



**Draft for Parks and Recreation Commission  
Review on May 25, 2011**

**Council Date: June 7, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Morse Avenue Park Conceptual Design, Theme and Name**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

This report provides an overview of the conceptual design, theme and name for a new 5.3 acre park development at 1010 - 1024 Morse Avenue. The Morse Avenue Neighborhood Park Development Project has been in the City's long term capital improvement plan since the City purchased the future park site in 1990, currently occupied by the Fair Oaks Industrial Complex.

SSA Landscape Architects, Inc. of Santa Cruz was awarded the design contract in FY 09/10 for \$339,235 (RTC 10-080). The conceptual design/theme proposed for the Park is an Ocean theme (Please see Attachment A, Ocean Theme Design). The Ocean theme was the most supported by the community at six public meetings. Public input was also strongly in support of a suggested name of "Seven Seas Park" (Please see Attachment B, Flier for Public Meetings and Attachment C, Summary of Meeting Notes).

Residents were shown multiple conceptual park designs with a wide variety of possible amenities and selected those that appealed most to them. There was a strong consensus for a playground with both traditional and creative features, basketball and/or tennis courts and sustainable "green" efforts including water efficiency and the use of solar power for lighting and other fixtures.

The draft of this report was reviewed by the Park and Recreation Commission on May 25, 2011. The Commission recommended that City Council \_\_\_\_\_.

Staff recommends that Council approve Alternative 1 and Alternative 3.  
Alternative 1. Approve the Ocean theme design as noted on Attachment A.  
Alternative 3. Approve the name of Seven Seas Park for Morse Avenue Park

**BACKGROUND**

This project is a redevelopment of the 5.3 acre Fair Oaks Industrial Complex to a neighborhood park. The property is owned by the City and was being leased to several tenants for private industrial use. The City Council has already approved the capital budget to begin the development process and is now being asked to approve a conceptual design, theme, and name for the Park.

Park design and development guidelines adopted by Council in 2009 have been followed (Please see Attachment D Table E-1 from the Parks of the Future Study). Per guidelines, the Park will have the following minimum resources required for a Neighborhood Park, three to eight acres in size: Tot lot playground for children ages two to five, playground for ages six to twelve, non-reservable picnic tables, reservable picnic area, perimeter pathway, trees, open turf area, off-street parking, maintenance area shed/storage, sports field, and two active recreation resources such as a dog run, tennis court, half court basketball, volleyball court, or small waterplay feature. It is important to remember that this is a conceptual design only, the approval of which will initiate the development of the detailed design and construction documents that will be used as part of the invitation to bid process for the construction of the park. As a conceptual design only, it is likely that those "required" elements for a neighborhood park may look different than they appear now. It is also true that the alternative elements including the water play area and dog run may be modified or even removed from the final design due to a variety of factors including estimated construction costs and spacing of features throughout the site.

SSA Architects facilitated six public outreach meetings working with the Sunnyvale Parks Division. The first three public meetings were to gather suggestions from residents about possible themes and names. The remaining three meetings were held to present back the ideas and themes to garner public support. The Ocean theme and Seven Seas name was heavily favored by residents in the process. This Report to Council is to select the design, theme and name for the Morse Avenue Neighborhood Park. A future Report to Council will address funding and construction.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

From the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element:

**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. Policies related to acquiring and/or developing open space facilities and amenities are also included here. Competing interests and finite resources, however, require the City to set some priorities. All other things being equal, it is the City's policy, therefore, to:

- 2.2.D.1. Give priority to services, facilities and amenities that are not readily available through other providers within or near Sunnyvale

- 2.2.D.4. Give priority to services, facilities and amenities in which the community demonstrates interest.
- 2.2.D.5. Give priority to services, facilities and amenities that benefit a greater number of residents.
- 2.2.D.7. Give priority to services, facilities and amenities that can be used by multiple users or serve multiple purposes.
- 2.2.D.12. Give priority to acquiring/developing open space and recreational amenities and programs where the needs are greatest and /or which will meet the greatest needs

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Theme**

Traditionally, all parks in Sunnyvale have been created with a design theme. Park themes are a creative way to stimulate the imagination of park users of all ages. For children it may mean engaging in role play and story telling as they use the playground. With adults it may assist them in leaving the stresses of urban life to recreate and enjoy the open space. Examples of some of the themes in Sunnyvale Parks include Las Palmas Park's Polynesian theme and Raynor Park's Prehistoric one. The proposed conceptual design for this new park has an ocean theme that represents natural and man-made elements associated with oceans and seas. The design includes a Port and Ocean water play area, and Coves complete with docks, sea creatures and rock outcroppings. The Ocean theme garnered the most support among residents who attended outreach meetings. Other themes proposed by SSA Architects included an Orchard theme and an Eco-friendly theme.

The Ocean theme design supports the Park Division's green initiatives and uses some of the same amenities as the Eco-friendly theme which was the second most voted theme. It is designed to be low maintenance and environmentally friendly. Drought tolerant plants, bike racks, and solar power will be utilized and construction materials will include recycled/reused materials.

### **Name**

The selection of a name should follow Council policy as stated in 7.3.23 Naming/Renaming Parks & Recreation Facilities (Please see Attachment E Council Policy 7.3.23). Council policy states that priority should be given to the planning area of the development. Morse Avenue is located in the Lakewood Planning Area which already has a park named after it. The Morse Avenue Park Project has been using the name "Morse Avenue" as the project is located on Morse Avenue. Morse Avenue is named after Charles Copeland or C.C. Morse who lived in the city of Santa Clara and founded the Morse Seed Company.

The number one suggested name by the public was “Seven Seas Park”. This name ties into the ocean theme and the theme of the Tasman Gateway Markers. The Tasman Gateway Markers were part of a City Project completed last year to beautify and denote neighborhoods in this planning area. The obelisk shaped Tasman Gateway Markers have painted murals representing the oceans of the world. Other name suggestions included Oceans Cove Park, Aqua Oasis or simply Morse Avenue Park.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this Report to Council. The design contract for SSA Landscape Architects was already awarded in FY 09/10 and the approval of all additional work will be done separately. A future Report to Council will present a construction budget and funding.

### **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, Sunnyvale Public Library, Senior Center, Community Center, and Department of Community Services Administration.

The Parks and Recreation Commission conducted a public hearing on this item at their meeting on May 25, 2011.

Notice of Commission and Council meetings regarding this report was also distributed to the “Friends of Parks and Recreation” mailing list (a list of organizations and individuals who have expressed an interest in parks and recreation issues).

The first three public meetings for the project were conducted by Parks Division staff and SSA, the architectural consultant at Orchard Gardens Park on Thursday, December 9, 2010, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The second round of public meetings were held at the City Park Townhouse Community Building which is located adjacent to the proposed development on Thursday, February 10, 2011, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, February 12, 2011, from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Notification of these meetings was provided through posting of informational fliers at parks, mail delivery to neighbors that live within 1,000 feet of the development, and all neighborhood associations within the City. Those that attended any of the meetings and provided contact information received additional notification of scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council meetings on this subject.

A total of forty-five people provided input, asked questions about the project and shared concerns regarding neighborhood issues. Neighbors that attended the public meetings expressed general concerns regarding parking, noise, and amenities. Concerns were expressed regarding the construction process and schedule and how that will affect near neighbors (Attachment C: Summary of Meeting Notes).

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the conceptual design and ocean theme at Morse Avenue Park as noted on Attachment A.
2. Do not approve the conceptual design and ocean theme at Morse Avenue Park, as noted on Attachment A.
3. Approve the name of Seven Seas Park for Morse Avenue Park
4. Approve a different name for Morse Avenue Park
5. Provide other direction to staff as Council deems appropriate.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Council take the following action:

Approve Alternative 1: Approve the conceptual design and ocean theme at Morse Avenue Park, as noted on Attachment A. Approve Alternative 3: Approve the name of Seven Seas Park for Morse Avenue Park

The conceptual design and ocean theme has the most public support. The ocean theme has an attractive design that follows the city's neighborhood park design guidelines and will meet the needs of the neighborhood for many years. The Seven Seas Parks name is appropriate for the proposed Ocean theme and also was supported broadly by the public who attended the meetings.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a draft of this report at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 25, 2011, and voted \_\_\_\_\_ to recommend that City Council \_\_\_\_\_.

Reviewed by:

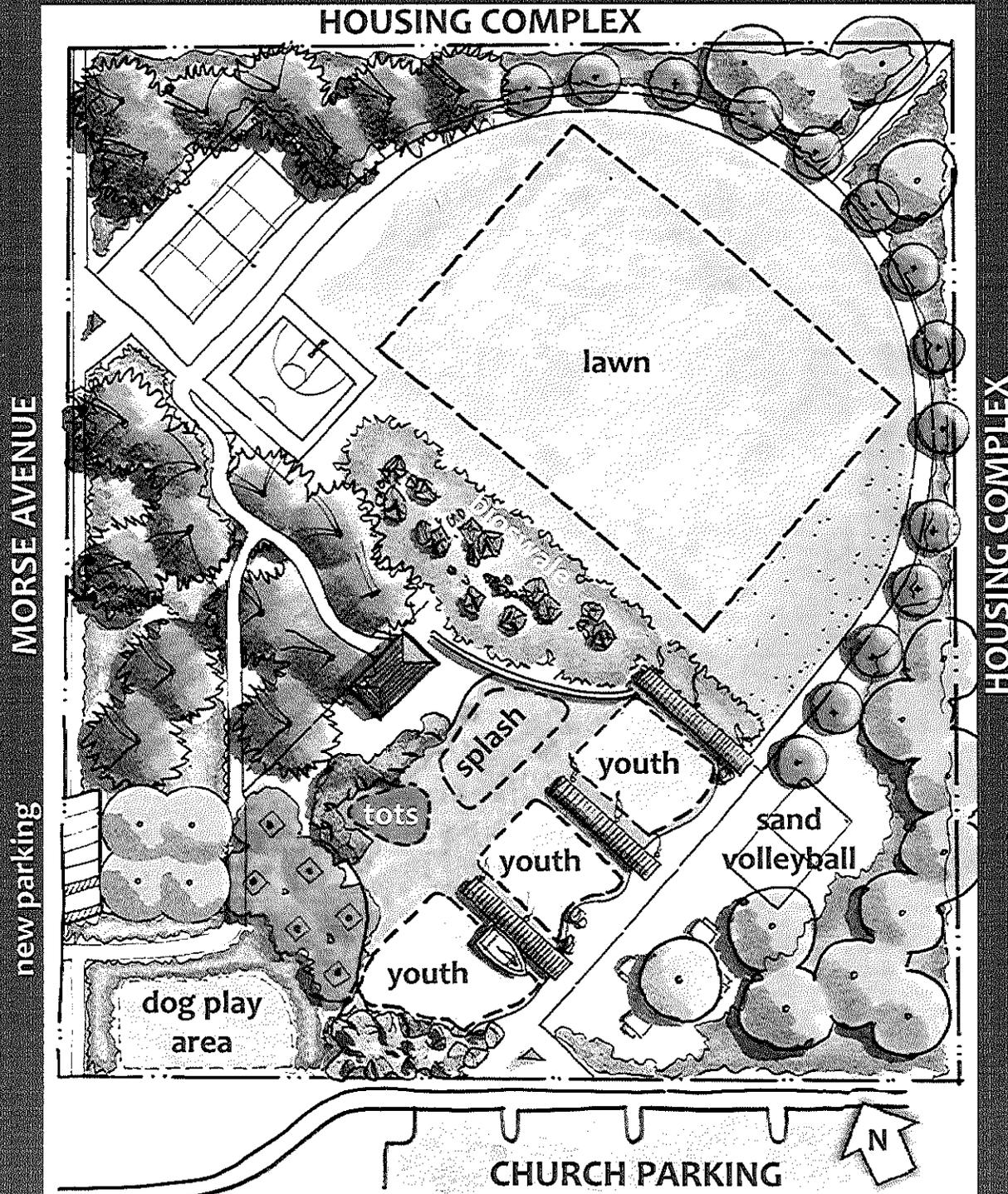
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marvin Rose, Director of Public Works  
Prepared by: Scott Morton, Parks/Golf Superintendent; and  
Michael Abney, Parks Division Analyst

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary M. Luebbers  
City Manager

## **Attachments**

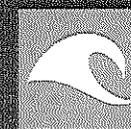
- A. Ocean Theme Design
- B. Flier for Public Meetings
- C. Summary of Meeting Notes
- D. Table E-1 Mini Park and Neighborhood Park Design Guidelines from the Parks of the Future Study
- E. Council Policy 7.3.23 Naming/Renaming Parks & Recreation Facilities



**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
 The Ocean theme park has been designed to represent natural and man-made elements associated with oceans. The design includes a Port, an Ocean water play area and Coves complete with docks, sea creatures and large rock outcroppings. Natural coastline formations and playful Ocean themed words carry through the park

**Park Features:**

- Tot lot (fenced)
- Youth Play
- Water Play
- Tennis
- Half Court Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Picnicking with grills
- Restroom
- Parking



**Seven Seas Park**  
 Ocean Theme



# NOTICE PUBLIC MEETING



## MORSE AVENUE PARK PROJECT

*The City of Sunnyvale has approved a construction project that would create a neighborhood park on a 5.3 acre parcel located on Morse Avenue. The City of Sunnyvale Parks Division will hold the following meetings to give an overview of the 3 conceptual designs that were derived from the previous public meetings of this capital project. Staff will also gather public input/comments. All meetings will cover identical information. Please feel free to attend any of the meetings which are most convenient for you.*

Proposed Park Location  
1010 Morse Ave.

Meeting Location



➔ **Meeting Location:**

**City Park Community Building**

(The building faces Weddell Drive – Please park on Kiel Court)

**500 Solomon Terrace**

➔ **Dates and Times are:**

- Thursday, February 10, 2011: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- Thursday, February 10, 2011: 7 pm – 8:30 pm
- Saturday, February 12, 2011: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

*Note: If you are unable to attend these meetings and have questions or would like to provide input and/or be put on a mailing list for future meeting notifications, please call the Parks Division at 730-7506 or contact Scott Morton at [smorton@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:smorton@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us)*



**SUMMARY OF MEETING NOTES**

Project Name: Morse Avenue Neighborhood Park  
 Project Number: 100003.00  
 Meeting: Second Community Meetings at City Park Community Building  
 238 Garner Drive  
 Sunnyvale, Ca 94089

Meeting Date/Time: February 10, 2011 (12pm and 7pm) and February 12, 2011 (11am)  
 Report Date: February 22, 2011  
 Meeting Attendees: General Public

Notes by: Alison Hobbs

The following was discussed/actions to be taken are:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY / ACTION
	<p><u>Questionnaire comments</u></p> <p><u>Overall Votes</u>                      Ocean Theme - 22                      Orchard Theme - 11                      Eco-friendly Theme - 12</p> <p><b>Ocean Theme Comments</b>  <u>Additional names for the Park</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seven Seas Park</li> <li>▪ Ocean's Cove Park</li> <li>▪ Morse Park</li> <li>▪ Aqua Oasis</li> </ul> <p><u>Additional Park Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A full sized basketball court (or 2 half courts)</li> <li>▪ Community Garden</li> <li>▪ Exercise Equipment</li> <li>▪ Running trail</li> <li>▪ Boardwalk</li> <li>▪ Green roof</li> <li>▪ A ship or sail boat in sand</li> <li>▪ Play area + play grounds</li> <li>▪ Large tot and youth play areas</li> <li>▪ Shaded seating along path for parents</li> </ul>	

- Reading circle, similar to Orchard theme

General Comments

- Eco-friendly/solar powered, Eco-friendly and Ocean themes combined
- Sports areas located on the south side adjacent to church parking lot, move tennis and basketball away from residential
- No Dog Park
- No lights for fields or courts
- Like field location
- Less parking, more park
- Love water area
- No grills or areas for BBQing
- Park to appeal to everyone, not just children
- Fixed seating and tables
- No volleyball
- Noise pollution control

**Orchard Theme Comments**

Additional names for the Park

- Morse Park
- City Park
- Discovery Park
- Morse Orchard Park

Additional Park Features

- Small water play area or none at all
- Swings
- Practice wall for tennis
- Two (2) tennis courts
- Lighting on walking and jogging path
- More picnic areas
- Community garden

General Comments

- Eco-friendly/solar powered, Eco-friendly and Ocean themes combined
- Sports areas located on the south side adjacent to church parking lot, move tennis and basketball away from residential
- No Dog Park
- Park to appeal to everyone, not just children, keep areas separate
- Noise pollution control

**Eco-friendly Theme Comments**

Additional names for the Park

- Morse Park
- City Park

#### Additional Park Features

- Exercise circuit/jogging path
- Small dog park with fence adjacent to Morse Ave.
- Tree lined paths
- Full court basketball
- Full court tennis
- Water play
- Incorporate layout of Orchard theme for Eco-friendly theme

#### General Comments

- Noise pollution control
- Limit parking
- No grills or areas for BBQing
- Sports areas located on the south side adjacent to church parking lot, move tennis and basketball away from residential
- Prefer quiet play features, discourage skateboards + noise
- Place restrooms away from homes and out of view
- No bocce
- Limit parking/no parking

#### Park Features and Comments (Universal)

- A full sized basketball court (or 2 half courts)
- No light pollution near residential
- No noise pollution near residential
- No smell pollution near residential
- Small, fenced dog park along Morse Ave. Not everyone in neighborhood have children.
- Provide both active and quiet play

#### Planting

- Concern – Proximity to freeway (vegetation buffer)
- Concern – Play/Sports area proximity to residential (vegetation buffer)
- Hardy, maintainable planting but with some colorful and flowering planting. Fall color
- Planting that is native, lower water needs

#### Parking

- Overall no parking is preferred. Residences want the park to be used by the people within the neighborhood and would like to deter outsiders from coming to the park.

#### Adjacent Properties

- Locate major features away from townhomes for safety and noise control
- Solar Power
- Shade trees to be sensitive to homeowners in regards to leaf litter

These notes were prepared from the questionnaire used in the meeting. If there are any substantial errors or omissions, please contact SSA Landscape Architects, Inc. immediately.

TABLE E-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"> <li>Provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages</li> <li>Contributes to neighborhood identity</li> <li>Provides green space within neighborhoods</li> <li>Contributes to health and wellness</li> <li>Provides opportunities for outdoor recreation in built-out areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-3 acre minimum</li> <li>Street frontage on at least two sides of the park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMD Site</li> <li>Cannery Park</li> <li>Fairwood Park</li> <li>Greenwood Manor Park</li> <li>Orchard Gardens Park</li> <li>Victory Village Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tot Lot (Ages 2-5)</li> <li>1-5 Non-reservable picnic tables</li> <li>Trees</li> <li>Open Turf Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's play area (Ages 6-12),</li> <li>Sports courts (1/2 court basketball or single tennis court)</li> <li>Restrooms</li> <li>Shelter, or gazebo</li> <li>Interactive water feature (small-scale)</li> <li>Off-street parking</li> <li>Shade structures for appropriate facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community garden</li> <li>Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose)</li> <li>Destination facilities or resources with communitywide draw</li> <li>Full-service recreation centers</li> <li>Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Provides access to basic recreation opportunities for nearby residents of all ages</li> <li>Contributes to neighborhood identity</li> <li>Provides green space within neighborhoods</li> <li>Provides a space for family and small group gatherings</li> <li>Contributes to health and wellness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-8 acres</li> <li>Street frontage on at least two sides of the park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Braly Park</li> <li>Encinal Park</li> <li>Murphy Park</li> <li>Panama Park</li> <li>San Antonio Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tot Lot (Ages 2-5)</li> <li>Children's play area (Ages 6-12)</li> <li>Non-reservable picnic tables</li> <li>Reservable picnic area</li> <li>Perimeter path or sidewalks</li> <li>Trees</li> <li>At least two active recreation resources (see "May Include" list)</li> <li>Open Turf Area</li> <li>Off-street parking</li> <li>Maintenance Area/Shed/Storage</li> <li>Sports Field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional Sports fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multi-purpose, cricket pitch)</li> <li>Sports courts (basketball court, tennis court, volleyball court)</li> <li>Other small-scale active recreation resources (skate spot, horseshoe pits, bocce court, shuffleboard lane, lawn bowling, mini skate park)</li> <li>Interactive or ornamental water feature (small-scale)</li> <li>Shelter, or gazebo</li> <li>Par course</li> <li>Neighborhood activity building (multi-purpose)</li> <li>Fire pit</li> <li>Community Garden</li> <li>Restroom</li> <li>Shade structures for appropriate facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destination facilities or resources with communitywide draw</li> <li>Memorials (except for memorial trees or benches)</li> <li>Sports complexes</li> <li>Full-service recreation centers</li> <li>Swimming pools (indoor or outdoor)</li> </ul>

## COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

**Policy 7.3.23 Naming/Renaming Parks & Recreation Facilities****POLICY PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide the process and responsibility for naming or renaming City Parks and Recreation facilities.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Naming Parks and Recreation facilities shall be the responsibility of the City Council. Any name considerations will first be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission who will make a recommendation to the City Council for naming or renaming any park and recreation facility. The following criteria will be utilized in naming Parks and Recreation facilities:

The majority of City parks presently have the name of the planning district in which they are located. Any new parks should follow the same pattern, if possible. Where this is not possible, the following criteria will be given consideration in naming a park or facility within a park:

1. Greatest consideration should be given to a name that has historical significance to the City of Sunnyvale or is in some other way associated with a Sunnyvale event, historical feature, or other community-related action.
2. Where open space has been purchased that was formerly school property or adjoined a school, and the name of the school has community significance or community recognition, consideration of the school name should be given in naming the park.
3. Naming a park for a specific individual will only be considered if that individual has made a significant contribution to the City of Sunnyvale. Names honoring individuals or families of living persons must be supported by compelling reasons.
4. Other name considerations will only be considered if one of the three above criteria does not provide a suitable name.
5. Facilities within a park which have not otherwise been named by Council may be provided identification signs by staff, limited to either the word "Sunnyvale" or the Park's official name, followed by a generic description of the facility. (e.g. "Las Palmas Dog Park" or "Sunnyvale Skatepark").

(Adopted: RTC 83-295 (7/5/1983); (Amended: RTC 05-284 (10/18/2005); (Clerical/clarity update, Policy Update Project 11/2005))

Lead Department: Department of Parks and Recreation