
Parks and Environment Committee

Meeting No.	14	Contact	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, February 19, 2008	Phone	416-397-7769
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	pec@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

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PE14.2	AMENDED			Ward: All
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Parks Forestry and Recreation Shade Audit Strategy for Playground and Waterplay Facilities

City Council Decision

City Council on March 3, 4 and 5, 2008, adopted the following motions:

1. The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, work with Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee to adopt standards for shade provision and confirm a Shade Audit Process to guide the preparation of shade audits by staff and consultants.
2. 'Pilot' shade audits and shade plans be developed for priority playgrounds and waterplay facilities and staff report back on the plans, including their capital and operating costs. The knowledge gained from the 'pilot' is to serve as a basis for conducting shade audits for the entire system of playgrounds and waterplay facilities.
3. The following motion be referred to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and the Shade Policy Committee, to be considered as part of the previously requested staff report to be submitted to the Parks and Environment Committee on June 18, 2008:

Moved by Councillor Stintz:

That:

1. Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Parks and Environment Committee be deleted.

2. Council adopt the following recommendations:
 - “1. Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee develop a Shade Policy Guide for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division that includes guidelines and standards for existing playgrounds and waterplay facilities.
 2. The guide be made available to City staff who supervise waterplay facilities so that the staff can review the guidelines and make recommendations to senior staff on possible shade enhancements.
 3. The Shade Policy Committee be consulted on adding shade provisions to any park or waterplay facility that is being retrofitted.
 4. The Shade Policy Committee be requested to submit an information bulletin to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation on the importance of protecting children from UVR exposure to be included in the Spring/Summer 2008 The Fun Guide.
 5. The Shade Policy Committee develop an information bulletin that can be posted on the City of Toronto’s Website and can be used by Councillors who wish to include such information in their constituency newsletter.”

(January 29, 2008) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Committee Recommendations

The Parks and Environment Committee recommends to City Council that:

1. the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with Toronto Public Health and the Shade Policy Committee to adopt standards for shade provision and confirm a Shade Audit Process to guide the preparation of shade audits by staff and consultants; and
2. ‘Pilot’ shade audits and shade plans be developed for priority playgrounds and waterplay facilities and that staff report back on the plans, including their capital and operating costs. The knowledge gained from the ‘pilot’ is to serve as a basis for conducting shade audits for the entire system of playgrounds and waterplay facilities.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. Requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to:
 - a. incorporate the Policy for the Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites into existing playground and waterplay projects, where possible, and work into planning and design already being carried out at specific sites;
 - b. report back to the Parks and Environment Committee meeting, on June 11, 2008:
 - i. with proposed standards for shade provision;
 - ii. on adding shade provision to any requests for proposal for park design and redesign; and
 - iii. on including at least two pilot projects per district and proven community involvement in parks or community facilities, on the criteria for the selection of pilot projects to undertake shade audits.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report. Future financial implications may result from consultant or staff resources needed to conduct shade audits and future Capital work required to implement improvements to facilities.

Summary

The purpose of this report to present a strategy for conducting shade audits at Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) playground and waterplay facilities (wading pools and splash pads). Shade audits will assess existing shade provision and patterns of use at these facilities and make recommendations for the provision of adequate shade and Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) protection.

Playgrounds, splash pads, and wading pools are areas that can be of high risk for UVR exposure to vulnerable segments of the population such as children, whose exposure to UVR during the early years of life is a major determinant of lifetime risk of skin cancer. Shade is beneficial as well for the comfort of all park and facility users (e.g. provide relief from heat).

The provision of shade, either natural (trees) or constructed (overhead structures), should be an essential element in the planning of new and retrofitted playground and waterplay facilities. These facilities are primarily used during summer when UVR levels are at their highest, users typically wear minimal clothing and there may be high levels of indirect UVR reflected from surfaces.

A preliminary assessment of PF&R playgrounds and waterplay facilities indicates that most of the facilities need significant improvements in the level of shade provided.

Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10539.pdf>

Provision of Shade at Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sites Attachment

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-10540.pdf>

Submitted Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee