



Parks & Recreation Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 24, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Parks & Recreation Commission
 Submitted by: Virginia Aiello, Secretary, Parks and Recreation Commission
 Subject: Policy: Bee Habitats and Pollinator-Friendly Vegetation

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution to adopt a Bee Habitats and Pollinator-friendly Vegetation Policy for use in planning and implementing landscape improvements at City parks and open spaces.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the February 23, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, it was motioned, seconded, and carried (Huang/Chavez: unanimous) to recommend that the Berkeley City Council adopt the attached Bee Habitats and Pollinator-friendly Vegetation Policy for use in planning and implementing landscape improvements in City parks and open spaces. Ayes: Becker, Gross, Gray, Huang, Chavez, Collier; Abstain: 0; Absent: Stephens.

BACKGROUND

At the July 22, 2008 meeting of the Berkeley City Council, a report provided to Council described indications that pollinators are declining throughout the world. As the population of bees and other pollinators disappear, there is a potential for the reduced production of fruits and nuts. New research has focused on how to protect existing pollinators, bees in particular. Council referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission the research and development of policies and practices that promote bee habitats and pollinator-friendly vegetation in appropriate parks and open spaces and requested that they return with specific recommendations.

The Commission established a Bee Habitat Subcommittee to work with Parks staff on developing a policy. A draft policy statement was developed by staff and subcommittee members and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their February 23, 2009 meeting. The Commission took action as described above in "Current Situation & Its Effects."

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Sue Ferrera, Parks Superintendent, Parks Recreation & Waterfront Dept., 981-6667
Virginia Aiello, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission, 981-5158

Attachments:

1: Resolution

Exhibit A: Bee Habitats & Pollinator-Friendly Vegetation

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

POLICY: BEE HABITATS AND POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY VEGETATION

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2008, the Berkeley City Council referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission the research and development of policies and practices that promote bee habitats and pollinator-friendly vegetation in appropriate parks and open spaces and requested that they return with specific recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2009 at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, it was motioned, seconded, and carried (Huang/Chavez/unanimous) to recommend that Berkeley City Council adopt the attached Bee Habitats and Pollinator-friendly Vegetation Policy for use in planning and implementing landscape improvements in City parks and open spaces. Ayes: Becker, Gross, Gray, Huang, Chavez, Collier; Abstain: 0; Absent: Stephens; and

WHEREAS, there are no fiscal impacts related to the proposed policy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley adopts the attached Bee Habitats and Pollinator-friendly Vegetation Policy for use in planning and implementing landscape improvements in City parks and open spaces.

Exhibits

A: Policy - Bee Habitats and Pollinator Friendly Vegetation

BEE HABITATS AND POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY VEGETATION POLICY

Policy Statement: for Use In Planning and Implementing Landscape Improvements at City Parks and Open Spaces

To support habitat preservation and development for bees and other pollinators, the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends the following guidelines in planning and implementing landscape maintenance and vegetation planting improvements in City parks and open spaces.

1. Use native plants where appropriate; use a diversity of the flowering shrubs, herbs, grasses, and small trees that bloom successively to produce the pollens and nectars that attract bees and other pollinators; and to the greatest extent possible, use plants and trees that are low to moderate in their allergenic properties.
2. Control the non-native plants and weeds that crowd out the native plants that provide habitat for bees and other pollinators.
3. Focus the planting of pollinator-friendly vegetation in lower density usage areas at least 30' away from children's play areas, restrooms, picnic tables, barbecues, refuse containers, and other park facilities where bee sting risk is greater due to normal visitor use patterns.
4. Use the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront webpage on the City of Berkeley website and temporary signage in parks to explain to the public how landscape maintenance and vegetation improvements in City parks and open spaces are planned to support habitat preservation and development for bees and other pollinators.
5. Consider the following park and open space sites for pollinator-friendly vegetation improvements due to existing native plantings and larger areas available for new plantings of flowering native plants. This is a suggested list only.

Cesar Chavez Park
Live Oak Park
Codornices Park/Rose Garden
Ohlone Park

Aquatic Park
Indian Rock Park
John Hinkel Park
Grotto Rock Park