



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0005

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 24-04

TITLE Evaluate Late Night Lights at Public Parks

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Department of Library and Recreation Services
Sponsor(s): Parks and Recreation Commission
History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

During the winter months, daylight savings reduces the number of hours residents can utilize the Parks. This proposed Study would assess the impact of keeping lights on public fields for use on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

What are the key elements of the study?

This Study would consider the impacts of keeping the sports field lighting turned on evenings during the winter months, without a permit, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights on the City's athletic fields that have existing field lighting. The Study would include a public outreach component to gauge the potential impacts on residents (e.g., quality of life, real estate values, etc.) in the area of the potentially lit fields. The Study would also consider the fiscal impact (e.g., energy/maintenance, field rental possibilities) of keeping the lights on for extended hours. The Study would also look at the potential benefits to residents of having the fields lit during the extended hours. The Study would make a recommendation, following public outreach, regarding extended hours for field lighting.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$75,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement - General Fund

The cost of the Study will be to hire a consultant, including a robust public outreach component.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. The Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2024 Study Issues Workshop.

Extending the time sports field lighting is on at night would increase the time residents have to use the City's sports fields. Potential concerns regarding the impact on quality of life for nearby neighbors and energy usage, as well as fiscal impact, would also need to be considered and weighed against the benefits of additional field usage.

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks and Golf

Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Department of Public Works

Reviewed by: Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager