

Summary Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act

Current Act as of November 5, 2021

Alcohol may be consumed at designated picnic areas in a public park as per the Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act, under Section 89:

89 (1) Except as provided in this Act, no person may use or consume liquor in a public place or any place other than a residence, temporary residence, licensed premises or a place or class of place prescribed in the regulations where liquor may be used or consumed.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a person may consume liquor in a public park in a picnic area designated by the owner or operator of the public park during the hours designated by the owner or operator if a sign is posted that
(a) states that a person may consume liquor in the designated picnic area,
(b) sets out the designated picnic area, and
(c) sets out the hours when liquor may be consumed.

(3) A person must stop consuming liquor in a designated picnic area if a peace officer on reasonable and probable grounds believes that the person is intoxicated, and the peace officer requests that person to stop consuming liquor.

It is important to note that during the program, this legislation restricted alcohol to a designated picnic area. While “picnic area” is not specifically defined in the Act, for the purposes of the initial Calgary pilot program, picnic tables were used.

Designation of Large Park Spaces

Designation of an entire park, or portion of a park, can likely be done within existing legislation as the entire area could be designated as a picnic area where alcohol consumption is permitted.