

**Council Meeting: July 14, 2009****SUBJECT: Consideration of Parks of the Future Study****REPORT IN BRIEF**

The City of Sunnyvale initiated the Parks of the Future (POTF) study process in the fall of 2007 to create a community-supported blueprint for providing high-quality parks and recreation facilities for all residents. The purpose of the parks of the future plan was to identify strategies for meeting current and future community needs based on changing trends in recreation, new patterns for recreation participation, and new areas of growth and development in the City. MIG (Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc.) of Berkeley, California, was retained to complete the Parks of the Future plan. There was significant community input and engagement throughout the extent of the study.

The POTF study provides a wealth of information about trends, community desires, and considerations for park, facility and program planning. Not all of this information rises to the level of policy, and therefore is not discussed in this report. However, the information from the consultant will guide staff actions and decisions moving forward across the entire breadth of departmental services. Further, while staff had considerable input into the Parks of the Future study, it was largely consultant driven and staff does not agree with all of the conclusions and recommendations as contained in the consultant's (MIG) final report (Attachment B: Sunnyvale Parks of the Future Plan – November 2008). Therefore, this RTC discusses specific aspects and findings and presents a menu of actions for Council consideration to address Sunnyvale's parks and open space needs for the next twenty years.

This RTC includes discussion and analysis on the following topics:

- Park classification system and design guidelines.
- Need for additional parkland with a Level of Service (LOS) model, historical data and comparison of Sunnyvale's LOS with neighboring cities. Specific discussion of Morse Avenue Park and opportunities with City-owned parksite housing adjacent to Murphy and Orchard Gardens Parks is also included.
- Access analysis and identification of areas underserved by parks and open space, including discussion of the need for new community parks, as well as discussion of sports field access and school sites.
- Capital improvement plan.

- Variety of issues, including:
 - Single Use versus multi-use fields
 - Teen Center
 - Golf
 - Outdoor education and active recreation
 - West Hill, South Hill and Recycle Hill
 - Trails
 - Maintaining water features
- Potential new policy statements and data sets to augment the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element.
- Various new or revised funding options, including:
 - Benefit Assessment District
 - Raising Park Dedication Standard
 - Development Impact Fees
 - Variety of special taxes, such as sales tax, general obligation bond, parcel tax
 - Establishment of a Friends of Parks and Recreation organization
 - Use of rental revenue and/or selling of properties to benefit parks

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on this topic on June 24, 2009. (Please see Attachment D: Excerpt from the Draft Minutes of the June 24, 2009, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.) Staff and Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations can be found in the Recommendation section of this report.

BACKGROUND

The City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts Commission, and City staff went through several steps to identify the community's parks and open space needs through the processes associated with the City of Sunnyvale's January 2006 Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element of the General Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element identified a number of Key Initiatives as priorities for study in the ensuing three to five years, including:

- An evaluation of recreation and open space facilities and amenities and to determine per capita guidelines for an appropriate balance within the open space system;
- Evaluation of areas identified as being underserved by open space and determination of measures to mitigate the impact of these service gaps; and
- Evaluation of how well several City-owned sites meet open space and recreation priorities and determination of which should be pursued for develop as public open space.

In addition, the City Manager's Letter of Transmittal for the Recommended 2007/2008 Budget and 20-Year Resource Allocation Plan called for a project to address these issues. Collectively, this project became known as the Parks of the Future (POTF) Study.

The City of Sunnyvale initiated the POTF study process in the fall of 2007 to create a community-supported blueprint for providing high-quality parks and recreation facilities for all residents. The purpose of the parks of the future plan was to identify strategies for meeting current and future community needs based on changing trends in recreation, new patterns for recreation participation, and new areas of growth and development in the City. The goals of this Plan are to identify ways to develop existing sites to their greatest potential and best use; to identify remaining opportunities to add parkland to the park system; and to look for opportunities to partner with others, including developers, schools, public agencies, and community members, to enhance the City of Sunnyvale's parks and recreation system.

On August 14, 2007, a contract was awarded to MIG (Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc.) of Berkeley, California, to complete a Parks of the Future plan, a comprehensive study that was to develop per capita guidelines and address the Sunnyvale community's park and open space needs for the next twenty years.

A Joint Study Session with the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission was held on November 27, 2007, at the beginning of the project to outline plans for conducting the study. A second Joint Study Session was held on September 9, 2008, to share the consultant findings to date. MIG completed their plan and submitted it to the City on December 3, 2008.

This RTC reports on the findings of the Parks of the Future study and recommends actions to be taken to address Sunnyvale's parks and open space needs for the next twenty years.

EXISTING POLICY

There are numerous policies in the City's General Plan that have relevance to this report. Because of the nature of the report, all of the goals and policies contained within the *Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element* have some level of relevance. Several of the most pertinent goals are recapped here:

Goal 2.2A. Open Space: The City strives to provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of maintaining a healthy community based on community needs and the ability of the city to finance, construct, maintain, and operate these facilities now and in the future.

Goal 2.2.D. Prioritization: The City strives to ensure equal opportunities for participation and to provide for a range of structured and unstructured uses, and a variety of general and special interest uses in parks and facilities. The City also provides a wide range of program choices, open space, amenities and facility offerings to meet the recreational needs of a diverse and changing population, including identified subgroups and special populations. Competing interests and finite resources, however, require the City to set some priorities.

Goal 2.2.E. Access: The City strives to maximize access to all of its services, facilities and amenities.

Additionally, there are numerous goals, policies and action statements from other General Plan Elements and Sub-Elements. A few of the most pertinent are listed here.

Land Use and Transportation Element

Policy C1.2 Encourage nodes of interest and activity, such as parks, public open spaces, well planned development, mixed use projects, and other desirable uses, locations and physical attractions.

Action Statement C3.5.4 Maximize the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Action Statement N1.3.3 Design streets, pedestrian paths, and bicycle paths to link neighborhoods with services.

Action Statement N1.14.5 Maintain and promote convenient community centers and services that enhance neighborhood cohesiveness and provide social and recreational opportunities.

Community Design Sub-Element

Action Statement D.2a. Continue to provide public parks where people can enjoy nature, exercise, socialize and relax.

Action Statement D.2b. Continue to provide courtyards and public plazas around City buildings and encourage at least one large plaza downtown.

Fiscal Management Sub-Element

B.1.4. When considering a new tax or revenue source or an increase in an existing tax or revenue source, the following criteria should be considered:

- Community/voter acceptance
- Competitiveness with surrounding communities
- Efficiency of revenue collection and enforcement
- Effectiveness in generating sufficient revenues in the short and long-term to justify its establishment
- Enhancement of revenue diversity to promote stability and provide protection from downturns in business cycles

- Equity/Fairness in distribution of the revenue burden on various segments of the community

B.1.8. Potential new revenue sources will be investigated periodically to ensure that the City's revenue base is stable and diversified.

C.1.3. High priority should be given to replacing capital improvements prior to the time that they have deteriorated to the point where they are hazardous, incur high maintenance costs, negatively affect property values, or no longer serve their intended purposes.

C.1.5. Priority will be given to the repair and replacement of existing infrastructure as compared to the provision of new or expanded facilities.

C.1.9. Capital improvements should be maintained to the level required to adequately protect the City's capital investment and to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs.

D.1.1. A high priority will be given to acquiring undeveloped land needed to meet City goals before it is developed.

I.2a.4 The infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement of all facilities on park land, including the golf courses and tennis center, will be funded first through the Park Dedication Fund if funds are available.

Solid Waste Sub-element

Policy 3.2H.3 Provide for safe, enjoyable recreational access to portions of the landfill

DISCUSSION

Introduction

The POTF study provides a wealth of information about trends, community desires, and considerations for park, facility and program planning. Not all of this information rises to the level of policy, and therefore will not be discussed in this report. However, the information from the consultant will guide staff actions and decisions moving forward across the entire breadth of departmental services.

Further, while staff had considerable input into the Parks of the Future study, it was largely consultant driven and staff does not agree with all of the conclusions and recommendations as contained in the consultant's (MIG) final report (Attachment B: Sunnyvale Parks of the Future Plan – November 2008). Therefore, staff does not recommend Council adopt the MIG prepared report in total, but rather will discuss specific aspects and findings and will present a menu of actions for Council consideration.

Overview of Residents' Attitudes

According to the results of the planning process, which included a statistically valid survey, City of Sunnyvale residents clearly value the many benefits of parks and recreation provided by the Department of Community Services. The community recognizes that parks and open space add to the quality of life and are essential components of a livable city. Parks and recreation contribute to health and wellness, build stronger communities, and reduce social service and justice costs. Having places through open spaces and parks to recreate and enjoy nature and the outdoors is becoming increasingly important to residents of all ages.

Park Classification System and Design Guidelines

The POTF report includes a classification system for Sunnyvale's parks that differs somewhat from the classification system used in the City's Open Space and Recreation Sub-element. This refined park classification system, as developed jointly by staff and the consultant utilizing widely accepted terminology in the field of professional parks and recreation, is used as the basis of analysis throughout the entire POTF plan. The classification system categorizes parks in terms of the function or role they play in providing a variety of recreation experiences, and consists of the following:

- Mini-Parks (up to 3 acres) designed primarily to serve those within a 1/4-mile radius, and include a Tot Lot (ages 2 – 5), picnic tables and turf as minimum resources;
- Neighborhood Parks (3-8 acres) primarily serve those within 1/2-mile radius, and include a Tot Lot and Children's play area (ages 6-12) as well as a reservable picnic area and a sports field as minimum resources;
- Community Parks (9-20 acres) serve the basic open space needs of those who live within a 1/2-mile radius, but also serve some community-wide needs, and include a Tot Lot, Children's play area, reservable picnic areas, sports fields, sports courts, restrooms and off-street parking as minimum resources;
- School Parks (3-15 acres) are school-owned sites under agreement with the City, serving the needs of the schools as well as nearby residents, and include a sports field, par course and internal pathway as minimum resources;
- Special Use Areas are freestanding, specialized facilities that are not incorporated into a park of another type, such as golf courses, skate parks and the landfill.
- Urban Plazas (usually less than 1 acre) are small landscaped spaces and gathering areas within the downtown or high density areas.

- Regional Open Spaces are large sites that support a wide range of recreation interests and attract residents from throughout the region. Minimum resources include natural areas, reservable picnic areas, off street parking, restrooms. Sunnyvale Baylands Park is the City's only Regional Open Space.
- Greenbelts and Trails are linear open spaces that provide off-street trail corridors and/or green buffers within neighborhoods.

In addition, Public Grounds is a category that includes non-recreation open space surrounding City-owned buildings. Since public grounds function predominately as beautification areas, these sites are not counted in the inventory as part of the open space acreage. This represents a change from past practice in the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element; and, accordingly, total acreage as determined by the POTF study does not match the totals shown in the Open Space and Recreation Sub-element. No design guidelines are shown for Public Grounds.

Attachment A, "Design Development Guidelines," is a table that details the different classifications and also provides design guidelines listing the types of amenities that are appropriate (and inappropriate) given the classification. While the guidelines are not meant to be applied absolutely, allowing for site-specific variations, the guidelines do provide an objective way to evaluate Sunnyvale's existing sites to determine gaps in service, as well as providing a planning tool for new development. Three categories are detailed: "Minimum Resources" – those amenities that should be included at all sites of this type; "May Include Additional Resources" – those amenities that are appropriate for the classification, but which are discretionary; and "Conflicting Resources" – those amenities which are inconsistent with the primary intent of the site, whether due to size, location or compatibility with other amenities.

According to this new classification system, the City of Sunnyvale currently provides approximately 730 acres of parks and open space at 55 sites. These sites offer a variety of active and passive recreation experiences and range in size from smaller mini parks and neighborhood parks that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities, to regional parks and special use areas that protect open space and provide unique, large-scale facilities that draw people from throughout the community. The POTF study concluded that these existing park sites are well-maintained and well-used, providing a solid foundation for the park system.

The POTF study did look at how well the City's existing park system meets the minimum design and development guidelines established for each park type. Those findings are discussed in the section on the capital improvement plan.

Need for additional parkland

A good deal of effort was given by the consultant team and staff to try to assess how Sunnyvale’s existing open space compares with benchmark cities, as well as its own historical levels, and how well it meets the needs of the Sunnyvale community. To that end, the consultants developed a Level of Service (LOS) model, in which they calculated the amount of acreage per 1,000 people served. The LOS calculation for Sunnyvale is contained in the table below. The table also shows what is understood intuitively – that as the population increases, using Community Development provided estimates of future population growth, if open space holdings do not also increase proportionally, there will be a decrease in the Level of Service (LOS).

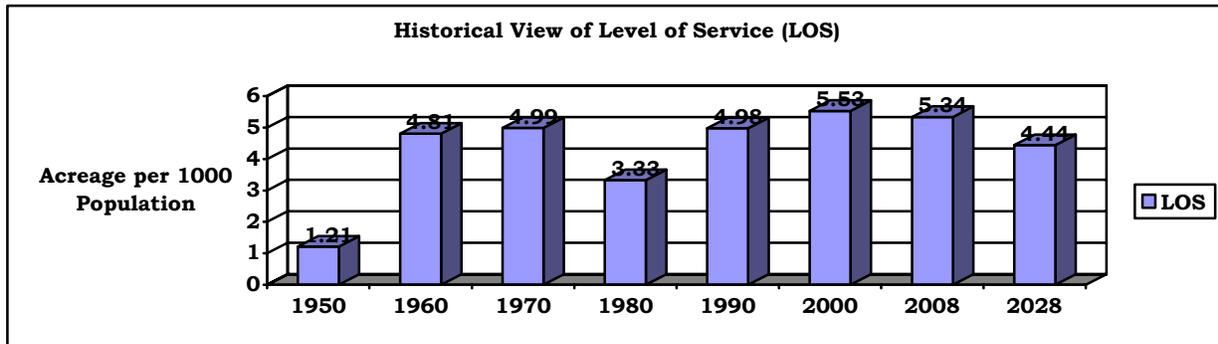
Existing Parkland Level of Service (LOS)

Park Type	Sunnyvale Acres	Sunnyvale Existing Level of Service (acres per 1,000 population) – Population 2009 of 137,538)	Sunnyvale Projected Level of Service If No Acreage added Population 2028 166,332
Mini Parks	7.63*	0.06	0.05
Neighborhood Parks	26.05	0.19	0.16
Community Parks	118.59	0.86	0.71
School Parks	117.68	0.86	0.71
Special Use Areas	268.80	1.95	1.62
Urban Plazas	1.60	0.01	0.01
Regional Open Space	177.00	1.29	1.06
Greenbelts/Trails	16.57	0.12	0.10
Total	733.92	5.34	4.41
Total, including undeveloped open space**	739.00	--	4.44

*Includes 1-acre undeveloped site at DeGuigne.

**Open space acreage includes the undeveloped Morse Avenue site and parksite housing adjacent to Orchard Gardens Park and Murphy Park

A second table depicts a historical view of LOS in Sunnyvale, which shows the decline in LOS beginning in 2000. LOS peaked in the 1990’s, after the City added significantly to its open space inventory, adding 12 school sites and providing recreational access to the closed landfill.



The consultant report, Appendix C, contains a Benchmark LOS Analysis, which compares Sunnyvale’s LOS to five other communities and to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. LOS comparisons were made with Cupertino, Mountain View, Santa Clara and Roseville. Roseville was selected because of its similar demographics and because it is considered to be a leader in the area of parks and recreation. Comparisons were made as a way to gauge if the existing LOS for parkland in Sunnyvale is above or below the norm.

Unfortunately, comparisons to other entities and agencies bring with them almost as many problems as they provide benefits. For example, in comparison to the NRPA historical guideline of 10 acres per 1000 population cited in the consultant report, Sunnyvale’s LOS is woefully low, but NRPA acknowledges the difficulty in setting standards that would be applicable to all communities, given each community’s unique characteristics. NRPA thus recommends the development of customized park and facility standards for each community.

A challenge in comparing Sunnyvale’s LOS with the LOS in benchmark cities is ensuring “apples to apples” comparisons. Other cities use different park classification systems or count their acreage differently (e.g., some cities do not count special use facilities such as community centers as park land or do not include school parks as parkland, or give school sites partial credit as the sites are only available during non-school hours).

The total park acreage provided by the benchmark cities varies tremendously, ranging from 2.4 to 13.98 acres per 1000, but this does not tell the whole story, since this includes Open Space Reserves, which can vary widely in size and which generally are intended to serve not only residents but also those living outside its borders. It is more useful to compare LOS for specific types of parklands.

Since Special Use acreage can also vary widely by City, in part, depending on how different jurisdictions define open space, e.g., whether or not they include community centers, swimming pools, etc., the most meaningful LOS

comparison between Sunnyvale and the benchmark cities may be for the combined total of “Urban Park Land”, defined as Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, School Parks and Urban Plazas. The table below shows that Sunnyvale has a higher LOS for these park types than Cupertino, Roseville and Santa Clara, but significantly lower than Mountain View. It is worth noting that much of Sunnyvale’s acreage is actually owned by the local school districts and is not available to the public during school hours.

Comparison of LOS with 4 Benchmark Cities

Park Type	Cupertino	Mountain View	Roseville	Santa Clara	AVERAGE of 4 Cities	Sunnyvale
Urban Parkland						
Mini Parks	n/a	0.17	n/a	n/a	0.17	0.06
Neighborhood Parks	0.14	0.67	1.50	1.67	1.00	0.19
Community Parks	1.00	0.70	0.16	0.05	0.48	0.86
School Parks	0.54	1.54	n/a	n/a	1.04	0.86
Urban Plazas	0.04	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.04	0.01
Sub-total	1.72	3.08	1.66	1.72	2.73	1.98
Special Use Areas						
Special Use Areas	n/a	n/a	2.96	0.33	1.65	1.95
Sub-Total			2.96	0.33	1.65	1.95
Other Park Land						
Open Space/ Preserves	1.60	10.87	4.24	0.35	4.26	1.29
Greenbelts/ Trails	n/a	0.03	n/a	n/a	0.03	0.12
Sub-Total	1.6	10.9	4.24	0.35	4.29	1.41
Total	3.32	13.98	8.86	2.40	7.14	5.34

Based on the key findings from these analyses, the Parks of the Future Plan proposed a *minimum standard to maintain the existing level of service* in Sunnyvale at 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents. This proposed standard would maintain an overall LOS of 5.34 as a desired target throughout the 20-year planning period, but adjusts the LOS of individual park types in order to target the additional acreage in the types of parks most needed. The table below summarizes these standards by park type.

Existing Parkland LOS with Projected Need in 2028

Park Type	Sunnyvale Acres	Sunnyvale Existing Level of Service (acres per 1,000 population)	Minimum Standard (Acres per 1000 population)	Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standard	
				Current Population (2008)	Projected Population (2028)
				137,538	166,332
Urban Parkland					
Mini Parks	7.63	0.06	0.08	3.37	5.68
Neighborhood Parks	26.05	0.19	0.30	15.21	23.85
Community Parks	118.59	0.86	1.00	18.95	47.74
School Parks	117.68	0.86	.75*	--	7.07
Urban Plazas	1.60	0.01	0.01	--	0.06
Sub-Total	271.55	1.98	1.39	37.53	84.40
Special Use Areas					
Special Use Areas	268.80	1.95	1.60*	--	--
Sub-Total	268.80	1.95	1.60*	--	--
Other Park Land					
Regional Open Space	177.00	1.29	1.40**	15.55	55.86
Greenbelts/ Trails	16.57	0.12	0.20	10.94	16.70
Sub-Total	193.57	1.41	1.60	26.49	72.56
Total	733.92	5.34	5.34	0***	156.96

*The proposed standard represents a reduction in LOS for these park types. This does not suggest that the City has surplus acreage or a need for fewer parks. It suggests that there is a greater need for parks of other types in the future. There may be a potential to develop acreage differently than noted in the above park categories to meet the total proposed need.

**The increase in Regional Open space represents a shift of the closed landfill from Special Use to Regional Open Space. This correlates with the decrease in LOS for Special Use Areas.

***While additional acreage would be needed to meet the LOS for individual types of park land, taken in conjunction with the reduced LOS for other types of park land, the net acreage needed to maintain the current overall LOS for parkland is 0.

This table shows that in order to maintain today's LOS of 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents due to anticipated population growth, approximately 157 additional acres of parkland will be needed to serve the City's population in 2028. This projection is based on an increase in the level of service for all park types, except special use areas, school parks, and urban plazas. The increase in Regional Open Space is actually achieved through a corresponding decrease in Special Use Areas, by reclassifying the closed landfill sites. This proposed standard does not imply that the City has surplus acreage in these types of parks, or that the City needs fewer parks of these types. It does mean, however, that there is a greater need for other types of parks in Sunnyvale.

Of the 157 acres needed to maintain the LOS in 2028, some acreage has already been identified and acquired by the City and could be used to mitigate the needed acreage. The Morse Avenue site would provide 6.3 acres. Parksite housing adjacent to Murphy Park and to Orchard Gardens Park, if used to expand those parks, would add an additional .75 acres (which is discussed in more detail in the section entitled "Opportunities with Parksite Housing"). The proportionality of new open space would not necessarily have to mirror existing ratios in each type of parkland. For example, Sunnyvale has a relatively high LOS for Special Use Areas, which makes sense when one understands that this includes the City's two golf courses, the Community Center complex and 52 acres at the closed landfill, which currently support relatively low level of passive recreation. It may be more desirable to add additional acreage for Neighborhood Parks, Mini Parks and/or Community Parks, which more directly serve the immediate needs of residents for open space.

Sunnyvale, however, is a largely built out City and there will be limited opportunities to acquire open space moving forward. The Corn Palace is the largest contiguous undeveloped area (approximately 17 acres), adjacent to Lawrence Expressway and north of El Camino. This, however, is a privately owned property, and it is only speculation that the owners may someday want to sell. If that does happen, it would make sense for the City to evaluate whether or not it wanted to acquire the land, as it would represent a limited window of opportunity to add a sizable amount of acreage to the City's open space holdings.

Other opportunities to acquire new open space will come about as a result of applying the Park Dedication Ordinance when new development occurs. Under this ordinance, developers are required to either contribute a certain amount of acreage per housing unit developed or to contribute a cash equivalent. Council has the option of requiring land instead of cash. Depending on the size of the development, the acreage required may be of such a size that it would not be beneficial to the City to accept the land (with the need to then develop and maintain it as parkland) and may prefer to accept cash instead, which can be used to purchase land elsewhere or to fund parkland developments.

Morse Avenue Park

Planning for a new neighborhood park in northern Sunnyvale goes back decades, but actual development of the site acquired in 1990 on Morse Avenue has not occurred, initially because there was not yet significant residential development in the area, but then also due to lack of funding. Findings of the POTF study support the need for neighborhood parkland in this area which is isolated from other existing parks due to distance and physical barriers. Residential development has also been increasing of late in this area, with residents strongly advocating for development of the Morse Avenue site.

While the FY2008/2009 Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) only includes development of the Morse Avenue site into a park as an unfunded capital project, the RAP has been adopted with the revenue stream from what is called the Fair Oaks Industrial Park ending in FY2009/2010, meaning that the balancing of the General Fund is not dependent on continuing this significant (approximately \$1 million in FY2009/10) revenue source, and removing one significant hurdle to being able to develop the Morse Avenue site into a neighborhood park. The proposed budget for FY2009/2010 includes funding to begin this project in FY2010/2011 as a top priority. This means delaying other projects in order to free up funds to develop the site as a neighborhood park. It will also mean identifying funds to pay for ongoing operations once the park is completed in FY2011/2012 or FY2012/13.

Opportunities with Parksite Housing

The City owns residential properties adjacent to two of its existing parks – Murphy Park and Orchard Gardens Park. The properties were purchased when they became available with an eye to someday using them to expand the existing parks. Until that time, the City rents the houses, with the revenues accruing to the Park Dedication Fund.

Three properties are owned by the City adjacent to Orchard Gardens Park on Garner Avenue, which are all that are necessary to complete the envisioned park expansion. Combined, these three properties are equivalent to .36 acres. Completion of this expansion would enhance the visual impact of the park, making it more inviting to users and decreasing the likelihood of vandalism to the park building by improving visibility of the building, but would not significantly change the amenities available at the site. The additional acreage is not sufficient to add a sports field, but could provide for additional landscaping, lawn areas and picnic tables and benches. Orchard Gardens Park is currently classified as a Mini Park because of its size. Expansion would not provide sufficient acreage to reclassify the park as a neighborhood park. The site is also located approximately ¼ mile from the planned new neighborhood park at Morse Avenue. This expansion is currently planned for FY 2023/2024 but is unfunded.

A similar situation exists at Murphy Park, where the City owns three properties on Jackson Street equivalent to .39 acres. Here, however, additional acquisition of properties (up to four) would be needed before any meaningful expansion could occur, in part because the three parcels are not contiguous. As with Orchard Gardens, the primary benefit of this expansion would be opening up one side of the park to visibility and access. It would, of course, also contribute to larger lawn areas, landscaping and amenities such as picnic tables and/or benches, but the additional acreage would not be sufficient to add a regulation size sports field. Consideration of expansion of the Murphy Park site is planned for FY2015/2016 but is unfunded.

An alternative to development of these sites for expansion of Orchard Gardens or Murphy Parks would be to sell the City-owned properties and to use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund the City's top priorities for open space acquisition and/or development. Alternately, the properties could be maintained as rental properties, with the rental revenues used to support other park and open space priorities. These options are discussed further in the Fiscal Impact section.

Access Analysis and Identification of Underserved Areas in Sunnyvale

The Level of Service (LOS) calculation looks at the aggregate amount of acreage provided per 1,000 residents, but does not address issues surrounding distribution of that acreage and access to open space and associated amenities. It is generally accepted that parks best serve those living immediately adjacent to them, although today's population is highly mobile and will readily use parks throughout the City as well as in neighboring cities and not be limited to parks within walking distance. For the purposes of identifying areas which are relatively underserved by open space, a neighborhood approach was taken, looking at which households were within specified distances from City open space sites.

The park access analysis was based on a premise that most residents should live within a half-mile of a park that provides basic recreation opportunities. The half-mile area is an industry standard, representing the maximum distance that most users are willing to walk or bike to reach a park. However, some residents may be willing to travel farther (by driving, biking, or walking) to reach the same amenities. Hence, parks also serve people who live outside of the half-mile access area of a park. Children, people with limited mobility, and residents with limited transportation options may be willing to travel a short distance (often ¼-mile or less) to access the same recreation amenities. Therefore some residents living within one half mile of a park may feel underserved. The half-mile approach, however, provides a starting point for understanding how access issues impact Sunnyvale's park and open space system and identifying which parts of the City may be underserved by parks.

The POTF study did a geographic analysis of park access in Sunnyvale that represented a refinement over the access analysis done in the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element. In the POTF study, access was defined according to actual potential routes of travel, taking into account the streets layout and barriers. The POTF analysis only looked at community access to mini, neighborhood, and community parks, but did not consider access to school sites under agreement with the City (See Appendix D – Access Analysis and Map 1 in the consultant’s Sunnyvale Park of the Future Final Plan). Therefore, the neighborhoods with close access to school sites but not to other park types, appear underserved. The argument for doing so is that while use agreements for some facilities at school sites help offset needs in these areas, the use agreements, for the most part, do not include playgrounds and sports courts, so neighbors lack *guaranteed* access to nearby opportunities typically provided by neighborhood parks. These sites also do not provide public restrooms or picnic tables. While there is certainly room to add or guarantee amenities at school sites for the benefit of the neighborhoods that surround them, there are more critical needs facing other parts of the City, such as neighborhoods in Sunnyvale with no near access to open space amenities, as shown in the next table.

The POTF study also does not factor in residential density, current or projected, and did not prioritize the areas identified therein as underserved. Therefore, what is presented in this next table represents a merging of the findings from the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element and from the POTF in order to identify the areas of highest need for additional open space, based on access to existing open space as well as current density and expectations of growth.

Areas in Need of Access to Open Space in Order to Meet Basic Needs (Could Be Mini, Neighborhood, School Park or Community Park) <i>(See Attachment C for Map Depicting These Areas)</i>					
Pri- ority	Neighborhood Planning Area	Description of Underserved Area	2000 Population in Areas Identified as Underserved	Projected Buildout (additional population)	Total Projected Population
1	Lakewood	Morse/Tasman area (includes ITR 7 & 8)	2975	7435	10410
2	Ponderosa	East Evelyn Avenue (includes ITR 4), north of Old San Francisco Road, west of Lawrence Expressway and east of Wolfe	1983	5680	7663
3	Washington	Acalanes/Iowa (Between western border of Sunnyvale and Mary Avenue, between El Camino and Evelyn)	5497	0	5497
4	Washington	General Downtown Area	399	3900	4299
5	Ortega	Neighborhood in the immediate vicinity of Community Center	2581	0	2581
6	East Murphy	East Sunnyvale ITR, north of Arques and west of Lawrence Expressway	972	1416	2388

As noted in the table, the area of highest need is located in the Lakewood Neighborhood Planning Area, north of 101, south of 237 and between Borregas Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue. The barriers imposed by 101 and Fair Oaks isolate this area further, making access to Columbia Park and Lakewood Park realistic primarily by car (access to Lakewood Park by bike is possible along the John W. Christian Greenbelt.) The planned Morse Avenue Park would be one potential way to mitigate the need in this area. Expansion of Orchard Gardens Park through development of parksite housing would also provide an incremental increase in open space acreage in that area, but would not likely address a significant amount of the need.

No sites have been acquired or identified for acquisition in priority areas #2, 3 and 5. It will be important both to look for opportunities to acquire properties to develop, whether through purchase or as a result of development and application of the Park Dedication Ordinance, as well as to partner or expand open space amenities on existing sites within these areas. While residents within the Priority #5 area do have access to the Community Center site, the Community Center provides no amenities other than benches and paths. There are no fields, picnic tables, par courses, or play areas, unlike at or adjacent to school sites.

Priority #4, the downtown area, is currently partially served by Washington and Murphy Parks (Murphy Park currently has no playgrounds; a project to add a tot lot at that site has been proposed in the FY2009/2010 budget) and with the potential to be served by Plaza del Sol, as additional amenities are added there. Expansion of Murphy Park through development of parksite housing would also provide an incremental increase in open space acreage in that area, but would not likely address a significant amount of the need.

On March 18, 2008, the City Council approved a motion to accept one acre of dedicated park land in the East Sunnyvale ITR Neighborhood, on DeGuigne Drive, near Duane, in place of park in lieu fees. A new capital project has been proposed for the design and development of the land as a mini park or pocket park, including one percent for public art, but it is not currently planned to be funded until 2019. This site will partially address the need in that area (Priority 6), but additional open space/parkland will still be needed.

Community Parks

Not all of the community's open space needs can be met by neighborhood and mini parks. Community Parks are specifically designed to provide opportunities to service the needs of nearby residents, but just as importantly provide amenities which serve the entire community, such as swimming pools, lighted sports fields and recreation centers. They should be located in areas with good vehicular access and need to provide parking and restrooms. In looking at anticipated increases in population over the next 20 years as well as the distribution and availability of existing parkland and amenities, the POTF report suggests a need to add two community parks over the course of the planning period. In particular, the POTF concluded strong consideration should be given to providing a sports field complex to better serve the needs of youth and adult sports leagues.

Because of the size needed (9 to 20 acres) and the other parameters needed, and the availability of land within Sunnyvale, the POTF consultants identified two areas as potentially being appropriate for community parks, should the land become available. One site identified is the Corn Palace, which is the largest contiguous undeveloped area. The Corn Palace is located adjacent to

Lawrence Expressway, north of El Camino Real. It should be noted that this site is privately owned, and that the owners have not expressed any interest in selling the property. The site would be large enough to support a community park, and it is in an area not currently served by a community park.

The second site identified in the POTF consultant report is adjacent to the Sunnyvale Golf Course on what is currently part of the Moffett Federal Airfield. A community park in this area would help meet the needs of northern Sunnyvale. It is unclear, however, when, if ever, this property would be available to the City.

Sport Fields Access

The POTF study also included a sports field service area analysis to determine if most residents in Sunnyvale are within a reasonable travel distance of sports facilities. The sports fields included in this analysis are located at school parks, community parks, and a few specific neighborhood parks where sports fields are present. For this analysis, a reasonable travel distance was considered to be 1-mile. The 1-mile distance is used as a compromise between automobile access, which increased the distance that residents are willing to travel to parks, and pedestrian/bicycle access, which is usually based on a maximum ½-mile travel distance. However, the 1-mile access area makes it more difficult for pedestrians and youth on bicycles to get to sport fields, because of the greater distance and barriers that prevent easy access to some sites.

Residents who are willing to travel one or more miles have sufficient access to sport fields in Sunnyvale, according to the findings of the access analysis. However, based on capacity at existing sports fields there is a need for sports field improvements and the development of additional sports fields. For this reason, sports field needs should be incorporated in the development of new community parks and should be considered in the development of new neighborhood parks where feasible. A sport field complex could help meet these needs.

Since this access analysis looked strictly at the distance residents must travel to reach a sports field, it does not assess demand for these fields. It is worth noting that there is heavy demand for athletic fields within the City and use is at capacity with many users wanting even more scheduled time (e.g., youth sports leagues growing in membership and/or expanding into year-round play). Staff is working operationally to address equity issues among user groups as well as to maximize scheduled use.

School Sites

The City of Sunnyvale has numerous neighborhoods whose main access to parklands is at school sites where the City has agreements for shared use of the open space. The partnerships for access to school sites represent a true

community resource, particularly in the area of sports fields, where the majority of the City's sports fields can be found. The schools also receive tremendous benefits, since the agreements require the City to maintain the sites at a level comparable to the rest of the City's park system.

Sports fields are only one amenity, however, and neighborhoods with close proximity only to school sites and not neighborhood, mini or community parks, are underserved in other areas. Playgrounds are a key amenity at all three of these different park types. While it is true that most of the school sites under agreement with the City have playgrounds on site, these playgrounds are NOT included in the agreements (with the exception of Columbia Middle School and Cupertino Middle School.)

From a citizen perspective, whether or not the playgrounds and hardscape areas are under agreement with the City is most often not evident. In most cases, a citizen visiting a school site during non-school hours would have access to the playgrounds and hardscape areas as well as the turf areas maintained by the City. This access to playgrounds and hardscapes (e.g., basketball nets, tables, etc.), however, is not guaranteed, and could be restricted at any time. In fact, this has already happened at Lakewood School and at Fairwood School, where the playgrounds and hardscapes have been fenced off and the gates locked during non-school hours. Schools are well within their rights to do this, but it does restrict community access to key amenities.

The City/school agreements have been in place for a long time – originating in the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s. It may be worth revisiting the City's agreements with the Sunnyvale School District, the Cupertino Union School District, and the Santa Clara Unified School District and exploring what could be done to assure that the public has access to **all** open space amenities during non-school hours as well as evaluating the equitability of the agreements' terms in today's context. The POTF study also suggested considering expansion of City/School agreements to create "school-parks", by potentially adding amenities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, public restrooms) to the sites to make them more comparable to Neighborhood Parks, and thereby better meeting the needs of the neighborhoods, particularly in areas not within the ideal service areas of Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks or Community Parks.

Capital Improvement Plan

The POTF plan generated a large number of recommended capital improvement projects over the course of the next 20 years. Many of the recommended projects had already been identified through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (although many were on the unfunded list), and their inclusion in the POTF plan is an endorsement that they belong in the CIP. In all, however, the POTF plan generated 39 new projects that have brought forward

as part of the City's proposed 20-year Resource Allocation Plan for FY 2009/2010 for funding consideration.

One primary means of identifying the need for CIP projects came about by applying the Design Guidelines (as outlined in Attachment A) to Sunnyvale's existing sites. This use of the Design Guidelines provides an objective measure of what may be missing from some sites and can help the City in ensuring equity throughout the City. As an example, a tot lot (ages 2 to 5) and a children's play area (ages 6 to 12) are defined as "Minimum Resources" for Neighborhood Parks. Murphy Park, Panama Park and San Antonio Park, as Neighborhood Parks, are therefore deficient as none of them have tot lots or children's play areas. Capital projects were considered for sites where deficits were identified. Those projects underwent a separate prioritization process and many were presented to Council for consideration as part of the City's capital improvement budget. Some were brought forward as unfunded projects, with only those of the highest priority being recommended for funding within the 20-year CIP budget.

Several key projects identified through the City's capital improvement process, with the need confirmed by findings of the POTF study, include:

- Renovating several major facilities—such as the Washington Park Pool, the Las Palmas Tennis Center, and several buildings on the Community Center Campus.
- Replacing playground equipment, water play features, tennis and basketball courts, etc., in order to maintain play opportunities across Sunnyvale.
- Mini skate parks at three sites, in order to restore recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.
- Creating mini parks in partnership with PG&E along a right-of-way to enhance use of several parcels of City-owned property as recreation space.

Other Issues

As part of the POTF study, the consultants were asked to take a closer look at a handful of specific issues facing Sunnyvale's Department of Community Services. Several additional issues arose, as well, in the course of conducting the study and through dialogue with the community. A brief discussion of these issues follows.

Single versus multi-use fields

All of the City's fields currently are designated as multi-use fields. This means that any given field may be configured to play baseball, soccer, softball, cricket or other sports as needed. Sports are increasingly being played year round, rather than only seasonally, creating unrelenting demand for field space. While not all fields are of a size to support regulation play (e.g., soccer or cricket), or have the amenities to support a particular sport (e.g., skinned infield for softball), oftentimes practices for those sports can and will still be able to utilize the space productively.

The multi-use nature of the fields allows the community access to the fields all year, maximizing community use, but poses some challenges. All sports groups would appreciate dedicated, single use fields so they would not compete for use, could add special amenities that would not be removed at end of season, and/or could set resting periods between seasons. Implementation of single use fields, however, would probably necessitate longer travel distances for user groups, since allocation of fields would not necessarily be neighborhood-based, as is generally the case currently. The POTF study concluded that available space and the need to maintain flexibility prevents pursuit of single use fields at present, but single use fields should be considered whenever there is declining interest in existing use or when there are opportunities to design new acreage. In addition, because of the field stress caused by year-round play, synthetic field surfaces should be considered at appropriate sites.

Teen Center

The POTF study was not designed to provide an in-depth look at programming. However, POTF was asked to comment on the need for a Teen Center, based largely on the consultant's experience with park and recreation agencies throughout California and on the consultant's analysis of community input and resources. City experience and research has demonstrated a need to locate services for middle and high school students on school sites. The availability of such facilities is often a challenge as there is limited space available at schools.

Public involvement efforts revealed that Sunnyvale residents generally support the concept of a dedicated space for teenagers—especially age-relevant programming. However, funding was an overarching concern and many respondents suggested utilizing existing facilities for this type of activity rather than dedicated resources to a new, freestanding teen facility. The POTF consultants concluded that while there is a need for teen space and programming, there is not a pressing need for a stand-alone teen center. Services could be dispersed throughout the city in multi-purpose park buildings. Renovations and upgrades would be required to make these facilities suitable for such programming.

Golf

National trends show that golf participation has continued to decline nationally and locally in the past 5 years. This is consistent with accepted industry analysis that golf performance follows the economy by one year. However, it is notable that combined operations at Sunnyvale Golf Course and Sunken Gardens Golf Course financially outperform most public golf courses in the area.

Based on the trend data, the POTF consultants were asked to take a look at golf in Sunnyvale to begin a preliminary evaluation of whether the City needed two golf courses – both the 18-hole Sunnyvale Golf Course and the 9-hole Sunken Gardens Golf Course with a driving range. A discussion regarding the future of the Sunken Gardens Golf Course raised concerns among some residents who do not want to see it redeveloped for an alternate recreation use. In the public involvement activities, many participants indicated a strong support for the continued operation of Sunken Gardens Golf Course.

Residents value this course as an irreplaceable asset, and the course ranks favorably against other 9-hole courses in the Bay Area. The course supports a significant number of rounds of golf (more than 64,500 rounds annually), generates a significant amount of money that is used to support other recreation programs, and houses the City's only driving range. Driving ranges or other practice facilities are essential components for any full-service golf operation. The 9-hole course particularly caters to beginners and those who are physically limited from playing an 18-hole course.

The POTF study concluded that the need for this second course still exists. While Sunken Gardens offers an oasis of green space in this section of the City, it does not serve the function of a neighborhood park. If, in the future, combined play at both Sunken Gardens and Sunnyvale Golf Courses declines so much that the entirety of need could be accommodated at one course, the POTF study concluded there may be potential to redevelop Sunken Gardens, at which time the City could look at a variety of options to serve both neighborhood and community recreation needs. Were that to happen, it would be important to relocate the driving range to Sunnyvale Golf Course, if some practice area or warm up area had not already been developed there. The POTF study suggested that Sunnyvale Golf Course could benefit from a driving range and warm up facilities, even assuming the continuation of golf operations at Sunken Gardens.

Outdoor Education and Active Recreation

Based on public involvement findings active outdoor sports and recreational activities were cited as the top leisure activity by residents. While recognizing that significant programming in the area of active outdoor recreation already exists (e.g., sports camps; swimming lessons and lap swim; tennis lessons;

agreements to allow youth sport league play, etc.), public input may indicate that there are opportunities for increased programming or for the addition of amenities in park to promote active recreation.

A top community need identified through the POTF study is for outdoor recreation and environmental interpretation. Currently, there are limited opportunities to participate in outdoor nature programming in Sunnyvale. The POTF consultants felt Baylands Park has the capacity to help meet those needs and that there was great potential at Baylands to increase interpretive signage and to serve as a living classroom for environmental education. Addition of a nature center/classroom could support environmental education and would allow for nature camps and classes. Any changes or additions to Baylands would need to be considered in the context of the City's agreement with the County, and would need to be consistent with County policies and vision for the site.

An upcoming Study Issue will consider opportunities for increased active recreation programming and amenities at Baylands Park. Outdoor active recreation facilities can be integrated into other types of parks as well, particularly proposed new community parks, new and existing neighborhood parks and, where applicable, mini parks. For example, skate spots (smaller skateboarding opportunities), BMX tracks, and similar facilities are desired by the community and would be appropriate at community parks.

West Hill, South Hill and Recycle Hill of the Closed Sunnyvale Landfill

The 2006 Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element for the first time included the West Hill, Recycle Hill and South Hill, all portions of the closed Sunnyvale Landfill, in the City's open space acreage totals, and described them as "Special Use Areas". From an organizational standpoint, these three sites are maintained by the Department of Public Works in its capacity as solid waste manager. Public Works has opened the sites to on-trail pedestrian and bicycle access and promotes other recreational activities including birdwatching on the site with the help of Audubon Society volunteers, which helps to address some of the demand for outdoor education and recreation as identified through the public involvement efforts of the POTF study.

The POTF study suggested that the areas could be used to expand regional park offerings, and that there are opportunities for programming the area for recreational use. That use would need to be consistent with the regulatory restrictions that apply to this landfill (which closed in 1993) and its role as habitat for the locally-endangered burrowing owl and other wildlife species. While there is not a pressing need for regional open space, as compared to other types of open space, the closed landfills represent an underutilized open space resource. To date, the Department of Community Services has not taken an active role in exploring how these three sites could be used to address the

open space and recreational needs of the community and have not actively promoted the opportunities that do exist, since responsibility for maintaining and managing the sites currently falls within the purview of the Department of Public Works. There may be benefits that could accrue to the community of working with Public Works staff to explore future maintenance, programming and planning issues for these sites.

Trails

Public involvement efforts indicated that walking and biking are popular and important activities for Sunnyvale residents, who desire improved and increased greenways and trails. In addition, the park access analysis indicated that park access is a challenge in Sunnyvale. There are, however, somewhat limited opportunities for new, off-road trails. Although there are a number of ways to remedy gaps in park access, increased interconnectivity in Sunnyvale is needed. Trails and pathways can help connect parks to other key destinations in Sunnyvale, including schools, special use areas, commercial areas, transportation hubs, and residential nodes, among others.

Given the increasing popularity of trail use, there are efforts to increase greenbelts and trails connections throughout Sunnyvale. Three bicycle-pedestrian bridges over freeways are currently under construction. These will enhance north-south connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists. A further connection links the eastern end of the John W. Christian Greenbelt to the Calabazas Creek Trail.

Based on this information, it will be important to coordinate with the Department of Public Works to ensure that bike lanes throughout the City connect parks, neighborhoods and schools. The City can also look at ways to:

- Improve Bay Trail connections and signage.
- Improve connections and access to Stevens Creek Trail and Calabazas Creek Trail.
- Coordinate with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to gain access to canal Rights of Way for the Sunnyvale East and West Channels.
- Work with PG&E to continue to explore the possibility of developing trails and mini parks along PG&E Rights of Ways.
- Ensure that loop pathways are provided at all new and redeveloped community parks, along with special use sites where appropriate.

Maintaining Water Features

During the course of the POTF study, significant resident feedback was received regarding the Council's decision, due to budgetary constraints, to decrease service levels, filling all ponds/streams at Braly, Las Palmas and Serra parks only during the months of June to September yearly. Council's rationale was that ornamental water features are provided for aesthetic or beautification purposes and are not health/safety or utilitarian in purpose. So,

funding for these aesthetic elements was decreased to help provide funding in other services including those for youth, seniors and economically challenged. Due to the nature of the property and the broader community focus, Council determined that the ponds at the Community Center would remain filled and in service on a year-round basis.

Generally speaking the Parks of the Future project did not address day to day operational issues, but was focused more on long range planning. However, many residents felt that priority should be given to ensuring that existing parks and existing park features are fully funded and kept operational before the City puts money into new development or amenities. Others felt, that from an environmental standpoint, that the City should consider redesigning these ornamental water features.

Policy Direction

The following are a compilation of potential new policies for consideration as additions to existing Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element policies. A brief discussion of each policy is included.

Utilize Design and Development Guidelines (Attachment A) for all park types within the City's open space system.

As noted earlier in this Discussion section, design and development guidelines, while not intended to be applied absolutely, allowing for site-specific variations, provide an objective tool to evaluate existing open space sites and to plan for new development in order to ensure both appropriate and equitable amenities throughout the open space system.

Mitigate as feasible the open space need in areas identified as underserved through the acquisition of new parkland and/or the addition of amenities in order to bring sites in line with Design and Development Guidelines.

The Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element already has a policy stating: Support the acquisition of existing open space within the City limits as long as financially feasible. This proposed policy would specifically target actions intended to address the needs of underserved areas, whether that area is underserved due to amount of available open space or due to availability of amenities called for in the Design Guidelines to ensure equity.

In applying the Park Dedication requirements for new development, place a priority on acquiring land over in-lieu payment, particularly when the development is in areas identified as underserved and/or when the land is of sufficient size or can be combined with other land dedication to form larger Mini Parks or Neighborhood Parks.

Given the scarcity of undeveloped open space available for purchase throughout the City and the fact that the LOS will decrease as the population increases unless new open space is added, land acquired through park

dedication may be the City's best means of acquiring land in many situations. This benefit can be further maximized if the City is able to identify where individual developments that are adjacent to each other where there is the potential to combine land from multiple park dedications, allowing for larger overall sites to meet greater needs. This policy direction is consistent with the language in the park dedication requirements of the Municipal Code (Chapter 18.10 and Chapter 19.74) which places a priority on park dedication (over payment of the in-lieu fee). It should be noted that a separate alternative of raising the standard within the Park Dedication Ordinance from 1.25 acres per 1,000 residents to 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents and the resulting increase in land (or in-lieu fees) that would come to the City is discussed in the Fiscal Impact section of this RTC.

Place a priority on ensuring that each site has the minimum resources identified in the Design Guidelines for its park classification before adding new amenities over and above the minimum required resources for the park classification.

The Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element already has policies in place giving priority to acquisition and development of resources where the need is greatest and where the greatest number of people will benefit, among others. This proposed policy would help to ensure equity of resources throughout the City by tying capital improvement projects in with the Design Guidelines and to help ensure a basic level of service is provided City-wide, without big differences in equity.

If amenities are no longer needed (e.g., due to fiscal constraints, environmental reasons, change in community needs) give strong consideration to redesigning, the amenity to serve community needs.

Over time, in any park system, community needs change, and what was once a desired feature may no longer be optimally used. In Sunnyvale, examples of this include a handful of fire pits and amphitheaters which are rarely used. Other amenities, such as ornamental water features, may still be desirable from a resident standpoint, but are not supported for budgetary or environmental reasons and are unused for a significant portion of the year. Redesign of these amenities may provide opportunities to serve a greater number of people, and provide for more usable and attractive parks.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adoption of any of the alternatives contained in this RTC for the most part will not have direct fiscal impact on the City. While the POTF study did generate some new capital projects for consideration, these were brought before Council for consideration as part of the City's complete budget package and prioritized in relation to open space capital projects already identified. Policy initiatives adopted or influenced as a result of the POTF project will help to guide City staff in achieving Council priorities.

As part of the Parks of the Future Plan funding options were developed by a sub-consultant specializing in municipal finance. Willdan Financial Services identified funding sources for proposed park and recreation facilities and projects using potential revenues from existing and alternative revenue sources. This Fiscal Impact section, therefore, focuses on these funding options the City could pursue. In most instances, should Council wish to pursue the potential funding option, additional study or Council action would be required before implementation could occur.

New Operating Costs

Any new development (e.g., adding new acreage or intensification of use) will have new operating costs associated with it. For planning purposes, \$16,122 is used as an estimate of how much it costs to maintain an acre of parkland annually. The actual cost could vary up or down depending on a number of factors, including the type of amenities included on the site and economies of scale. If the City were able to acquire and develop an additional 157 acres of open space over the course of the 20-year planning period in order to maintain a LOS of 5.34 acres per 1,000, that would equate to an additional \$2,531,154 in annual operating costs.

Current Funding

The City of Sunnyvale has a policy to use Park Dedication funds before other City funding sources for parks and recreation capital and infrastructure improvement projects, including projects at the golf courses and Tennis Center. As grant funds are available, they are also used. Over the past five years, the City has spent approximately \$17 million on parks projects, an average of \$3.5 million annually.

New Funding Options

There are a number of fees and charges and special programs that can be implemented in order to maintain a source of development and construction monies to support parks and recreation facilities as the City's population grows and demand for open space increases. Several of these programs are described below:

Benefit Assessment District

Benefit assessment districts allow for the imposition of annual benefit assessments on property owners commensurate with the annual costs of an identified special benefit to that property. Benefit assessments are often imposed as a condition of approval for development projects, similar to land dedication requirements and development impact fees. The key difference is that benefit assessments allow for an ongoing revenue stream and therefore make them more suitable to fund ongoing maintenance and operations costs. Unlike one-time fees paid by the developer, the funding burden falls on future property owners.

Benefit assessment districts have certain requirements that limit, but not eliminate, their applicability to the Sunnyvale Parks of the Future Plan.

- Benefit assessments can only fund facilities or services that provide a special benefit to a distinct group of property owners. Special benefits must be in addition to any general benefits accruing to all properties in a jurisdiction. An increase in property value alone does not qualify as a special benefit.
- Property owners must approve a benefit assessment by majority vote and can repeal an existing benefit assessment using an initiative process unless the assessment is funding repayment of debt.

Alternative Park Fee Standards

Park facility standards establish a reasonable relationship between new development and the need for expanded park facilities. Facility standards for parks are typically expressed as a ratio of park facilities per 1,000 residents. In general, facility standards may be based on the Mitigation Fee act (using a city's existing inventory of park facilities), or an adopted policy standard contained in a general plan. Facility standards may also be based on a land dedication standard established by the Quimby Act (California Government Code 66477).

Parks and Open Space Dedication

The City Municipal Code Title 18 (Subdivisions) Chapter 18.10: Parks and Open Space Dedication requires developers of specified subdivisions to either dedicate a certain amount of land equivalent to 1.25 acres per additional 1,000 new residents for recreation and open space purposes or to pay an in-lieu fee equivalent to the cost of purchasing the corresponding required acreage. City Municipal Code Title 19 (Zoning) Chapter 19.74: Park Dedication Fees for Rental Housing Projects makes the determination that multifamily/rental housing developments also have a significant effect on the use and availability of parks and recreation space and facilities, and has a similar requirement for apartment developments. Although not covered under the Quimby Act, it was designed to parallel the mitigation requirement in the subdivision code.

The City of Sunnyvale's current facility standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 of the population, as established in both Chapters 18.10 and 19.74 is significantly lower than the minimum standard allowed under the Quimby Act, which is 3.0 acres per 1,000 of the population. Very few cities elect to impose a parkland dedication in-lieu fee below the minimum standard allowed under Quimby.

The following table shows the current park standards in the cities neighboring Sunnyvale. Although park standards cannot be justified on the basis of how a City's adopted standard compares to those of its neighbors, this table provides a

valuable context that can inform policymakers should they chose to raise the City's adopted park standard.

Comparison of Current Park Standards

Location	Park Standard (Acres per 1,000 residents)
Campbell	3.00
Cupertino	3.00
Mountain View	3.00
Palo Alto	1.34
San Jose	3.00
Santa Clara (no ordinance, but negotiate on a project by project basis)	2.50
Sunnyvale	1.25

The Quimby Act specifies facility standards to use for parkland dedication between a minimum of 3 acres and a maximum of 5 acres per 1,000 population. However, under the Quimby Act, the City would be held to a maximum facility standard of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents, without a study. This is because the City's 2000 park standard (as of the last Census) does not justify a higher level (even if the City adopts as a standard the current LOS of 5.34 acres per 1,000).

Raising the parkland dedication fee standard from 1.25 acres to the Quimby Act's stated minimum standard of 3.0 acres (but also maximum allowable for City as noted above) per 1,000 residents can be done without conducting a nexus study, but would require amending the existing ordinance. If the City increased its facility standard to the standard of 3.0 acres per 1,000 of the population, it could significantly increase acreage and/or revenue received from the parkland dedication in-lieu fee.

The in-lieu fee is calculated based on a formula and is adopted annually as part of the City's fee schedule. Currently, for FY2008/2009 the fee is based on \$96.00/square foot of land, which is equivalent to \$96.00*43,560 sq. ft. = \$4,181,760 per acre. This means that when the in-lieu option of the Park Dedication regulation is applied, the City collects \$5,227,200 for every 1,000 residents coming into the residential development (at the equivalent cost of 1.25 acres per 1,000 residents). Therefore, if the standard was raised to 3.00 acres, the City would instead collect \$12,545,280 for each additional 1,000 residents.

The following table shows estimated 20-year aggregated revenue as included in the FY2008/2009 Resource Allocation Plan from the parkland dedication in-lieu fee under the current standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 population. Using

the same assumptions of amount of new development and fair market value of residential property, an estimate is made of what that aggregated revenue would be if the standard were increased from 1.25 to 3.0 acres per 1,000 population. It is worth remembering that actual revenue received could increase or decrease, depending on a number of factors, including the standard applied, actual fair market value of residential land over the course of the 20-year planning period and whether or not the in-lieu option is exercised or if, instead, the City requires dedication of land.

Comparison of Projected Revenue from Park Dedication In-Lieu Fees Depending on Adopted Standard – FY 2007/2008 – FY 2027/2028

Estimated Park Dedication Fees FY 2007/2008 to FY 2027/2028		
	Existing Park Dedication Standard (1.25 acres/1,000)	Increased Park Dedication Standard (3.0 acres/1,000)
Total	\$24,721,351	\$59,331,242
Difference		\$34,609,891

Development Impact Fees

The Mitigation Fee Act does not dictate use of a particular type or level of facility standard for public facilities fees. To comply with the findings required for mitigation fees under State law, facility standards must not burden new development with any cost associated with facility deficiencies (such as operations and routine maintenance). A simple and clearly defensible approach to calculate a facility standard is to use the City’s existing ratio of park acreage per 1,000 residents. Under this approach, new development is required to fund new park facilities at the same level as existing residents have provided those same types of facilities to date. Sunnyvale has adopted “mitigation fees” for multi-family rental (3 or more attached dwelling units) developments using the same standard as the Quimby Act park dedication requirements.

In contrast to fees paid pursuant to the Quimby Act, fees adopted pursuant to the Mitigation Fee Act may be more expansive in terms of their applicability to new development. Fees adopted pursuant to the Mitigation Fee Act can apply to all new development, not just subdivisions as allowed under the Quimby Act. The fee could apply to development on land that has already been subdivided prior to adoption of the fee, such as development on infill lots, as well as multi-family development on single parcels.

The City could modify park development impact fees and apply it to a broader base (e.g. single-family and duplex infill development). It could be restructured to be calculated based on square footage or number of bedrooms, rather than dwelling units. It might also be modified to apply to additions to existing housing.

Development Impact Fees are derived from a facility standard that establishes a reasonable relationship between new development and the need for expanded park facilities. In order for the City to impose a new or revised Development Impact Fee, under the Mitigation Fee Act, the City would need to determine if an impact fee nexus study is required and to further analyze facility standards and set fee levels.

If the City implemented a revised parks impact fee under the Mitigation Fee Act, it would need to coordinate the impact fee with the existing or any increased parkland dedication in-lieu fee. The City would likely give developers of residential subdivisions or multifamily rental housing projects who dedicate parkland under park dedication requirements an acre-for-acre credit against the land component of the park impact fee (imposed under the Mitigation Fee Act). The City could still charge developers of residential subdivisions or multifamily rental housing projects the improvements portion of the impact fee (unless the developers dedicate improved park facilities).

Because the parkland dedication in-lieu fee and any impact fee would have some overlap, the projected revenues for increasing the standard to 3.00 acres per 1,000 residents under the Park Dedication regulations and adopting an impact fee cannot be added together.

Special Taxes

The feasibility of a bond measure, parcel or sales tax could be considered. Passage of such taxes would require voter approval, and therefore should be structured to appeal as broadly as possible to the greater Sunnyvale community. Tax measures may be most effective for additional park rehabilitation funding, including refurbishment of geographically dispersed neighborhood parks and for facilities of particular historical importance or city wide appeal.

Sales Tax

A sales tax is a jurisdiction-wide excise tax, in this case imposed on retail sales transactions within the jurisdiction. Voters can elect to increase the sales tax in one-eighth cent increments. The sales tax is a broad-based, steady, and flexible funding source. An increase in the sales tax for general uses requires voter approval by a simple majority. For a special sales tax, two-thirds voter approval is required.

Due to its recognized long-term stability as a revenue source (acknowledging the current economic climate where there has been a precipitous drop in sales tax as auto sales and other business to business sales have dropped), sales tax revenue could be used as security for bond financing. Any percentage increase in the sales tax can be used to pay for a sales tax revenue bond that

funds parks and recreation capital facilities. The potential revenue to be realized from such a bond issuance will be further analyzed in the Financial Plan and Funding Strategy.

General Obligation Bond

Another alternative source of funding for parks capital facilities is general obligation bond supported by the City's assessed value. General obligation bonds are supported by a tax on the assessed value of all property within a jurisdiction. The main advantage to issuing a general obligation bond is the high revenue potential backed by a reliable revenue source (assessed value of property).

Parcel Tax

Parcel taxes are a type of excise tax on the use of property. A great advantage of a parcel tax is its flexible use of revenues. Widely used throughout the state, these taxes are adopted as a special tax dedicated to specific purposes. All special taxes require two-thirds voter approval. Thus, the greatest challenge for this funding source is gaining voter approval. Parcel taxes are usually levied as a flat amount per parcel with variances by major land use category. The parcel tax must not be correlated with assessed value to avoid being considered a property tax subject to the constraints of Proposition 13. The parcel tax on a specific property need not be correlated with the benefit received by that property from the expenditure of tax revenues.

Establish a "Friends" organization

"Friends of Parks and Recreation" organizations are usually non-profit, community-based groups that can complement the fundraising goals of the Department while providing an ongoing venue for resident participation in and support of Parks and Recreation development activities. In jurisdictions around the country local "Friends of Parks and Recreation" organizations have focused their philanthropic efforts on fund-raising to help maintain parks and open space and preserve special amenities within their local parks areas. Friends groups can also assist by promoting the City's parks and programs as well as planning and developing special events in the Community, and researching and applying for grant funds in support of special projects and recreation or educational programs.

Friends groups should not be seen as a quick or guaranteed means of raising funds. They require significant investment of time to develop relationships and to create ownership by the group. By definition, Friends groups need to be independent (although they ideally have strong ties to the larger organization) and need to form independently, meaning that while staff can remain open to the idea of working with a Friends group, the initiative needs to start with the community.

Rental Revenue/Selling Properties

The City owns several properties that are currently used as rental properties and are included in the Sunnyvale Proposed 20-Year Capital Improvement Plan as future or expanded park sites. These sites include the Fair Oaks Industrial Complex, which consists of five buildings of warehouse/industrial rental units located at 1010 to 1024 Morse Avenue, three houses located on Garner Street adjacent to Orchard Gardens Park, and three houses located on Jackson Street adjacent to Murphy Park. The rental revenue from the Fair Oaks Industrial Complex is budgeted at \$950,000 for fiscal year 2009-2010. This revenue currently supports the City’s General Fund. The 20-year RAP decreases and then discontinues the rental revenue for the Fair Oaks Industrial Complex beginning in FY2010/2011. The rental revenue for the parksite housing supports the Park Dedication Fund and is budgeted at \$104,595 in FY2009/2010 and is discontinued beginning in FY2011/1012

If the City elected to maintain the properties as rentals, it could designate the rental revenue for parks improvement projects. Table 20 shows the revenue projected from the rental properties if the City maintained them as rental properties through 2028.

Potential Rental Revenue, 2008-2028

	Projected Rental Revenue (2008-2028)	
Parksite Housing	\$	2,605,000
Fair Oaks Industrial Park		32,594,000
Total	\$	35,199,000

Sources: City of Sunnyvale; Willdan Financial Services.

As shown in the table above, if the City maintains the sites as rental properties, the City would collect an estimated \$35 million from the rental properties that could be designated for parks capital projects. If the City chooses to develop the properties as parks it would not receive rental revenue and would incur the costs of developing and maintaining the park sites.

Alternatively, as noted in the earlier section regarding parksite housing, the City could sell the properties and receive a one-time revenue gain which could be used to fund other park and open space priorities. A rough estimate of what the City might stand to gain by selling the six houses adjacent to Orchard Gardens Park and Murphy Park is \$2,790,000.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public Contact was made through posting of the Parks and Recreation Commission's agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board, on the City's Web site, and the availability of the agenda and report in the Office of the City Clerk. The report was also made available at the Library, Community Services Administration, Community Center and Senior Center.

A Joint Study Session with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council was held on November 27, 2007, as well as on September 9, 2008.

The Parks and Recreation Commission conducted a public hearing on this item at their meeting on June 24, 2009.

Significant public contact and involvement occurred during the course of the POTF project itself.

- **Community Intercept Events:** at the fall 2007 Pancake Breakfast, the 2008 Health and Safety Fair, and Sunnyvale Hands on the Arts event, with 179 people completing surveys.
- **Focus Groups:** Four focus groups were conducted in March 2008 with members of key stakeholder groups in Sunnyvale. These meetings and their number of participants (noted in parentheses) are included: Arts and Cultural Institutions (4), Neighborhood Associations (7), Youth and Adult Sports Groups (22) and General Stakeholders (6).
Community Questionnaire: Administered online from January-February 2008 with hard copies made available at various Department facilities during early 2008 (800 respondents).
- **Telephone Survey:** A random-digit dial, statistically valid survey was administered in November 2007 by a public opinion research firm, Godbe Research (403 respondents).
- **Community Workshops:** Fifty people participated in a workshop July 24, 2008 to comment on draft recommendations and the draft Mission, Vision and Goals the Community Workshop. Twenty people participated in a second workshop was held September 18, 2008, providing an opportunity for public comment on priorities for development and funding strategies.
- **Townsquare™:** Members of the public were invited to submit open comments regarding any issue through the project's website, www.parksofthefuture.com. 30 written comments received through the website.
- **50+ emails and phone calls** were received regarding water in the City's existing ornamental ponds.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt as a target to maintain an open space Level of Service (LOS) of 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents.
2. Identify the Morse Avenue site as a high priority for development as a Neighborhood Park.
3. Direct staff to sell Orchard Gardens parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
4. Direct staff to sell Murphy Park parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
5. Adopt as priorities for acquisition and development of new open space the following areas:
 1. Morse/Tasman (includes ITR 7 & 8)
 2. East Evelyn (includes ITR 4)
 3. Acalanes/Iowa (Between western border of Sunnyvale and Mary Avenue, between El Camino and Evelyn)
 4. Downtown
 5. Community Center area
 6. East Sunnyvale ITR
6. Direct staff to actively identify land for acquisition and development, with particular emphasis on areas identified as priorities for new open space.
7. Direct staff to revisit City/School Use Agreements and look for opportunities to expand and/or redefine the existing partnerships to best meet the City's needs.
8. Direct Department of Community Services staff and Department of Public Works staff to work together to develop a long-term plan for the recreational use of the West Hill, Recycle Hill and South Hill portions of the Sunnyvale Landfill.
9. Direct Department of Community Services staff and Department of Public Works staff to explore the potential for new off-street trails and coordination of on-street bike connections.
10. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Utilize Design and Development Guidelines (Attachment A) for all park types within the City's open space system.
11. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Mitigate as feasible the open space need in areas identified as underserved through the acquisition of new parkland and/or the addition of amenities in order to bring sites in line with Design and Development Guidelines.

12. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): In applying the Park Dedication requirements for new development, place a priority on acquiring land over in-lieu payment, particularly when the development is in areas identified as underserved and/or when the land is of sufficient size or can be combined with other land dedication to form larger Mini Parks or Neighborhood Parks.
13. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Place a priority on ensuring that each site has the minimum resources identified in the Design Guidelines for its park classification before adding new amenities over and above the minimum required resources for the park classification.
14. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): If amenities are no longer needed (e.g., due to fiscal constraints, environmental reasons, change in community needs) give strong consideration to redesigning the amenity to serve community needs.
15. Direct staff to prepare an amendment to Sunnyvale Municipal Code Chapter 18.10 and Chapter 19.74 relating to park dedication and in-lieu fees to change the facility standard to 3.0 acres per 1,000 population from its current standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 population, in accordance with Fee Mitigation Act Requirements. (Note: Under the Quimby Act, 3.0 acres is the maximum rate the City could impose without a study, even though the City's current open space Level of Service (LOS) is higher at 5.34 acres per 1,000 population.)
16. Direct staff to further explore the feasibility of establishing expanded or modified Development Impact Fees under the Mitigation Fee Act.
17. Direct staff to maintain Orchard Gardens parksite housing as rental properties and use the rental revenue to fund other park and open space priorities.
18. Direct staff to maintain Murphy Park parksite housing as rental properties and use the rental revenue to fund other park and open space priorities.
19. Direct staff to pursue plans for use of Orchard Gardens parksite housing for park expansion purposes.
20. Direct staff to attempt to acquire additional needed Murphy Park parksite housing in order to be able to proceed with a park expansion plan.
21. Other alternatives as identified by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends Alternatives:

1. **Adopt as a target to maintain an open space Level of Service (LOS) of 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents. (Staff Priority)**
2. Identify the Morse Avenue site as a high priority for development as a Neighborhood Park.
3. Direct staff to sell Orchard Gardens parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
4. Direct staff to sell Murphy Park parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
5. Adopt as priorities for acquisition and development of new open space the following areas:
 1. Morse/Tasman (includes ITR 7 & 8)
 2. East Evelyn (includes ITR 4)
 3. Acalanes/Iowa (Between western border of Sunnyvale and Mary Avenue, between El Camino and Evelyn)
 4. Downtown
 5. Community Center area
 6. East Sunnyvale ITR
6. Direct staff to actively identify land for acquisition and development, with particular emphasis on areas identified as priorities for new open space.
7. Direct staff to revisit City/School Use Agreements and look for opportunities to expand and/or redefine the existing partnerships to best meet the City's needs.
8. Direct Department of Community Services staff and Department of Public Works staff to work together to develop a long-term plan for the recreational use of the West Hill, Recycle Hill and South Hill portions of the Sunnyvale Landfill.
9. Direct Department of Community Services staff and Department of Public Works staff to explore the potential for new off-street trails and coordination of on-street bike connections.
10. **Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Utilize Design and Development Guidelines (Attachment A) for all park types within the City's open space system. (Staff Priority)**
11. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Mitigate as feasible the open space need in areas identified as underserved through the acquisition of new parkland and/or the addition of amenities in order to bring sites in line with Design and Development Guidelines.

12. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): In applying the Park Dedication requirements for new development, place a priority on acquiring land over in-lieu payment, particularly when the development is in areas identified as underserved and/or when the land is of sufficient size or can be combined with other land dedication to form larger Mini Parks or Neighborhood Parks.
13. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Place a priority on ensuring that each site has the minimum resources identified in the Design Guidelines for its park classification before adding new amenities over and above the minimum required resources for the park classification.
14. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): If amenities are no longer needed (e.g., due to fiscal constraints, environmental reasons, change in community needs) give strong consideration to redesigning the amenity to serve community needs.
15. **Direct staff to prepare an amendment to Sunnyvale Municipal Code Chapter 18.10 and Chapter 19.74 relating to park dedication and in-lieu fees to change the facility standard to 3.0 acres per 1,000 population from its current standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 population, in accordance with Fee Mitigation Act Requirements. (Note: Under the Quimby Act, 3.0 acres is the maximum rate the City could impose without a study, even though the City's current open space Level of Service (LOS) is higher at 5.34 acres per 1,000 population.) (Staff Priority)**
16. Direct staff to further explore the feasibility of establishing expanded or modified Development Impact Fees under the Mitigation Fee Act.

Staff is recommending a number of alternatives, with particular emphasis on three priority areas: Alternatives No. 1, 10 and 15. Sunnyvale has an excellent and highly valued open space system. However, within that system of parks, school sites and special use facilities, some parts of the City are better served than others. Additionally, as the City continues to grow in population over the coming decades, the City's level of service for provision of parks will decline unless the City aggressively looks for opportunities to acquire and develop additional open space. By adopting as a target a Level of Service of 5.34 to be maintained throughout the 20-year planning period (Alternative No. 1), along with endorsing the six priority areas where need for new open space is the greatest, the City will retain the focus it needs to spot opportunities for land acquisition through purchase, land dedication or partnership.

The proposed amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to adopt the Design and Development Guidelines (Alternative No. 10 and Attachment A) provide an objective way to evaluate Sunnyvale's existing park

sites to determine gaps in service, as well as a planning tool for new development. This amendment, in conjunction with the other proposed amendments, represent further emphasis on the direction the City can take to help insure that adequate open space is available and that equity is ensured throughout the open space system.

One tool immediately available to the City in its efforts to acquire open space in conjunction with new development of homes within sub-divisions is its Park Dedication requirements in Title 18 (Subdivisions) and Title 19 (Zoning). Staff's third priority area relates to these requirements. The current standard used in these regulations of 1.25 acres per 1,000 residents is significantly lower than both what the enabling legislation sets as the minimum standard (3.0 acres) and what the rest of the cities in Santa Clara County have adopted. As long as the City maintains its inexplicably low standard, it will disproportionately lose ground in maintaining its current City-wide Level of Service of 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents. Staff believe it is desirable to act immediately to raise the standard in these regulations to 3.0 in order to capture any new development that may occur at this higher rate pending completion of additional study that would be needed before the Development Impact Fees charged under the Mitigation Fee Act could be modified or expanded. A nexus study is required before any further increase in the acreage standard in these regulations per 1,000 population can be adopted. There are also numerous complexities with how the Mitigation Fee Act can be applied that point to the desirability of taking a more comprehensive look at what Sunnyvale hopes to achieve with Development Impact Fees and what options are therefore available to the City.

While the parksite housing adjacent to Murphy Park and Orchard Gardens Parks represents open space at a time when the City is saying it has a need for additional open space, neither site is in an area identified as being underserved, and the combined acreage at both sites of just over ½ acre will not significantly help the City reach its goal. The proceeds that could be gained, however, from the sale of these properties could have a significant impact on the City's ability to either purchase land in an area of higher need or to complete capital improvement projects that will benefit large numbers of people. In contrast, development of the Morse Avenue site into a neighborhood park, as is proposed in the City's 2009/2010 Resource Allocation Plan, would be a significant step in addressing a priority area of need.

Finally, the closed landfills are currently an underutilized open space resource for the community. For this and trails, cross departmental planning and coordination can help to ensure opportunities and issues are addressed in a fashion that best benefits the community.

Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendations

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing on this matter on June 24, 2009. (Please see Attachment D: Excerpt from the Draft Minutes of the June 24, 2009, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.) Two members of the public requested that Council be asked to direct staff to work with Mountain View on access to and potential uses of the open space belonging to Mountain View east of Hwy 85 adjacent to the Stevens Creek. The Commission voted unanimously 4-0 (Commissioner Chuck absent) to recommend Council adopt Alternatives 1-16, with emphasis on Alternatives #1, 10 and 15.

1. **Adopt as a target to maintain an open space Level of Service (LOS) of 5.34 acres per 1,000 residents. (Commission Priority)**
2. Identify the Morse Avenue site as a high priority for development as a Neighborhood Park.
3. Direct staff to sell Orchard Gardens parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
4. Direct staff to sell Murphy Park parksite housing and use the proceeds from the sale of the properties to fund other park and open space priorities.
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9. Direct Department of Community Services staff and Department of Public Works staff to explore the potential for new off-street trails and coordination of on-street bike connections.
10. **Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Utilize Design and Development Guidelines (Attachment A) for all park types within the City's open space system. (Commission Priority)**

11. Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): Mitigate as feasible the open space need in areas identified as underserved through the acquisition of new parkland and/or the addition of amenities in order to bring sites in line with Design and Development Guidelines.
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16. Direct staff to further explore the feasibility of establishing expanded or modified Development Impact Fees under the Mitigation Fee Act.

Reviewed by:

David A. Lewis, Director, Community Services
Prepared by: Jenny L. Shain, Manager, Special Projects

Mary J. Bradley, Director, Finance

Hanson Hom, Director, Community Development

Marvin A. Rose, Director, Public Works

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbers
City Manager

Attachments

- A. Design and Development Guidelines
- B. Sunnyvale Parks of the Future Plan (including Appendices), November 2008.
Prepared by Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG). *Plan is not attached to this report. For information, contact Department of Community Services at (408) 730-7517.*
- C. Map Depicting Priority Areas in Need of Park Access
- D. Excerpt from the Draft Minutes of the June 24, 2009, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

ATTACHMENT A – Design and Development Guidelines

Design and development guidelines provide a starting point for working with the community regarding the types of amenities and facilities that should be provided in parks and open space. Design and development guidelines are not created with the intent to apply a cookie-cutter approach to park planning and design. All parks and open space should be developed to respond to the unique needs and character of the park environment and the residents using the sites. The specific constraints and opportunities of each site, along with specific needs of the community, get balanced against these guidelines, which help to ensure equity and consistency across the open space system. The **“Minimum Resources”** column identifies the basic resources that should be in all parks of that classification. The **“May Include Additional Resources”** column identifies resources that are appropriate within parks of that classification if there is space, funding, or community interest. The **“Does Not Include Conflicting Resources”** column identifies resources that are not compatible with a classification’s function.

ATTACHMENT A-1: MINI PARK & NEIGHBORHOOD PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES							
CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Mini Parks	Mini parks are small parks that provide residents with nearby opportunities for recreation activities. Up to 3 acres in size, these parks are designed to serve residents within a ¼-mile walking radius or in the immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Mini parks provide basic neighborhood recreation amenities, like playgrounds, benches, and landscaping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages Contributes to neighborhood identity Provides green space within neighborhoods Contributes to health and wellness Provides opportunities for outdoor recreation in built-out areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-3 acre minimum Street frontage on at least two sides of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMD Site Cannery Park Fairwood Park Greenwood Manor Park Orchard Gardens Park Victory Village Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tot Lot (Ages 2-5) 1-5 Non-reservable picnic tables Trees Open Turf Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s play area (Ages 6-12), Sports courts (1/2 court basketball or single tennis court) Restrooms Shelter, or gazebo Interactive water feature (small-scale) Off-street parking Shade structures for appropriate facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community garden Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) Destination facilities or resources with communitywide draw Full-service recreation centers Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor)
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks provide access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents. These parks are generally 3-8 acres size and serve residents within a ½-mile radius. Neighborhood parks provide informal, non-organized recreation opportunities, enhance neighborhood identity, and preserve neighborhood open space. Neighborhood parks often include amenities such as playgrounds, sport courts, turf areas, picnic tables, and benches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages Contributes to neighborhood identity Provides green space within neighborhoods Provides a space for family and small group gatherings Contributes to health and wellness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-8 acres Street frontage on at least two sides of the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Braly Park Encinal Park Murphy Park Panama Park San Antonio Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tot Lot (Ages 2-5) Children’s play area (Ages 6-12) Non-reservable picnic tables Reservable picnic area Perimeter path or sidewalks Trees At least two active recreation resources (see “May Include” list) Open Turf Area Off-street parking Maintenance Area/Shed/Storage Sports Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose, cricket pitch) Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) Other small-scale active recreation resources (skate spot, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane, lawn bowling, mini skate park) Interactive or ornamental water feature (small-scale) Shelter, or gazebo Par course Neighborhood activity building (multi-purpose) Fire pit Community Garden Restroom Shade structures for appropriate facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destination facilities or resources with communitywide draw Memorials (except for memorial trees or benches) Sports complexes Full-service recreation centers Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor)

ATTACHMENT A-2: COMMUNITY PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Community Parks	Community parks are designed to provide opportunities for structured, active and passive, and informal recreation for small and large groups of all ages. Community parks generally include facilities that attract people from the entire community, such as pools, lighted fields, and recreation centers. They require support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. However, they also serve as neighborhood parks for those living within a ½-mile radius. They provide opportunities for community social activities and are located in areas with good vehicular access. Community parks generally range from 9 to 20 acres in size.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a variety of accessible recreation opportunities for all age groups • Provides opportunities for social and cultural activities • Contributes to community identity • Serves recreation needs of families • Contributes to health and wellness • Connects residents to nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-20 acres • Access from an arterial street • Bus and transit access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Anza Park • Fair Oaks Park • Lakewood Park • Las Palmas Park • Ortega Park • Ponderosa Park • Raynor Park • Serra Park • Washington Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tot Lot (Ages 2-5) • Children’s play area (Ages 6-12) • Non-Reservable Picnic Tables • Reservable Picnic Areas • Internal pathway system, looped walking path preferred • Sports fields (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Sport courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) • Restrooms • Off-street parking • Trees • Open Turf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other active recreation resources (handball/racquetball court, croquet court, disc golf course, fitness stations, tennis backboard, horseshoe pit, shuffleboard lanes, volleyball court, mini skate park, skate park, skating rink, etc...) • Interactive water feature • Swimming pool • Multi-purpose recreation center • Sports complex • Other facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Community garden • Shelter, or gazebo • Shade structures for appropriate facilities • Off-leash dog area • Snack Shacks • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service to support special events • Natural areas • Memorials • Shrub beds • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use trails • Pedestrian trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional-scale facilities (arboretum, botanical garden, zoo, regional sports complex)

ATTACHMENT A-3: SPECIAL USE AREA DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Special Use Areas	Special use areas are freestanding specialized facilities that typically are not incorporated into a park of another type. Special use areas may include, for example, stand-alone community centers, sports complexes, golf courses, skate parks, swimming pools and community gardens. Since special use areas vary widely in function, there is no minimum size for these sites. However, special use areas must be large enough to accommodate the intended use and should include support facilities, such as parking and restrooms, as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides regional or citywide opportunities for recreation, social and cultural activities • Serves recreation and leisure needs of families • May provide other benefits depending on its purpose • Contributes to community identity • Provides attractive grounds surrounding public buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access from an arterial street • Bus and transit access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Street Community Garden • Community Center Campus • Orchard Heritage Park • Orchard adjacent to Tennis Center • Sunnyvale Heritage Center • Fair Oaks Skate Park • Fremont High School • Las Palmas Tennis Center • Peterson Middle School Pool • Sunken Gardens Golf Course • Sunnyvale Golf Course • West Hill, South Hill, and Recycle Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features with a citywide or regional draw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game sports fields – complexes or stadiums (baseball, cricket, football, rugby, soccer, softball, multi-purpose) • Specialized active recreation facilities (indoor tennis center, climbing wall, ice rink, gymnasium) • Specialized cultural and arts facilities (theater, ballroom, dance studio, kiln room, etc...) • Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) • Other recreation resources (skate park, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane, lawn bowling, mini skate park) • Commercial ventures or features • Concessions • Large-scale interactive water feature • Water park or swimming pool complex • Historical or interpretive facilities • Botanical garden or arboretum • Other facilities or resources with communitywide draw • Community garden • Off-leash dog area • Stage/amphitheatre • Infrastructure to support large community events • Natural areas • Memorials • Trees • Maintenance facilities • Multi-use trails, pedestrian trails • Restrooms • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicting resources depend on the purpose of the special use facility

ATTACHMENT A-4: URBAN PLAZA DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Urban Plazas	<p>Urban plazas include local landscaped space gathering areas centrally located within communities such as downtown districts. This type of park is usually smaller than one acre and typically is located in higher density urban areas or along transit corridors. Urban plazas provide social gathering space that often includes benches, landscaping, gathering space, public art, or fountains. Urban plazas can provide gathering spaces and respite for nearby residents and employees, as well as shoppers, transit-users, and recreation users. These sites can provide space for community events, help balance high density development, and communicate neighborhood character.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the day-to-day recreational needs of nearby residents and employees, as well as shoppers, transit-users, and recreationalists • Provides space for community events, such as outdoor concerts or markets • Helps balance high density development • Provides opportunities for public gathering and social activities • Contributes to community identity • Provides opportunities to experience public art, cultural, or social events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size is easily traversed on foot • Should be within or adjacent to a business district or high density housing area • Maintains the street network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaza del Sol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardscape or softscape area of sufficient size to accommodate anticipated use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf area • Playground or play features, • Interactive water feature • Small-scale sporting facilities compatible with an urban site (bocce, basketball, croquet) • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Stage/amphitheatre • Upgraded utility service for special events • Concessions or vendor space • Commercial lease space (restaurant, bookstore, coffee shop, etc.) • Restrooms • Memorials • Trees • Ornamental fountain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-street parking

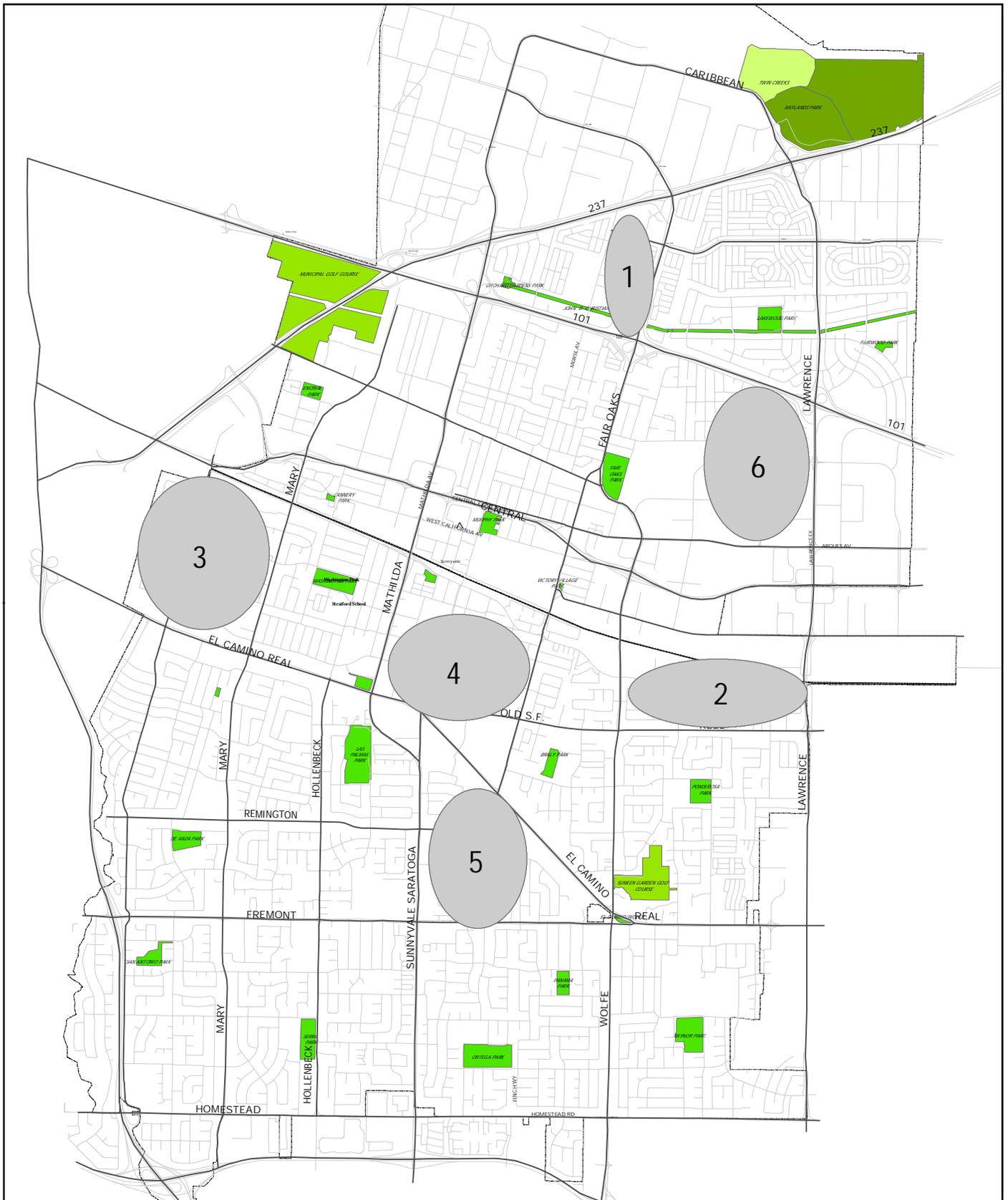
ATTACHMENT A-5: REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DESIGN GUIDELINES							
CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Regional Open Space	Regional Open Space areas are large sites that support a wide range of recreation interests and attract residents from throughout the region. These may include developed recreation areas, as well as wetlands, wildlife habitats, or stream corridors. For this reason, these sites are managed for both their natural resource value as well as for recreational use. Regional open space areas typically include facilities that support large group events, such as picnic shelters, amphitheaters, destination playgrounds, and multi-use fields. These sites also provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opportunities for experiencing nature Provides opportunities for nature-based recreation, such as bird-watching and environmental education Protects valuable natural resources and wildlife Contributes to the environmental health of the community including improving water and air quality Promotes health and wellness Contributes to community identity and quality of life Provides opportunities for large-group activities and social gatherings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100+ acres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunnyvale Baylands Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural areas Non-reservable picnic tables Reservable picnic areas Picnic shelters Restrooms Off-street Parking Tot Lot (Ages 2-5) Children's play area (Ages 6-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrooms Trail or pathway system Trailhead or entry Interpretive signage Viewpoints or viewing blinds Interpretive center, nature center, or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) Shelter, or gazebo Destination playground, with appropriate shade structure Large-group reunion venues Amphitheater Waterplay feature Multi-purpose fields Par course Shade structures for appropriate facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities and landscaping should be appropriate for a diversity of park environments Active-use facilities and natural areas should be separated

ATTACHMENT A-6: GREENBELTS AND TRAILS DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
Greenbelts and Trails	Greenbelts and trails are linear open space that provide off-street trail corridors and/or green buffers within neighborhoods and communities. Greenbelts and trails typically follow features such as streets, abandoned railroad right-of-ways, power lines, or waterways. These corridors often contain hard-surfaced or soft-surfaced trails, along with amenities such as trailheads, viewpoints, seating areas, and interpretive displays. They provide public access to natural features, preserve open space, and can support trail-related recreation and transportation. These corridors serve specific neighborhoods, the entire City, and the Bay area region as well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects parks and other community destinations such as schools and neighborhood shopping areas • Contributes to the environmental health of the community including improving water and air quality • Contributes to community identity and quality of life • Encourages non-motorized transportation, such as walking and biking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size is dependent on corridor length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John W. Christian Greenbelt • Bay Trail • Levee Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural areas • Trail or pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms • Trail or pathway system • Trailhead or entry • Viewpoints or viewing blinds • Interpretive center or educational facilities or classrooms (indoor or outdoor) • Shelter, shade structure or gazebo • Interpretive signage • Off-street parking • Natural areas • Memorials or benches • Shrub beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turf areas • Active use facilities (sports fields, paved courts, etc...) • Any resource that conflicts with the trail use

ATTACHMENT A-7: SCHOOL PARKS DESIGN GUIDELINES

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	BENEFITS	SIZE AND ACCESS	EXAMPLES	MINIMUM RESOURCES	MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	DOES NOT INCLUDE CONFLICTING RESOURCES
School Parks	<p>School parks are school-owned sites, where acreage is maintained through a use agreement by the Department of Parks and Recreation. School park sites range from approximately 3-15 acres in size and typically include facilities that support active recreational pursuits, such as sports fields, jogging tracks, and par courses. In many instances, the adjacent school properties may have recreation facilities that are not currently included in the use agreement. As a collaborative effort between the City and School Districts, some school parks may be jointly designed, developed, and maintained to augment learning environments and help meet community needs for close-to-home recreation opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides additional park resources without the cost of land acquisition Leverages existing resources and infrastructure Adds value to school facilities and provides enhanced opportunities for outdoor learning and physical education, better play environments, and improved active-use facilities through cost-sharing Locates specific types of recreation facilities where they are needed Contributes to the recreation and leisure needs of families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-15 acres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following sites partially meet the school park definition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishop Elementary Braly Elementary Cherry Chase Elementary Columbia Middle Cumberland Elementary Cupertino Junior High De Anza School Ellis Elementary Fairwood Elementary Hollenbeck School Lakewood Elementary Nimitz Elementary Ponderosa Elementary San Miguel Elementary Serra School Stocklmeier Elementary Sunnyvale Middle Vargas Elementary West Valley Elementary School parks are proposed to help meet the needs of some underserved areas noted during the planning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal pathway composed of decomposed granite Appropriate active and passive resources. The type of the school (elementary, middle, or high) should be taken into consideration to determine what facilities are appropriate at specific sites. Par Course Sports field (soccer, baseball, multi-purpose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tot Lot (Ages 2-5), Children’s play area (Ages 6-12) Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court) Additional Sports fields (soccer, baseball, softball, multi-purpose) Jogging path/track Other active recreation amenities (fitness stations, par course, shuffleboard lanes, wall ball or tennis backboard, obstacle course, rock wall (horizontal or vertical), disc golf, etc...) School garden Maze Interactive chess board Sand play area/archeological dig Cave space Vistas and viewpoints Stage/amphitheater Dramatic play area Outdoor lab Shelter/play canopy Moveable props (building blocks, buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, wagons, pulleys, etc...) Storage/Maintenance Area Swimming pool Picnic tables Lighting Restrooms Fencing Water feature/natural area Landscaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Features not appropriate for school sites

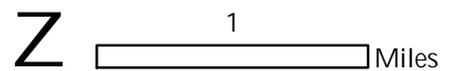


City of Sunnyvale

Priority Areas in Need of Park Access

Reference table on page 18

under Discussion, Access Analysis and Identification of Underserved Areas in Sunnyvale





**DRAFT MINUTES
SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2009**

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission met in special session in City Hall Council Chambers, at 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 at 7 p.m. with Chair Colvin presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Colvin
Vice Chair Richard Oliver
Commissioner Robert Harms
Commissioner Bob Kinder

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Howard Chuck (excused)

Staff Present: Director of Community Services David A. Lewis
Assistant to the Director of Community Services Cathy E. Merrill
Parks Superintendent Curtis Black
Manager Jenny Shain

CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCE

The Commission determined by general consent that Commissioner Chuck's absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION - None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

CONSENT CALENDAR - None

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Consideration of Parks of the Future Study (Council Action 7/14/09)

Assistant to the Director Merrill noted this was a special meeting and introduced Manager Jenny Shain who provided the staff report. Manager Shain covered major areas of the report and incorporated alternatives and staff's recommendations into the relevant sections as they were discussed.

Commissioners opened joint discussion and questions were answered.

Vice Chair Oliver requested clarification regarding staff recommendation No. 10, amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new open space policy. He also noted there are 16 total staff recommendations and 3 high priority recommendations. Manager Shain confirmed that staff is supporting all 16 recommendations. Director Lewis responded that the city manager asked staff to identify their top 3 recommendations which are highlighted in the report. Director Lewis reminded the Commission that they can recommend any of the items listed and/or add any of their own.

Chair Colvin stated his desire for the City to expand the agreements with local schools for shared use of facilities. Director Lewis explained that the City has reviewed the agreements and, in some areas, the schools are choosing to close off more facilities and make them less available. Chair Colvin asked if the City's park acres per 1,000 population would increase if Homestead High School opened its site. Parks Superintendent Black said that currently there is no agreement to use Homestead High School property. Manager Shain said it would be a policy change to include school property as part of the City's park acres per 1,000 population.

Commissioner Kinder noted the lack of park land north of Hwy 237. He stated the City has been shortchanged by its past leaders who did not raise the level of park dedication fees, and he hopes this will bring the change in standard so future generations will have access to open space. He stated that mixed use of fields does seem to be effective. He noted a correction on page 21 of the report: skinned infields relate to softball (not baseball). He likes the idea of a "Friends of Parks and Recreation" organization and would have preferred that staff recommend forming a group. Director Lewis said staff can and will remain open to the idea of working with a "Friends" group; however, the initiative needs to start with the community.

Commissioner Harms requested that staff not put a high priority on staff recommendation No. 3, sell Orchard Gardens parksite housing. Director Lewis responded that there are several opinions related to "sell" or "not sell and develop into park land," but the Commission can make their own recommendations to Council. Commissioner Harms asked if the city manager recommends selling Orchard Gardens housing. Director Lewis confirmed that the city manager supports the recommendation.

Commissioner Harms inquired about design guidelines and the impact on current and future capital improvement projects (CIPs). Director Lewis responded that currently funded projects and future projects would follow the design guidelines, if adopted. Manager Shain added that Victory Village is an example of where exceptions are made. Commissioner Harms inquired about recommendations for re-designing existing parks, such as Las Palmas Park pond. Commissioner Harms continued that he would recommend selling Plaza del Sol since almost no one uses it.

Chair Colvin asked if the Parks of the Future Study is considered a 20-year plan. Director Lewis responded affirmatively and that the study is to set up the framework and key concepts regarding Level of Service (LOS), future plans, and future sub-element updates.

Chair Colvin noted that while the order of recommendations could change, is it a consideration to wait until property values increase before selling. Director Lewis said the recommendation is to sell, but the recommendation does not designate when to sell; ideally, the City would strive to sell at the best possible time in order to get a good return on its investment.

There were no more questions and Chair Colvin opened the public hearing.

Mr. Frederick Stawitcke, Sunnyvale resident, read highlights from an email written by his friend Mr. Garth Williams to the Commission. He expressed his recommendation to direct staff to work with Mountain View on access to and potential uses of the open space east of Hwy 85 adjacent to the Stevens Creek. Mr. Stawitcke requested that the email be included in the Commission minutes (attached).

Chair Colvin said there is a process for members of the public to propose study issues.

Director Lewis said that Council is taking action to work with neighboring cities on border issues.

Chair Colvin closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Commissioner Kinder moved to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendations, Alternatives 1 through 16, with emphasis on Alternatives 1, 10 and 15.

Commissioner Harms requested a friendly amendment to add the recommendation to sell Plaza del Sol.

The friendly amendment was not accepted by the maker of the motion.

Commissioner Kinder said Commissioners may agree or disagree with the idea to sell Plaza del Sol, and he would like to see it considered; however, not as a part of this action.

Vice Chair Oliver requested that Mr. Garth Williams' email be incorporated into the final report to Council.

MOTION RESTATED: Commissioner Kinder moved and Vice Chair Oliver seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendations, Alternatives 1 through 16, with emphasis on Alternatives 1, 10 and 15.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 4-0. Commissioner Chuck was absent.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER Oral Comments

Chair Colvin said he attended the June 23, 2009, Council meeting and accepted a proclamation on behalf of the Commission – *July is Parks and Recreation Month and July 4th is a Day to Play.*

Chair Colvin noted tonight was Commissioner Kinder's last meeting and expressed his appreciation and thanks for Commissioner Kinder's service.

Vice Chair Oliver asked that Commissioner Kinder be sure to keep him on his phone list.

STAFF Oral Comments

Director Lewis and Assistant to the Director Merrill thanked Commissioner Kinder for his service to the Commission.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

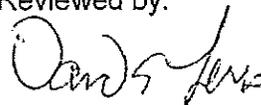
The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy E. Merrill, Assistant to the Director
Department of Community Service

Reviewed by:



David A. Lewis, Director
Department of Community Services

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PARKSCOMMISSION AP - Parks of the Future Draft RTC

From: Garth Williams <garthmba@yahoo.com>
o: <Parks&RecreationCommission@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 6/23/2009 1:00 PM
Subject: Parks of the Future Draft RTC
CC: <jshain@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Attachments: Remington.pdf

Dear Parks & Recreation Commission,

I will not be able to make the meeting to provide input in person so I am sending this email instead. In general I think Parks of the Future has been an excellent study; allowed for significant community input; and should help Sunnyvale improve even more on its parks and recreational opportunities for its residents. I am however disappointed that the potential open space adjacent to Hwy 85 along the Stevens Creek is not mentioned as a priority for further study. (see attached picture) I believe the area circled in red is 20+ acres. While I think much of the land is owned by the City of Mountain View, now that Sunnyvale has agreed to cooperate fully with Mountain View (Cupertino and Los Altos, also) in planning for the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail, I think the time is right to engage with Mountain View on potential uses of this land in addition to the trail which will only utilize a small portion of the open space.

Please consider making a high priority recommendation to Council along the lines of "**Direct staff to work with Mountain View on access to and potential uses of the open space East of Hwy 85 adjacent to the Stevens Creek.**" As the draft RTC says on page 12 "Sunnyvale, however, is a largely built out City and there will be limited opportunities to acquire open space moving forward." Let's take full advantage of this potential to significantly increase the open space available to Sunnyvale residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

- garth
Garth Williams
961 Astoria Dr
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

