

Sustainable Sunnyvale

Where We Are / Where We're Going

REV DRAFT

LAND USE/OPEN SPACE

Lead: Department of Parks and Recreation

Goal: Adopt management, maintenance and development practices that minimize negative impacts to the natural environment, such as supporting and enforcing the Integrated Pest Management System; and landscaping in ways which minimize the need for water. *(Council Policy 2.2.1 – 2.2.A.2 Open Space)*

OPEN SPACE and RECREATION

A. 2. Open Space: Adopt management, maintenance and development practices that minimize negative impacts to the natural environment, such as supporting and enforcing the Integrated Pest Management System; and landscaping in ways which minimize the need for water.

Current Services & Practices

Neighborhood Parks and Open Space Management

Maintain Landscapes and Open Space

- Green waste is processed and used on-site or taken to the SMART station to be recycled as mulch.
- Recycled products and materials are specified in new construction.
- Recycling stations placed in park picnic and concession areas.
- Provide slow-release fertilizer products in the lowest application rates to meet the needs of plant materials.
- Plant a tree for every tree removed in parks and golf courses to retain the future forest.
- Follow Integrated Pest Management policies to reduce the use of pesticides in landscapes.
- Lighting-Timers for walkway lighting to prevent wasted use of energy.
- Recycled plastic dimensional lumber for the bridges, bollard posts and decks.
- Reduce total acres of turf areas and replaced with mulched softscapes that do not require water use or equipment operation.
- Mulch all non-turf areas in the landscape to reduce weeds and water use
- Recycled water in use for all landscapes at Baylands Park and Sunnyvale G.C.
- Use repeat irrigation cycles to allow irrigation water to penetrate rather than run-off.
- Use plant material that is water efficient including native species and dwarf cultivars of shrubs.
- Use centralized irrigation system (computer controlled with satellite communication and weather stations) with automatic rain shut-off and program modification based upon the daily calculation of the evapotranspiration rate.
- Regularly check and repair all irrigation system leaks.
- Regularly adjust all irrigation system sprinklers for proper flow and coverage.
- Regularly monitor water meters.
- Irrigate by hydrozones (the grouping of plants with similar water requirements using the same irrigation station).

Manage Sports Fields & Recreation Facilities

- Recycle all grass clippings on site with recycling deck mowers used on all parks turf.
- Limit potential pesticide impacts to the sanitary sewer and S.F. Bay by managing ornamental ponds with Colorant and Bioactive agents to control Algae - No algaecides or pesticide.

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- Field lighting is controlled by timer and manually to prevent energy waste if/when renters forget to shut off the systems.
- Provide Mosquito Fish and aeration to limit the numbers of Mosquitoes and avoid the need for pesticide applications.
- Recycled plastic dimensional lumber instead of wood for playground equipment.
- Decrease number of court wash/mth and wash tennis/basketball courts with "spray brooms".
- Provide automatic timers for pathway and court lighting systems.
- Inspect all lighting systems weekly and repair promptly.
- Provide equipment that is sized for best efficiencies requiring fewer hours of operation to accomplish tasks.

Provide Custodial Services to Restroom Facilities and Buildings

- Install self-closing faucets in restrooms
- Clean floors by dry sweeping and damp mopping
- Use bulk-dispensed foaming hand soap.
- Provide forced-air hand dryers – not paper towels.
- Provide single-sheet toilet paper dispensers.
- Recycle all fluorescent and mercury containing lamps/bulbs.
- Provide timers for all room heaters.
- Install energy efficient appliances.
- Provide fluorescent lighting.
- Provide ceiling fans instead of air conditioning (except Murphy Park).

Operate Equipment Responsibly

- Spare the Air Days training for all staffs.
- Provide Informational Bulletin for park staffs and visitors.
- Provide an Electric Golf Car Fleet (60 Cars)
- Operate Electric Triplex Greens mower at S.G.G.C.
- Maintain equipment properly to limit fuel consumption and avoid impacts to the environment.
- Seek out alternative fuel vehicles and equipment (electric cars, mowers, carts, etc.).

Land Use Planning

Services

- Many CDD services on-line: Green Building Information, Public Hearing Agendas and Staff Reports, Zoning Code
- One-Stop Permit Center: One-stop information; planning permit history

Practices

- Review and process development applications to ensure compliance with Municipal Code requirements for sustainable practices.
- Stormwater Management Program, which is part of a regional permit (SCVURPPP). Sunnyvale was one of the first cities to require Storm Water Management Plans (SWMP) for all new and redevelopment projects that add or replace 10,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface
 - Discharge prohibition to storm water drainage system for untreated stormwater
 - *Best Management Practices* (BMPs) – site design, source controls, and storm water treatment devices
- Protection of Land Use Near Streams (part of regional collaborative which developed the *Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams*)

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- Tree Preservation Ordinance (SMC 19.94) – protects the urban forest. Trees:
 - Contribute to economic prosperity & scenic beauty
 - Control flooding and erosion
 - Moderate noise pollution, climate, dust, & other airborne pollutants
 - Remove carbon dioxide and produce oxygen
 - Shelter and feed birds and other wildlife
- Transportation for Livable Communities Grant – focuses on Smart Growth Principles
- Acknowledgement that the jobs/housing imbalance and related problems are endemic to all cities in Santa Clara County – Council Policy 1.1.5 (1979) – Increase Housing & Reduce Job potential, Converted Industrial Zoned Land to Residential

Services / Policies in Development

Neighborhood Parks and Open Space Management - Services

- Provide artificial turf play surfaces to reduce utility and materials consumption and equipment operation needs.
- Design future landscapes with any eye for reduced water use (reduce turf, increase native species, etc.).
- Consider new recycled products for resilient surfacing for playgrounds.
- Install turf block pavers to replace asphalt where appropriate.
- Complete S.F. Bay Trail from Sunnyvale to Mt. View (behind Moffet Air Station) to encourage increased bicycle commuting and recreation.

Land Use Policy

The Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) is scheduled to be updated in 2008 (STUDY ISSUE PAPER).

- Develop a Mixed Use zoning (combining) district, establishing a minimum percentages of residential, commercial and other uses that make it a viable mixed use project (part of pending development project on Lawrence Station Road).

Into the Future - DRAFT

- Best practices for review
- Potential items for Study Issue papers

Neighborhood Parks and Open Space Management

Operations

- Design Green lighting systems to include state of the art solar energy generation, timing systems and lamps.
- Utilize heat generated in heating swimming pools for secondary heat uses or electrical production (co-generation).
- Install systems to capture grey water from park water play features for reuse in landscapes.
- Establish additional routes and facilities to encourage increased bicycling in the parks and open space.
- Consider constructing smaller, satellite maintenance facilities throughout Sunnyvale to increase efficiencies while reducing vehicle and equipment operation and travel times.
- Consider placement of wind and/or solar electrical generating facilities in the open space.
- Install GPS systems in vehicles to ensure shortest routes, decreased fuel consumption and best efficiencies.

Land Use Planning

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Operations

- Review new program of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) – California Climate Action Network (CCAN).
- Develop a new position to coordinate and promote sustainable energy efforts in the City and enhance interdepartmental program coordination on sustainable practices.
- Require all development applications to include a LEED checklist of practices or materials incorporated into their design as a means of accumulating data for determination of baseline status on green building practices.
- Develop a Green Ribbon Task Force (GRTF) of residents, business owners and industry professionals to advise Council on opportunities to future use and development of sustainable energy in Sunnyvale (specific goals for the TF can be developed on an annual basis).

Policy

- Adopt a regionally-recognized set of green building standards (ex. LEED and Greenpoint Rated)
- Reduce the built environment's impact on the natural environment through more efficient use of energy, water, land and sustainable construction materials/practices.
- Encourage regional collaboration to adopt consistent sustainable development "green building" policies and standards that facilitate positive results for the environmental, community health, and economic vitality.
- Support and promote the economic development and best practices of green building products and services, especially of locally-based businesses.
- Actively encourage the private, public and nonprofit sectors to more rapidly adopt sustainable development practices without stagnating economic development.
- Encourage and provide ongoing community education to the residential and business sectors that encourages the use of and political support for sustainable development.
- Require LEED certification (silver?) of all new public buildings or additions (minimum of 5,000 square feet), and LEED-equivalent for upgrades and retrofits.
- Direct staff to develop a list of sustainability policies to be included in the list of criteria for reviewing applications, including minimum requirements and recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Establish new requirements:
 - Solar required on pools/spas,
 - Higher level of LEED required if granted deviation from Code (PD, VAR),
 - Similar to BMR requirements, establish a minimum percentage requirement for solar on new developments
- Develop (regionally consistent) metrics to determine carbon or global warming "footprint", and establish clear goals to maintain or reduce footprint.
- Prioritize and continue to improve the job/housing balance, providing a mix of housing options and encouraging local industry that promotes both economic vitality and meets local needs.
- Reduce the restrictions on some uses (ex. restaurants) in industrial and commercial zoning districts to encourage people's ability to walk to lunch.
- Develop more aggressive urban forestry program.