

Joint Use Agreement Annual Report 2004



PRINCIPLES OF THE JOINT USE AGREEMENT

The Joint Use Agreement is guided by the following principles:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| SHARED USE | That school sites and recreation sites, facilities and resources be shared. |
| COOPERATIVE PLANNING | That school sites and parks and recreation sites, and facilities be co-operatively planned. |
| CONSULTATION | That the parties to the Agreement undertake ongoing consultation with User Groups during the lifetime of the Agreement. |
| EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS | That the resources of the three parties and User Groups be efficiently used and extended for the maximum benefit of the community. |
| SHARED COST | That costs associated with the Agreement be fairly shared among the three parties to the Agreement. User groups may have to participate in basic operating costs of facilities, and will be offered the opportunity to purchase or supply enhanced levels of service and to participate in capital improvements. |
| EQUAL PARTNERSHIP | That there be an equal partnership among the three parties to the Agreement. |
| RESERVE DEDICATION | That all reserve land and funds generated in lieu of reserve land be used solely for the purposes of school sites and parks and recreation sites. |

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Introduction

About the Joint Use Agreement

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) is a formal agreement of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools. The agreement was initially signed in 1959 and most recently updated in April 1996. It is through the Joint Use Agreement that arenas, pools and other city facilities are available to school children during the school day, schools are available to community groups after school hours, and sports fields are fully utilized by school and community groups. The agreement also guides how the three partners work together to design, build and maintain school and park sites.

The work of the JUA is managed by four committees, supported by a coordinator. The Steering Committee, made up of two representatives from each of the three partners, addresses global issues and provides direction and leadership to three working sub-committees. The sub-committees, each with a specific area of focus, are comprised of representatives from the partners, as well as user groups and community stakeholders. The mandate of the sub-committees is to study and provide recommendations to the Steering Committee on issues relevant to their respective areas.

The JUA is an agreement of principles, focused on collaboration and cooperation. The spirit of the agreement is fully supported by City Council and the two Boards of Trustees.

About This Report

This report covers the period from January 1 to December 31, 2004.

The annual report is targeted to City Council, the Boards of Trustees of the two school districts, and senior management of the partners.

This report provides highlights the activities and accomplishments of the JUA committees, provides statistical information on the use of facilities under the agreement, reflects on financial investment and implications, compares the situation in Edmonton to other municipalities, and identifies priorities for 2005.

Steering Committee Activities and Accomplishments

The Joint Use Agreement Steering Committee has addressed a number of areas and has the following successes to share in this report:

Preparing for Review of the Agreement

The current Joint Use Agreement was signed with an effective date of October 1, 1995. Clause 9.2 of the agreement requires that the parties to the agreement review the agreement every ten years from the effective date.

Early in 2004, the Steering Committee laid the groundwork for the review. A team of consultants was hired to facilitate the process and the review was launched October 25, 2004.

Identification of Statistical and Data Collection Needs

The Steering Committee identified statistical and data collection needs required to provide information to the public and to facilitate internal monitoring and review of the Joint Use Agreement. This included:

- Data on the shared use of facilities
- Data pertaining to facility use fees and charges
- Data requirements regarding land allocation and reserves

Design of a Communications Plan

Achievements in the communication plan in 2004 include:

- Identification of target audiences
- Development of a 2004 work plan
- Agreement on communication vehicles
- Development and implementation of a survey tool to measure awareness

Clarification of Roles, Responsibilities, and Structure of Committees

In 2004 the Steering Committee reviewed all existing documents related to roles, responsibilities, structure and communication links for all JUA committees. This resulted in the following approved written documents:

- Terms of Reference for each committee (4)
- Roles and Responsibilities of Joint Use Sub-Committee members

- Rules of Procedure for Sub-Committee meetings

The Steering Committee also assigned a representative to sit on each sub-committee to ensure good communication and linkage.

Improving Contextual Awareness

A number of strategies and initiatives of the partner organizations and external organizations relate to the content and principles of the agreement. Examples include Community Services Recreation Facility Master Plan, declaration of surplus school sites by school boards, and the Alberta Government's Learning Commission. There are also ancillary agreements between one partner and an external organization that relate to the JUA such as agreements between school boards and YMCA's regarding school access, and the agreement between the University of Alberta and the City providing public access to Foote Field facilities.

The Steering Committee has always tried to keep abreast of developments that could impact their decision making. This year they formalized tracking of these through sub-committees and designated Steering Committee members.

Planning for the Future

In October 2004, the Steering Committee undertook a strategic planning exercise to identify priorities for 2005. With the launch of the review and the additional work load that would generate, the committee decided to focus work on completion and fine-tuning of 2004 objectives rather than identifying new focus areas.

Priorities for 2005 include:

- To continue to collect consistent data reflecting user demands and trends, and land inventories, and use the information in decision making.
- To further develop and implement the communication plan.
- To complete action planning for implementation of the Accessibility Review.

It is anticipated that throughout 2005, issues will arise from the review to direct additional work for the Steering Committee for this year.

Addressing Arising Issues

The Joint Use Agreement Steering Committee faced some interesting challenges and opportunities in 2004.

- The establishment of the Aviators Soccer Teams posed some challenges about where it would be appropriate for them to play and practice, and what impacts it could have on accessibility of fields under the JUA. At the same time it presented some unique opportunities for O'Leary School.
- Development of school sites and dealing with issues arising from surplus school sites generated much discussion.
- Flooding problems in the summer prompted City of Edmonton Drainage Services to approach the committee about potentials for considering storage of excess storm water on some school park sites.

Accessibility Review

The Steering Committee continued work on implementing the recommendations of the Accessibility Review.

- Charges for increased maintenance at stand-alone arenas were implemented for hockey schools/academies
- A task group worked on developing guidelines for access to schools
- A Joint Use Facilities Access Manual has been drafted and will be assessed by target audiences early in 2005. When approved it will be widely distributed to facility operators and facility users.

School and Recreation Facilities Working Sub-Committee: Activities and Accomplishments

Committee Composition

The School and Recreation Committee is being restructured and will include representation from:

- Adult League Sports
- Minor League Sports
- Recreation Programs
- Casual Users
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Edmonton Sport Council
- Community Services, City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Catholic Schools

- Edmonton Public Schools

The “Recreation Programs” and “Casual Users” have been added to make the committee more closely reflect the categories in Standards of Play. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Canada will no longer have specific representation, but the current representatives from those groups may continue on the committee with a program or casual user mandate.

Ongoing Activities

The School and Recreation Committee provides a venue for regular sharing of information among school user groups and the Partners of the JUA. Discussion of procedures and processes related to school bookings and user issues are regularly discussed. The committee is also a venue for addressing issues relating to student access to City facilities.

2004 Highlights

One of the interesting tasks for the School and Recreation Committee this year was assessing the game of futsal to determine whether it was suitable for play in school gymnasias. This form of indoor soccer more closely resembles the outdoor game, and a pilot allayed concerns about potential damage to gymnasium walls. Standards of Play were developed and games and practices were booked into gyms for the 2004/5 season.

In an ongoing effort to have comprehensive reliable data on gymnasium demand and availability, the committee supported Community Services in a proposal to collect extensive comparable data for the 2004/5 booking year. The data will also be shared with the Steering Committee and the Joint Use Agreement Review Team.

A customer satisfaction survey was implemented in 2004, requesting feedback from all gym users in the 2003/4 season. Overall, satisfaction rates were high, and valuable information was gathered. The survey will be repeated for 2004/5 with some minor changes.

Standards of Play and the Gymnasium Allocation Process were reviewed, as they are each season. Changes made to the process for booking city-wide user groups

into gyms were well received by the groups and more efficient for the booking staff.

The committee garnered support of the Steering Committee to look into four theme areas related to accessing gymnasia:

- bringing in new dollars
- finding ways to open space when no custodian is on duty
- finding ways to open space when a custodian is on duty
- management of available gym time

Progress has been made in the management of available gym time through refinements to the allocation process. The committee has launched an evaluation and review of the implementation of fees to assess their impact on availability as the first step in considering bringing in new dollars. Work by the Steering Committee on Guidelines for Access to Schools will provide the background information required to proceed with finding ways to open space.

Future Challenges

The School and Recreation Committee will continue to focus on attaining accurate supply/demand data related to school gymnasia. This data and information from the Boards will enable them to effectively deal with gym access questions.

Release of the City's Recreation Facilities Master Plan will impact the work of the School and Recreation Facilities Committee in the future. In particular, the recommendation that "...the City should develop a gymnasium strategy in cooperation with Edmonton's School Boards" could become a priority item for the Joint Use Agreement.

Sports Fields Working Sub-Committee: Activities and Accomplishments

Committee Composition

The committee includes representation from:

- Cricket
- Minor Baseball

- Minor Tackle Football
- Edmonton Minor Soccer Association
- Edmonton Inter-District Youth Soccer Association
- Edmonton District Soccer Association
- Slo-Pitch
- Youth Softball
- Edmonton Track and Field Council
- Edmonton Rugby Union
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Edmonton Sport Council
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- U of A South Campus (Foote Field)
- Edmonton Catholic Schools
- Community Services, City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Public Schools

Ongoing Activities

The Sports Fields Committee provides a venue for regular sharing of information between field user groups and the Joint Use partners. Discussion of procedures and processes related to field bookings, maintenance and operations are part of every agenda.

2004 Highlights

The Sports Field Committee was identified as a vital stakeholder in development of the City of Edmonton's Urban Parks Management plan. A full meeting was dedicated to consultation on the plan in 2004. The project team will be coming back to the committee in 2005 for an update.

A significant change in 2004, was the decision to bring Clarke Stadium into the regular field booking process. This should result in the field being more accessible to school and community groups.

Under the auspices of the Sports Fields Committee, a project was launched to develop a strategy for future development, allocation and maintenance/stewardship of sport fields in Edmonton. The final report of the Strategy committee will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval in January 2005.

Future Challenges

Much of the work of the Sports Fields Committee in 2005 will come out of recommendations of the Field Strategy. It is envisioned that this committee will become more involved in a wide variety of issues/projects from development to operation and maintenance of sport fields.

With approval of the Field Strategy, the committee will be restructured to better meet a modified mandate.

Site Planning and Facility Design Committee: Activities and Accomplishments

Committee Composition

The committee includes representation from:

- Edmonton Public Schools
- Edmonton Catholic Schools
- Community Services, City of Edmonton
- Planning and Development, City of Edmonton
- Urban Development Institute
- Edmonton Sport Council
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

Ongoing Activities

The Site Planning and Facility Design Committee (SPFDC) provides a venue for the Partners to work together to address issues and opportunities related to acquisition of land and the planning and design of school park sites. It also brings stakeholder interest into the discussions. The focus of this committee has shifted from project-based action to information sharing and cooperative planning.

2004 Highlights

In 2004, the SPFDC launched a major project to examine the interaction of partner school park site design processes to seek alignment opportunities acceptable to the partners.

The committee did an excellent job of capturing a complex set of systems in a

logical straightforward format.

Future Challenges

The main challenge for the SPFDC for 2005 will be developing and implementing actions plans coming out of the process alignment review.

Finances

The Joint Use Agreement operates on a budget of \$77,000. This includes the costs of a coordinator, hosting of committee meetings, printing, and volunteer appreciation. The costs are shared equally by the three partners.

For this minor investment, the parties are able to provide citizens of Edmonton with far greater access to facilities, at significantly less cost than other municipalities in keeping with our principle “That the resources of the three parties and User Groups be efficiently used and extended for the maximum benefit of the community.”

Launch of the Review of the Agreement

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) partnership organizations (City of Edmonton, Edmonton Catholic School Board & Edmonton Public School Board) met October 25, 2004 to begin discussions to renew the agreement. A committee of three members from each partnering organization makes up the JUA Review Team. The agreement renewal will be based on a principled, interest-based approach.

All team members strongly believe, and overwhelmingly agreed that the JUA must continue this partnership. There are issues from the past that need to be worked on in this facilitation to enhance the new agreement. These will provide opportunity to make the partnership stronger and more effective.

Timelines for the process were established and meetings were scheduled through to the fall of the 2005. Some issues were identified for discussion and some of the stakeholders identified. The team will continue with the process to identify the appropriate information and people needed to create the new JUA, designing public consultation processes as appropriate.

Regular updates on progress of the review will be provided to the partners throughout the year.

Members of the team are:

Jenise Bidulock, Michael Ediger, Brian Fedor	Edmonton Public Schools
Garnet McKee, Rick Mooney, Mike Pieters	Edmonton Catholic Schools
Linda Cochrane, Tim McCargar, Rob Smyth	Edmonton Community Services

Future Priorities

The Joint Use Agreement Review will identify priorities for 2006 and beyond. It is too early to speculate on what those might be, but it is clear that there is considerable support for Agreement. It is highly valued by all three partners, who will work diligently to make it an even better partnership in the future.

Appendices: Facility Use Statistics

Community Use of School Facilities

Gymnasium Use by Age

Sports Field Use on School/Park Sites After School Hours

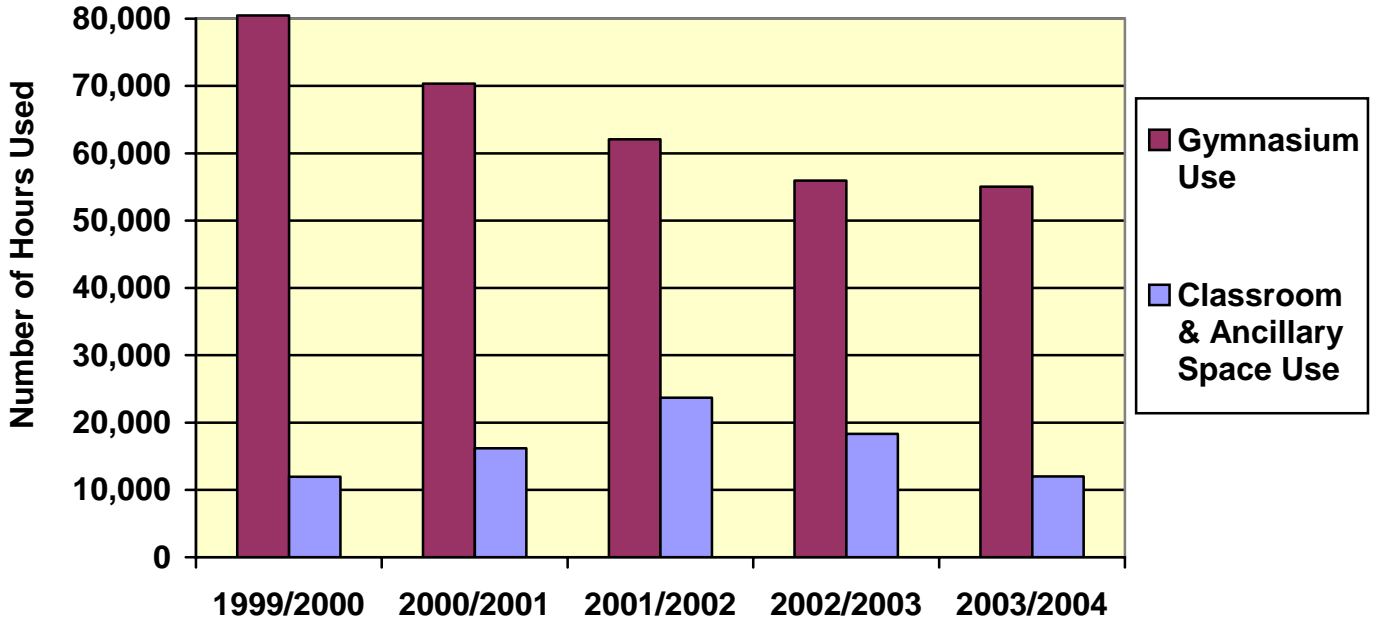
Sports Field Use by Age

School Use of City Facilities (A)

School Use of City Facilities (B)

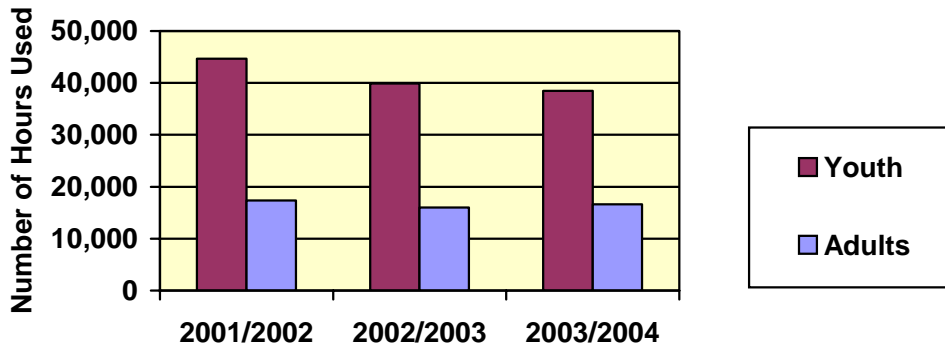
APPENDICES

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

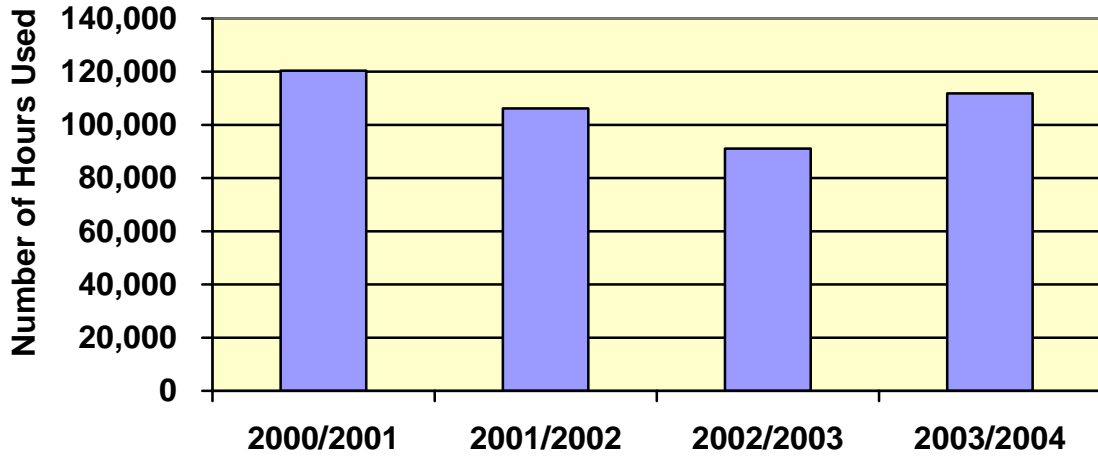


	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Gymnasium Hours	70,323	62,058	55,912	55,052
Classroom and Ancillary Space Hours	16,177	23,696	18,331	11,969

GYMNASIUM USE BY AGE

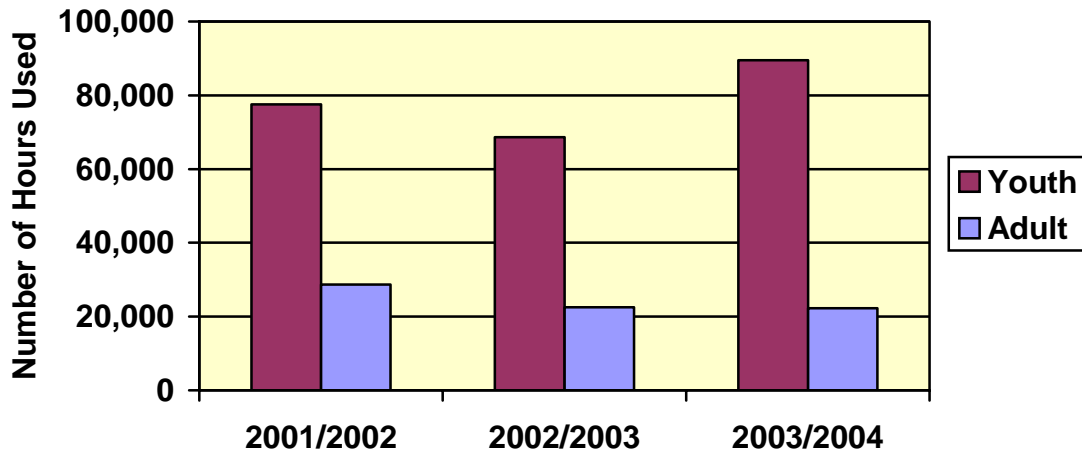


SPORTS FIELD USE ON SCHOOL/PARK SITES AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

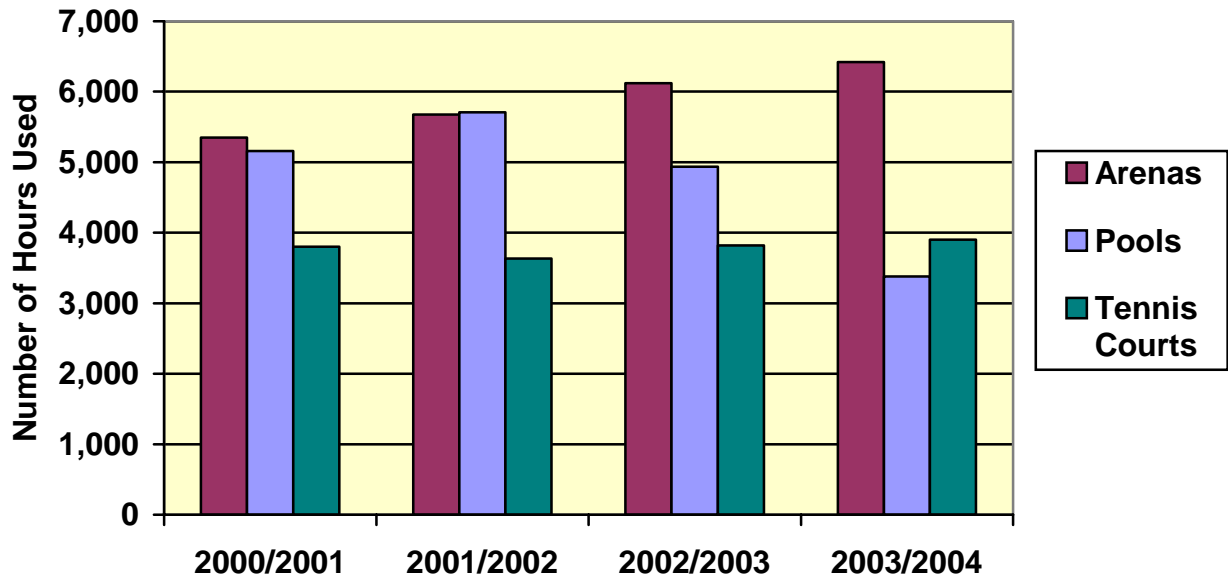


	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Hours of Use	120,437	106,197	91,127	111,821

SPORTS FIELD USE BY AGE



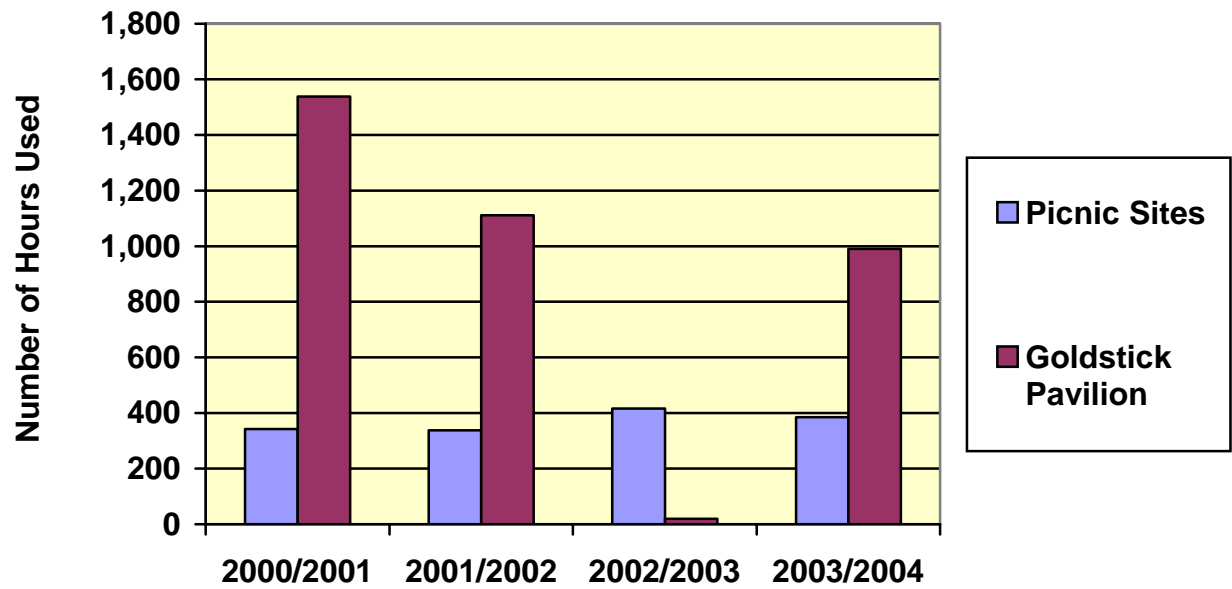
SCHOOL USE OF CITY FACILITIES (A)



	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Arenas	5348	5676	6121	6421
Tennis Courts	3802	3636	3821	3378
Pools	5159	5707	4937	3901

Note: Tennis courts are booked individually. For example if a school booked Grand Trunk Courts for 2 hours, it would be recorded as 3 courts X 2 hours = 6 hours. To more accurately reflect relative usage of facilities, the hours booked have been divided by 4 to represent the number of hours a tennis court facility (2-6 courts) was booked.

SCHOOL USE OF CITY FACILITIES (B)



	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
Picnic Sites	343	338	416	385
Goldstick Pavilion	1538	1111	20	990

Goldstick Pavilion is primarily booked as a dressing room for winter outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing.