



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0105

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 24-08

TITLE Explore the Feasibility of Converting the PG&E Lots Facing Ramona Avenue, Lois Avenue, and/or Dona Avenue into an Open Green Space Linear Park for the Community

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers: Sell, Din, Mehlinger, Cisneros, Melton, Srinivasan, Klein

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

At Parks and Recreation Commission meetings this year, residents asked to convert the fenced-in PG&E lots facing Ramona Ave, Lois Ave, and Dona Ave into public mini-parks with drought-tolerant native landscaping. PG&E owns the land comprising the lots except for 20-foot-wide strips on either side facing immediately adjacent homes, which are owned by the City in fee title. PG&E and the City are currently providing minimal maintenance of the area. This mini-park would be walkable from many homes and apartments in the Cherry Chase neighborhood and on El Camino Real.

What are the key elements of the study?

The Study would consider what would be needed to open part or all of one to three of the PG&E lots for public access and explore the feasibility of options for their use. This study would coordinate with PG&E to determine the requirements needed for use and hold outreach meetings for impacted residents. The study would do robust neighborhood outreach and survey the neighborhood to determine opinions about what park features, services, and traffic and noise levels would be considered compatible and desirable by neighborhood residents including at a minimum the options of:

- Drought-tolerant native Miyawaki Pocket Forests.
- A nature walkway for bicycle and pedestrian access running through the lots.
- Open lawn space.
- A community vegetable garden.

- Plantings of native plants such as milkweed to support threatened native species such as the Monarch Butterfly.

Estimated years to complete study: 2 years

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

| | |
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| Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): | Moderate |
| Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs: | \$100,000 |
| Funding Source: | Will seek budget supplement - General Fund |

The costs for the Study would be for hiring a consultant to complete the analysis and assist with outreach.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs and funding sources for both capital and operating.

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.

As Sunnyvale becomes more built-out, some creativity may be needed to increase open space. These areas could serve different uses or be passive for residents.

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