

**Cricket: It's more than just a sport and it's coming to the Naperville Park District**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Shirish Joshi, Greater Chicago Cricket Assoc., 630-922-9694  
Brad Wilson, Director of Recreation, 630-848-3532  
Sameera Luthman, Marketing and Communications Manager, 630-848-3570

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### **Cricket: It's more than just a sport and it's coming to the Naperville Park District**

Bats, balls, runs, and innings. No, it's not baseball we're talking about, it's the sport of cricket and it's coming to Naperville in the spring.

Several Naperville residents who came together to create the Naperville-based Greater Chicago Cricket Association (GCCA) in 2003, petitioned the City Council and Park Board of Commissioners in 2005 to build a cricket pitch in the community to fulfill the need of many cricket-playing residents. This effort was led by Naperville resident, Shirish Joshi who saw the increasing enthusiasm for the sport.

Their passion and enthusiasm paid off, because the Park District agreed to install a 10'x75' cricket pitch at Commissioners Park located in south Naperville, which will be ready for play in the spring.

"We see the potential of this sport's popularity and now hope to put Naperville on the cricket playing map very soon," explained Joshi.

Cricket is a sport whose origins lie in England; currently, cricket is a popular spectator sport in Australia, England, West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and New Zealand. And the "fever" for the sport has been building in the US – most notably

throughout the Chicagoland area.

The game is played between two teams of eleven players each and the objective is to score more runs than the opposing team. A cricket match is divided into innings during which one team bats while the other team bowls and fields. Matches may be played over one or two innings and a game can last over six or more hours a day.

Perhaps the most important part of cricket is the way that it brings families together to enjoy some quality time playing this unique sport.

“This will be yet another opportunity for people in Naperville to make new friends and increase family time together,” explained Joshi. “Most importantly, thought, it will be another avenue for children and adults to channel their energies into a health-enhancing activity.”

Several other nearby communities either currently have cricket pitches or are in the process of installing them. They include: Aurora, Bolingbrook and Woodridge.

The Naperville Park District plans to offer instructional cricket programs in the near future. Information regarding specific programs will be available in the quarterly Program Guide or on the District’s Web site at [www.napervilleparks.org](http://www.napervilleparks.org).

Groups that are interested in scheduling the cricket pitch for their use should contact the Naperville Park District at 848-5000.

For more information on the GCCA, visit [www.chicagocricket.com](http://www.chicagocricket.com).

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