Shade Provision at PF&R Sites: Recent Projects

Update to Parks & Environment Committee :

July 4, 2008







Existing PF&R Shade Policy

In 2007, PF&R adopted a **divisional operational policy** to guide park design and development activities and tree planting initiatives.

Policy Objectives:

Increase shade opportunities, wherever feasible, as part of the Division's park and facility planning, design and retrofitting activities:

- **Short term**:
  - Education and promotion
  - Ensure staff and program participants use sunscreen and take other protective measures to reduce exposure.
  - Provide community advice (e.g. shade audits of local parks).
- **Long Term**:
  - Provide greater shade opportunities at all PFR sites.
  - UVR reduction in all planning and development activities.

Shade Policy Committee

- **In 2002, the Shade Policy Committee was formed** to produce a comprehensive policy and guidelines aimed at providing shade at sites and facilities;
- Led by **Toronto Public Health**;
- Members included City staff (Children's Services, **PF&R**, City Planning, Facilities and Real Estate, Urban Design)
- Representatives from Environment Canada, Evergreen, Women's College Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Architects, Clean Air Partnership, Ryerson University, Cancer Care Ontario, and the Toronto District School Board;
- The Shade Policy Committee is **currently developing a set of guidelines and standards** to assist City agencies, commissions and divisions to operationalize the Shade Policy endorsed by the Board of Health in 2007 and forwarded to the City Manager for implementation.

Recent Projects: Master Plans

Opportunities to include shade provision at the Master Plan level so it is incorporated into future design and implementation:

- Western Waterfront Master Plan (passive park areas, playgrounds, Martin Goodman trail, beach area)
- Centennial Park: sportsfields (spectator areas), playgrounds, aggressive tress canopy enhancement)
- Tom Riley Park: playground, pathways, renewal and enhancement of aging tree canopy

Recent Projects: Existing Parks

Opportunities to make the most of existing resources and include shade structures and tree plantings:

• Monarch Park: Relocate dog area to allow playground to take advantage of trees on site

• 20 Gordon Ridge (TCHC priority neighbourhood site)





Recent Projects: Existing Parks

McCowan District Park: gazebo



West Birkdale Park: playground gazebo





Recent Projects: New Waterfront Parks

(with WATERFRONToronto)

Treed Promenades: Central Waterfront, Jarvis Slip, Sherbourne Park



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New Waterfront Parks



Don River Park



Recent Projects: Beaches

• Accessible Beaches Program: beach wheel chairs with umbrellas


BEACHES

ASTRID POEI 24 hours

WINDY WATERFRONT WALK: Wayne Reeves pushes Kathy Weber by the water's edge at Woodbine Beach Thursday in a special sand-ready wheelchair. Eleven city beaches are open for business this weekend and will be monitored for water quality until Labour Day.

• Toronto Beaches Action Plan: upcoming pilot projects for seasonal canopy structures

Challenges

- Need to develop guidelines, standards and confirm shade audit process so that shade provision can be worked into projects right from the RFP process
- Shade structures and plantings put pressure on existing Capital budgets for projects – need to factor it into project from the start
- Pilot Shade Audits (current report to P&E Committee) will help to establish guidelines, standards and process for future projects



