

## 2020 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

### **NUMBER**

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DPW 20-

### **TITLE**

.. Evaluate feasibility of dog off-leash hours in select Sunnyvale park(s)

### **BACKGROUND**

<b>Lead Department:</b>	Department of Public Works
<b>Support Departments:</b>	Office of the City Manager Office of the City Attorney Library and Community Services
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>History:</b>	1 year ago: N/A 2 years ago: N/A

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

#### **What precipitated this study?**

A group of residents attended both City Council and Park and Recreation Commission meetings requesting off-leash dog hours at one or more City Parks. Residents made the case for a number of reasons that City Parks should have specified hours during the day where the public can let their dogs run off-leash in select areas of City Parks. Some of the benefits of off leash dog parks mentioned during public comment include; promoting good canine physical health and socialization, a positive way to meet your neighbors and build community and not having to drive to a dog park.

Completion of this Study will provide data to help assist in evaluating the feasibility of allowing off-leash dog hours in Sunnyvale parks.

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

This study will consider the impact of allowing dogs to be off leash during specified hours in City parks. In addition to analyzing the positive benefits of allowing dogs to be off-leash, the study will analyze the potential effect on other park users, user groups such as soccer and little league baseball, effect on park maintenance and exposure to potential legal liabilities for both the City and residents. The study will also provide suggestions related to best practices for allowing off-leash dog areas in City parks (i.e. rules, location, hours, etc.).

**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

The cost associated with the study is to hire a consultant to conduct the feasibility study. The level of effort is considered moderate as staff and management will be facilitating public outreach, meeting with the consultant to advise on current and past practices, reviewing park locations and history and consider any necessary changes to the Municipal Code. The study would also include assessment of potential costs including operating and capital.

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. Study would assess potential costs.

**EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION**

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: Yes

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

Prepared by: Jim Stark, Superintendent of Parks

Reviewed by: Damon Sparacino, Superintendent of Community Services

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

Reviewed by: Cherise Brandell, Director, Library and Community Services

Reviewed by: Teri Silva, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager