

# City of Toronto Cricket Strategy Online Survey Summary Report

Survey Date: May 1 to June 2, 2024

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# Overview

## Project Background

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Cricket is popular in Toronto and is one of the fastest-growing sports across the region. A City-wide Cricket Strategy is being developed to better meet this growing demand.

An online survey was used to share key goals and actions from the draft Cricket Strategy for community review and feedback. The survey was available from May 1 to June 2, 2024. Results are summarized in this document and will be used to inform the final revisions to the Cricket Strategy.

More information about the Cricket Strategy is available on the project webpage:

[Toronto.ca/CricketStrategy](https://toronto.ca/CricketStrategy)

## Promoting the Survey

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The online survey was promoted city-wide, through various channels:

- Emails and promotional e-material distributed to:
  - Councillors, to share with their constituents
  - The City's Cricket Reference Group
  - The Cricket Strategy listserv
  - The Parks and Recreation Community Disability Steering Committee listserv
  - Additional cricket organizations
- Paid and organic social media posts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter
- On the project webpage

**Survey respondents selected the following options to explain how they found out about the survey:**

- Through my cricket organization/league/teammates: 43%
- Ad or post from a City of Toronto social media account: 42%
- Word of mouth (including non-City of Toronto social media account) 9%
- Other (please list): 6%
- I don't know/Prefer not to answer: 4%
- Email from the project team: 3%
- The project webpage: 2%
- Councillor's Office communications: 2%
- Poster in a Community Recreation Centre: 1%

## Survey Demographics

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Over 2,100 community members responded to the survey, with over 1,600 completions. Survey demographics and additional respondent information is available in Appendix A.

# Survey Results

## Level of Support for Cricket Strategy Recommendations

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The following section lists each of the proposed recommendations included in the draft Cricket Strategy, followed by respondents' level of support for that recommendation. The recommendations are organized into three sections: More Fields, Better Fields, and More Opportunities to Play. Note that the approximate number of respondents is identified for each question, in brackets.

### More Fields

- 1. The current Facilities Master Plan calls for 5 new pitches in 20 years. Re-evaluate this target, as there is a need to provide more than 5 pitches, on much sooner timelines. (N2.1k)**
  - **Very important: 90%**
  - Somewhat important: 6%
  - Neutral: 1%
  - Not very important: 1%
  - Not important at all: 1%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
  
- 2. Pursue full size fields: Continue to prioritize the creation of new, full-size fields which allow advanced play, opportunities to grow and national/international competitions. (N2.1k)**
  - **Very important: 87%**
  - Somewhat important: 8%
  - Neutral: 2%
  - Not very important: 2%
  - Not important at all: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%

- 3. Convert underutilized baseball diamonds: Identity baseball diamonds which are underused and repurpose them for community and neighbourhood scaled cricket play. (N2.1k)**
- **Very important: 80%**
  - Somewhat important: 11%
  - Neutral: 5%
  - Not very important: 1%
  - Not important at all: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- 4. Light fields when possible: More games can be played if the fields are lit, as players can use fields later in the evening. (N2.1k)**
- **Very important: 82%**
  - Somewhat important: 11%
  - Neutral: 3%
  - Not very important: 2%
  - Not important at all: 1%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- 5. Pilot Grass Pitches: Many types of cricket can and are being played by community members on large grass surfaces (e.g. on baseball outfields, in grassy fields) as informal pitches. Mow and roll informal pitches for recreation play where safe in available fields to create more opportunities to play. (N2.1k)**
- **Very important: 79%**
  - Somewhat important: 13%
  - Neutral: 5%
  - Not very important: 2%
  - Not important at all: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- 6. 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, so that overall, there are more fields available. (N2.1k)**
- **Very important: 71%**
  - Somewhat important: 15%
  - Neutral: 7%
  - Not very important: 3%
  - Not important at all: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%

# Better Fields

To create better fields, the Cricket Strategy will include design standards for City of Toronto cricket pitches and batting cages/practice nets, so there is consistency in design, safety, and accessibility (meeting accessibility standards). To help inform these design standards, respondents were asked to share how important they felt the following support amenities are for cricket play. The support amenities are arranged in the list below from most critical, to least critical, as rated by survey respondents.

- **Grass length kept short (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 74%**
  - Important for the best fields, allows for higher-level play: 21%
  - Nice to have at any field, but not required for game play: 4%
  - Not required: 1%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Washroom nearby (even temporary) (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 68%**
  - Important for the best fields: 24%
  - Nice to have: 6%
  - Not required: 1%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- **Pitch run ups extended to avoid worn natural turf (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 54%**
  - Important for the best fields: 31%
  - Nice to have: 12%
  - Not required: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Drinking fountain (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 54%**
  - Important for the best fields: 27%
  - Nice to have: 16%
  - Not required: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- **Artificial turf pitch (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 49%**
  - Important for the best fields: 33%
  - Nice to have: 14%
  - Not required: 4%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%



- **Field lines (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 48%**
  - Important for the best fields: 32%
  - Nice to have: 17%
  - Not required: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Rolled pitch and field (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 46%**
  - Important for the best fields: 34%
  - Nice to have: 15%
  - Not required: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Practice pitch (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 44%**
  - Important for the best fields: 31%
  - Nice to have: 21%
  - Not required: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Lights (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 40%**
  - **Important for the best fields: 37%**
  - Nice to have: 20%
  - Not required: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- **Shade nearby (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 40%**
  - Important for the best fields: 33%
  - Nice to have: 24%
  - Not required: 3%
  - Choose not to answer: 0%
- **Improved signage where there is more than one field in a park (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 37%**
  - **Important for the best fields: 35%**
  - Nice to have: 24%
  - Not required: 2%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Bleachers (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 32%**
  - **Important for the best fields: 34%**
  - Nice to have: 26%
  - Not required: 5%
  - Choose not to answer: 2%

- **Sight screen (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 33%**
  - **Important for the best fields: 28%**
  - **Nice to have: 30%**
  - Not required: 8%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Fencing (N1.9k)**
  - **Critical for all fields: 33%**
  - **Important for the best fields: 24%**
  - **Nice to have: 32%**
  - Not required: 11%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Seating (N1.9k)**
  - Critical for all fields: 23%
  - Important for the best fields: 31%
  - **Nice to have: 40%**
  - Not required: 6%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%
- **Score board (N1.9k)**
  - Critical for all fields: 25%
  - Important for the best fields: 27%
  - **Nice to have: 39%**
  - Not required: 9%
  - Choose not to answer: 1%

## More Opportunities to Play

### 1A. Practice Pitches: Invest in practice pitches to provide important skill development opportunities and reduce pressure on cricket fields (N1.8k)

- **Very important: 73%**
- Somewhat important: 21%
- Neutral: 4%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 1%
- Choose not to answer: 0%

**1B. Practice Pitches: Prioritize improvements of existing practice pitches to meet new design standard to improve playability (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 70%**
- Somewhat important: 23%
- Neutral: 4%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 1%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**2A. Explore programming to broaden participation: Develop an introductory cricket program in each district of the City (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 72%**
- Somewhat important: 20%
- Neutral: 5%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 2%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**2B. Explore programming to broaden participation: Offer coaching certification for cricket coaches building their skills (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 69%**
- Somewhat important: 21%
- Neutral: 6%
- Not very important: 2%
- Not important at all, remove: 2%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**2C. Explore programming to broaden participation: Partner with local, Provincial and National Cricket organizations to support the development of cricket (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 76%**
- Somewhat important: 17%
- Neutral: 4%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 2%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**3A. Improve Permit Allocation Practices: Support renewing league play and find permits for new teams too (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 76%**
- Somewhat important: 18%
- Neutral: 3%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 2%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**3B. Improve Permit Allocation Practices: Identify opportunities for better communication between Parks and Permit staff (N1.8k)**

- **Very important: 77%**
- Somewhat important: 17%
- Neutral: 4%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all, remove: 1%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

## **Suggested Additions to the Draft Strategy**

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**Respondents were asked if they felt any goals or actions were missing from the Draft City of Toronto Cricket Strategy, that would help improve access to cricket for players of all ages, genders, abilities, skill levels, locations, identities, and backgrounds. Responses include: (N1.7k)**

- **No, I think the goals and actions listed in the survey address improving access for all players/potential players: 62%**
- Yes, I have additional suggested goal(s) or action(s) to add to help improve access for all players/potential players: 19%
- Choose not to answer: 19%

**Respondents who selected yes to the previous question were asked to share any actions they felt were missing from the draft Cricket Strategy. A summary of key suggestions of what was heard follows. Note that some suggestions fall outside of the role of City government. (N198)**

- **Programming:**

- Provide more cricket programs for youth.
  - Provide more no and low-cost options for youth to play cricket, through programming and unstructured play opportunities.
    - With limited facilities to play on, youth can feel forced to buy into expensive clubs to have the chance to play cricket.
  - Support and encourage the provision of cricket programs, lessons, and leagues in schools (elementary, high school, and post-secondary).
    - Provide training for cricket coaches in schools.
  - Provide more cricket camp programs.
- Provide more cricket programs for women and gender diverse people.
  - Organize dedicated coaching clinics, training sessions, and tournaments for women, girls, and gender diverse people to encourage their participation and development in cricket.
  - Work with schools to create more pathways for girls into cricket. School programs should feed into city programs.
  - Encourage friendly games between international women's cricket teams in Toronto, to inspire younger players to partake in cricket.
- Increase training for cricket coaches and officials:
  - Provide cultural sensitivity training for coaches and organizers to ensure a welcoming and supportive environment for players from diverse backgrounds.
  - Provide training and certification programs for cricket officials.
  - Invite international cricket coaches to Toronto for skills exchanges.
  - Hire more coaches, including women, to run cricket programs for the City.
  - Support the career development of cricket leadership and management to help the sport grow.
- Increase availability of cricket programs, leagues, and events:
  - Host more cricket programs and leagues (supporting a wide range of cricket types, including beginner recreational cricket) through the City's community recreation programs.
  - Foster community engagement through cricket festivals, events, and 'try-it' events.
  - Encourage and build more city, provincial, and federal level tournaments and leagues.
  - Host cricket camps to identify grassroots talent.
  - Regulate existing leagues and provide greater opportunity for a wider range of organizations to run cricket leagues.

- Work with the grass roots leagues and the Provincial Sport Organization on build pathways for more competitive players.
  - Support and encourage indoor cricket at existing community recreation centres, YMCAs, and other community spaces.
- **Maintenance and design:**
  - Introduce specialized cricket field maintenance job opportunities and dedicated cricket grounds staff at the City to ensure fields are well maintained.
  - Form partnerships with private cricket organizations to maintain existing cricket grounds to higher standards.
  - Hire external consultants to design new and renewed cricket facilities to ensure proper orientation and placement, considering the unique factors of each site (e.g. road placement).
- **Permitting/booking:**
  - Review and revise the permit allocation policy to:
    - Ensure a transparent and fair permit process that is coordinated across all city districts.
    - Ensure access for youth, women, girls, and gender-diverse people.
    - Ensure no league or team has exclusive access to any cricket facility.
      - Limit the amount of permits one person or organization can obtain, to prevent permit monopolies at facilities. Some respondents felt that cricket leagues took all available permit slots, leaving no available spaces for non-league use.
      - Hold time slots for individual booking rather than season-long, league booking.
      - Ensure a league, team, or association does not effectively have exclusive booking of a facility.
  - Improve the permit/booking system so it is more transparent, easier to use, and accessible.
    - Allow gymnasiums to be booked for indoor tennis ball cricket
    - Keep the sport accessible for community members by minimizing the need to interact with bureaucracy when booking and using facilities. Currently, some cricketers need to call in to book spaces for cricket play.
    - Establish requirements around game timing and length. Consider limiting specific types of game play and length to specific locations and/or times.
  - Improve enforcement of permits.
    - Prevent people from using fields without a permit (e.g. prevent leagues from monopolizing a field's use all day or weekend, without any permit).

- Revoke permits from groups or individuals who take out permits but don't play on the field during their permit time.
    - Conduct a comprehensive scan of current cricket permits to document who is using pitches and for what purpose or level of play. Audit leagues to identify cross-boundary players and adjust permit allocation to ensure local community-based groups and programs have access to facilities.
  - Provide more unpermitted / first-come-first-serve fields.
    - Prevent people or leagues claiming unpermitted pitches by camping at them overnight.
    - Provide more opportunities for practice at existing facilities.
  - Provide facilities or permit slots dedicated to women/girls programs.
  - Create a neutral governing body to regulate cricket organizations and break up monopolies for leagues and permits.
  - Ensure seniors groups have access to cricket facilities, to keep active while aging. It can be challenging for seniors to obtain daytime permits in the summertime as they compete with cricket camps. Set aside an allocation of daytime field permits for use by seniors.
- **Promotion and advertisement:**
    - Improve promotion of cricket opportunities and raise general awareness of the sport.
    - Advertise and provide information about where cricket can be played and promote opportunities to play, especially for women, girls, and equity-deserving communities.
    - Create an online portal for all things cricket in Toronto (e.g. available pitches, leagues, related jobs etc.).
    - Run public awareness campaigns to promote cricket across different communities, highlighting the benefits of playing cricket and how to get involved.
    - Create a City cricket team to raise the profile of the sport.
    - Encourage broadcasting of international cricket matches in community centres and at local sports bars.
    - Encourage media coverage of cricket events.
  - **Facilities:**
    - Build more practice pitches/batting cages, especially nearby community recreation centres, to make the sport more accessible across the City of Toronto.
    - Create more indoor cricket facilities.
      - Build artificial turf pitches, and dome them in the winter, for year-round play.
      - Allow for cricket play indoors in existing community recreation centre gymnasiums.

- Maintain outdoor practice pitches/batting cages in the winter and build or set them up in gymnasiums.
  - Improve existing facilities:
    - Ensure grass is kept short at existing facilities.
    - Provide more spectator amenities, to encourage families and community members to watch local cricket games (e.g. seating, shade).
    - Provide shaded seating areas for players.
    - Improve drainage at existing fields to extend the playing season.
    - Provide more and improve existing washrooms and changerooms at cricket facilities.
      - Build clubhouses next to some pitches, including changerooms, washrooms, and storage.
    - Add boundary lines, including 30-yard circles.
  - Build new or renew facilities:
    - Build more clay pitches.
    - Build an international cricket facility.
    - Build more facilities for local, unpermitted, tennis ball cricket, which require a smaller area for play compared to hardball cricket.
    - Continue to convert ball diamonds to cricket pitches.
    - Build new facilities in locations that are transit-accessible.
    - Add lights to cricket grounds.
      - Conversely, a few comments noted concern about lighting, and that games would be played too late, disrupting neighbours.
    - Work with schools to located cricket on school grounds; these can be permitted by community, especially in the summer.
    - Design a multi-use space that can support both cricket and baseball for local community play.
    - Replicate new Zealand's outdoor concrete pitches that are used in the winter (through snow) to allow for more all-season play
  - Install temporary cricket matts in more locations, to open use of other facilities (e.g. baseball, soccer, school grounds) for cricket.
- **Accessible and inclusive play:**
    - Ensure all new pitches and existing facilities meet accessibility standards to accommodate players with disabilities, promoting inclusivity in the sport. Include accessible seating at cricket facilities.
    - Adaptive cricket can only be played indoors or on turf fields due to the inaccessibility of natural playing surfaces. Build artificial turf fields and make these available for cricket activities to remove this barrier for adaptive sport groups and programs.



- **Funding and costs:**
  - Provide more funding and resources for grassroots cricket initiatives to nurture talent and support local cricket clubs and communities.
  - Keep permit costs low so they are accessible for local community members.
  - Allow for facility sponsorship to fund new or improved facilities.
- **Equipment:**
  - Provide lower-cost cricket equipment and gear, including rentable gear, to make the game more accessible to people of all ages and incomes.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Host yearly cricket community engagements to get input from cricketers about community needs and priorities. Ensure the city is hearing directly from players, and not only from organizations or league organizers.

## Field Size Categories

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Currently, cricket fields are permitted based on their field maintenance standards: Premier, Level A, Level B, or Level C. Community members have highlighted the importance of providing more information about fields online, so that cricketers can book fields that better fit their needs.

To help cricket players/organizers permit the field size that best fits their needs, in addition to listing the field maintenance standard for each cricket pitch, the City is planning to introduce the following 5 field size categories as part of the Cricket Strategy:

### Proposed Field Size Categories

1. Full size: 140m x 120m minimum (Cricket Canada Standard)
2. District size: 120m x 120m minimum
3. Community size: 100m x 100m minimum
4. Neighbourhood size: 60m x 60m minimum
5. Local/Partial size: Below 60m x 60m

**Respondents were asked if providing this size information about each cricket field would help them choose a field to permit, that best fits their needs.**

**Responses include: (N2.1k)**

- Yes: 87%
- Somewhat: 9%
- No: 2%
- Choose not to answer: 1%

**Respondents were asked to share anything they would change about the proposed field size categories. A few comments were provided pertaining to the proposed field size categories, including:**

- Support for proposed size categories
- Size categories are most useful if coupled with the Field Classification and identification of what type of cricket is appropriate for booking at that location (e.g. tape ball/tennis ball/soft ball/hardball; skill level; age group, etc.)
  - To ensure safety of bystanders and adjacent user groups, it is important to identify which size fields are and are not appropriate for hardball vs softball vs tennis/tape ball cricket
  - Information about the seating capacity for spectators and the material of the wicket (e.g. artificial turf with concrete base, jute mat, etc.) would also help inform field permit choices
- Sizing revision proposals:
  - Various suggestions for minimum sizing, from 40 metres to 100 metres total, or 60 metres from the boundary to the wicket (range dependent on the type of ball used, age and skill level of players)
  - Make District size smaller
  - District and Community sizing are too similar
  - Redefine Full size to be Olympic Standard
  - Add an ICC World Cup size
  - Add a Test Ground size
  - Add indoor play standards (E.g. for community centre gymnasiums)
  - Add batting cage/practice net size standards
- Provide sizing in yards

## **Informal Play & New Pitch Location Suggestions**

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**Respondents were asked to share where they play cricket in Toronto, outside of formal cricket pitches, and the type of cricket played there.**

The most frequently noted location types where cricket was being played outside of formal cricket facilities included ball diamonds, school grounds, parking lots, open fields, indoor spaces such as condo amenities and school gyms, soccer fields, hydro fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and at home (driveways or backyards).

The most frequently noted types of cricket played on these informal spaces include tennis or tape ball cricket, for either casual community play, practice, or training (including but not limited to youth training).

**Respondents were asked to share their top (1) suggestion for the location of a new cricket pitch in the City of Toronto.**

Scarborough location suggestions were the most common amongst the four city districts. The most common general location suggestions included on school grounds, at locations that are easily accessible by transit, ball diamond conversions, and in hydro fields.

The top 10 specific locations suggested for the location of a new cricket pitch include:

1. Riverdale Park
2. Coronation Park
3. Don Mills (neighbourhood)
4. Sunnybrook Park
5. Centennial Park
6. Dentonia Park
7. Thorncliffe Park (neighbourhood)
8. Flemingdon Park
9. Downsview Park
10. Eglinton Park

## Top Suggested Locations for Pitch Improvements

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**Respondents were asked to share their top (1) suggestion for improvement to existing cricket pitches in the City of Toronto including the pitch location name and the proposed improvement(s)).**

**The number one recommendation to improve existing cricket pitches is to provide more frequent and shorter grass cutting for fields.** Other more frequent improvement suggestions include:

- Pitch improvements:
  - Pitch surface improvements (opinions for ideal surface vary but often include either artificial turf with a concrete base, or natural turf) and overall improved maintenance
  - Longer pitches (especially longer run-ups)
  - Wider pitches
- Field improvements
  - More frequent maintenance overall
  - Rolling and leveling the field (including fixing holes)
  - Boundary lines and fencing

- Amenity additions
  - Lights
  - Washrooms
  - Drinking fountains
  - Seating
  - Parking
  - Shade
- Batting cage/practice net improvements:
  - Improved general maintenance for facilities in poor state of repair
  - Repair/replace pitch surfacing, installing artificial turf

**The top locations suggested for improvement (>10 suggestions for each location), and the improvements suggested at each site (in approximate order of frequency), follow:**

### **1. Sunnybrook Park:**

- Improve general maintenance, including pitch repairs and upgrades (e.g. repair torn pitches and replace with artificial turf surface or natural turf)
- Improve state of good repair of batting cages/practice nets
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Add lights to facilitate evening play
- Add seating
- Level the field
- Add sight screens for better visibility
- Add change/locker/washrooms rooms
- Add boundary markings and fences
- Add shade over seating
- Convert to a stadium to host international matches
- Enforce permit requirements at this site

### **2. G. Ross Lord Park:**

- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
  - Cut grass on Fridays for weekend play
- Improve general maintenance, including pitch repairs and upgrades (e.g. repair torn pitches and replace with artificial turf surface and concrete base, or natural turf surface)
- Add lights
- Level the field
- Water the grass more in hot summer months
- Improve state of good repair of batting cages/practice nets
- Add drinking fountains
- Add a fence so picnickers are aware of the playing field boundary

### **3. Ashtonbee Park:**

- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Improve general maintenance, including pitch and batting cage/practice net repairs and upgrades
- Level, roll, and improve field upkeep
- Add shade/shelters
- Add a drinking fountain
- Add lights
- Improve drainage
- Add a third field, potentially a tennis ball cricket field
- Add parking specifically for cricket use
- Add boundary lines
- Add a boundary fence

### **4. Fergy Brown Park (also reference by respondents as Eglinton Flats):**

- Improve general maintenance, including pitch repairs and upgrades (e.g. repair torn pitches and replace with artificial turf surface)
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
  - Cut grass on Fridays for weekend play
- Add more batting cages/practice pitches
- Add stands/spectator seating
- Add more washrooms
- Add drinking fountains

### **5. L'Amoreaux Hydro:**

- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Improve drainage
- Improve general maintenance, including pitch repairs and upgrades
- Improve state of good repair of batting cages/practice nets
  - Remove the concrete from the batting cages/ practice pitches as it wrecks the cricket balls
- Add a sight screen
- Add a scoreboard
- Add boundary lines and/or fencing
- Roll the grounds

### **6. Ellesmere Reservoir Park:**

- Improve general maintenance, including pitch repairs and upgrades
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Roll the grounds
- Add batting cage/practice nets
- Add lights

## **7. Caledonia Park:**

- Improve general maintenance, including pitch replacement (e.g. artificial turf)
- Roll the grounds
- Add fencing
- Add storage facilities
- Add washrooms
- Increase field size
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Add lights (north field)
- Add signage to encourage pet owners to clean up pet waste and/or no pet signs for the pitch
- Add more waste bins

## **8. Centennial Park:**

- Upgrade the pitch
  - Some respondents suggested artificial turf while others suggested natural turf
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently, and pick up clippings
- Add seating, including bleachers/spectator seating
- Add washrooms
- Add lighting
- Upgrade existing batting cages/practice nets and add more
- Pave the parking area
- Level and roll the grounds
- Add boundary lines
- Add changerooms
- Add boundary fence
- Remove permit costs

## **9. Flemington Park**

- Improve overall field maintenance
- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Level and roll the grounds
- Add boundary and pitch lines
- Replace and upgrade the pitch, including extending the pitch length
- Increase the size of the field, and remove the pathway that limits the field size

## **10. Thackery Park**

- Cut grass shorter and more frequently
- Add lights
- Replace the pitch with natural turf
- Improve existing batting cage/practice net, and add more
- Add storage
- Add shade

# **Diversifying Opportunities to Play**

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**Respondents were asked to share their suggestion(s) for increasing cricket opportunities for women, girls and/or gender diverse people in Toronto.**

**The most popular suggestion, shared by over 100 respondents, was to include cricket as a sport in schools, from primary school through to post-secondary. Suggestions to encourage this include:**

- Provide tax credits for school team sponsors
- Provide free cricket facility permits for schools
- Encourage partnership opportunities between schools, the city, and cricket organizations
- Provide coaching in schools, especially women coaches that can inspire girls to enter the sport
- Teach tennis ball, box, or kwik cricket as an entry point for beginners
- Provide more batting cages/practice nets, and cricket pitches at or near schools
- Provide schools with access to cricket equipment

**Other key suggestions include:**

- **Advertising and Partnerships**
  - Advertise, promote, and educate residents about the sport
  - Work with existing with female and gender diverse cricketers – many are eager to work with the city to make cricket a bigger sport
  - Form partnerships with and host the Women's National Cricket team, local, provincial, federal, and international organizations and experts to promote girls and women taking up the sport
  - Encourage local media to broadcast local cricket games
  - Create a 'starter package' for those interested in starting new teams (e.g. including resources, kit, suggestions of where to play and how to train)

- **Facilities**
  - Provide more batting cages/practice nets, pitches (including more ball diamond conversions), and indoor facilities (including indoor practice nets, and box-cricket in gymnasiums)
  - Dedicate a cricket pitch and batting cages/practice nets for women/girls only
    - Or dedicate these spaces for women/girls on set days of the week
    - Reduce permit fees for these groups
  - Build washrooms, changerooms, and drinking fountains by cricket facilities
  - Ensure facilities are inclusive and accessible for all abilities
  - Build more transit-accessible facilities
  - Ensure existing facilities are well-maintained to bring people into the sport
  - Build a stadium to host world-class matches and raise the profile of cricket in Toronto
- **Permitting**
  - Ensure women, girls, and gender-diverse people can get permits during prime times to run programs
    - Set aside permit times specifically for these user groups
- **Opportunities for competition, training, and coaching development**
  - Create more program opportunities, both through city-run programs, and by supporting the creation of external women's, girls', and co-ed leagues
    - Provide more drop-in and registered cricket programming at community recreation centres and summer camps
    - Provide these groups with priority registration for cricket programs
    - Host or support more local and open leagues for beginners
    - Ensure inclusive programming is available so people of all-abilities can enjoy playing the sport
    - Develop a city-wide cricket development program for young girls through community recreation
    - Create box-cricket programs for indoor play through the winter season and kwik cricket programs as an entry point to the game
  - Host more cricket events (including through partnerships with supportive organizations)
  - Encourage existing leagues operating in Toronto to create more opportunities for women and girls to play (consider financial supports or incentives)
  - Train more women and gender diverse coaches, and create more coaching courses and certification programs
  - Ensure female leaders are part of the growth of cricket
  - Encourage more competitive and professional opportunities
- **Equipment access**
  - Make equipment kits more accessible and available, including rentable equipment



# Appendix A: Demographic and Additional Respondent Information

## **Age of survey respondent (N1.7k)**

- 5 to 12 years old: 0%
- 13 to 18 years old: 2%
- 19 to 29 years old: 27%
- 30 to 39 years old: 46%
- 40 to 55 years old: 20%
- 56 to 64 years old: 2%
- 65 to 74 years old: 1%
- 75 years old or above: 1%
- Prefer not to answer: 2%

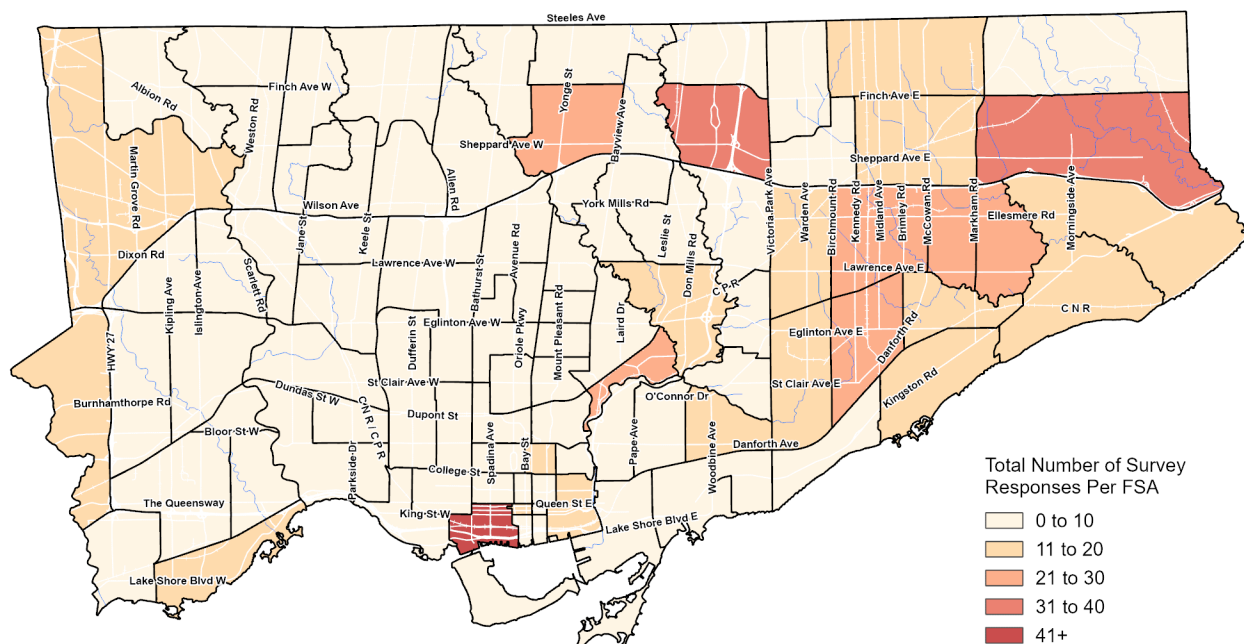
## **Respondents' relationship to cricket (N1.7k)**

- I am a cricket player (have played in the last 5 years): 77%
- I have helped organize cricket games/leagues in the past 5 years: 26%
- I am an advocate for inclusive and/or accessible sport: 20%
- I am a former cricket player / I no longer play cricket: 16%
- Other (please describe): 4%
- I have not played or organized cricket: 4%

## **Where respondents play/have played cricket (N1.5k)**

- Scarborough: 63%
- Outside of the City of Toronto: 55%
- North York: 53%
- Etobicoke: 45%
- Old Toronto/East York: 32%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 3%

## Respondent Forward Sortition Area (FSA) (first 3 digits of postal code) (N1.1k)



*Note: Not all respondents provided FSAs, and some FSAs provided were outside of the City of Toronto.*

## Level of cricket of respondents (past or current levels) (N1.5k)

- Recreational (organized league/group/games): 66%
- Competitive: 60%
- Community (informal play, not through an organized league/group): 43%
- University/College Program: 22%
- School Program (Highschool or younger): 19%
- Other (list): 2%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 0%

## Types of cricket respondents play/have played (N1.5k)

- Hard Ball cricket: 86%
- Tennis Ball Cricket: 49%
- Soft Ball Cricket: 39%
- Tape Ball Cricket: 37%
- Other (please list): 0%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 0%

## Ages when respondents played cricket (N1.5k)

- 0 to 4 years old: 15%
- 5 to 12 years old: 62%
- 13 to 18 years old: 80%

- 19 to 29 years old: 87%
- 30 to 39 years old: 61%
- 40 to 55 years old: 17%
- 56 to 64 years old: 3%
- 65 to 74 years old: 0%
- 75 years old or above: 0%
- Prefer not to answer: 0%

#### **Preferred language of respondents (N1.6k)**

- English: 81%
  - Hindi: 3%
  - Tamil: 3%
  - Urdu: 3%
  - Bengali: 3%
  - Gujarati: 3%
  - Punjabi: 2%
  - Not listed, please describe: 1%
- (Languages not selected are not shown)*

#### **Indigenous identity of respondents (N1.6k)**

*Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian*

- Yes: 4%
- No: 90%
- Prefer not to answer: 6%

#### **Race of respondents (1.6k)**

*People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian".*

- South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan): 83%
- Prefer not to answer: 8%
- Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish): 3%
- White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Slovakian, Eastern European): 3%
- Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean): 2%
- Other, please describe: 2%
- East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean): 1%
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese): 1%
- More than one race category or mixed race: 0%
- First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis: 0%
- Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian): 0%

**Respondents with a disability (N1.6k)**

- Yes: 2%
- No: 92%
- Don't know: 1%
- Prefer not to answer: 5%

**Respondents who require accessibility accommodations to play cricket (e.g. visual, audio, mobility aids, or other) (N1.6k)**

- Yes: 4%
- No: 91%
- Prefer not to answer: 5%

**Gender of respondent (N1.6k)**

- Man: 92%
- Prefer not to answer: 5%
- Woman: 4%
- Trans woman: 0%
- Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous): 0%
- Two-Spirit: 0%
- Not listed, please describe: 0%
- Trans man: 0%

**Sexual Orientation of respondent (N1.6k)**

- Heterosexual or straight: 79%
- Prefer not to answer: 17%
- Don't know: 2%
- Bisexual: 1%
- Not listed, please describe: 1%
- Gay: 0%
- Lesbian: 0%
- Queer: 0%
- Two-Spirit: 0%

**Where leagues/games respondents organize take place (N421)**

- Scarborough: 57%
- Outside of the City of Toronto: 50%
- North York: 44%
- Etobicoke: 39%
- Old Toronto/East York: 28%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 7%

### **Level of cricket respondents organize (N421)**

- Recreational: 66%
- Competitive: 57%
- Community (informal play, not through an organized league/group): 51%
- University/College Program: 13%
- School Program (Highschool or younger): 9%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 2%
- Other (please list): 1%

### **Types of cricket respondents organize (N421)**

- Hard Ball cricket: 74%
- Tennis Ball Cricket: 39%
- Soft Ball Cricket: 35%
- Tape Ball Cricket: 33%
- Not applicable/Choose not to answer: 2%
- Other (please list): 0%

### **Ages of players respondents organize leagues/games for (N421)**

- 0 to 4 years old: 3%
- 5 to 12 years old: 21%
- 13 to 18 years old: 55%
- 19 to 29 years old: 86%
- 30 to 39 years old: 80%
- 40 to 55 years old: 56%
- 56 to 64 years old: 21%
- 65 to 74 years old: 9%
- 75 years old or above: 4%
- Prefer not to answer: 2%

### **Respondents who organize games/leagues that include inclusive programming, for people who require accessibility accommodations to play cricket (e.g. visual, audio, or mobility aids, or other) (N421)**

- No: 64%
- Prefer not to answer: 34%
- Yes (please describe): 2%

### **Gender(s) that respondents organize leagues/games for include (N421)**

- Men: 91%
- Women: 36%
- Prefer not to answer: 7%
- Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous): 6%
- Trans women: 6%
- Trans men: 6%
- Two-Spirit: 4%
- Not listed, please describe: 1%

**Respondents who organize league(s)/game(s) that specifically encourage inclusion and participation from 2SLGBTQ+ community members (N421)**

- Prefer not to answer: 43%
- No: 32%
- Yes: 26%