



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0121

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 20-13

TITLE Lighting of Current and Future City Owned Dog Parks

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers: Fong, Melton, Larsson, Klein

History: 1 year ago: Deferred by Council

2 years ago: Deferred by Council

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

The City has four fenced dog parks (Las Palmas, Seven Seas, Fair Oaks and Muwékma) where dogs may be off leash. None of these dog parks have lighting. Due to the lack of lighting, especially during standard time (i.e., when daylight saving time is not in use), the dog parks become quite dark in the evening and early morning hours. Some members of the community have expressed a desire to utilize additional hours at the dog parks, which would require lights to be installed. However, the addition of hours at the park and installation of lighting to the dog parks may raise concerns from adjacent neighbors and environmentalists due to the increase of activity and artificial lighting during nighttime hours.

What are the key elements of the Study?

The scope of the Study would include the evaluation of adding lights at both existing and future dog parks located within Sunnyvale. The Study would evaluate the Policy and Park rules related to activities after sunset, when the parks currently close and what policies and rules would need to be modified to accommodate activities if the City added lighting. The Study would look at the impacts on various issues including, but not limited to, public safety, nearby residents and nighttime light pollution. The Study would also evaluate different types of options for lighting the dog parks, and the pathways from the parking lots and other areas to the dog parks. For example, aside from pathway lighting, Las Palmas Park does not have lights for the athletic field or the passive use areas of the Park. The Las Palmas Tennis Center adjacent to and to the north of the dog park is a lit facility until 10:00 p.m. Seven Seas Park, which includes the City's second dog park, only has pathway lighting, which is consistent with its status as a neighborhood-serving park. Fair Oaks Park has both athletic field lighting and skatepark lighting. Las Palmas Park, Seven Seas Park, Fair Oaks Park and Muwékma Park have adjacent residential housing that may be impacted by new dog park lighting. Different types of lighting will be considered (e.g., solar, motion sensor, etc.). The Study would not evaluate the potential need for additional dog parks or on/off leash rules as it relates to policy or the

Sunnyvale Municipal Code.

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

Costs would include hiring a consultant to conduct an analysis and community outreach of the impact of lighting at current and future dog parks as it relates to public safety, impact on nearby residents, environmental concerns, quality of life and other potential impacts that may arise.

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: No

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

With the increase in Sunnyvale's resident population, there has also been an increase in dog park usage. Lighting the City's dog parks would increase the time residents have to use the City's dog parks. Concerns regarding the impact on quality of life for nearby neighbors, environmental concerns and fiscal impact will also need to be addressed.

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks and Golf

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

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager