

Joint Use Agreement Annual Report 2006



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 & 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.

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 a Steering Committee and three sub-committee, and is 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 all three partners.

About This Report

This report covers the period from January 1 to December 31, 2006.

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 describes the activities and accomplishments of the Joint Use Agreement, provides statistical information on the use of facilities under the Agreement, highlights school/park sites status changes and identifies priorities for 2007.

Feature Focus: A Consolidated Booking System

In 1996 Joint Use of Edmonton Catholic Schools was booked by the City of Edmonton; Edmonton Public Schools were booked individually at each school. One of the recommendations of the 1996 review of the agreement was to consolidate the booking system.

Edmonton Public Schools responded to the request, taking on the big challenge of centralizing booking of all their schools. Over time, with the assistance of the School and Recreation Facilities Working Sub-Committee, we moved to having two aligned booking systems. Agreement on priorities for use of schools, standards of play and operating procedures made things much more consistent for the user groups.

We are now fully into implementation of a single system. Effective with the 2006/2007 booking season, all community use of Edmonton Public, Edmonton Catholic and Edmonton Francophone schools is handled by the City of Edmonton. It was an eye-opening process as we discovered how many small differences there were in interpreting agreed guidelines. We now truly understand some of the issues that user groups were dealing with.

Implementation has been a challenge not just for the booking staff and user groups, but for principals at Edmonton Public as well. User groups have been extremely understanding and patient as kinks continue to be worked out of the system. School principals have been very cooperative and supportive in accommodating requests. In 2007 a business process review will be implemented to iron out the remaining inconsistencies.

A major review of the gymnasium allocation process will also be initiated in 2007. Standards of Play for city-wide user groups ensure fair and equitable access among those users, but additional work is required to develop strategies to implement the principles of fair and equitable access across all user groups.

Joint Use Agreement Review

In 2005 the Joint Use Review Team established the scope of the review, developed principles, prepared preliminary lists of issues and opportunities, identified stakeholders, and conducted research.

In 2006 initial work on the land component of the Agreement was supplemented by a session on the Municipal Government Act and the Joint Use Agreement conducted by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Work continued in parallel on creating a framework for review of land issues and on preparing for public consultation on shared use of facility issues. Due in part to pressing issues, it was decided to focus on the shared use of facilities side of the Agreement first along with related governance matters.

A community and stakeholder consultation process was initiated early in 2006 to assess issues and opportunities from an external position. The consultation included three public meetings, focus groups, and the opportunity to provide input through an on-line survey.

At the completion of the data collection phase, the consultant provided a summary report which was posted online for participants to review. The consultant also made an in-depth presentation to the Review Team, which was followed by a presentation from the executive directors of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and the Edmonton Sport Council regarding their perspectives on the raw data.

Key findings included:

- The community wants more and improved access to school gymnasiums.
- Community groups recognize the fiscal challenges the school boards face in increasing access.
- Schools want improved access to City facilities.
- Facility users want a single booking system.
- The community and users want the partners to be open with sharing information to help build relationships.

Partners consolidated their questions, thoughts and potential action items from the presentations through a facilitated process and themed them under the categories of high level principles, governance, parking lot and operational. Review Team discussed Shared Use and provided the framework for several clauses.

The desire for a single booking system was identified as the key item that could be initiated on an operational level without waiting for a new agreement to be signed. The Steering Committee pursued this through their administrations and endorsed a users' forum to build on input and look at new ways to best meet community need.

The universality of the issues made it clear that it would be appropriate to invite the Francophone School Board to participate in further discussions. The Francophone Board was partner to a separate Agreement with the City of Edmonton.

Work began in earnest developing key clauses for a new Agreement and consolidating operational guidelines for the shared use of facilities. The communal desire to maximize benefit to school students and community sport and recreation groups provided the focus and impetus to create a viable framework.

Consensus was reached on the following:

- Principles for the Agreement
- A governance structure
- A schedule of what facilities are included in the Agreement.
- Rights and responsibilities of the partners in terms of making facilities available
- A dispute resolution procedure
- Continued community access to school classrooms and ancillary space at no cost
- Continued school access to tennis courts, picnic sites and sport fields at no cost
- Operating Guidelines laying out priorities for use of facilities, eligible user groups, activities accommodated in various facilities and expectations of users.

A final draft document was prepared based on agreements reached and forwarded for review by each party's legal counsel in December to ensure we would not face unforeseen issues prior to reporting to elected officials in 2007.

The remaining piece of work was coming to agreement on a financial model that would meet the needs of the partners and maintain the commitment to providing access to gyms, pools, and arenas at minimal cost. Numerous challenges needed to be faced due to the differences in mandates, priorities, and management systems in the partner organizations.

Several models had been developed, evaluated and found lacking in one way or another. At year end the team was clear what criteria the cost model would need to achieve and the team was geared up to approach the task with new vigour after the Christmas break.

Cooperating for Edmonton

The Joint Use partners continue working together to optimize benefits to students and citizens of Edmonton. The partners regularly share development information with each other, providing updates on school projects and City projects and identifying opportunities for partnerships or other strategic alignments.

The approval of funding for an Edmonton Public high school and for a City recreation centre in southwest Edmonton provided an opportunity to plan cooperatively and make efficient and effective use of resources. Collaborative efforts will support sharing of facilities on the site.

When Edmonton Catholic Schools proposed joint development of a field house at St. Francis Xavier High School, the City was just launching a needs assessment for a recreation and sports field development plan for the Johnny Bright Sport Park adjacent to the school. Once again the timing of projects enabled the partners to collaborate and the scope of their needs assessment was expanded to incorporate the proposal as a component of the review. Both parties have agreed to negotiate and enter into an agreement to construct, operate and maintain a

jointly owned field house

No significant actions or decisions were made related to land issues due to the every changing environment and the instigation of formal review of the land portion of the Agreement. However, day to day matters still needed to be addressed.

The Steering Committee was involved in discussions to provide input and feedback on a number of civic projects that impact all the partners. These included the proposed arterial roadway funding strategies and proposals for dry ponds on school sites as part of the City's flood prevention program. In addition to civic projects, EPCOR has expressed interest in dual use sites for reservoirs.

Responding to the community's interest in school closures and vacant school sites continued to demand attention from all of the partners of the Agreement. There is some interest in seeing the partners work more closely together to address concerns in the future.

Discussions regarding appropriate uses of reserve lands and the reserve land account also continued. The Steering Committee has struggled with finding a level of information sharing about the reserve land account that will meet the needs and desires of all the partners.

Priorities for 2007

- Launch the new Joint Use Agreement – Facilities
- Implement actions as needed to ensure the new Agreement achieves the desired outcomes.
- Complete negotiation on a new Joint Use Agreement – Land
- Review the Gymnasium Allocation Model with user groups and revise as needed to ensure fair and equitable access to gyms.

APPENDICES

A. School/Park Site Status Changes

B. 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

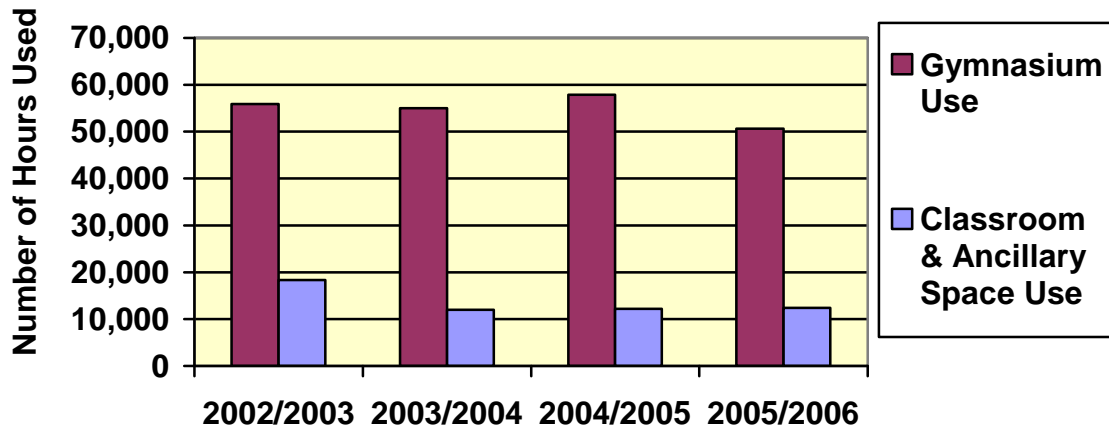
School Use of City Facilities (A)

School Use of City Facilities (B)

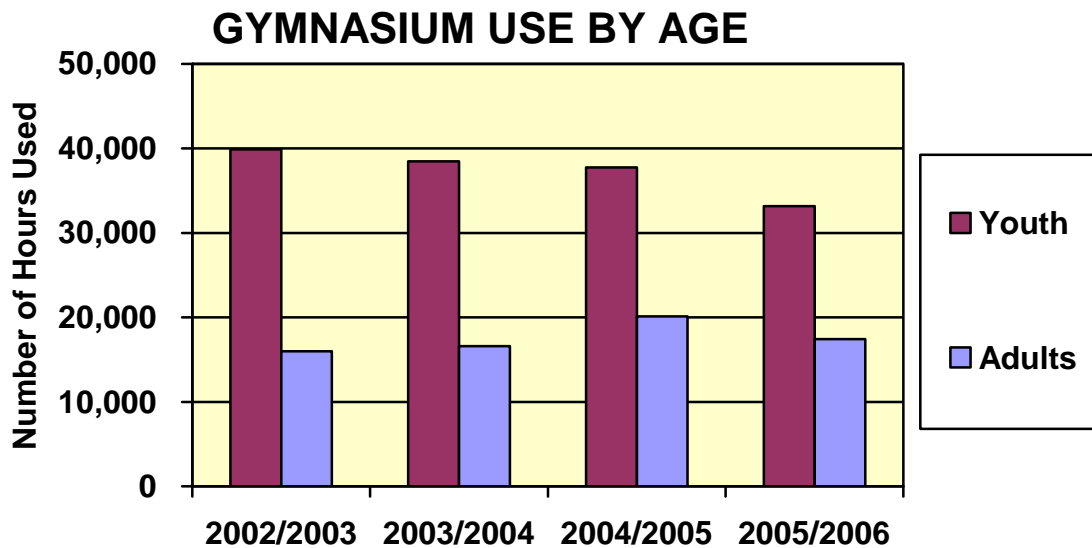
2006 School/Park Site Status Changes

Neighbourhood	School	Land Status	Building Status	Future Plans
Strathearn	Gabrielle-Roy	land transferred from EPSB to Francophone school board	transferred from EPSB to Francophone school board	Continued shared use of site by School Board and community.
Argyll	Argyll Elementarys	Site declared surplus by EPSB.	Site declared surplus by EPSB	City working to acquire surplus site
High Park	High Park Elementary	EPSB ownership continues	School closed.	School lease to community group under consideration. Sport field operation continues
Newton	Newton Elementary	EPSB ownership continues	School closed.	School lease to community group under consideration. Sport field operation continue
Sherbrooke	Sherbrooke Elementary	EPSB ownership continues	Charter School Program operating in building	Continued sport field operation. Community access into school to be made available
Wellington	Wellington Elementary	EPSB ownership continues	Leased to community group	Continued sport field operation

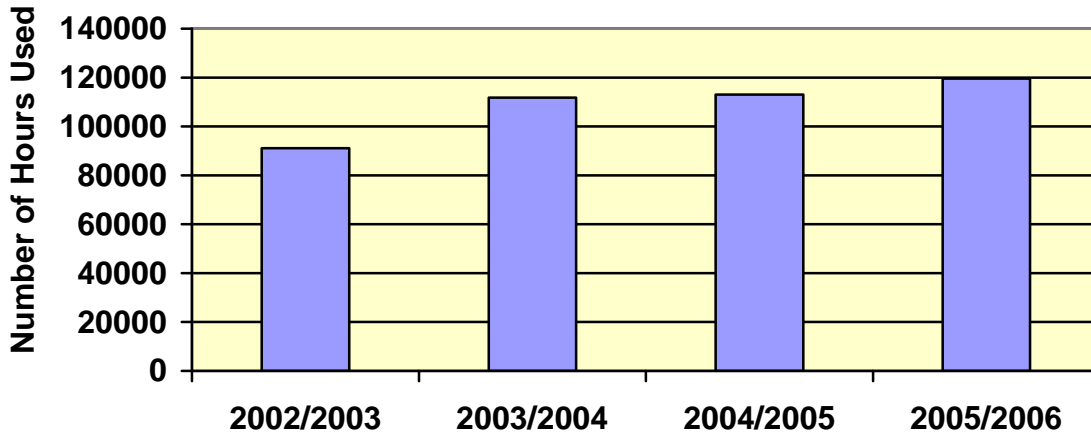
COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES



	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Gymnasium Hours	55,912	55,052	57,897	50,624
Classroom/Ancillary Space Hours	18,331	11,969	12,232	12,432

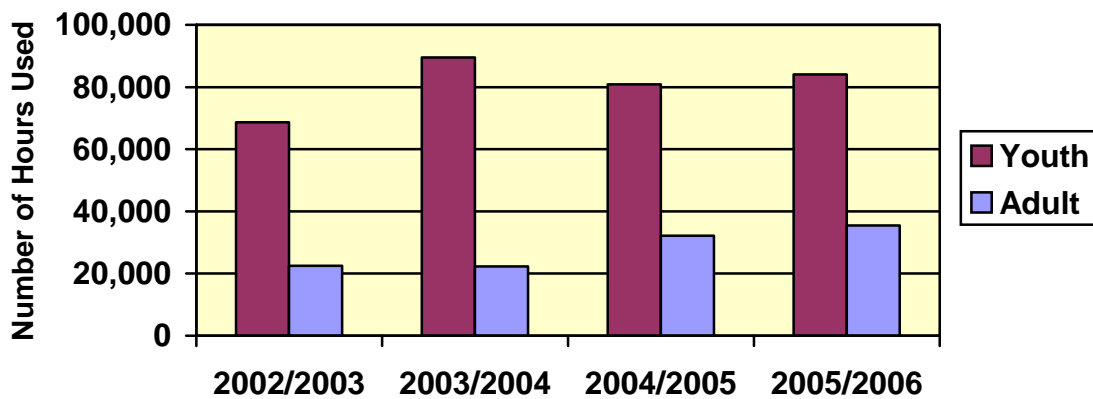


SPORTS FIELD USE ON SCHOOL/PARK SITES AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

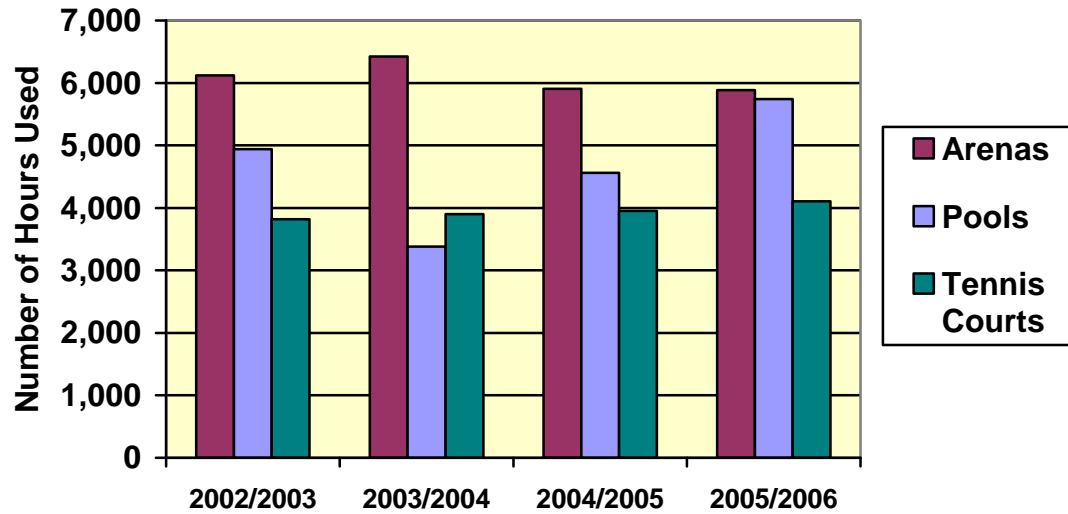


	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Hours of Use	91,127	111,821	113,051	119,573

SPORTS FIELD USE BY AGE



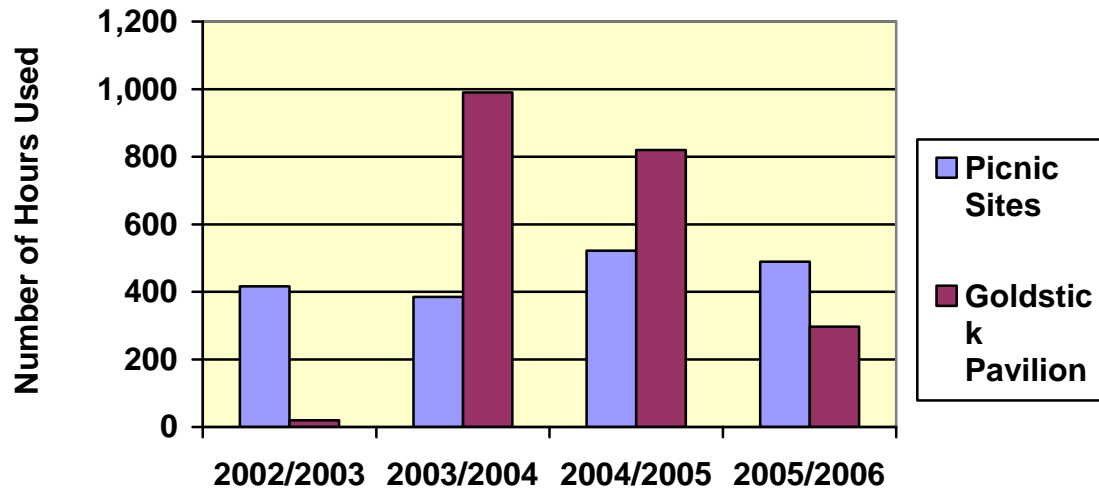
SCHOOL USE OF CITY FACILITIES (A)



		2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Arenas	6,121	6,421	5,905	5,884
Tennis Courts	3,821	3,378	3,951	5,741
Pools	4,937	3,901	4,563	4,108

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)



	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Picnic Sites	416	385	522	489
Goldstick Pavilion	20	990	820	297

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