



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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23-0099

Agenda Date: 2/16/2023

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### 2023 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

#### **NUMBER**

DPW 20-03

**TITLE** Waste Reduction Initiative in Sunnyvale Parks

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Department of Public Works  
**Support Departments:** Environmental Services Department  
Office of the City Manager  
Office of the City Attorney  
**Sponsor(s):** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**History:** 1 year ago: Ranked, Below the Line  
2 years ago: Deferred by Council

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What precipitated this Study?**

By creating opportunities to recycle in public spaces, municipalities can capture more materials for recycling, create and support a culture of recycling, and demonstrate the value of recycling materials. As a city, Sunnyvale has an opportunity to lead efforts to reduce garbage going to the landfill. Recreation Services and Parks staff regularly receive requests from residents and parks users to add recycling capabilities in Sunnyvale parks.

##### **What are the key elements of the Study?**

This Study will consider the impact of separating waste (i.e., plastic, aluminum cans, food scraps, etc.) in Sunnyvale's public parks. The Study will analyze the fiscal impacts to both the operations and capital outlay required to separate waste at the park site rather than downstream at the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station. The Study will also analyze the potential positive benefits, economic and social, of separating park waste on-site rather than further down the stream.

**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: \$50,000  
Funding Source: Will seek budget supplement

The cost associated with the Study is to hire a waste management consultant to evaluate current

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practices regarding waste generated in parks and to provide cost estimates to separate recyclables at park sites. The consultant will also be expected to provide feedback on potential benefits of separating waste at parks. The level of effort is considered moderate as staff and management will be meeting with the consultant to advise on current practices, use of current infrastructure and other various challenges at each park site in the City.

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. 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: Yes

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2023 Study Issues Workshop.

Staff supports this Study Issue as it directly relates to the following City's policies and goals:

Council Policy 3.2.1 Solid Waste Management - Goals and Policies

Goal 3.2E. Minimize potential future City liability for wastes generated in the City.

Goal 3.2F. Maintain sound financial strategies and practices that will enable the City to provide comprehensive solid waste management services to the community while keeping refuse rates at or below countywide averages for cities using cost of service pricing.

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks and Golf

Reviewed by: Michelle Perera, Director, Library and Recreation Services

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

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager