

Enderby Parks

Grindrod Park & Riverside Park



Eric Reynard
Eric Reynard Landscape Architect
August 31, 2010

Grindrod Park

Proposed revisions to Grindrod Park in Enderby are based on comments from public meetings conducted by Forsite and from field observations. Refer to attached drawing for further information.

Entry & Parking

The current configuration of entry and parking is the most significant challenge faced by Grindrod Park. The existing entry is narrow with little room for both ingoing and outgoing vehicles. In addition the location of the entry adjacent a curve on Highway 97A presents a safety hazard especially for exiting vehicles turning northbound onto the highway. This hazard is compounded by the fact that many exiting vehicles are towing boats.



Too Small Entry

While widening the entry to safely accommodate both entering and exiting users is the first level to the solution a much better solution would be to realign the entry opposite 3rd Avenue as shown on the drawing.. Engineering studies would need to be conducted to determine the feasibility and optimal alignment of such an option. Elimination of the existing softball field will be required to achieve the desired results and to allow for other construction as noted.

Regardless of which entry option is considered defining of the parking area would contribute to the health of the vegetation in the park. Currently automobiles park wherever it is convenient. All grass area adjacent the parking area have been heavily impacted by soil compaction due to repeated parking and travel of cars.



Undefined Parking



Parking on Grass

This park would greatly benefit from the development of organised parking with curbs and asphalt. Current usage is expanding the effective parking area to any flat surface. Continued parking and driving on designated grass areas will eliminate the ability of the grass to thrive or even survive. Elimination of boat access at this site will greatly reduce the damage to existing grass areas and vegetation. The amount of space for development of parking area is fairly substantial. The area noted on the drawing for parking accommodates approximately 100 spaces and is shown for reference only. The parking would need to be designed with hall needs as well as park needs as part of the criteria for development.

Eliminating the boat access ramp and controlling vehicle access to lawn areas will allow for the development of more attractive and greatly expanded camping sites within the park. The current area is well used but suffers from allowing cars and campers direct and undefined access to the sites. As noted above curbing and fencing will alleviate some of these impacts and the development of an organised campground such as that already in place at Riverside Park will mitigate undesirable impacts.



Vehicles on grass



Vehicles in Picnic Area

Proposed Hall

The proposed location for the hall site is directly adjacent to the proposed parking area to facilitate ease of use. Exact size and nature of the hall would determine actual footprint. The elimination of the softball field as indicated on the drawing would allow for a wide range of hall sizes to address the needs of the users.

Picnic Shelters

The proposed large covered picnic shelter is located to minimise distances to existing services including the playground and washroom and maximise usage for softball fields and campground. Other small shelters could be incorporated within the shade plantings as need and funds warrant. All shelters should be constructed of similar materials and in a similar style.

Trees & Shade

For much of the park there is a minimum of shade to escape from the heat of the summer. Many of the trees that have been planted are suffering from drought stress brought on by location, recent climate and species type. In general they shade plantings are somewhat ineffectual as they are single trees spaced quite far apart. In order to get maximum effectiveness it is best if the trees are planted in groups. This helps to create a cooler environment for the trees and has a much stronger visual impact.

As noted above in the report on Riverside Park tree species selection is extremely critical. The Red Maples in particular are suffering from drought stress, a condition that has become more prevalent for this species over the last five years. Maples in general are also experiencing high degrees of powdery mildew over the last number of years. Overall the park would benefit from increased tree planting even beyond what is indicated. They are useful in defining and separating space and help to create a more hospitable environment. The expanded campground will require additional plantings to create the desired experience for campers.

Walking Path

A walking path is proposed for the perimeter of the park. Regardless of exact location the path will need to cross the roadway once in order to allow the path to reach some areas of the park. Depending on the types of use envisioned for the path the surface treatment is important. If the intent is to allow people with mobility difficulties to access the park consideration should be given to using an asphalt surface.