

# PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

## STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS

All site stakeholders were contacted during the Concept Plan development in 2006 and Needs Assessments were completed by each group. Individual meetings were held with each group in the spring of 2007 to review their needs and to discuss current and future plans. A stakeholder open house was held June 19, 2007 to present the draft master plan. Needs and wants identified by the groups are summarized below. Copies of the 2006 Needs Assessments, stakeholder meeting notes, and a summary chart of the stakeholder feedback results are included in Appendix 1. Group parking needs are addressed separately at the end of this section.

Each of the user groups will receive an executive summary of this report and the final Concept Site Plan. The complete report will be posted on the City website.

## USER GROUPS NEEDS and WANTS

### **South Edmonton Elite Baseball Association**

This club promotes elite baseball for 12 – 18 yr olds. They are very happy with the Bob White field, but would use the site more and could host bigger tournaments if there was an additional 90 foot field. They actively use the site from April through September, two to four evenings per week and on weekends and typically host two to three special events per year. They have expressed an interest in pursuing a Home Base Agreement with the City. They have indicated several desires for site improvements:

- More warm-up areas
- Field house for indoor practice / training facility
- Additional field
- Washrooms
- Change rooms
- Storage space
- Office space
- Officials rooms
- Concession space
- Enclosed batting cages and bull pens

### **Capital City Softball Association**

This club promotes softball for all ages. They have hosted several Canadian, Provincial, and Western Canadian championships including the Midget Canadian Championship in 2007. Generally they are happy with the site, stating that their diamonds are in good shape and that John Fry Park is an attractive facility. If they had more diamonds of a larger size, they could host men's championships and bigger events. They use the site daily during events. Specific desires for the site are generally related to the amenity building and are listed below:

- Washrooms old and insufficient, new facility required
- Dressing Rooms
- Office Space
- Storage Space

- Media area
- Concession
- Beer Garden
- Indoor Facility for year round training
- More diamonds c/w lighting, press boxes, seating, dugouts
- More parking
- Picnic Tables
- Public phone

### **Edmonton Ladies Softball Association**

The Edmonton Ladies Softball Association will be celebrating 50 years of operation in 2008. They use John Fry Park from the first Monday in May through the second weekend of August, Monday through Thursday evenings and they use all four softball diamonds for their regular use play. They host a tournament every May long weekend and hosted the Midget Nationals in 2007. They would be interested in pursuing a Home Base Agreement with the City. Specific desires for the site are generally related to the amenity building and are listed below:

- Improvements to drainage at diamonds 2 and 5
- Outfield fencing
- Lighting
- Bleachers
- Officials rooms
- Washrooms
- Multi-purpose room
- Temporary storage space
- Concession space

### **Leprechaun Tigers Rugby Club**

The Leprechaun Tigers Rugby Club is a social organization of male and female players of all ages. They have implemented a number of improvements on the site including a permanent clubhouse and are currently pursuing a Home Base Agreement with the City. They actively use the site from early spring to late fall, and their clubhouse (photo below) is used year round. With 4 teams playing, more than 100 players would be on site at a time.



They host 6 to 7 larger events per year. The site improvement most desired by the Leprechaun Tigers is an upgrade of their two playing fields. Both the grading and turf grass are of insufficient quality. Other desires are less urgent. A concern about vehicular traffic on their playing fields has been resolved with the installation of rail fencing in 2007.

#### **Desirable Site Improvements:**

- Field Upgrades – they are dry and hard
- More space between fields for spectators

- Drainage improvements
- Playground
- Space for motor homes to park
- Additional parking
- New storage shed installed in 2007 to meet storage needs

### **City Parks Operations**

Parks Operations currently staffs John Fry Park with 1-2 people per shift during the summer (May through October) for maintenance of the park. The on site staff regularly maintain the west side of John Fry Park site including the ball diamonds and connecting green spaces but have no direct involvement with the rugby fields or east end of the site.

Maintenance activities include grass mowing, maintenance of the irrigation systems, line painting, watering, cleaning, etc. to a Class B standard. They have office space and washrooms in a central trailer and a garage for grass cutting equipment. Desired site features for their maintenance operations include the following:

- Office
- Separate washrooms for staff and public
- Kitchen space with fridge
- Larger garage with higher overhead door

### **Alberta Volleyball Association**

The Alberta Volleyball Association (AVA) currently has a three year lease with City of Edmonton Transportation Department for use of a site south of John Fry Park for 16 sand volleyball courts. The site is used extensively, from 5-10pm on weekdays throughout the summer (May through August) and all day on weekends. As many as 64 teams could be on site per night, and seven to eight weekend events are scheduled each summer. They would like to have higher quality courts with seating and lighting. Although the AVA is not located on site and is therefore not an official stakeholder, they were invited to participate in the plan process as an adjacent land user.

## **PARKING NEEDS**

Currently there are approximately 141 parking stalls on site with 75 in the north gravel lot accessed from 31 Avenue, 60 in the south paved lot accessed from 28 Avenue and 6 in the small paved lot at the rugby clubhouse, accessed from 92 Street. Sand volleyball court users park along 92 Street, along 28 Avenue and in an informal gravel lot accessed from 28 Avenue via the south portion of 92 Street. Lack of parking was not identified as a serious issue on site, but all groups would appreciate additional parking.

Each group identified parking requirements for regular site use and for special events as follows:

	<u>Daily Needs</u>	<u>Special Event Needs</u>
Rugby	50	300
Capital City Softball	0	500
Elite Baseball	40	100
Ladies Softball	100	300
Parks Operations	2	0

Total current daily needs would be well served by 200 stalls. The largest event requirement is for 500 stalls which could be provided by a combination of permanent stalls and designated overflow parking areas.

#### AMENITY BUILDING NEEDS

All groups were requested to provide input into appropriate uses for an amenity building. All groups indicated that more and improved washroom facilities were the highest priority and all indicated that they would consider a partnership arrangement with the City for provision of meeting space, office space and storage areas. In summary, the needs stated include:

- Public Washrooms
- Concession space
- Storage
- Multi-purpose room
- Office space
- Officials rooms
- Change rooms

#### PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

This Master Plan process has taken all input into consideration in the final recommendations; however, some expressed wants are beyond the scope of this Plan to accommodate. Partnership arrangements are encouraged with the various groups which can allow improvements to be scheduled sooner than would be scheduled through the normal City budgeting process. Partnership arrangements as discussed with the groups are discussed in the Implementation section.