



**City of Sunnyvale
Department of Public Works
Parks Division
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**



ORNAMENTAL POND MAINTENANCE

The City's Parks Division maintains four ornamental water features, one at each of the following sites: Las Palmas Park, Serra Park, Braly Park and the Community Center. Each pond is unique in its design and maintenance, but the answers to the following common questions remain the same for all.

□ Is the water safe to drink?

The water used to fill the ponds comes from the same source that supplies the City's drinking water. Once deposited into the ponds, however, this water is exposed to various contaminants and is not, therefore, intended for human consumption.

□ Is the water hazardous?

No. Coming into contact with the water presents no hazard to humans or to animals. A thin, white foam is naturally produced by the fountains' action. Generally, this helps to minimize pond impurities. Occasionally, however, dirt and other contaminants collect on top of the bubbles caused by the fountains' actions. If unattended this condition eventually creates unattractive foam accompanied by a slight odor. Products such as water colorants and biological enzymes are added to the ponds to help prevent this condition. These products are not hazardous when used in accordance with their label.

□ How often are the ponds cleaned?

The ponds are cleaned as often as necessary to maintain them in a safe, attractive condition. Each week they are inspected and surface debris/litter is removed. In addition, the ponds are drained, and the bottoms are cleaned as needed. This more intensive cleaning is generally not done in Spring or Summer to help protect fledgling waterfowl.

□ Why is the water so blue?

A colorant is added to help reduce the amount of sunlight that penetrates the water. This, in turn, reduces the biological activity responsible for the growth of impurities such as algae.

□ How deep is the water?

It varies slightly, but the average depth is 12 to 18 inches.

For more information, call the Parks Division at (408) 730-7506.