



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

23-0012

Agenda Date: 2/16/2023

2023 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

LRS 20-03

TITLE Assessment of Needs for Additional Outdoor Sports Programs and Facilities

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Library and Recreation Services Department

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager

Office of the City Attorney

Department of Public Works

Sponsor(s): Parks and Recreation Commission

History: 1 year ago: Ranked, Budget Supplement Not Approved

2 years ago: Ranked, Budget Supplement Not Approved

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

Shifts in Sunnyvale's resident demographics and diversity relative to youth, older adults and national origin have led to an increased demand for certain outdoor sports, especially pickleball, tennis and cricket. These activities provide residents the opportunity to take advantage of our favorable year-round weather while providing exercise through social and competitive play. Northern California continues to be a hotbed of activity for tennis. Pickleball is growing rapidly in many neighboring South Bay cities, and cricket is gaining in popularity.

Completion of this Study will assure that Sunnyvale is meeting current and future resident recreation needs while properly planning for future growth in these recreational areas. A competitive analysis, including other South Bay cities, will ensure that Sunnyvale is on the right track in serving the community.

What are the key elements of the Study?

The purpose of this Study is to consider current recreation trends and community needs relative to certain outdoor sports, especially pickleball, tennis and cricket. The Study would look at programs and facilities in neighboring cities and engage the Sunnyvale community through surveys and needs assessments, including community outreach meetings, relative to the activities. The Study shall also include current facility use and demand, long-range park capital projects and consider future opportunities and partnerships with the potential to impact land use and service delivery for these emerging recreation needs.

Estimated years to complete Study: 1 year

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FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

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| Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): | Moderate |
| Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs: | \$65,000 |
| Funding Source: | Will seek budget supplement |

The cost associated with the Study is to hire a consultant to evaluate current and future opportunities and facilities available for tennis, pickleball and cricket relative to community interests/needs and compare to neighboring cities. The level of effort is considered moderate as staff and management will be facilitating public outreach and meeting with the consultant to advise on current practices, current infrastructure and capital plans, as well as various opportunities and challenges at current park resources within the City.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue opportunities.

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.

There are currently no public facilities dedicated to pickleball or cricket within the City of Sunnyvale. While Ortega Park has a public cricket pitch, the fields are predominantly used by youth softball, baseball and soccer, leaving very little availability for cricket play. The recently renovated Fair Oaks Park (synthetic turf field) was striped with multi-functional field lines, including cricket; however, the overall design and shape of the field does not support regulation cricket play or provide a dedicated/permanent pitch. Lakewood Park is scheduled for renovation within the next few years and may provide an opportunity for a dedicated/permanent cricket pitch and/or pickleball courts based on this study and community outreach during the park designing process.

Prepared by: Damon Sparacino, Superintendent of Recreation Services

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

Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Public Works

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager