REPORT SUMMARY (Detail Background, Comparable Projects, and Outcomes):

This staff report is in follow-up to Council’s request for Administration to explore the idea of erecting park shelters in public spaces throughout the community and possibly using partnerships or other funding opportunities to compensate for the costs.

Existing Inventory:

City of Chestermere currently has 9 shelters with the majority being in the NE of the city. These shelters consist of gazebos, shade sails (seasonal) and picnic shelters.

Potential Future Locations for Park Shelters within the Current City Boundaries:

Class 1 Parks

Class #1 parks are typically well suited for these amenities. The shelters would be accessible to all residents and the high profile areas would mitigate the risk for vandalism. Areas that currently have highly used picnic areas should be considered first. Depending on design, possibilities of using existing surfacing, furniture and amenities could be investigated. Potential locations are listed below:

- **Sunset Park – 421 East Chestermere Drive**
  Existing picnic tables at this park have an opportunity to be covered to provide shade and protection from the elements. The existing cluster of four tables could be changed into a larger traditional picnic shelter while the other individual locations could introduce smaller individual shade treatments. Some re-grading would need to be considered for this option.

- **Anniversary- 208 West Chestermere Drive**
  This is a great location to upgrade existing picnic areas or incorporate larger shelters. Shelters could be installed over the existing turf to continue the beach theme without having to upgrade the concrete base or adding furniture. Adding concrete bases to some locations could increase the use in the winter months.
Without taking away from the current gazebo, smaller shelters can be provided along this section.

School Sites and Sports Fields

Investigating a shared approach with the School Board for the placement on Joint Use Sites park shelters could be useful for numerous reasons including:

- With the majority of existing shelters residing in the north end of the city, identifying spaces in all quadrants would be ideal. Schools are specifically spread out with in each community and have at least 4 acres of land and are located with the adjacent residents in mind.

- Neighbourhood gatherings held at park shelters would typically not be held during regular school hours. The school could also use them as outdoor classrooms, lunch and play spaces.

- Parks and Recreation has installed an enormously welcomed shelter at the Bike Park; there may be other sport field locations which could equally benefit from park shelters.

Future Location of Park Shelters to Be Erected by Developers:

Outline Plans show several park shelters and associated amenities which are currently committed. These include:

**Bridgeport OP**
- Large picnic shelter in Midwest section of the development.
- Gazebo in the centre west location.
- Shelter across from the basketball courts.
- Pergolas and arbours throughout the park.

**Dawson’s Landing OP**
- Sheltered education area in the EcoPark
- Pergola in the neighbourhood park NE section of the community

**South Shores OP**
- Gazebo in the central park

**Waterford OP**
- Arbour in the plaza
- Pergola by playground
- Pergola / pedestrian seating with overhead trellis
Possible Funding Opportunities:

1. Requesting more shelters through the development process in future open spaces could provide the amenity with no upfront cost to the City of Chestermere, in cases where developers are amenable to this request.

2. Opportunities may exist in high profile and high traffic areas such as Anniversary Park, however, as part to the exploratory work on the street furniture sponsorship program, it was discovered that park shelters are not typically included in the inventory of sponsorship options.

3. There may be a potential to partner with schools on park shelters, however they are not a typical school amenity.

4. Grant opportunities become available from time to time and may be a future source of funding for a park shelter.

PARK SHELTER BENEFITS:

1. Provides shade in sunny days providing less need for personal tents and umbrellas.
2. Solid structures provide shelter in all seasons, inviting residents to be involved in recreational use in winter months.
3. Installing a larger shelter with multiple picnic tables provides residents a chance to book out numerous tables and a space for medium to large events.
4. Park shelters promote socialization and civic engagement.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Initial installation costs are expensive.
2. Retrofitting locations in existing spaces can become controversial for surrounding residents. Public engagement would be encouraged.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Permanent structures provide year round use, all weather protection and larger areas of shade. A shade sail can be a cheaper option in regards to upfront costs; considerations of the long term operational costs should be factored when exploring all options.

IMPACT ON OTHER PROJECTS:
1. The picnic area in Sunset Park currently has some drainage issues. As a recommended site, the construction could coincide with the need to repair the parks drainage surrounding the picnic area.
2. Booking out shelters, as an option, if approved, the impact on staff could increase, consequently changing the fee schedule for operational consequences as well as capital budget recovery.

### RELATED COUNCIL POLICIES/BYLAWS & STRATEGIC VISION:

- Connection to Strategic Vision
- Sponsorship, Naming and Donation Acceptance Policy. Section 206

### PREVIOUS REPORTS/COUNCIL DECISIONS (if any):

### ATTACHMENTS (including all In Camera items):

- Attachment 1: Shelter Options, 5 pages
- Attachment 2: Existing Inventory Map – *City of Chestermere Existing Shade Structure Locations*, 1 page
- Attachment 3: Proposed locations Map, 1 page
- Proposed Park Shelters and Locations PowerPoint, 18 pages

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S COMMENTS (if any):

### NEXT STEPS:

Accept the Staff Report for information.

Approved by: Kathy Russell  
Director, Community Operations  
Approved by: Bernie Morton  
Chief Administrative Officer