

NO: **R100**

COUNCIL DATE: **May 27, 2013**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 21, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture**

FILE: **6140 - 20/G**

SUBJECT: **Goldstone Park – Picnic Tables for a Trial Period**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve on a trial basis for the remainder of 2013 the installation of picnic tables in Goldstone Park as generally illustrated on Appendix 4 attached to this report and request that staff provide a report complete with recommendations to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee in early 2014 regarding the results of the trial.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide background information regarding a request that the City has received from some community members for covered picnic shelters at Goldstone Park and to recommend a course of action.

BACKGROUND

Goldstone Park is located at 5850 - 58th Avenue and is a Community-scale park. The location of the Park is illustrated on Appendix 1 attached to this report. A Concept Plan for Goldstone Park was approved by Council in 2005 after a public consultation process. The Park was constructed in phases over a three year period and was completed in 2008. It has an area of 3.6 hectares (8.9 acres) and is programmed with numerous amenities including two soccer fields, a children's water park, tennis courts, a sports box, a walking loop, a playground, public restrooms, landscape elements and a parking lot. The park fronts 58 Avenue and 148 Street to the south and west respectively. Homes front the opposite sides of each of these streets. Residences back onto the Park on each of the north and east sides. The Park has been well received by the residents of South Newton and is heavily used.

The Park is occasionally subjected to illegitimate use particularly after dark. In this regard there have been about 50 incidents of vandalism (i.e., fires, graffiti, broken glass and damage

to trees & plants) since 2008. Illegitimate night time use has also caused noise nuisance for some neighbours adjacent to the park from time to time. Park staff has worked with staff of the By-Law Enforcement Section and the RCMP to enhance patrols at the Park and enforcement activities.

Petition for Covered Shelters

In July 2012 the City received a petition with 157 signatures that requested that the City install two covered picnic shelters with a capacity of 40-50 people each and four benches around the playground. Meetings between staff and the petitioners established that the petitioners wanted enclosed and heated shelters similar to the one that was installed in North Surrey Community Park.

Neighbourhood Opposition

At the time that the petition was being circulated by members of the community, staff also received e-mails and phone calls from residents in South Newton who voiced strong opposition to the installation of picnic shelters in Goldstone Park. Some residents who had initially signed the petition in favour of picnic shelters changed their minds after speaking with their neighbours. The primary concerns of those opposed to the shelters relates to fears of increased vandalism at and loitering in the park.

To better gauge the community's interest in picnic shelters at the park, staff circulated a survey to 480 households in the neighbourhood in August 2012. The survey asked residents to identify whether they supported the installation of picnic shelters at the Park. There were a total of 228 responses to the survey. The neighbourhood was evenly split in their support and opposition to covered shelters in Park. It was also noted that a majority (70%) of those residents who own homes directly adjacent to the park opposed the installation of shelters.

A report on the matter was forwarded to the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee (the "Committee") that was held on October 17, 2012. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. The Committee report provided background on the petition that was received from the community, discussed the opposition from members of the community to shelters in the Park and reviewed the City's guidelines with respect to the placement of shelters in parks. The report indicated the proposal met some but not all of the criteria contained within the City's guidelines. The report noted that the only available location where a shelter would be reasonable from a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) perspective and would not impact existing infrastructure did not meet the criteria in the City's guidelines with respect to its proximity to a washroom, the water spray park, the playground and the parking lot/driveway.

The Committee report indicated that the Park was already fully programmed with amenities and that a shelter would be likely conflict with the enjoyment of existing users and would be a visually obtrusive. The report indicated that it was staff's view that two portable picnic tables should be installed in the Park on a trial basis to create additional seating capacity in the Park. Such tables were viewed as being more cost effective and less visually intrusive and would better complement existing amenities in the Park. It was noted that picnic tables would allow for greater flexibility as they could be easily relocated if necessary.

After considerable discussion, the Committee recommended to Council that a picnic shelter be installed in the Park on a trial basis. This recommendation was communicated to Council by way of the Committee meeting minutes, which Council received at its meeting on November 5th, 2012. Council adopted the recommendation of the Committee.

Staff subsequently provided written notification to the residents of the area in the vicinity of the Park that the City would be proceeding to install a covered shelter at the park. The construction process for the shelter commenced in December 2012. Almost immediately upon the start of construction staff received e-mails and phone calls from residents who voiced concerns regarding the impacts that the shelter would create. Based on the number of communications construction work on the shelter was put in abeyance (i.e., the form work for the shelter floor was completed but no concrete had been placed).

In early January 2013, staff met with approximately 30 residents to discuss their concerns, which included:

- concerns about the public consultation process;
- their perception that the shelter would bring crime to their neighbourhood;
- that the Park was already too full to properly accommodate a shelter; and
- that the location where the shelter was being constructed would be inappropriate relative to the location of the washroom and the water spray park.

The residents were not prepared to consider any other options for the development of a shelter in the Park. At the conclusion of the meeting, the residents that were present voted unanimously against the development of any type of covered picnic shelter at the Park and advised staff that they would send a delegation to the Committee to voice their continuing concerns with the shelter.

At the Committee's meeting on February 20, 2013, Frank Soellig, a resident of a dwelling in the vicinity of the Park, appeared before the Committee and was accompanied by a group of about 60 other residents. Mr. Soellig advised the Committee that the Park was a wonderful park and then listed the reasons why the area residents viewed Goldstone Park as the wrong park for a shelter. After considerable discussion, the Committee re-affirmed its recommendation that a shelter should be constructed in the Park.

Since the most recent Committee meeting, residents from the Goldstone Park neighbourhood have continued to voice concerns and have created a web-site devoted to the issue. They have garnered media attention and have continued to lobby to have the shelter project abandoned.

Council Deliberations

On March 11, 2013 Council requested that staff review:

- the consultation process related to and the design of the pilot project for a shelter in Goldstone Park; and
- review the location of the shelter and discuss options taking into consideration the feedback from members of the community.

DISCUSSION

Staff has investigated three options in relation to the shelter, which are listed below and are described in more detail in Appendix 3:

1. Constructing a covered shelter on City land in the vicinity of Goldstone Park;
2. Constructing a shelter on public open space adjacent to a nearby school(s); or
3. Seeking meeting space in nearby facilities such as a church or the Newton YMCA in lieu of a shelter.

Staff discussed these options with representatives of those who originally requested the shelter. The representatives did not favour any of these options as they viewed the proposed locations as being too far removed from where most of the petitioners live. The representatives advised staff that several uncovered picnic tables in Goldstone Park would be an acceptable solution to the matter for the present time but wanted to review the matter with more of their group when several people who had signed the original petition had returned to Canada from vacation.

Staff then consulted with the neighbours who opposed the covered shelters to determine if they would support picnic tables being placed in the park on a trial basis on an understanding that the picnic tables would be removed from the Park if they created undesirable impacts to the neighbourhood. Staff was advised that the Park neighbours could support picnic tables provided that the proposal to construct covered shelters at the Park was permanently quashed. They further requested that if the picnic tables were installed, that the neighbouring residents be notified in advance and that the RCMP and By-law Enforcement staff be very responsive to calls from residents during the trial period.

Based on the above, staff holds the view that the covered shelter project at Goldstone Park should be abandoned and that picnic tables should be installed on a trial basis in the Park for 2013. Staff will then monitor the use of and impacts that result from such picnic tables and will provide a report to the Committee in early 2014 on the experiences of the trial along with recommendations. The proposed locations and type of picnic table are shown in Appendix 4. It should be noted that the locations of the picnic tables may be adjusted during the period of the trial, based on use patterns, wear & tear on the grass, and other factors.

In accordance with the City's *Age-Friendly City: Strategy for Seniors* staff will conduct outreach work with the seniors of the Goldstone Park neighbourhood to explore how best to accommodate these seniors at the Newton Senior's Centre, which is the closest senior's centre to Goldstone Park.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Well-designed parks help to create liveable communities. Community engagement and dialogue assist in ensuring that the design of parks is effective for users of the park and neighbours of the park. The provision of well-designed parks is consistent with the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve on a trial basis for the remainder of 2013 the installation of picnic tables in Goldstone Park as generally illustrated on Appendix 4 attached to this report and request that staff provide a report complete with recommendations to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee in early 2014 regarding the results of the trial.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 – Map of Goldstone Park
- Appendix 2 – Report to the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee
- Appendix 3 – Options Analysis
- Appendix 4 – Proposed Location and Type of Picnic Tables for Goldstone Park

Appendix 2, Goldstone Shelter Report



INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee

FROM: Manager – Parks Operations South

DATE: October 10, 2012 **FILE:** 6140 – 20

RE: Request for Picnic Shelters – Goldstone Park

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive this report as information.

BACKGROUND

Goldstone Park, located at 5850–58th Avenue (See Map, Appendix 1), is a relatively new park completed in late 2008. At 3.6 hectares (8.9 acres) in size, Goldstone Park is relatively small for a community park and is fully programmed with an assortment of amenities, including: two full-size soccer fields, water park, tennis courts, sports box, walking/jogging loop, children's playground, washrooms, landscape elements and a parking lot. The park faces homes on the West and South side, while residences on the North and East have their rear yards adjacent to the park. An aerial photo of the park is attached as Appendix 2.

The park has been a welcome addition to inventory of parks serving the Panorama Ridge community and is heavily used by a full array of park patrons. The sport fields are regularly used by sport groups for soccer practise and league play and the walking loop is popular with park patrons of all ages. Daytime park usage is dominated by young families who are involved in organized sport or are enjoying the playground and water park features.

Unfortunately, the park is also occasionally used for illegitimate purposes. Park staff are aware of over 50 reported incidents of vandalism and damage to the park since it was completed in 2008. These incidents include arson attempts in the washrooms, graffiti on the outside and inside of the washroom, frequent broken glass in the child play areas, and repeated damage to trees plants on the site. It is also understood that the illegitimate use can cause a noise nuisance for the neighbours adjacent to the park. Park staff have been working with By-Law Enforcement and the RCMP to enhance patrols and enforcement at the park and are poised to engage the community as part of developing a comprehensive strategy for addressing the issue of illegitimate use in the park.

On July 25th, 2012, the City received a petition (Appendix 3) with 157 signatures requesting the installation of two covered picnic shelters with a capacity of 40-50 people each and four benches around the playground. Further dialogue with the petitioners have made it clear that the request is for enclosed and heated shelters, as exist in North Surrey Community Park.

DISCUSSION

Neighbourhood Opposition

Around the same time the petition was being generated and submitted by members of the community, Parks staff fielded numerous e-mails and phone calls from residents with strong opposition to the installation of picnic shelters in Goldstone Park (See sample e-mails of opposition, Appendix 4). In some cases, residents who had initially signed the petition in favour of picnic shelters, decided against installing shelters after speaking with their neighbours. Concerns about potential increases to vandalism and loitering issues in the park were the common concern.

In order to more fully understand the community need and interest in picnic shelters at the park, Park staff developed and circulated a survey to the neighbourhood around the park. The survey was distributed to 480 households on August 13th, 2012. The residents were asked whether they supported the installation of picnic shelters or not and were given more than a month to respond. Staff received 228 responses. Analysis of the responses indicates that the neighbourhood is evenly split in their support or opposition to the placement of picnic shelters at Goldstone Park. Analysis of the spatial distribution of the respondents indicates that **a majority (70%) of those residents living directly adjacent to the park oppose the installation of picnic shelters.**

Operational & Financial Considerations

The City of Surrey Parks Recreation and Culture department has developed a set of guidelines for installing park shelters based on best practices research. These are outlined in Appendix 5. While Goldstone Park meets the bulk of the criteria for park shelter eligibility, there are two key issues that come to bear.

- The park space in Goldstone Park is already fully programmed with a high concentration and intensity of amenities. Addition of picnic shelters is likely to conflict with the enjoyment of existing users and would be a visually obtrusive.
- The park is known to have continuing illegitimate use issues. Picnic shelters are known to be gathering places for both legitimate and illegitimate use. Installation of a picnic shelter in the park would compromise current efforts to reduce vandalism and nuisance use of the park.

Recent evaluation of the North Surrey Community Park enclosed shelter pilot has demonstrated that this model is not been fully successful in meeting the needs of seniors gathering in parks. This facility has proven to be visually obtrusive and has been underutilized by seniors. The subject petition request for two such shelters in Goldstone Park would cost approximately \$100,000.

Nearby Community Facilities

There are nearby community facilities close to Goldstone Park that have structures to accommodate larger gatherings by the community. Sullivan Park is located 5 blocks from Goldstone Park and currently has two large picnic shelters that can accommodate more than 40

people. T. E. Scott Park is located less than 3 kilometres away and has two shelters and a washroom. Newton Senior Centre is located four kilometres from Goldstone Park.

SUMMARY

Goldstone Park is a great addition to the park system in the north Panorama Ridge area. The park is small but has many wonderful amenities characteristic of a community park of greater size. While community parks are typically good candidates for picnic shelters, Goldstone Park is over-programmed and does not have significant capacity for picnic shelter installation. The park is also known to have illegitimate use issues, which would likely be exacerbated by installation of picnic shelters. The community surrounding the park has mixed view of the value of installing picnic shelters; however, the majority of those living beside the park are strongly opposed to the installation of shelters. Given these circumstances the Parks, Recreation and Culture department does not support the installation of permanent picnic shelters in Goldstone Park.

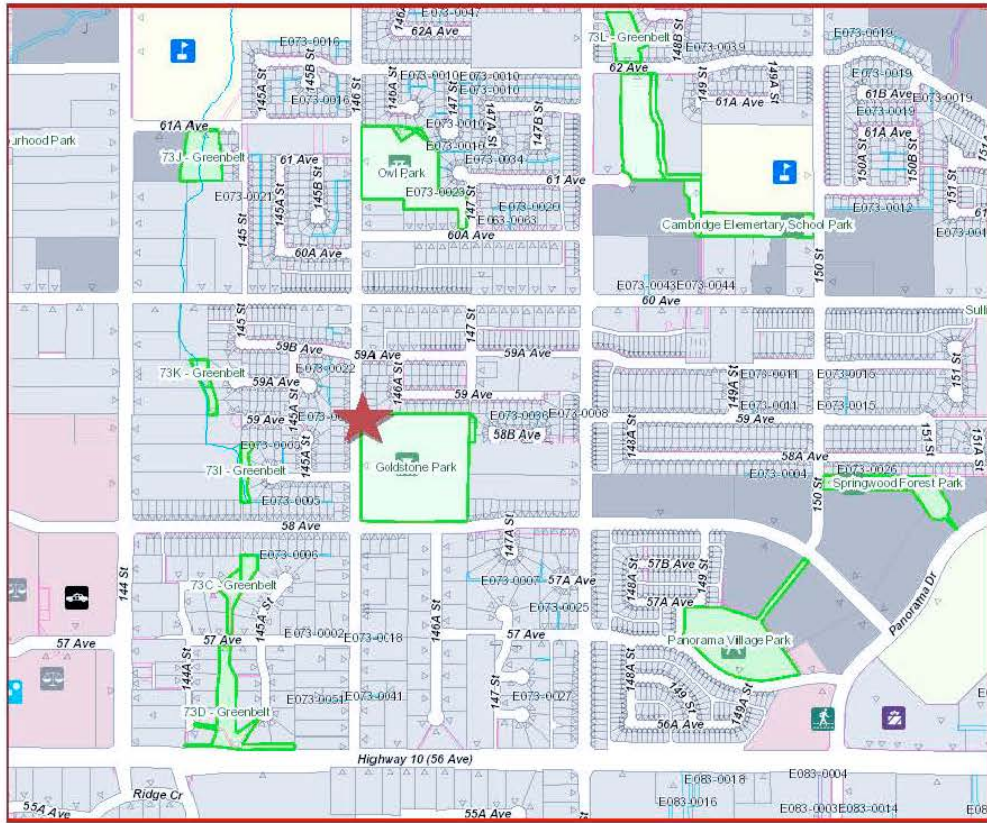
Park Staff intend to install a couple of portable picnic tables (uncovered) on a trial basis, which will create additional seating capacity in the park for petitioners. This will be a more cost effective solution, less visually obtrusive, and will compliments existing amenities in the park. It also offers more flexibility, as the seating can be easily removed or relocated, if necessary, to address illegitimate and/or nuisance activities.

Tim Neufeld
Manager – Parks Operations South

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 – Location Map
- Appendix 2 – Aerial Photo
- Appendix 3 – Petition
- Appendix 4 – Sample E-mail Oppositions
- Appendix 5 – Park Shelter Guidelines

APPENDIX 1 – LOCATION MAP



APPENDIX 2 – AERIAL PHOTO



July 10, 2012.

To
The Manager,
Park Operation South,
Surrey, B.C.

SURREY PARKS, RECREATION
& CULTURE DEPARTMENT
6140-20/G ✓
JUL 25 2012
RECEIVED BY
Per _____

Stone

Sub.: Improving Facilities in Golden Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the undersigned residents living in the vicinity of Golden Park area want to bring to your kind attention to make arrangement for some additional picnic sheds and sitting benches so that the people of this fast developing area could enjoy the facility fully to their satisfaction. It is our humble request to you for:

1. Two covered picnic sheds with capacity of 40 to 50 persons each.
2. Four sitting benches around kids play site.

We hope The Honorable Mayor Madam Dianne Watts along with her team will give a favorable consideration to our request.

Thanks in advance.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone No. _____ Signature: _____

APPENDIX 4 – SAMPLE E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Mr. Owen Croy,

Please note our strong opposition to add covered picnic tables to Goldstone Park.

It has come to our attention that there is a petition circulating to add covered picnic tables by the play ground area of the park.

We live on [REDACTED] and can see the Basketball Court from our front porch. Not only do we get the constant barrage of cars from soccer games, we are subject to listening to the basketball crowd swear until all hours of the night and know for the fact alcohol is consumed during the games at any given night. Vandalism increases in our neighbourhood during the summer months when traffic increases at Goldstone.

In my opinion, covered picnic tables add no value to an athletic park. The loitering going on around the wooden fence is enough. There are park benches around the water feature that hardly ever get used so why add more picnic tables?

I think we all know what the main purpose of these tables would be and I think Goldstone Park does not need 40 or so middle aged men hanging around at all hours of the day. I have two young girls that hardly go to the park anymore because they feel uncomfortable there during certain times of the day.

Sincerely,

Please be advised that we would not support any covered picnic tables added to Goldstone Park. We live on [REDACTED].

It has come to our attention that there is a petition circulating to add tables and we would not be in favour of this idea for the following reasons:

- This park already has high traffic volume in terms of cars and pedestrians. During the summer months Goldstone is frequented by many families taking advantage of the water feature and the children enjoy running around the little green space still left. We do not need to cram it full with picnic tables. There is enough seating everywhere.
- The area is already has issues with youth and young adults hanging around until all hours of the night, using questionable language and occasionally consuming alcohol and drugs at the basketball courts which is a well known fact. Covered picnic tables would only add to this problem, inviting loitering and questionable activity. We see an increase in crime every year during the summer months around the park, with tree vandalism and car break ins.
- Goldstone is mainly used as an athletic park and I think should remain that way. It is in a high density neighbourhood and I think these tables would destroy the integrity of the park. During soccer games people improvise by bringing their own lawn chairs and blankets which get removed after each game therefore returning the park to its original appeal.

Thank you.

Hello Owen,

Our house sides Goldstone Park on 146 Street. We have been advised that a resident of the area is petitioning for large covered picnic tables to be installed at Goldstone Park. We have not been approached about the petition directly by this individual and would like to voice our concerns over such picnic tables.

While we can appreciate the intent of the individual petitioning may be to have shaded areas to picnic, we would argue that the trees in the park offer many shady spots to place a fold up chair or blanket.

We trust you are aware that Goldstone Park and surrounding area is already experiencing issues, such as the repeated destruction and damage of trees, graffiti, and late-night partying involving alcohol and drugs. We feel these issues will be exasperated by the installation of covered picnic tables -- the tables will be a year-round draw as an ideal hang out location.

Given that shade within the park is already provided naturally (and pop up tents are relatively cheap), we feel strongly that the negative aspects of the covered picnic tables far out-weight the positives.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and would greatly appreciate being informed throughout the process.

July 24, 2012

Att'n: Owen Croy
Manager of Parks Surrey

Regarding: "NO!" to covered picnic tables at Goldstone Park!

Dear Owen,

It has come to my attention that someone is petitioning to have covered picnic tables (enough to hold 40-50 people) put in at Goldstone Park.

Goldstone Park was created for the benefit of children in the neighbourhood. We must not only keep it this way, but we must also take further actions to ensure that this remains a safe playground for the young ones.

I for one am totally against putting in picnic tables at the park! My concern is that this will attract large groups of adults who take over the parks through intimidation....and we've all seen this happen in other parks in Surrey!

Goldstone Park is the hub of our neighbourhood wheel. It is currently the center of a growing community, and is a natural meeting area for people from all cultures. It's a busy park, where parents bring their young children to socialize with their neighbours, and to enjoy the open fields, water park, and playground. However, if we allow the covered picnic tables to be put in, we will be responsible for

causing the dynamics to shift drastically. This neighbourhood and Goldstone Park will follow blindly in the footsteps of so many other neighbourhoods and parks. We will not have learned anything from history.

With the huge increase in local crime, it's obvious that Goldstone Park is the focus of concern. It's time to take a serious look and stop the growing criminal activities in its tracks!

The streets surrounding the park are narrow, and some properties back onto the park itself, so many homes are in close proximity. At times the noise level from the yelling and swearing in the park can be very disconcerting and hard to take.....so enough of stuffing more into Goldstone Park in terms of human activity! Also, neighbourhood homes are highly visible to those in the park. Installing covered picnic tables will create a comfortable haven and encourage predators to loiter at all times of the day or night, and in all types of weather to scout out potential victims.

Having spoken about this subject to others in our neighbourhood, I know I'm not alone in my strong opposition to putting in picnic tables at Goldstone Park.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my deep concerns.

Hi Owen,

You are probably aware of a petition that is going around to put covered picnic tables in Goldstone Park. I live across the street from the park, directly across from the basketball court. I was approached a couple of weekends ago by the gentleman collecting signatures for the petition. I signed the petition because I felt put on the spot and he lied to me and told me he had already spoken to my dad about it. I would like to rescind my signature from the petition as well as note that I am **strongly** opposed to any picnic tables, covered or uncovered, being installed at Goldstone. Families have been doing just fine for years with blankets and folding chairs. I believe that the tables will only bring unwanted visitors to the park. If you look at other parks in the area that have even just uncovered picnic tables, there are often older gentlemen sitting and they are often drinking. While they have every right to do what they want, do we really want these men sitting a few feet away from where our children are playing. I think that if these tables are put in it will not be the young families, who the park is geared towards, that will be using them.

Thank you for your time,

Mr. Croy, manager of parks for Surrey

As homeowners adjacent to Goldstone park we are very concerned about the addition of picnic tables to the park. One of our neighbors has started a petition that we and many others strongly object to. The park is used by many families playing ball and using the grassy areas to lay down blankets for the kids. There is also continuing criminal activity at the park at night that has caused much damage to the park and to the homes surrounding it. Picnic tables will only contribute to additional problems of criminal activity. We also feel the park should be lit up at night so as to deter the activity from happening during the night.

Thank you,

Appendix 5 – Park Shelter Guidelines

City of Surrey: Park Shelter Guidelines

BACKGROUND

Given recent demand for increased number of park shelters in the City of Surrey, Parks, Recreation and Culture has developed a set of guidelines for installing park shelters based on best practices research. Park shelters are installed to provide community gathering space and act as focal point for park activities while providing protection against sun or rain. They are generally situated in high activity areas adjacent to playgrounds, water parks and outdoor pools and in close proximity to washroom buildings. In general, they are not located directly adjacent to sports fields and sport boxes. Park shelters and picnic tables in Surrey parks are used on a first-come first served basis. Park shelters may not be reserved. They are available all year round, but may be removed on a seasonal basis in some locations.

Park Shelter Typology: Examples

1. Large Park Shelters

Large park shelters are permanent structures. These park shelters are appropriate for large groups or families, and are usually made of wood with metal roofs. They may have cooking facilities adjacent that allow for hibachi or briquette style barbecues. They are located in City, Destination and Community-level parks. Though they vary in size, and seat up to 40-60 people.

2. Portable Park Shelters

These park shelters are smaller lengthwise, typically 5-6 meters long and seat 12-16 people. They are found in Destination, City, Community and Neighbourhood level parks.

General Guidelines for Placement of Park Shelters

Due to the varying size, operational programs and carrying capacity of different park categories, the following matrix has been developed to guide the locating of park shelters. The park shelter type will be based on the park type, as per the matrix below. Resident requests for park shelters shall be assessed with consideration to the matrix.

Park Type	Shelteir Type	
	Large Park Shelters (including Cooking Shelters)	Portable Park Shelters
Destination Parks	X	X
City Parks	X	X
Community/Town Centre Parks	X (14 ha minimum parkland)	X
Neighbourhood Parks		X (1.3 ha minimum)

Consideration must be given to operational programs and CPTED principles when locating Park Shelters in parks. It is preferable to locate Park shelters where washrooms and other amenities are present. While it is difficult to determine a provision guideline based on population and park use, it is preferred that residents have a park shelter within walking distance of their homes. The distance utilized by Surrey Parks for an acceptable walking distance is 400-1200 meters. While older neighbourhoods may not have parks located within that distance, new neighbourhoods are being planned with that provision guideline in mind. Accordingly, the Parks division is supportive of providing park shelters in parks that enable this walking distance criteria, especially within high density areas.

Potential shelter locations in parks adjacent to existing homes require community consultation prior to final site selection.

Specific Guidelines for Placement of Park Shelters:

1. Amenity Provision

- 1.1 Shelters shall only be provided in park locations where the following infrastructure is already in place: washroom facilities and litter receptacles. Shelters shall not be implemented where there are no current facilities or future plans for facilities.
- 1.2 Minimum size of parkland required for the implementation of one large park shelter is 14 ha.
- 1.3 Minimum size of parkland required for the implementation of one portable park shelter is 1.3 ha.
- 1.4 The City's provision of park shelters will take into consideration shelter types currently in place within a 'walkable' radius of 400-1200m.
- 1.5 A maximum of 2 large shelters or 10 portable shelters shall be provided in community-level parks.
- 1.6 A maximum of 3 portable shelters shall be provided in neighbourhood-level parks.

2. Natural Conditions & Landscaping:

- 1.1. Shelters shall not be located where impacts on natural areas or sensitive habitats are likely to occur.
- 1.2. Shelters should not be located within the root zone of trees to avoid damage to the tree's health and future maintenance issues.
- 1.3. Shelters should be sited in sunny locations.
- 1.4. Surrounding vegetation shall be kept back to a minimum 4m and to a height of no more than 2.3m.
- 1.5. Shelters should be sited and oriented to take advantage of views when possible.
- 1.6. Shelters shall be placed on an asphalt pad that extends beyond the roof drip line.

3. Visibility & Security:

- 3.1. Shelters shall take CPTED principles and natural surveillance into consideration.
- 3.2. Shelters should be readily visible from a variety of park location, and if possible, clearly visible from a roadway.
- 3.3. Shelters should be located away from overhanging trees to deter persons from accessing the roof.

4. Buffers & Distances:

- 4.1. Shelters shall be located no closer than 25m from any washroom facilities, however general proximity is preferred where possible.
- 4.2. Shelters shall be located no closer than 15m from any garbage enclosure
- 4.3. Litter receptacles and recycling bins shall be placed within 15m of any size of shelter, but no attached or closer than 2 m.
- 4.4. Where possible, shelters should be located at least 50m from any adjacent programmed or activity space except where combined uses are complimentary (i.e. water parks and playgrounds)
- 4.5. Access to potable water should be no more than 25m away where possible. Access to potable water will most likely be within washroom facilities. If there is no potable water on site, then handwash stations should be provided in the structure.
- 4.6. Shelters shall not be located within 15 meters of roadways, driveways or parking lots.
- 4.7. It may be appropriate to situate shelters in 'double sets' or pairs based on community demand.
- 4.8. Large park shelters should be clustered in 'picnic' areas in large community parks, so as to ensure the efficient use of utilities (water, washroom facilities etc).

5. Access & Parking:

- 5.1. Shelters should be accessible to people of limited mobility.
- 5.2. Shelters should be accessible for maintenance vehicles.
- 5.3. Pedestrian desire lines should be considered when placing the shelter to minimize soil compaction in the vicinity of the shelter.
- 5.4. Surrounding ground surfaces of shelters should be relatively level and free of obstructions.
- 5.5. If feasible, two parking stalls should be provided for every picnic table.
- 5.6. Parking should be available no more than 50 m away.

Sources:

Harris, Charles W. And Nicholas T. Dines. 1988. 'Timesaver Standards for Landscape Architecture.'

Low, Setha, Dana Taplin, and Suzanne Scheld. 2005. 'Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity.'

<http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/park-finder/state-park/myrtle-beach-shelters.aspx?Print=1>

http://www.toronto.ca/diversity/pdf/accessibility_design_guidelines.pdf

Riechl, Oliver K. 1995. 'Impact Assessment of the Endymion Island Picnic Shelter.' Prepared for Larry Harbidge, Chief Park Warden, St. Lawrence Islands National Park. http://oliver_kilian.tripod.com/papers/shelter/endymion.htm

<http://rpsdocs.redland.qld.gov.au/part%2011/bd5bcd5f/47fd8200.html>

Appendix 3 – Options Analysis

Possible Alternate Sites for picnic shelter installation

A. City land within reasonable walking distance.

1. Panorama Village Park

- Litter receptacles
- No washrooms
- No parking
- No access to portable water
- CPTED concerns
- Adjacent to residential areas
- Past loitering and vandalism issues
- No nearby Natural Areas
- Distance from Goldstone Park : 580m

- **Not Recommended**

2. City Hall Grounds

- Washrooms & litter receptacles
- Access to parking
- Access to portable water
- Good CPTED
- No nearby Natural Areas
- Not adjacent to residential areas
- No history of vandalism or loitering issues
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 800m

- **Recommended**

3. Sullivan Heights Park

- Washrooms & litter receptacles
- Access to parking
- Access to portable water
- Good CPTED
- No nearby Natural Areas
- Adjacent to residential areas – Location dependent
- Potential conflict with other user groups
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 1,000m

- **Recommended**

B. Open spaces adjacent to Schools:

1. Cambridge Elementary School

- Passive area is limited
- Possible use only after school hours
- Limited access
- No washroom amenities
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 700m

- **Not Recommended**

2. Goldstone Elementary School

- In development.
- Sufficiency of passive area for public access unknown
- Some favourable adjacencies to Sullivan Heights overflow parking lot
- Possible use after school hours
- Washrooms in Sullivan Heights park
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 725m

- **Not Recommended at this time**

Other Facilities:

Bethany United Church

- Indoor, heated meeting space with washrooms
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 420m
- Available year round
- Potential opportunity for flex hours – day or night
- Daycare and preschool on site.

YMCA – indoor facility

- Indoors, heated, washrooms
- Distance from Goldstone Park: 860m
- Available year round
- Potential opportunity for flex hours – day or night
- New immigrant integration supports

Amenity Rooms - Townhouse complex in community

- Indoors, heated, washrooms
- May be available in close proximity Goldstone Park
- Rental charges likely
- Limited access

City Hall buildings

- Indoor, heated, washroom
- Public space
- Repurposing of space after CityHall functions move to Whalley

Appendix 4 – Proposed Location and Type of Picnic Tables for Goldstone Park

