



DATE: July 2, 2015

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Services

TITLE: **Consideration of Financial Support to Los Altos School District for Open Space Related to a School Site**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Support the Los Altos School District by contributing eligible Park Land Dedication funds towards open space at a new school site in the San Antonio Planning Area, subject to mutually agreed-upon terms.
2. Direct the City Manager or his designee to negotiate terms and conditions between the City of Mountain View and the Los Altos School District once a site has been located for a new school, and bring a draft agreement to the Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Los Altos School District (District) has been working on acquiring land in the San Antonio Planning Area north of El Camino Real for a new school site. The District has requested "a formal statement or action by the City expressing your position on contributing park funds toward the purchase of open space as part of a school site" (Attachment 1).

The City currently has an agreement with the District to provide biannual aerification and fertilization of the open space at Springer Elementary School, located in Mountain View, in return for the public use of the field space after school hours and on weekends.

The City has a more comprehensive joint-use agreement with the Mountain View Whisman School District where the City maintains and operates the schools' fields and recreation facilities in return for public use of the fields and recreation facilities after school and on weekends. This agreement also allows the City to schedule the field space to Youth Sports Organizations and the public when school is not in session.

ANALYSIS

Park Land Dedication funds can be used toward the acquisition, development, and/or rehabilitation of parks and open space in areas of the City deficient in open space. The San Antonio Planning Area has one of the lowest ratios of open space per 1,000 residents at 1.34 acres as compares to the City's standard of 3.00 acres. Both the Parks and Open Space Plan and the San Antonio Precise Plan have recommended additional park land in that neighborhood.

As stated in a letter to the District on September 8, 2014 (Attachment 2), the City is open to providing Park Land Dedication funds for a field or open space area associated with a new school site, subject to mutually agreeable terms.

The City could contribute funds toward the partial acquisition and/or development of open space at a school site in exchange for public access to the site in the evenings and on weekends. The amount of the contribution would be subject to negotiations on the terms of use and would be based on factors such as, but not limited to, the size of the open space, the relative public use of the site, the maintenance expectations of the District, and the available City resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact at this time. Depending on the location of the school site and size of the open space area, staff would need to determine which fees would be eligible to fund the open space at the proposed new school site. The Park Land Dedication Fund currently has an unencumbered balance of \$7.5 million available for use in the San Antonio Open Space Planning Area, of which \$2.9 million is currently committed to the acquisition of open space. However, the City may have a number of competing demands for those funds.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve an alternative source of funding toward open space at a new school site in the San Antonio Planning Area.
2. Do not approve funding toward open space at a new school site in the San Antonio Planning Area at this time.
3. Recommend other options as determined by the City Council.

NEXT STEPS

The City Council is scheduled to consider amending the Park Land Dedication Ordinance and updating the definition of park size and service area on September 8, 2015, with final adoption scheduled for October 2015. If Council approves proposed changes, it may impact which fees may be eligible for contribution to a park or open space project.

If Council supports contributing Park Land Dedication funds toward open space at a new school site, the City Manager would work with the District on a joint-use agreement.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting and a copy of the Council report sent to the Los Altos School District.

Prepared by:

Rochelle Kiner
Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by:

J.P. de la Montaigne
Community Services Director

Daniel H. Rich
City Manager

RK/3/CAM
240-07-02-15CR

- Attachment: 1. Letter from the Los Altos School District dated June 9, 2015
 2. Letter to Los Altos School District dated September 8, 2014