The table includes all playing fields, both public and private, used at week-ends and in the case of tennis, courts attached to private houses. The figures thus give a comprehensive summary of all existing facilities for field sports available in the metropolitan area to meet week-end requirements. In general, the playing fields used for the principal summer field game, cricket, are the same as those used for the majority of winter field sports. The winter sports, therefore, have been grouped to enable a better comparison with cricket. Baseball has been shown separately, as most teams share grounds on which other sports are played on the same day. Other field sports such as tennis, golf, bowls and cycling have been shown separately. It will be seen that in actual numbers of players engaged, tennis is the most popular sport, followed by golf, cricket, football, bowls, cycling, athletics and the various other winter sports.

The largest area of land is used for golf, followed by cricket and football. Many of the golf courses, however, are located outside the urban area.

It will be seen that the existing facilities for winter sports are distributed in much the same proportion as summer sports. The principal difference is shown in the southern district where, compared with other districts, the playing fields are used more in winter than in summer. This can be attributed largely to the proximity of the beaches which during the summer season attract a higher proportion of the population from this district than from others.

If the figures are related to the population in each district several differences are revealed and generally the facilities are not spread equitably in relation to population. There are more playing fields in relation to population in the central, western and eastern suburbs, than in the northern and southern suburbs. This feature is most marked in the central district because there are located most of Melbourne's largest parks whose playing fields are used by players from other districts. Even if the facilities of the central district are apportioned among the surrounding districts, it still reveals a deficiency of playing fields in the northern and southern suburbs. This deficiency is accentuated by the loss of playing fields in Royal Park and other parks to emergency housing and defence establishments. The deficiency in the southern district compared with the others is due not only to the counter-attraction of the foreshore in summer, but also to the more rapid population growth in this area, with the result that new reserves for playing fields have not kept pace with residential development.

With regard to other sport, it can be seen that the location of golf courses has no relation to the distribution of population. Most of them are in the southern district because of the more favourable soil and terrain. The higher proportion of the population playing golf, tennis and bowls in the southern and eastern sectors is due largely to the generally higher income level of the residents.

There are 26 major enclosed district grounds used for senior football and cricket during the respective seasons. Each of these grounds can accommodate at least 25,000 spectators, and several are capable of providing for attendances of over 50,000. Of these, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which is generally considered one of the finest grounds of its type in the world, can at present accommodate up to 90,000 spectators and on occasions is taxed to capacity. Extensions to begin in 1954 will increase its capacity to accommodate 120,000. The remaining playing fields used by seasonal summer and winter field sports are mostly located in municipal parks with free access to the public.

Needs of Individual Field Sports

In analysing the needs of the various branches of field sports it is desirable to consider these under the three following broad categories:

- 1. Summer field sports: Cricket, Athletics.
- 2. Winter field sports: Football, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Baseball and Lacrosse.
- 3. Other sports: Tennis, Golf, Bowls, Cycling and Racing.

In general, the space requirements for summer sports also cover the requirements for winter sport as in most instances the same grounds are used. Some sports, however, do have specialised requirements.

Table 74										
DISTRIBUTION	OF	URBAN	LAND	FOR	RECREATION,	1951				
	$(\mathbf{F}$	xcluding	Golf and	1 Raci	ng)					

District	Play	ring Fields	Parks, Children	Gardens and 's Playgrounds	Totals		
District	Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	
Central	933	3.6	874	3.4	1,807	7.0	
Western	486	4.5	71	0.65	557	5.1	
Northern	720	2.5	464	1.6	1,184	4.1	
Eastern	1,099	4.2	874	3.3	1,973	7.5	
Southern	1,282	2.8	1,628	3.6	2,910	6.4	
Total	4,520	3.3	3,911	2.9	8,431	6.2	

The facilities for other sports shown are all specialised and independent of the space requirements for the seasonal sports. Most of the facilities for these sports are provided by private clubs.

Summer Sports

Cricket: Cricket is the most popular seasonal summer game and some 1,400 teams comprising approximately 20,000 players, including 400 women, are estimated to play cricket in the metropolitan area on a normal Saturday during the summer. The number of players has grown proportionately to the population, and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. About 720 pitches are available at the present time, but are insufficient to meet the requirements. Some 50 pitches have been lost since the war in Royal Park

and 20 in Albert Park through portion of these parks being used for emergency housing and Government establishments. The increasing use of grounds on Saturday mornings as well as in the afternoon has helped alleviate the shortage. The Victorian Cricket Association considers that an additional 100 pitches are required to satisfy present needs. The standard space requirements are three acres for a junior ground and six acres for an enclosed senior ground.

Athletics: Some 2,100 competitors are engaged in athletics on a Saturday during the track season, 1,600 men and 500 women. The men use two ovals at Olympic Park and the women one oval at Royal Park, the number of competitors being limited by the lack of track space and accommodation. Only one suburban club has its own training track, the rest sharing the use of other sports grounds. The Victorian

Table 75DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PLAYING FIELDS FOR SPORT, 1951

District	Wes	stern	Nor	thern	Eastern		Southern		Central		Metropolitan Total	
Type of Sport	Number of Playing Fields	Number `of Players	Number of Playing Fields	Number of Players	Number of Playing Fiqlds	Number of Players	Number of Playing Fields	Number of Players	Number of Playing Fields	Number of Players	Number of Playing Fields	Number of Players
Summer Field Sport Cricket Athletics	90	2,300	128	3,100	164	4,400	160	4,000	168 3	5,700 2,100	710 3	19,500 2,100
Winter								l otal s	ummer he	eld sport	players	21,600
Field Sport Football Hockey Soccer Rugby Lacrosse Baseball Other Sport Tennis Golf Bowls	35 8 5 1 2 8 190 ⁽¹⁾ 3 7	1,520 200 200 50 220 3,180 1,300 800	56 8 4 2 1 12 505 ⁽¹⁾ 2 13	2,880 310 150 60 25 240 7,000 1,100 1,650	75 12 7 1 6 14 980 ⁽¹⁾ 13 27	3,320 460 200 30 130 300 11,870 6,000 3,400	$ \begin{array}{r} 83\\17\\9\\3\\6\\22\\1,570^{(1)}\\26\\34\\2\end{array} $	3,460 650 270 170 145 480 Total 18,600 14,600 4,350	51 12 21 6 6 17 winter fie 255 ⁽¹⁾ 2 14	3,520 400 680 490 150 360 eld sport 3,600 1,000 1,800	300 57 46 13 21 73 players 3,500 ⁽¹⁾ 46 95	$ \begin{array}{r} 14,700\\2,020\\1,500\\820\\500\\1,600\\\hline\hline\\21,140\\\hline\\44,250\\24,000\\12,000\\\hline\hline\end{array} $
Cycling		260	2	570	—		3	880	l Total oth	520 er sport j	7 players	2,750
Total number of metropolitan players on any peak day (Saturday) — summer or winter Field sports Other sports									22,000 83,000			
								ern de la companya d			Total	105,000