



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
300 SIXTH STREET  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

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Rapid City Growth  
Management Department

PARKS AND  
RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation Memo

Date: December 5, 2006

To: Marcia Elkins, Growth Management Director

From: Jerry W. Cole, Director

Subject: Park Facility Building Policies

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Marcia,

You brought to my attention that inquiries have been made to your department about whether or not the Parks and Recreation Department would create and implement a policy covering types of buildings, construction materials, and color of buildings within our parks system.

To answer your question quickly, no, we are not looking at creating a policy of this type anytime soon.

To answer your question in a more in depth way, I hope the following will suffice:

The Department of Parks and Recreation has been working on a strategic plan for the past two years. It is currently in draft form and will be ready for Council action sometime after the first of the year. This document does not include any policies dealing with building construction.

When first approached with the concept of constructing all buildings in our parks system similar in stature, the idea was interesting. I first had to ask, has this been done elsewhere. Researching this idea a bit further, I could not find one park system or City in the country that had building policies in place that outline what a particular building in a park system should look like.

When I thought about his question even more and looking at it from the architectural side of things, it doesn't make sense for us to limit what a particular building might look like without considering where it will be located. That would be like saying all houses in Rapid City should be built with the same floor plan, color, and building materials.

When looked at from a master planning perspective, each park would probably have a different look and feel to it. The decisions related to building in specific parks or facilities should be left to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as long as the project conforms to local building codes.

For example, if we were to adopt a policy that all shelters should look like the new shelter at Whitehead Fields, this type of shelter construction would not be acceptable in Wilson Park. Wilson Park has a distinct feel and it is in a historic district. This is an extreme example, but a person could find many examples throughout our park system to make the same argument.

We try to have similar color schemes throughout the parks with the dark greens, blues and reds. We try to suggest that our buildings have a natural look to them or fit into the surrounding area by using natural tone brick siding with the colors listed above, or include natural stone or wood in the architecture. As this is not always possible we try to fit it in as best we can. We have talked about trying to build with green material, but this isn't always a possibility with the budget constraints public entities must work with.

As we look to the future we will keep an open mind and try to fit our buildings into the surrounding landscape as best we can, with the budgets that we are given.

Thank you for your concerns.