sizes
3. Pursue full size fields
4. Convert Underutilized Ball Diamonds
5. Pursue Lit fields
6. Pilot Grass Pitches for softball cricket

More Fields

1. Re-evaluate the need for cricket fields in the FMP 5 Year Review

- The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, adopted by City Council in November 2017, is a 20-year plan that sets priorities to build and renew indoor and outdoor recreation across the City and included the following direction for new cricket fields:

***Provide access to up to five new cricket pitches by 2038.** New pitches should be **regulation size** and may be shared with other uses (e.g., across two full size soccer fields).*

- This aligned the City's provision target of one cricket pitch per 100,000 new residents with provision levels across the GTA.
- However, the demand for cricket in Toronto has been fueled by recent immigration from countries where cricket is a national past time, by a growing diversity in the age of players (children to seniors), the growing interest of girls and women and the types of cricket being played.
- **The Facilities Master Plan 5 Year Review will re-evaluate the demand and supply of cricket fields and consider a revised provision target.**
- Given the current demand for cricket, staff recognize the need for fields cannot wait for a 20-year horizon and have identified 4 new sites for development in the next 2 years:

- **McCleary Park in 2024:** The former pitch will be (re)installed providing a **full-size cricket field** between the two ball diamonds and the two existing practice pitches will be improved. This will be the City's first lit cricket field.
- **Centennial Park in 2025-2027 : Two** additional cricket field are identified to be developed in the Centennial Park Master, as well as support facilities and a field house for this busy cricket hub.
- **Parma Park in 2024:** The unused ball diamond will be converted to small cricket field with the addition of a pitch and retaining the backstop. This park is adjacent to the O'Connor Community Centre and offers washroom access for players and the opportunity for summer camps.
- **Farquarson Park in 2024:** This un-permitted ball diamond will be converted to a cricket field to support the play already occurring at this location.

Centennial Park

Centennial Park Master Plan Implementation



The City updated the [Centennial Park Master Plan](#) in 2021 to guide decision-making around improvements, programming and management of the park. The first phase of improvement projects includes an improved playground and new waterplay area; hubs for soccer, baseball and cricket that will include new fields and supporting facilities; a new skate trail with an updated chalet; and improvements to the existing trail network.

While we aim to provide fully accessible content, there is no text alternative available for some of the content on this site. If you require alternate formats or need assistance understanding our maps, drawings, or any other content, please contact Mark Goulart at 416-395-0163.

Expand All + Collapse All -

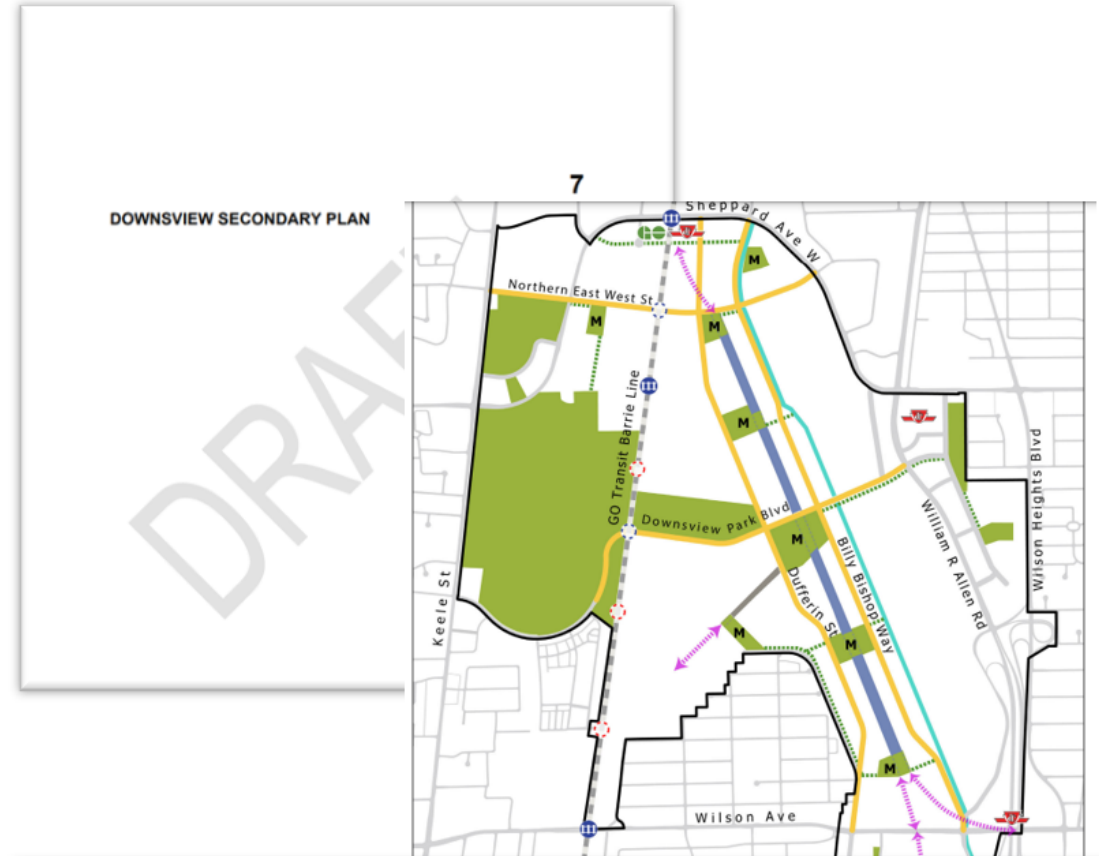
Get Involved +

Baseball Hub, Volleyball & Pickleball Courts +

Cricket Hub -

The Centennial Park Master Plan Update included the creation of an expanded cricket hub to meet the demands of the growing sport in the city. The Master Plan Update identified the park's hydro corridor as a location to create a Cricket hub, with two new cricket pitches being added to the existing two, as well as a new field house with a year-round washroom building.

Downsview Lands



3.3.9. In accordance with the City's recreational priorities, at least one major park must be of an appropriate size and shape to accommodate a full-size cricket pitch, including supporting facilities. The major park in Runway North B district is shown conceptually on Map 7-2: Public Realm Plan as having a sufficient size and shape.

- Planned Multi-modal Rail Crossings
 - Rail Corridor
 - Green Spine
 - The Taxiway
 - Planned Active-only Rail Crossings
 - Planned Major Streets
 - Public Realm/Mobility Connections
 - Major Parks
 - Parks
- Not to Scale

More Fields

2. Adopt a Cricket Typology

- Toronto's 27 cricket fields are classified by sports field maintenance standards: **Premier, A, B and C**
- But all fields are not the same size, even within the same field classification.
- And not all players, even of the same age, need a full-size field or the highest quality field.
- Adding a field typology provides players a better understanding of which field to book and allows the City a better understanding of field supply and demand: **Full, District, Community Neighbourhood and Local.**
- The cricket typology will also allow the City to pursue a network of cricket fields of varying sizes allowing greater access to players of varying skill level and playing different types of cricket.

Cricket Fields by Classification



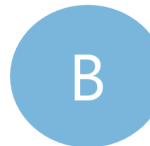
(Premier)

7 Pitches

Fergy Brown Park (2)
G. Ross Lord Park (2)
Sunnybrook Park (3)



A



B

4 Pitches

Ellesmere Reservoir Park (2)
Humber Arboretum
L'Amoreaux Hydro



C

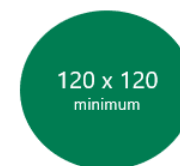
16 Pitches

Ashtonbee Reservoir (2)
Caledonia Park (2)
Cedarvale Park
Centennial Park (2)
Dentonia Park*
Flemingdon Park
Keele Reservoir (2)
Remberto Navia
Summerlea Park
Terry Fox Park
Thackery Park
Wexford Hydro

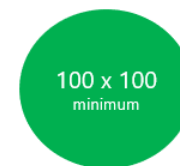
Proposed Typology by Field Size



140 x 120
minimum



120 x 120
minimum



100 x 100
minimum



60 x 60
minimum



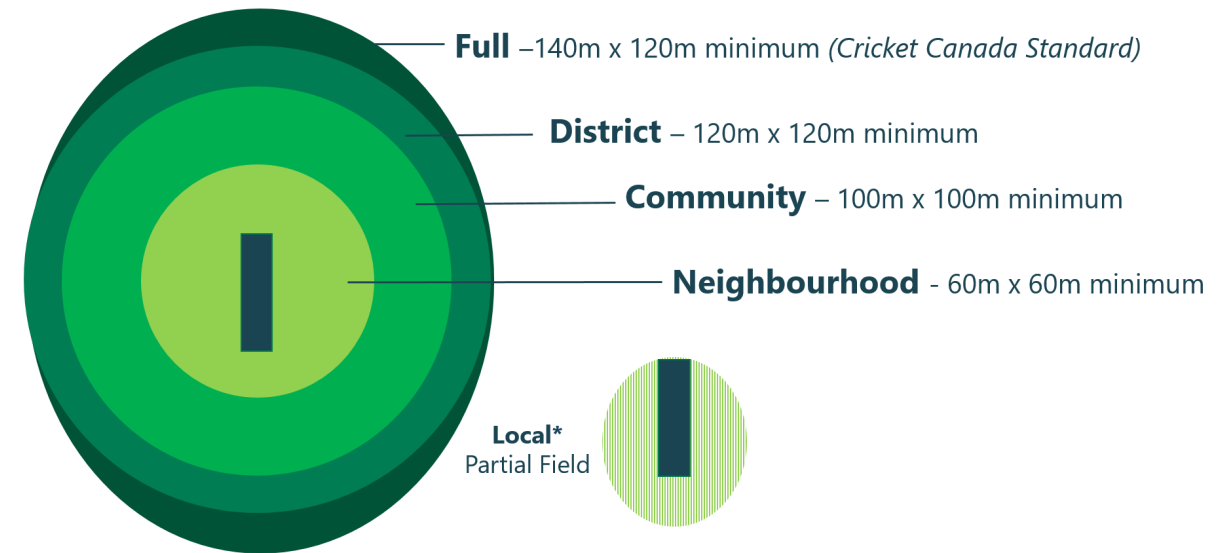
Partial
Cricket
Field

Full (Cricket Canada standard)	District	Community	Neighbourhood	Local
Centennial Park (2) Ellesmere Reservoir Flemingdon Park Humber Arboretum Sunnybrook Park	Ashtonbee (2) Caledonia Park Ellesmere Reservoir Fergy Brown Park (2) G. Ross Lord Park (2) Keele Reservoir (2) L'Amoreaux Cricket Centre Sunnybrook Park (2)	Caledonia Park Cedarvale Park Remberto Navia Sports Fields Summerlea Park Terry Fox Park Thackery Park Wexford Hydro		Dentonia Park

More Fields:

3. Pursue Full Size Cricket Fields

- The existing cricket fields are not evenly distributed throughout the city because a full-size cricket field requires approximately 4 acres or 1.6 ha (more than double the size of two FIFA soccer fields) and cannot be accommodated very many locations in a built-up city with other competing demands.
- Toronto recognized the **Cricket Canada Standard of 140 m x 120 m** as a “**Full Size**” field typology.
- Many the city’s largest cricket fields are in hydro corridors, ravine lands and in large city-wide destination parks.
- However **new full size unencumbered cricket fields remain a priority** for the city to accommodate a range of play, progression of skills, and competitions. The City will pursue these opportunities through a variety of strategies including Park Master Plans and partnerships with large landholders (e.g. schools, industrial areas, utility land holders).



More Fields

4. Convert Underused Ball Diamonds to Cricket

- Although baseball remains a popular sport, the Facilities Master Plan recognized the City has a surplus of diamonds as the current supply was built to meet past demands.
- Those diamonds which are not well used because they are not properly sized or outfitted for their intended use (e.g., adult play) may be considered for conversion to other uses.
- Many of the location can support local, neighbourhood or community cricket fields and accommodate players skills or types of play (softball, tennis and tape ball cricket) who don't want or need a full-size field.
- **Ball Diamond Conversions – Key Criteria**
Candidates for conversion to other uses include diamonds that meet most of these criteria:
 - there are other available ball diamonds within 2km radius
 - ball diamond is underutilized
 - ball diamond and supporting amenities are in poor or critical condition and requires considerable investment
 - demonstrated demand for other park amenities within the subject lands
 - public support for conversion



Parma Park

Convert to a small cricket field with the addition of a pitch and retaining the backstop in 2024. This park is adjacent to the O'Connor Community Centre and offers washroom access for players and the opportunity for summer camps.

Farquharson Park

Convert to a cricket field to support the play already occurring at this location.

More Fields

5. Pursue Lit Fields

- The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan also recommended:

Upgrade 10% of all cricket pitches by 2038 to increase usage potential. These upgrades, such as converting fields to higher classes through improvements to field quality and supporting amenities, will enhance capacity;

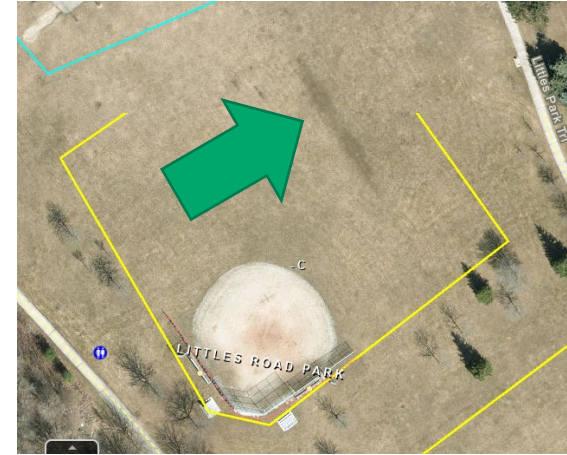
- One of the key recommendations of the CRG to increase the use of existing cricket fields is to provide lighting for evening games.
- Unlike other field sports ... baseball, soccer, football ... there are no lit cricket fields.
- Staff have identified the opportunity to reinstate the cricket field between the two lit diamonds at **McCleary Park in 2024.**
- This should be the **first** of other lit cricket fields in the future to accommodate demand and extended playing hours. The CRG can support developing criteria for selecting sites for lit fields for the Facilities Master Plan 5 Year Review.



More Fields

6. Pilot grass pitches

- Many types of cricket can be played on a grass surface including softball and tapeball if an area is large enough, the turf is flat enough and, with 22 players, the area can be permitted to ensure the field be reserved for play.
- The 2020 Cricket Town Hall online survey identified 39 locations from 300 completed surveys where cricket is being played in informal spaces and an additional 171 suggestions for new cricket fields.
- These games often occur in the outfield of ball diamonds and the worn pitches can even be seen on air photos of various parks.
- Staff should pursue **piloting grass pitches** by rolling the turf and cutting the grass shorter if possible (no wicket or lines). These informal grass pitches will require no capital investment, create new opportunities to play, reduce the demand on formal artificial turf pitches and maintain the park area for open play.



Better Fields

1. Improve existing fields
2. Establish a Cricket Field Classification
3. Add cricket league representatives to the Sports Organization Reference Group (SORG)
4. Cut the grass shorter (or more often)
5. Establish Design Standards
6. Faster repairs
7. Improve staff cricket knowledge

Better Fields

1. Improve Existing Fields

- The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan included the following direction for new cricket fields:

Upgrade 10% of all cricket pitches by 2038 to increase usage potential. These upgrades, such as converting fields to higher classes through improvements to field quality and supporting amenities, will enhance capacity

- The CRG discussion of the improvements to enhance capacity focused particularly on

1. Improved field quality standard

- This will be addressed through establishing a Cricket Field Classification (especially to improve the quality of play on the 16 C fields)

2. Lighting some cricket fields to continue play later in the evening

- McCleary Park cricket field will be lit
- Identify criteria for other suitable locations for lights (field classification, access, etc.)

3. On-site support amenities (see table below)

- The CRG discussed a range of support amenities by type and identified 6 critical improvements for all locations: artificial turf pitches, grass height in the field, longer pitch length (run-up), rolled pitch and field, shade and washroom access (even temporary). Improved signage where there is more than one field is also important.
- All other amenities are nice to have and should be considered on a site-specific basis.

	P	A	B	C
Artificial Turf				
Bleachers				
Fence				
Field Delineation				
Grass Height in Field				
Lights				
Parking on site				
Practice Pitch				
Pitch length				
Score Board				
Roll Pitch & Field				
Seating				
Side Screen				
Signage	Only if >1 field	Only if > 1 field	Only if >1 field	Only if >1 field
Shade				
Water fountain				
Washrooms				

Better Fields

1. Improve Existing Fields continued

4. Improved Pitch Quality

Core to the discussion of increasing usage and capacity of the existing cricket grounds is the state of good repair and quality of the pitches.

Many of the pitch surfaces have been improved/replaced in the past year including

- Cedarvale Park
- Flemingdon Park
- Summerlea Park

And new and improved pitches are planned for Ellesmere Reservoir and G. Ross Lord Park.

Cricket pitches should be included in the existing capital asset management program and **audited for condition state of good repair.**



Cedarvale Park
(2023 & 2021)



Better Fields:

2. Introduce Cricket Field Classification

- The current Sports Field Classification applies to field hockey, field lacrosse, soccer, football, rugby ... and cricket.
 - Many of the descriptions do not apply to cricket fields (e.g. goal posts)
 - More importantly the maintenance requirements for the pitch and field are not addressed (e.g. field and pitch rolling, timing of irrigation to so fields are not soaked and slippery for play in the mornings).
- It is important that the Cricket Reference Group work with Parks Staff and the Sports Organization Reference Group to **define cricket field maintenance standards within the Sports Field Classification framework** to better align staff time and commitments and player expectations for all classifications.

Sports Field Classifications



Adult Sized Field
Irrigated
Goal Posts
Dedicated Staff
Lining
Synthetic Turf Surface
Cut 3x per week
Aerified 4x annually
Fertilized 3x annually
Overseeded 4x annually
Topdressed 2 x annually



Adult Sized Field
Irrigated
Goal Posts
Cut 2x per week
Aerified 4 x annually
Fertilized 3x annually
Overseeded 4x annually
Topdressed 2 x annually



Irrigated
Goal Posts
Cut 2x per week
Aerified 3x annually
Fertilized 2x annually
Overseeded 3x annually
Topdressed 1x annually



Goal Posts
Cut 1x per week
Aerified 1x annually
Fertilized 1x annually
Overseeded 1x annually
Topdressed 1x annually

Cricket Fields by Classification



7 Pitches

Fergy Brown Park (2)
G. Ross Lord Park (2)
Sunnybrook Park (3)



4 Pitches

Ellesmere Reservoir Park (2)
Humber Arboretum
L'Amoreaux Hydro



16 Pitches

Ashtonbee Reservoir (2)
Caledonia Park (2)
Cedarvale Park
Centennial Park (2)
Dentonia Park*
Flemingdon Park
Keele Reservoir (2)
Remberto Navia
Summerlea Park
Terry Fox Park
Thackery Park
Wexford Hydro

3. Encourage Cricket League/CRG members to join SORG

- The City of Toronto's Sports Organization Reference Group (SORG) is a working group of volunteers from various sports field user groups and Parks staff.
- Although there had been cricket team/league representation in past years, there is a clear opportunity for **CRG members to join the SORG in 2024** to provide advice and recommendations to improve cricket fields and establish consistent maintenance across the city.

The purpose of the Sport Organization Reference Group (SORG) is to meet, consult and work directly with Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff to improve the conditions of sports playing fields within Toronto Parks.

- *The SORG outputs include:*
 - *Monitor and adjust the sports field(s) classification system and major capital maintenance standards*
 - *Develop a process for auditing fields pre and post season*
 - *Examine sports field usage capacity, hours of use standards and "rest" periods of identified sports fields.*
 - *Review and revise existing "block booking" and "rain date" policies*

Better Fields

4. Cut The Grass Shorter (or more often)

One of the challenges CRG have discussed is the grass height on the fields and the challenges it presents to play, especially on C fields which are currently mowed once a week.

Fielders try to run and catch the ball mid-air (6 points!) but the ball typically hits the ground and rolls before picked up. Long grass simply stops the ball and why the height of the grass (and a rolled field) are so important to the game.

Staff are unable to cut the grass shorter on C cricket fields in part because current equipment does not allow staff to adjust the blade height on-site.

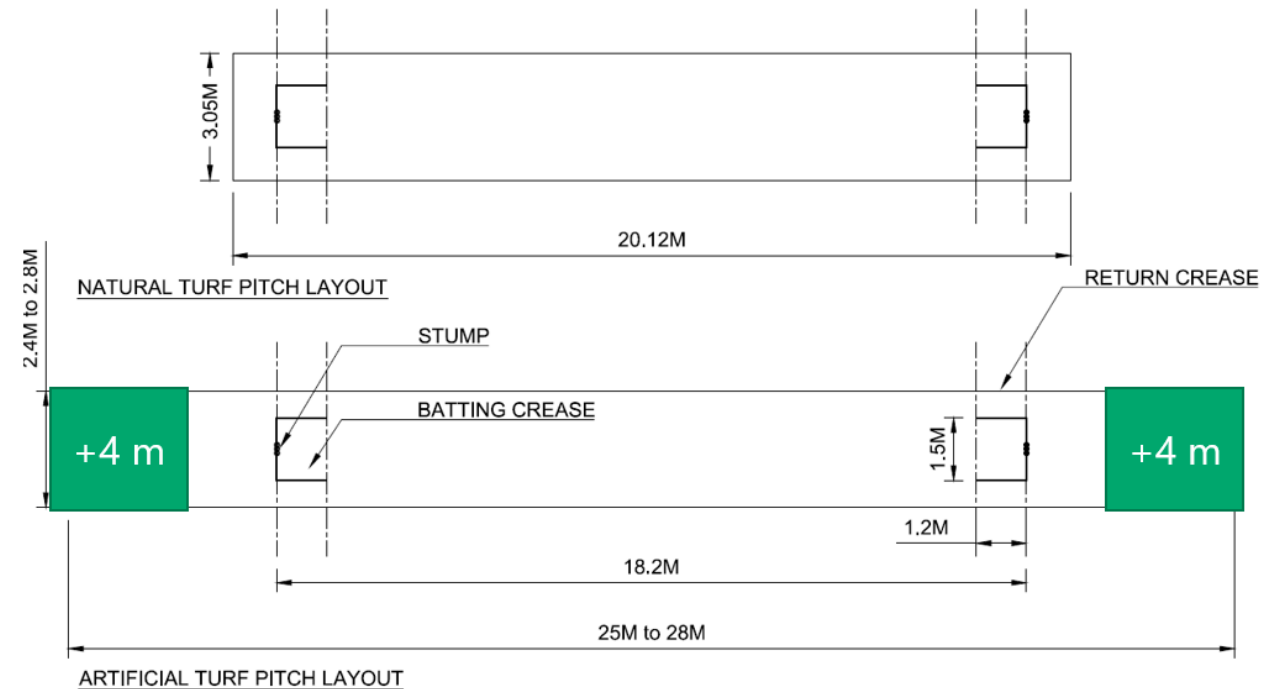
CRG have identified the following recommendations:

- Establish a Cricket Classification which includes mowing 2x per week to improve quality of play on the C Fields.
- Schedule the second cut for Fridays, where possible, to allow for the shortest grass for weekend play.
- Turf equipment with on-site adjustable blades be a priority when current equipment is replaced in the future.
- Consider the type of grass being installed on new and when renovated existing cricket fields to support healthy shorter grass.

Better Fields

5. Design Standards

- Establish design standards for the cricket **pitch** for consistency, improve player safety and reduce the need for repairs.
 - This includes an extended artificial turf pitch surface of 4 m (min) run up areas
- Establish design standards for **practice pitches** to improve usability and player safety
 - Including artificial turf surface, extended dividers and top fencing to prevent errant balls.
- Design Standards for cricket grounds will include **AODA site requirements** which recognize and include accessibility and barrier free parking and washrooms for participants and spectators.



Better Fields

6. Faster Repairs

Pre- and mid-season repairs to the pitches are important for the safety of players and for games to proceed.

Every day the pitches are not repaired represents multiple games lost to the season because the games cannot be accommodated on other busy pitches.

Most of the **repairs are beyond the expertise of the Parks staff** and require hiring professional repair company.

To speed up repair time and minimize any lost games, the CRG recommends Parks **establish a city-wide seasonal contract for a professional turf repair company** to allow staff to quickly facilitate cricket pitch related repairs.



7. Improve Staff Knowledge

There has been a significant number of new park maintenance staff in the last three years, and many acknowledge they are not as knowledgeable about cricket maintenance needs compared to the needs of other sports.

There is also a growing interest in learning how to play cricket in Toronto, and it is a game that many community recreation staff are not as familiar with compared to other sports.

CRG members have also raised concerns about having better by-law enforcement on a variety of issues including conflicts on the pitches with teams playing without permits, hosting fundraising/for-profit games, etc.

PFR staff will work with the CRG:

- And the SORG to define cricket field maintenance standards within the Sports Field Classification framework to better align staff time and commitments and player expectations for all classifications.
- To develop a Cricket Instructors Manual and Training Workshop for community recreation staff
- To identify opportunities and processes for improved by-law enforcement support.

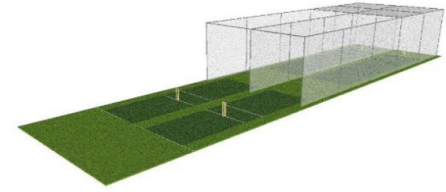
More Opportunities To Play

1. Invest in practice pitches
2. Explore programming to broaden participation
3. Improve Permit Allocation Process

More Opportunities to Play

1. Invest in Practice Pitches

- Practice pitches are important for skill development and reduce the demand on pitch permits and they are typically located beside cricket fields.
- The CRG has flagged that current practice pitches need to be audited for state of good repair issues and improved to reflect a new city-wide practice pitch design standard and maintenance standard.
- Players are increasingly asking for stand-alone practice pitches in neighbourhood parks, and the Facility Master Plan 5 Year Review will address provision standard and location criteria.



Practice Pitch

Ashtonbee Reservoir
Caledonia Park
Centennial Park
G. Ross Lord Park
Gracedale Park
L'Amoreaux Hydro
McCleary Park
Richview Park
Sunnybrook Park
Thackery Park

More Opportunities to Play

2. Explore programming to broaden participation

Parks Forestry and Recreation are working to build cricket programming priorities based on the 3 Pillars of the Toronto Sport Plan – **Build Capacity** for the delivery of quality sport programs, increase the **Awareness** about community sport and promote **Inclusive** opportunities for participation.



This work includes:

- See cricket as a mainstream sport and consider cross promotion including the Play Mobile.
- Maintaining year-round programs to children, youth and female only
- Offering a cricket program in each district throughout the city
- Offering coaching certification
- Consider opportunities to partner with Local, Provincial and National Cricket Organizations

More Opportunities to Play

3. Improve Permit Allocation Process

The demand and growing interest in cricket can be measured in part through successive waves of immigrants from countries where cricket is a national pastime and most recently from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (representing 46% of recent immigrants to Toronto 2006-2021)

Cricket's strong popularity in Toronto continues to grow too by the diversity of the age of the players. There is a growing interest in softball cricket by seniors (over 40) leagues, by children and youth through in-school programs offered in partnership by Cricket Canada and Cricket Ontario and by girls and women.

The result is an increasing number of teams and leagues ... old and new putting increasing pressure on permit demand and supply. The Cricket Strategy includes actions to provide more and better fields however **until new fields are built and/or lit to provide additional play hours** staff will:

- Continue to ensure permits are being issued in **Priority** according to the Permit Allocation Policy
- Continue to survey existing permit holders regarding **residency** and **support the return of unused time**
- Support permit renewals for returning leagues and **work to accommodate new requests, especially on fields and times which have unpermitted hours.**
- **Monitor demand and continue to discuss options** with the CRG especially as new fields are introduced.
- Continue to improve **communication between Permit and Parks Staff** to ensure permit holders are notified if the field is closed for maintenance and to facilitate refund for the lost time.

Permit Allocation Policy

Policy Statement:

The Parks Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division will endeavor to provide fair and equitable access to its facilities to organizations and individuals across the City of Toronto.

Framework

When the demand for time at PFR facilities exceeds the available hours, the allocation policy will be used for permit allocation in all facilities in all wards of the City of Toronto

Permits are issued with the following Priorities:

1. PFR Programs
2. Resident Community Youth and Children (Ages 0 to 18)*
3. (60+) and Adult (Ages 19 to 59)*
4. Not for Profit Community Groups*
5. Private and Commercial Groups and Individuals*

*When demand exceeds supply, priority will be given to under-represented groups. If demand still exceeds supply females will be priority.

Next Steps

Next Steps

- CRG to provide any final questions/edits about the draft Goals or Actions by Friday January 19th to Susan
- Staff will:
 - Post the meeting notes and draft Goals and Actions to the website for all stakeholder feedback
 - Circulate full draft Cricket Strategy to CRG
- **Next Meeting: Spring**
 - Strategy wrap up
 - Discuss next steps for the CRG and 2024 Agenda



HAVE A NICE DAY

 **TORONTO** Parks & Recreation