

# Cricket Pitch Information Sheet

Boundary Creek Park

February 18, 2021

Prepared by Maple Grove Parks and Recreation

## **What is being considered by the Park Board?**

The Board is considering adding a new athletic field use on top of an existing athletic field to serve the growing cricket interest in the community. Improvements will include an artificial turf “pitch” in the middle of the open natural grass field so the sport can be played properly. Field striping similar to striping for football or soccer fields would be added to the proposed site to define scoring lines.

## **What is cricket?**

Cricket is a bat-and-ball game played between two teams of eleven players on a field at the center of which is a “pitch” with a wicket at each end, each comprising two bails balanced on three stumps (sticks). The batting side scores runs by striking the ball bowled (thrown) at the wicket with the bat, while the bowling and fielding side tries to prevent this and get each player out. Outs include being bowled (when the ball hits the stumps and dislodges the bails), and by the fielding side catching the ball after it is hit by the bat, but before it hits the ground. When ten players have been dismissed, the inning ends and the teams swap roles.

## **Why does Maple Grove need a cricket field?**

Cricket has become more popular in our community and the surrounding area. The Continental Cricket Club of Maple Grove currently has 150-175 members both youth and adult, 60 percent youth. There are more cricket grounds being incorporated into park systems throughout the metropolitan area but none locally forcing the Maple Grove players to travel to other locations for official play. They are currently using Gleason Fields and other areas in Maple Grove for training but can not play games here due to not having a playable game surface, this will be facilitated by installing the synthetic turf pitch at Boundary Creek Park.

The following goals and recommendations supporting the addition of a cricket pitch in our park system are included in the 2018 Parks and Recreation System Plan:

- Plan for, develop and operate park and recreation facilities; and identify and implement park and recreation programs which meet the community interests for enhancing the individual’s leisure time including social, recreational, educational and physical opportunities.
- Support and encourage the cultural diversity of Maple Grove residents through inclusive programs and facilities.
- Educate and provide organized and self-directed opportunities that promote and encourage healthy life styles, fitness and physical well-being for all residents of the community.
- Adapt to new recreation trends and community desires by providing new facilities and programs, and updating existing parks and facilities over time.

- Maple Grove provides athletic fields and facilities to serve the needs of informal athletics, non-traditional sports, youth sports, athletic organizations, and organized tournaments.
- Maple Grove provides recreation classes, events, and facilities for the benefit of all its citizens to promote healthful living, encourage cultural diversity, enhance leisure time, and advance social and physical opportunities.
- Explore adding facilities for non-traditional sports, such as lawn bowling, bocce, cricket, and climbing.
- Expand programming and special events throughout the park system.
- Continually evaluate the focus of youth and adult programming to include and address current trends and demands for physical and mental health and wellness.
- Encourage cultural diversity with supportive programs.

### **Why has Boundary Creek Park been selected as the preferred location?**

The Boundary Creek location was chosen due to the available under-utilized multi-purpose field space, use patterns of the park, parking availability, restroom availability and other park amenities.

Several other park areas were considered including:

- Gleason Fields Community Playfield (Rejected due to current plans for a baseball/softball focused facility)
- Kerber Neighborhood Park (Rejected due to lack of available multi-purpose field space)
- Basswood Neighborhood Park (Rejected due to lack of parking and available multi-purpose field space)
- Several school sites and neighborhood parks were considered but rejected due to lack of available multi-purpose field space, restroom facilities, and parking.
- The northwest corner of Maple Grove was considered but rejected due to the uncertainty of the timing.

### **How big is the field and the pitch?**

The field size can vary and there is not an “official” size but the area needed is roughly a circular field with a diameter of 360’ for recreational use. The “pitch” is the area where the batters play in the center of the field. The dimensions of this area are highly regulated, our plan calls for a 12’ x 100’ total area for the synthetic turf pitch. The pitch is the only proposed addition to the Boundary Creek site. The main field area will occupy the existing open space and it will not be modified with this project.

### **Why has artificial turf been selected over natural grass for this facility?**

The artificial turf surface for the pitch area (limited to a 12’ x 100’, 1,200 square foot area) was selected for playability, safety, ease of maintenance, and to ensure we maintain the usability of the field for other activities.

### **Is the artificial turf environmentally safe?**

The turf and all material we have chosen for the construction of the pitch are environmentally safe. We are constructing the base with natural material and recycled material for the container. Also, with turf there is a reduction in the use of water, fertilizer, weed control, mowing and ground maintenance which are all beneficial to the environment.

According to the Synthetic Turf Council ([www.syntheticurfCouncil.org](http://www.syntheticurfCouncil.org)):

#### *Is synthetic turf safe?*

More than 50 independent and credible studies from groups such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and statewide governmental agencies such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health and the California Environmental Protection Agency, have validated the safety of synthetic turf (see Position Statements to learn more).

Recent highlights include:

- In October 2010, the California Office of Environmental Assessment completed its multi-year study of air quality above crumb rubber infilled synthetic turf, and bacteria in the turf, and reported that there were no public health concerns.
- In July 2010, the Connecticut Department of Public Health announced that a new study of the risks to children and adults playing on synthetic turf fields containing crumb rubber infill shows "no elevated health risks."
- The California EPA released a report dated July 2009 which indicated there is a negligible human health risk from inhaling the air above synthetic turf.
- Independent tests conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Department of Health, released in May 2009, proved there were no significant health concerns at synthetic turf fields.
- In July 2008, a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff report approved the use of synthetic turf by children and people of all ages.

### **Is an environmental impact statement required for this project?**

No, the scope of the project does not meet the minimum threshold to complete an Environmental Impact Statement per MN State Statute 116D.04 Subd. 2a.

Boundary Creek Park is a total of 90.3 acres, or 3,600,000 square feet. The cricket pitch we are proposing is a total of 1,200 square feet or 0.0003% of the total park area. The impact of this new turf area is extremely minimal.

**Why were the trees removed?**

Of the 10 trees impacted, 6 were moved to other locations within the Boundary Creek Park and 4 were removed that were in poor health. The plans called for a total of 15 trees to be removed but staff kept 5 of the existing trees.

**Why were the football goal posts and soccer goals removed?**

With the addition of soccer and football fields in the park system, Boundary Creek Park has seen a reduction in both football and soccer use, this opens up the use for cricket and other sports. This underutilization also allowed for the removal of the football goal posts to better accommodate the length of the cricket field. Soccer and/or Lacrosse goals may be brought back based on need as the field will be available for multi-sport use.

**How often will the facility be programmed for cricket?**

The field is currently be available for non-programmed activity during normal park hours Monday – Sunday 6:00AM – 10:00PM, and programmed or rental use based on need and availability. The rental and programmed use is scheduled by Parks and Recreation staff throughout our park system. The Continental Cricket Club of Maple Grove is interested in reserving the field on weekend days from May – September with limited weekday evening use. The weekend use would typically be Saturday and Sunday for 4 or more hours each day.

**Is there a limit on the frequency and duration of field use?**

Rented field use is limited based on availability and is scheduled by Parks and Recreation staff. The cricket user group has indicated they would be reserving the field which would incur rental fees. Non-fee-based use by established youth associations takes precedence to fee-based use and is also scheduled by parks and recreation staff. Impromptu or unreserved use is not guaranteed.

**Is there enough parking to accommodate the needs of the cricket group and other park users?**

The rented weekend use is anticipated to need 25-30 parking spaces. The current parking lot can accommodate 91 cars.

**How do we prevent park users from parking on the neighborhood streets?**

Random on-street parking is difficult to prevent and manage. Installing “No Parking” signage would also limit resident use of on-street parking which is not our recommendation. Maple Grove Parks and Recreation staff will work with the Continental Cricket Club to guide their members to the designated parking lot. If there are issues with street parking the residents would be encouraged to contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Are there restrooms available for users?**

Restroom facilities are available in the park building next to the parking lot and are available during normal park hours 6:00AM – 10:00PM. Restroom access is controlled electronically and can be managed as appropriate.

### **Is cricket an appropriate use for a neighborhood park?**

The 2018 Parks and Recreation System Plan defines a Neighborhood Park as follows:

#### *Neighborhood Parks*

These sites are usually four to fifteen acres of useable recreation area; ten acres is a typical minimum standard. Typical amenities may include a small ballfield, play equipment, basketball court, tennis court, trails, parking lot and pleasure skating rink. Typically, neighborhood parks are programmed for youth athletic practices and games with occasional adult practices. For the most part, the facility provides recreational space for the residents within the service area. Usually each Park Service Area will have one neighborhood park. The neighborhood park is the most important and basic unit of the total park system and is expected to serve Maple Grove's residential developments.

The Neighborhood Parks in our system serve a broad service to our park users as defined above. The following spreadsheet provides a summary of programmed use in our Neighborhood Parks in 2018:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of events</b>	<b>Total Hours programmed</b>
Basswood	25	25
Boundary Creek	101	173
Charest	30	70
Crosswinds	30	30
Fish Lake Woods	13	13
Forestview Ponds	19	19
Goldenrod Marsh	8	8
Grove West	81	81
Hidden Meadows	137	137
Lakeview Knolls	186	335
Maple Creek	134	135
Maple Lakes	142	158
Nottingham	86	86
Rush Creek School	242	312
Scott/Jonquil Meadows	1	6
South Elm Road	199	1101
Teal Lake	54	54
Woodcrest	32	32