



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

23-0013

Agenda Date: 2/16/2023

2023 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPW 23-04

TITLE Explore the Feasibility of Converting the PG&E Lot Between Lois Avenue and Ramona Avenue into a Public Fenced Dog Park

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Works
Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Sponsor(s): Park and Recreation Commission
History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

At the March 4, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, a Sunnyvale resident proposed converting the PG&E lot near Greenwood Manor Park into a public dog park. The PG&E lot is situated between Lois Avenue and Ramona Avenue. PG&E owns the lot, but the City is currently providing minimal maintenance of the area pursuant to an agreement with PG&E.

What are the key elements of the Study?

The Study would explore the feasibility of opening the PG&E lot situated between Lois Avenue and Ramona Avenue for a public use dog park to help accommodate increasing demand for dog parks in the City. The Study would consider what would be needed to open the PG&E lot for public access. It would make recommendations for potential improvements to the site (e.g., double gated entry, surfacing options, etc.) and provide associated costs, both capital and operational. The Study would include an evaluation of any current agreements or precedents that exist and consider what new agreements may need to be created and determine the process and timeline for doing so. Due to the close proximity of residential housing and availability of only on-street parking, a robust public outreach component would be required. In addition, the Study would determine if any existing PG&E equipment or electrical lines would pose a health risk to dog park patrons. The closest dog park to this location is at Las Palmas Park, which is 0.9 miles away.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

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Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$25,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

The cost is for consultant services that are necessary to complete the work effort. The proposed study would require significant public outreach due to the proximity of the proposed dog park to existing residential housing. The Study would also require the consultant to engage with PG&E representatives to determine the effort involved to convert the land to a public dog park.

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: Park and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

Staff supports this Study Issue as there is increasing demand for additional off-leash dog parks in the City. There are a limited number of areas residents can recreate with their dogs off-leash. There are four fenced dog parks in the City located at Las Palmas Park, Fair Oaks Park, Seven Seas Park, and Muwékma Park, where dogs are allowed off-leash. In all other City-owned open space areas, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times.

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks

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

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager