

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: JEFF MUCK, PRCS DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CRICKET FIELD REQUEST
DATE: APRIL 10, 2025

Mayor and Council –

FYI on a recent request received by the PRCS department.

- Victor

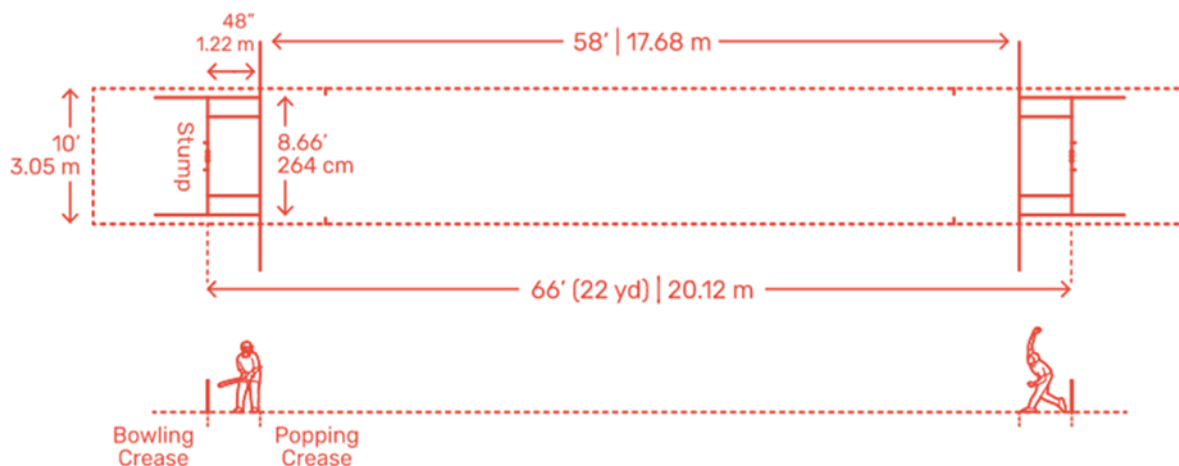
PRCS has field rental agreements with the Detroit Cricket League and Farmington Cricket League to use the four lighted fields Ella Mae Power Park for league play. Detroit Cricket League rents approximately 320 hours of field time annually over various weekends from May to September. The Farmington Cricket League annually rents approximately 408 hours of field time over various weekends from April to October. Both organizations play a modified style of play on the ball fields that is popular in metro Detroit and includes the annual Cricket Cup tournament held annually in Novi.

The City has been approached by an individual advocating for the construction of a full-size cricket pitch similar to those located in Northville and Lyon Oaks County Park. The pitch would be roughly 10'x102' in the middle of the cricket grounds, oval in shape, and construction would require excavation, installation of a concrete pad, and approved turf.



Example of an artificial turf pitch.

Cricket Pitch



The individual seeking the full-size field inquired about space at ITC Community Sports Park. He proposed an area by field B. In the image below, he proposed the center pitch inside the circle and the development of a practice cage/net at a later time.

City staff have reviewed the request and denied it for the following reasons:



1. Topography of the site is not suitable. It would require significant re-grading, re-seeding, and replacement/re-routing of irrigation lines.
2. Availability of the space to cricket would be very limited. The space is in use Monday-Friday from April-Early June and August-First week of November by both PRCS soccer programs and the Michigan Jaguars FC for practices. The Michigan Jaguars, with whom we had a long-standing relationship, also schedule games on Saturday and Sunday throughout the spring and fall seasons on the fields.
3. It would require movement of soccer goals on a weekly basis to open the space for cricket. Goals are not designed to be moved frequently and would cause damage and safety concerns.
4. Adding a pitch would limit the ability to rotate and adjust the soccer fields for various field condition issues.
5. There are currently no funds allocated for this project in PRCS or CIP. The concrete/turf pitch would cost approximately \$50,000 alone to install. Additional costs would include engineering, grading, irrigation, and more that would vary depending on the selected site.
6. A full-size cricket pitch has not been identified as a priority in community surveys conducted during the PRCS Master Plan process.

PRCS staff are currently working on ideas, priorities and cost estimates for the expansion property adjacent to the existing ITC Community Sports Park. Designating an area for a cricket pitch may be considered as a future project. We have not been able to identify any other properties suitable for this project within the current park system.