



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0007

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 24-06

TITLE Explore the Feasibility of Planting 2,025 New Trees In Sunnyvale by the Year 2025

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney

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?

One of the primary goals of the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) is to increase the tree canopy of the City. This Study would identify ways to plant trees in City-owned land such as street medians and parks and encourage private entities to increase the City's canopy on private property.

What are the key elements of the Study?

In 2014, City Council approved the Urban Forest Management Plan as a general framework for managing all trees in Sunnyvale to ensure the sustainability and attractiveness of the urban forest. One of the main goals of the plan is to increase tree canopy cover to maximize ecosystem benefits provided by the urban forest. Currently, the City plants about 300 new trees a year. A one-time planting "blitz" would provide a significant increase to that number, helping to boost the overall canopy percentage. The Study would consider different means, methods and costs to plant an additional 2,025 trees in a year, and to maintain the trees over their projected lifespans.

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 costs for the Study would be hiring a consultant to complete the analysis.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include an assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating costs.

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

Drop. This policy issue does not merit discussion at the 2024 Study Issues Workshop.

This Study is similar and redundant to Study Issue *DPW 22-04 Street Tree Repopulation with an Equity Lens* which proposes planting 5,000 new trees in 5 years. Both Study Issues propose planting substantial new trees in Sunnyvale and will provide good metrics to use for future planning.

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