

Staff Report 2024-0514

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

Subject: Cricket Field Plans

Submitted By: Michael Hoy, Manager, Parks and Natural Heritage, Planning Department

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse moving forward with the Cricket Field options as outlined in this report including the development of a Full-sized cricket field within Johnston Sport Park and Neighbourhood-size cricket field in Inglewood on Town-owned land adjacent to Inglewood Park;

That Council direct staff to include the development of Cricket Fields proposed in this report in the 2025 Capital Budget submission.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- **This report summarizes the Town's short term plans to address community needs for cricket fields;**
- **The Town plans to build a Full-sized cricket field within Johnston Sport Park as part of planned Phase 5 of the park's development;**
- **It is recommended that the Town construct a Neighbourhood-sized cricket field on Town-owned land within Inglewood directly connected to the existing Inglewood Park. This proposal efficiently utilizes existing park amenities and does not impact any existing sport fields.**

DISCUSSION

A motion at the September 24th Council meeting was adopted that directed staff to explore and report back on opportunities to acquire land on the west side of Caledon suitable for a "district" size park to meet longer-term community needs, capable of accommodating large sports fields for cricket and a diversity of recreational facilities.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Town has a draft Parks and Recreation Strategy (PRS) that will guide Council and staff in the rational and considered provision of recreation programs, services, facilities, and parks for the Town over a 10-year horizon to 2034.

The PRS is divided into three sections, Programming, Indoor Facilities, and Outdoor Facilities.

The Outdoor Facility section focused on:

- Evaluating current outdoor park facilities inventory;
- Recommending service level targets for active and passive outdoor recreational facilities;

- Determining future outdoor facilities needed to service future recreational needs of Caledon; and
- Assessing potential improvements to existing parks

A key outdoor facility recommendation in the PRS related to the development of cricket fields within the Town. The PRS found that current trends in cricket suggest that participation in the sport among both children and adults is exploding across the GTA. Currently there are no cricket facilities within the Town's outdoor facility inventory.

Current service level targets of cricket fields in the GTA ranges from 1 field for 100,000 residents in Toronto to 1 field for 35,000 residents in Brampton.

To address the Town's cricket field shortfall the PRS recommends developing cricket pitches on the west side of the Town that cater to youth and adults. The PRS recommended that if space was not available in the west side of Caledon in the short term, that the Town add a full-sized cricket field at Johnston Sport Park. Finally, the PRS recommends evaluating the potential to retrofit underutilized ball diamonds into cricket fields.

The preferred standard for Full-sized cricket field dimensions are 140 x 120 m, which requires 1.6 ha (4ac) of parkland, or the equivalent of 2 regulation sized soccer fields. However, there are non-standard typologies, for example, the City of Toronto, in its draft Cricket Strategy, identifies additional crickets field typologies including Community with dimensions of 100 x 100 m and Neighbourhood with dimensions of 60 x 60 m. Incorporating these additional typologies provides greater flexibility for the Town to respond to local cricket needs within some of the smaller Community Parks.

In response to the draft PRS recommendations, staff have identified two quick-win opportunities to add cricket fields to the Town's outdoor facility inventory. These quick-win opportunities include adding cricket fields in Johnston Sport Park and Inglewood.

Inglewood Park - 15551 McLaughlin Road (Ward 1)

Located in the west side of Town, Town-owned land adjacent to Inglewood Park offers an excellent opportunity to construct a Neighbourhood-sized cricket field. This option would utilize existing park amenities, parking and washrooms, without impacting an existing Town sport field.

Johnston Sports Park- 6898 King Street (Ward 3)

Johnston Sport Park is a District Park that currently contain 6 soccer fields (1 Major, and 5 Junior soccer fields). In 2025, Phase 5 of the parks development includes the addition of 2 regulation soccer fields. With minor design changes staff can integrate a Full-size cricket field over the planned soccer fields. This practice of integrating soccer and cricket fields is an approach taken by a number of GTA municipalities.

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These two opportunities, in Inglewood Park and Johnston Sports Park, will address the Town's short term outdoor cricket needs.

In the medium to long term, staff will continue to work to identify opportunities to add more Full, Community, and Neighbourhood-sized cricket fields through the identification of opportunities within existing parks and the acquisition of larger Community Parks through Development Approvals in the west end of Caledon.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated directly with Staff Report 2024-0514. All budgetary impacts associated with the proposed cricket facilities will be subject to the municipality's annual budget approval process.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Strategic Plan 2023-2035

This report is directly related to the following priority in Caledon's 2023-2035 Strategic Plan:

Community Vitality and Livability

Details about Caledon's 2023-2035 Strategic Plan can be found at caledon.ca/strategicplan.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Cricket Field Facility Fits