

## 2011 Council Study Issue

## CDD 11-06 Consideration of Certain City Parks as Heritage Resources

**Lead Department** Community Development

**History**            **1 year ago** None      **2 years ago** None

### 1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

Sunnyvale adopted its original Heritage Resource Inventory in 1979, recognizing properties that have architectural or historical significance. Since that time several properties have been added to the list. Sunnyvale also recognizes several trees as "heritage trees" for additional protection. This study would examine three locations: two City parks and a City golf course as possible Heritage Resources. The locations include: Washington Park, (Orchard) Heritage Park, and Sunken Gardens golf course.

Washington Park is one of the City's oldest parks while the Heritage Park is the home of the Heritage Museum which contains many pieces of Sunnyvale's history. The Sunken Gardens golf course developed in the 1950s from a rock quarry that employed many residents. These locations have been identified by the Heritage Preservation Commission as places that may have a special history to local residents.

Although staff can determine if these parks meet minimum criteria for heritage resources, an evaluation would need to occur to consider making them designated Heritage Resources. The Heritage Resource designation may not restrict minor modifications to the facilities; there could be limitations and/or review processes necessary in typical management of the parks as major modifications may be subject to review and approval by the Heritage Preservation Commission.

The purpose of the designation is to ensure that the site is preserved and recognized for its historical importance to the community. Similar to previous studies, identifying potential heritage resources would involve the research of information that is available with the Sunnyvale Historical Society, Sunnyvale Sun and private parties. The study would include coordination with the Department of Community Services, as managers of the parks in the city.

### 2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

**Goal 6.3B:** To enhance, preserve and protect Sunnyvale's Heritage including natural features, the built environment and significant artifacts.

*Policy 6.3B.5:* Seek out, catalog and evaluate heritage resources which may be significant.

**Goal 6.3B.5d:** Where it has been determined that a structure, streetscape or other heritage resource should be considered for designation as a cultural resource or as a landmark, institute the process to designate them accordingly.

### 3. Origin of issue

**Board or Commission** Heritage Preservation Commission

### 4. Staff effort required to conduct study Moderate

5. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2011

6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No  
 Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes  
 If so, which? Heritage Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission  
 Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

7. Briefly explain cost of study, including consultant hours, impacted budget program, required budget modifications, etc. and amounts if known.

Staff hours would be covered with 234 Planning operating budget. Consultant assistance could range from \$10,000-\$20,000. Moderate cost is between 101-299 staff hours.

8. Briefly explain potential fiscal impact of implementing study results (consider capital and operating costs, as well as potential revenue).

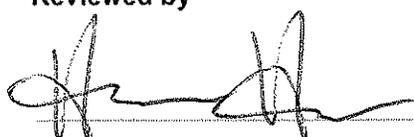
9. Staff Recommendation

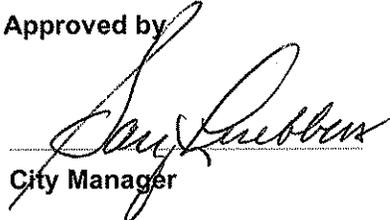
Staff Recommendation Against Study

If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain

Staff recommends against this study for a few reasons: Staff feels it is unlikely that any of the parks mentioned would be heritage resources; the cost of completing the study given that likelihood; the potential impact a "Heritage Resource" designation could have on the operation of a City park.

If Council is interested in this study, staff recommends eliminating Heritage Park because the site was acquired from the Cupertino Unified School District in the 1960's, specifically for the purpose of having a City-run orchard. On the site is the apricot orchard, the Arboretum, the Bianchi Barn (a Heritage Resource, relocated from San Jose), the recently constructed Heritage Museum, and the Orchard Park Heritage Interpretive Exhibit (OPHIE).

Reviewed by  
  
 Department Director  
 Date 10/27/10

Approved by  
  
 City Manager  
 Date 10/28/10