

2014 Council Study Issue

DPW 14-01 Environmental Sustainability in Sunnyvale's Parks and Open Space

Lead Department Public Works

Sponsor(s) Parks & Recreation Commission

History 1 year ago: 2 years ago:

1. Scope of the Study

a. What are the key elements of the study?

This study would examine current policy and practices regarding environmental sustainability as it relates to the design, construction and maintenance of parks and open space. The main goal is to minimize negative impacts to the environment through a variety of means including the reduction of energy, water and chemical use. It would determine the feasibility of modifying current policy and practices to improve environmental sustainability and assess how that would affect current quality standards for safety, usability and attractiveness and also evaluate related costs.

b. What precipitated this study?

This study was proposed by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

c. Is this a multiple year project? Yes Planned Completion Year 2015

2. Fiscal Impact

a. Cost to Conduct Study

i. Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost)

Major Moderate Minor

ii. Amount of funding above current budget required \$ 0

Will seek budget supplement Will seek grant funding

iii. Explanation of Cost:

The study can be completed within current staff resources.

b. Costs to Implement Study Results

No cost to implement.

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs.

Some cost to implement. Explanation:

3. **Expected participation in the process**

- Council-approved work plan
- Council Study Session
- Board/Commission Review by Parks and Recreation Commission and Sustainability Commission.

4. **Staff Recommendation**

- a. Position: Drop
- b. Explanation: Environmental sustainability has historically and continually been a goal of the city's as evidenced by General Plan Policy LT 8.2 "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" and the Integrated Pest Management for City-Owned Facilities. Staff regularly evaluates and changes management and maintenance practices to conform to those policies while seeking to lower energy, water and chemical use while maintaining quality standards and minimizing negative impacts to the environment. There is an ongoing project in the Department of Public Works to establish design and construction standards for parks projects that would also support that goal. Although the project is not completed, many of the standards and design principles were utilized for Seven Seas Park which will be more environmentally sustainable than the rest of the parks system. It will use less energy, water and chemicals while meeting or exceeding current quality standards.

Reviewed By: <i>Kent Steffens</i>	10-1-13	Approved By: <i>[Signature]</i>	10/8/13
Department Director	Date	City Manager	Date