

Cricket Fields Background & Fact Sheet - October 2023

The Youth, Parks, and Community Enrichment Department (YPCE) has received many requests for additional cricket fields in the City of Sacramento, and the demand for permitted field use for all sports and need for open recreation continues to grow. YPCE is committed to ensuring all community members have equitable access to parks and park amenities including sports fields. Below is a background and fact sheet regarding cricket facilities in the city and considerations in the Natomas community.

- On February 7, 2019, a cricket association member attended the Parks and Community Enrichment Commission meeting seeking assistance with finding a location for a cricket field in the City of Sacramento. At the time, the city did not have any cricket fields.
- In April 2019, staff identified a location for a cricket field at Richardson Village Park in District 2. The city entered into an agreement with the Sacramento Valley Cricket Club to allow the installation and programming of the open turf as a cricket field. This field is subject to flooding in winter months, as it functions as a Utilities stormwater overflow area.
- In May 2022, YPCE received requests for additional cricket fields from multiple constituents, including formal Park Maintenance Park Enhancement requests, and Park Project Programming Guide (PPPG) New Project requests. These requests included potential locations at Northlake Community Park, North Natomas Community Park, Johnston Park and Nielsen Park.
- In September 2023, YPCE met with Council District 3 representatives to explore potential locations due to additional requests received by the council office for more cricket fields in the city. Several sites have been considered, including Northlake Community Park, North Natomas Community Park, South Natomas Community Park, Nielsen Park and Airfield Park.
- Cricket fields require a large area, and a permanent pitch located in the middle of the field. This type of location is difficult to identify within the current park inventory without displacing other user groups.
- Upon further research and review of potential locations, staff have identified Northlake Community Park as the most suitable location for a new cricket field.

Northlake Community Park

- Northlake is a community park, and the adopted Site Amenities Plan identifies the turf area as programmable turf. “Programmable turf” includes a variety of field sports such as soccer, cricket, lacrosse, football, Frisbee, etc.
- There is adequate space to safely program a cricket field, while still allowing flexibility to accommodate other field sports at the park. Cricket has similar risks to sports such as baseball, that the city regularly permits at parks citywide.
- There are currently no permitted programs occurring on the turf area. YPCE’s Athletic Field Use and Allocation Guidelines would apply to permitting and use of this field, with safety and equity among top priorities and considerations.
- YPCE collects demographic data in permit applications, including age and gender, and considers these factors as part of the allocation process to ensure equal opportunities and treatment of youth participants.
- Current permitted users of the city’s only cricket field are coed, providing opportunities for female and male participants. Cricket groups that have inquired regarding additional cricket facilities are also representative of coed and youth membership.
- Youth and adult sports organizations continue to request more space on an annual basis for sports like soccer, baseball, softball, rugby, cricket, ultimate frisbee and football. The programmable turf around the cricket pitch will ensure equitable access for multiple sports while adding an additional amenity.
- There is no parking lot currently planned for this park. There are several community parks sites across the city programmed for sports that utilize on-street parking. A parking lot could be considered in the future as funding is available.