



Item No. 5c Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: ATHERTON PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

FROM: STEVE TYLER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: JANUARY 7, 2015

SUBJECT: BBQ AREAS IN THE PARK

RECOMMENDATION

Review the current BBQ areas at Holbrook Palmer Park and discuss their outlook for the future.

BACKGROUND

There are currently no Town owned/installed BBQ's in the park. The last ones were removed with the old playground equipment somewhere around 2002.

There are many day users who bring their own into the park and set them up for summertime picnics. The area's most favored for these types of applications are in the picnic area's N of the playground (under the trees) and in the N Meadow picnic area.

On occasion, commercial BBQ companies enter the park and perform outdoor BBQ adjacent to the Pavilion and adjacent to the N. Meadow. This type of function is performed in the paved parking areas.

DISCUSSION

Aside from the occasional random disbursement of the spent coal materials, staff has had relatively to problems or issues with people having BBQ's in the park. It has come to our attention that perhaps having a BBQ under some of the trees could present a problem, but to this point this has not been the case. Staff does concur, however, that day users who choose to BBQ should be given stronger direction as to exactly where BBQ's are allowed. Staff also feels that perhaps more infrastructure could be added to accommodate having BBQ's in the park with Town owned equipment and no external BBQ equipment be allowed inside the park. This would give us greater control to monitor the use and safety of this type of usage of the park.

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Staff feels that locations in the N. Meadow are preferential, as no large tree canopy exists. Infrastructure could be added in such a way that it is kept away from trees and park tables. Staff also feels that there are some opportunities to install infrastructure in these areas of the park that could benefit park users:

- Adjacent to the playground.
- Near the tennis/LL facilities.

Other details would need to be developed with a plan to add this feature to the park such as hot ash receptacles, an increase in day use fees for BBQ use and maintenance costs.

ATTACHMENTS