



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



SUNNYVALE PARKS AND THE BUDGET CRISIS

Many park visitors are aware of declining economic conditions of recent years and a statewide reduction in funds available for public services. School districts, county and city governments, and private businesses have all felt the impacts of the economic decline. From sales taxes to property and vehicle revenues; to user fees such as those paid to play golf, attend classes, play tennis, or go on trips - nearly all revenue sources continue well below planned amounts. While these revenues are much lower than expected, staffing costs and health care costs continue to rise, exacerbating budget problems.

This reduction of funds available for public services has also impacted funds for park maintenance and necessitates changes to the quality of maintenance and services available to the public. Visitors will notice that, except at the Community Center, all ornamental water features are shut off and drained from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Water for plants and turf has been reduced and much of the fertilizer and plant products have been deleted. Colorful, annual plantings at park entrances are no longer installed. Those that enjoy strolling along the pathways may note that the paths are no longer edged as they have been. Picnickers may reach their reserved picnic site well before a cleanup crew gets there, especially on weekends. Be prepared with tablecloths - the table may not be as clean as it once was.

These service level reductions are in place and additional steps are under consideration, such as periodic restroom closing and decreased litter abatement and furnishings maintenance.

- **VOLUNTEER** Sunnyvale can use your help whether out of doors or inside working with programs. Your assistance can make the difference.
- **UNDERSTAND** that your park staff desire to perform their tasks professionally, but they must balance work priorities to provide **essential** and safety related services before completing beautification tasks.
- **RESERVE** your picnic sites, but don't expect to have event center or theme park quality of maintenance. In fact, reservation fees simply provide you exclusive use of an area of the park and do not guarantee pristine park tables or benches.
- **INVOLVE** yourself with **local** government. Be sure you understand budget and service issues, attend public meetings and help our City continue to make good choices for the future.
- **BE CONSIDERATE** of all visitors through managing your park activities. Walking your dog? Please be sure to clean up. Picnicking? Recycle beverage containers and be sure that all of your trash is placed inside provided containers before you leave the park.
- **ENJOY** your parks! While maintenance is not funded to the quality level of the past, Sunnyvale Parks are safe, wonderful places for leisure and active recreation! Bring the family, take up a new sport, enjoy a new recreational class; Sunnyvale parks are here for your enjoyment.

For additional information on Sunnyvale parks, please call the Parks Division at (408) 730-7506.