



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG**

**OFFICE OF PARKS, FACILITIES, RECREATION & CULTURE**

*MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

<b>Author's Name: Heidi Baillargeon</b>	<b>Report Date: January 7, 2025</b>
<b>Author's Phone: 519 736-0012 ext.2828</b>	<b>Date to Council: February 10, 2025</b>
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**To: Mayor and Members of Town Council**

**Subject: Options for Shade Structures at Jack Purdie Park and Briar Ridge Park**

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The report entitled Shade Sails, of February 10, 2025 **BE RECEIVED for information.**

**2. BACKGROUND:**

Shade structures offer numerous benefits to the community and play an important role in our park system by providing shelter from the sun and or elements, reducing UV exposure, keeping our playgrounds cool, provide aesthetic appeal to open spaces, as well as providing a place for people to congregate and socialize.

Shade structures also extend the usability and longevity of a playground especially on hot and sunny days where children can continue to play in the heat more comfortably making the space more inclusive for all. Providing shade within parks is an important accessibility consideration especially for venerable populations, people with medical conditions and or disabilities where exposure to the sun can be especially harmful.

There are numerous options for shade structures within parks including but not limited to, shade sails, metal pavilions, trellis structures, tensile shades, single post shades, wooden structures, multi panel structures etc. and budgets can vary drastically depending on the size, scale, warranty, product quality and aesthetic enhancements for each. See

**Appendix A** attached of different vendors that demonstrate a plethora of ideas for shade within parks keeping in mind there are many vendors that can supply these products.

In community and neighbourhood municipal parks across Ontario it's common to see small, medium or large metal shade structures either with metal roof or framed roof with asphalt shingles, large shade sails, hip shades over playgrounds, or covered structures that are attached to existing buildings.

Selection of a shelters' size and materials are based on a number of factors and design considerations including but not limited to; demographics of the neighbourhood, vandalism, usage, location, proximity to other amenities found within the park, site characteristics of the land, heritage features, unique site specific uses, transitions in grade or elevation and tree coverage. Shade sails come in custom lengths and sizes to cover greater spans or fit with existing site features however, they are engineered and designed based on individual site-specific characteristics. All of these factors can affect the price and installation of these products.

Many commercial grade shade structures be it metal or various shade sails also carry warranties that may influence the overall decision from an asset management perspective. These design considerations should be carefully thought out and weighed when selecting the right type of shade structure for a park.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

At the December 2024 budget meeting the following resolution was made as per CR 20241209-014:

*That Administration **BE DIRECTED** to bring back options for shade structures at Jack Purdie and Briar Ridge Parks.*

As mentioned above there are numerous styles / varieties of shade structures with a broad price range. Administration has provided three options, for both Jack Purdie Park and Briar Ridge Park for Council's consideration. Each option will require the following amenities:

- stamped engineered drawings for footings, wind, snow loads and installation
- footings and a concrete pad under the shade structure
- ground preparation including excavation and a granular 'A' base
- a sidewalk to the structure that meets the current AODA guidelines
- site restoration including top soil, grading and hydroseeding
- site furnishings (picnic tables for stand alone shelter)

Another important consideration to note is that a shade sails generally have a lifespan of 5-10 years before the sail must be replaced, while a metal pavilion's life span is over 30 years.

See **Appendix B** for three shade sail options for both Jack Purdie and Briar Ridge Parks.

## **Jack Purdie and Briar Ridge Park:**

**Option 1** – Large sails 20'x30' with 4 point connections eve height 11' and 14' entries including the aforementioned amenities the cost would be approximately \$120,000 to \$150,000 with a contingency. These structures are around an 8 to 10 week delivery.

**Option 2** – One large rectangular shade structure 20'x30' with support framing, including all the aforementioned amenities would cost approximately \$90,000 to \$115,000 with contingency. These structures are around an 8 to 10 week delivery.

**Option 3** – One 20'x30' rectangular metal shelter with minimum 10' eve height including aforementioned amenities would cost approximately \$170,000 to \$200,000 with a contingency. These structures are around an 8 to 10 week delivery.

### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

There are no risks involved in receiving this report for information.

### **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

There is no financial impact with receiving this report, the cost contained are estimates and will be subject to the Town procurement process.

If council wishes to proceed with installation of shade sails at Jack Purdie and Briar Ridge Parks, administration will bring back recommendations for Council consideration as part of the recommended 2026 5-year capital budget for discussion during the 2026 budget deliberations.

### **6. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPACTS:**

Every asset the Town adds to its current inventory must be accounted for in the Town's Asset Management Plan for future end of life replacement. See **Appendix C** for asset management considerations and replacement costs associated with the aforementioned 3 options for shade structures within parks.

Other additional considerations include warranty and ongoing long term maintenance costs. The warranty on shade sails is generally anywhere from 1 to 10 years depending on the manufacturer and most recommend taking them down in the winter months to prolong the lifespan of the unit. While long term maintenance costs include taking them down and re-installing them annually, power washing them every year to prevent mold build up that causes them to turn green and black as well as safe storage to prevent rodents from chewing and nesting. These costs are estimated to range from \$500 to \$700 per sail per year.

The warranty on metal structures for most units is 15 to 25 years for the roof, and lifetime on the frame. Metal structures can be left up year round and have fewer long term maintenance costs associated with them.

**7. CONSULTATIONS:**

Manager of Parks  
Asset Coordinator

**8. CORPORATE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:**

*Vision: Preserving our past while forging our future.*

<i>Amherstburg Community Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 1</b> <b>Deliver Trusted &amp; Accountable Local Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve trust between council and staff, and residents, by strengthening governance and internal accountability structures.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deliver transparent and efficient financial management.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase effective communication and engagement with residents.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop our staff team, resources, and workplace culture.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to deliver strong core municipal services.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Amherstburg is an inclusive accessible and welcoming community committed to reconciliation.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 3</b> <b>Encourage Local Economic Prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage development of commercial and industrial lands.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote local tourism industry, especially overnight accommodation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to facilitate downtown development for residents and visitors.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to leverage partnership opportunities with other provincial, federal, and local governments, agencies, and organizations.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 2</b> <b>Invest in Community Amenities and Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maintain safe, reliable and accessible municipal infrastructure and facilities.</li> <li>✓ Increase access to recreation opportunities for all ages.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and execute plans for town-owned lands (e.g. Duffy’s site, Belle Vue)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create public access to water and waterfront</li> <li>✓ Prioritize opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of Town operations and increase Town resilience to climate change.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PILLAR 4</b> <b>Shape Growth Aligned with Local Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Define and communicate a vision for the Town’s future and identity.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote and plan for green and “climate change ready” development.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review and implement policies that promote greater access to diverse housing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protect the Town’s historic sites and heritage.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Preserve the Town’s greenspaces, agricultural lands, and natural environment.</li> </ul>

## 9. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, shade structures provide many benefits to the community and are important within our parks system because they provide shelter from the sun and or elements, reduce UV exposure, keep our playgrounds cool and provide a place for people to congregate and socialize.



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Heidi Baillargeon  
**Director Parks, Facilities and Recreation**

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Shade Sails .docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A – Shade Structure Examples Catalogues.pdf - Appendix B – Shade Sail Options.pdf - Appendix C Asset Management Costs Table.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 30, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Prince

**No Signature - Task assigned to Valerie Critchley was completed by assistant  
Melissa Osborne**

Valerie Critchley



Kevin Fox