

Dear City Council,

Recently I learned through a friend whose child attends Cowichan Preschool that the city has intentions to put a Homeless Warming shelter within the boundaries of McAdam Park. I listened to her concerns and felt whole heartedly that she was absolutely justified in those feelings. To increase homeless foot traffic in this area would be detrimental to this neighbourhood, the school and the athletic community here in North Cowichan/Duncan. Recently the school had concerns that children may come into contact with drug paraphernalia within its playground bounds. Their teacher and parents have to take an active role in sweeping the grounds to ensure that their children are safe, as they should be at school. This honestly shouldn't be a responsibility or concern of any parents in our community and just shows that changes need to be made in regards to homelessness, drug abuse and alcoholism. The school had to have a fence built that's kept locked at all times which has taken a play ground away from the community for after hours use. I just read an article about the Cowichan Valley scoring 41 out of the top 200 or so communities in regards to crime. This is truly disheartening to know, as I grew up in a safe community where I could walk home from school without fear and play sports in our fields without concern. One day when I have children, I would like to know that I'm raising them in a safe community, in the current state we may have to look elsewhere.

I grew up playing soccer on the lower field at McAdam Park. Soccer season runs from September to the spring (or it did 15 years ago), where my parents felt comfortable letting us walk down to the park around 5:30pm which during this time frame the skies are dark. Could you imagine any parent being comfortable to allow their child to walk to their organized team sport right past a homeless warming shelter through a dark bridge path to the lower fields? No. By placing a warming shelter in this area you are cutting off the independence, freedom, and especially the safety of all our children and families using this park. The park has recently been updated with new grass & lights. What was the point of doing those upgrades and using tax payer's money, if you were just going to place undesirable people right in the path to get there? Our parks and recreational lands should be used for only that, recreation and sports. They are there for our children to learn and grown while participating in sports and activities and to keep their minds and body healthy and strong. Don't take away their freedoms to play and enjoy their childhoods.

I am a dog owner and the kind that absolutely loves her dog like a child. When we first got her 4 years ago we took her to McKinstry dog park to learn how to socialize, interact and swim. We met many dog and people friends down there and would often spend hours walking, relaxing and enjoying the company of others. As she continued to grow we continued to go there but noticed an increase in people using the area as residence. We found trash, abandoned sleeping items, food and the worst was human excrement. For the safety of our dog we decided to no longer use this facility. Our community already suffers from a lack of housing and drug abuse, why do we want to attract those individuals to a highly residential area within our community. This just seems unplanned and poorly thought out. If you want your community residents to use the facilities and parks as intended then stop proposing homeless outreach programs within these areas.

Why not consider a long term plan like building another smaller outbuilding on the current Warmland shelter property to use as showers and warming. I understand the need to provide this service and I understand that Warmland is often at capacity for residence, but it would make sense to keep all of these services close. Again, unfortunately the building was build right between 2 schools and

in a residential area, but it's already there, it's already decreased property values, so why not just keep it all centralized. At the same time, I believe the proposition of a needle exchange should also be in this area where people who use often frequent, but that's another battle.

In the end, I vote NO for the proposed warming site and hope that city council heeds the concerns of its citizens. As our community continues to grow with infrastructure and housing we are losing what little bit of green space we have left. Protect our parks, protect our children, and protect our neighbourhoods. I appreciate you taking the time to read my concerns and I hope to read soon that you have found a more appropriate site.

Thank you,

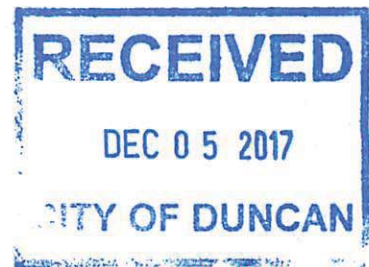
Lauren Cebula

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**From:** Laretta Daynes  
**Sent:** December-06-17 8:16 PM  
**To:** Duncan  
**Subject:** Warming station

As a daily user of McAdam park I would like to express my opinion regarding the Warming station...what I have witnessed in the park in the last year and a half has been appalling..people camping in the bushes, lighting bonfires, chopping stolen bicycles in the bushes, leaving rancid food, garbage and clothing on the pathways.. not to mention the needles...Warmland would be the place for this Warming Station...or a church ..

Please listen to the people who use the park and the residents in the surrounding area Laretta Daynes Sent from my iPad



December 6/2017

Dear Phil

I am writing to register my concern regarding the proposed warming centre in the club house in McAdam Park.

I have lived in the area for over 25 years . I have run and walked in the area for the same amount of time. I walk my dog daily along the dike with a group of seniors. I would like to add this area has several senior living buildings close by as well as a day care. The Club house is home to several sporting events- all year round.

Our the past year in particular I have noticed an obvious increase in garbage/drug paraphernalia/tents and homeless belongings. There was also an incident in Sept. 2017 where a intoxicated female banged on every door on my street at 1100 pm including mine which was a very scarey situation.

I do not support the McAdam club house being used as a warming centre. There are too any vulnerable people including children/seniors who spend regular time in the area. I would suggest Warmlands shelter be given extra resources to help offer support.

I would ask that city council give serious reconsideration to going forward with this proposal short term or otherwise.

Sincerely

  
Sharon Driscoll

Duncan BC

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**From:** Lise Duncan  
**Date:** December 3, 2017 at 8:12:37 PM PST  
**To:** Mayor <[mayor@duncan.ca](mailto:mayor@duncan.ca)>, Lise Duncan  
**Subject:** **Atrociously maligned idea to have a warming shelter in the McAdam Park!**

Hello.

It is with an extreme effort to contain my anger, complete shock and disgust at such a ridiculous proposal as I write this letter, urging you to rethink this half-baked idiocy.

I cannot begin to think of a more absurd location for a shelter!!

This is a ROTARY park. With a preschool opposite the washroom building where I can not even go pee as a tax-paying home owner who lives within ten blocks of this park and uses it every day. Why? Because apparently, we don't need to pee between October 31 and May 1st.

But if you Pay NO taxes, DO NOT work, live in illegal structures that damage and pollute the environment, endanger both people and their pets, create toxic life-threatening (ie: fentanyl) garbage and leave your mess everywhere, you can have a warming shelter created for you!

Lovely. I cannot believe what you are proposing here.

Football teams. Rugby teams. Baseball teams. Families. Dog walking healthy citizens getting fresh air in their neighbourhood that they pay big taxes to live in. Old people. Handicapped people. THESE are the people using this area responsibly for the purposes for which such a green space is intended.

This park is already *much less safer* in the last year from the increased use of the drug-using homeless and the city's blind-eye disregard for the garbage, waste, dangerous needles (as if these people give a rat's ass where they drop their used needles; you SEE it, they are strewn everywhere), not to mention damage to the environment that these tent erected sites leave behind.

So where the hell do we go, knowing that when we have to walk our dog - myself a single 100 pound female and my small dog - at 5 pm when it is already dark out - I will be greeted immediately by numerous high, hungry, homeless, dishonest people, the faces of whom can be easily seen in the newspapers' wanted for crime ads???

Is this why I have spent 15 years working my ass off to live in this community and given whatever I could to ensure my community is safe, warm, friendly, and healthy? SO I can have the only greenspace of off-leash and nature taken over first by tent cities, then by needle boxes (ignored mostly, hence needles all through the bushes and even on the trails) and finally by a fucking warming station that is supposed to be a hygienic cantene for sports groups and a public washroom?

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not tell me this decision has even a remote chance of passing. You are slowly KILLING this town with the way you are managing the drug problem, the homeless tent cities and the enormous costs to us to watch this mishandling.

Lise Duncan r