

14-0354

MAR 21 2014

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH, AGING & RIVER

MOTION

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) has incorporated water and energy-saving strategies in the construction and maintenance of its facilities. RAP has also developed a Strategic Water Conservation Plan to guide its water conservation efforts. The Department operates 435 park facilities and 13 golf courses on more than 16,000 acres and coordinates with the Department of Water and Power (DWP) on water and energy-saving strategies. RAP currently utilizes strategies to conserve stormwater to comply with the City's Low Impact Development Ordinance (No. 181889).

Consistent with its efforts to reduce water usage, RAP also utilizes methods and materials to retain storm water run-off. Such methods include diversion and capture of run-off from parking lots and amenities such as synthetic soccer fields as well as large City watershed areas. RAP is currently partnering with the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) under Proposition O as well to capture and treat storm water collected from City Streets with the ultimate goal of reusing the water to replace traditional potable irrigation systems. Early methods can be seen at such locations as Augustus Hawkins Natural Park, where RAP has used gravel in the facility parking lot which reduces and cleans stormwater run-off and reduces the urban heat island effect, which occurs when urbanized areas are at higher temperatures than nearby rural areas. RAP is currently in the process of designing a replacement for the Woodland Hills Recreation Center which will include diversionary methods and retention of run-off from the new building site and parking areas. Furthermore, RAP is currently partnering with the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) under Proposition O as well to capture and treat storm water collected from City Streets with the ultimate goal of reusing the water to replace traditional potable irrigation systems, such as in the recently re-opened Echo Park Lake.

The use of bio-swales, retention basins, permeable surfaces and directing run-off toward landscaped areas at RAP facilities reduces run-off and ultimately promotes re-charging of the groundwater. Attention to parking lots in particular are important as shaded, well designed parking lots have multiple benefits toward minimizing heat island effects that are of particular importance to residents of the San Fernando Valley, where it is often warmer than in other areas of the City. The increasing use of these methods and materials will result in positive environmental impacts and enhance the City's goals toward sustainability. While RAP continues to make great progress in incorporating water and energy-saving strategies in the construction and maintenance of its facilities, RAP must continue to identify additional opportunities in its active projects (such as the replacement of the Woodland Hills Recreation Center) to use the latest energy and water-saving materials. Such efforts will enhance the quality of life in the San Fernando Valley and the City while saving taxpayer money.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to include energy and water-saving strategies in the construction and maintenance of RAP facilities, including parking lots, and to include energy and water-saving elements when cost-effective.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:




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ORIGINAL