

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karen Kinser, Deputy Director of Public Works

VIA: Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of December 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

CITY COUNCIL GOALS: To develop plans and pursue opportunities to preserve open space (7) and natural resources (8).

PURPOSE: To keep the City Council informed about the activities of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the attached report.

BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

Since 2006, staff has been preparing an annual Report of Accomplishments to highlight the Open Space and Ecology Committee's achievements. Its purpose is to encapsulate actions and activities to track the Committee's progress and convey its work to the City Council and the public. This report covers initiatives and accomplishments that have taken place in 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

None.


Deputy Director of Public Works


Director of Public Works/City Engineer


City Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 2017 Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

2017 OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1998, the City Council established the Open Space and Ecology Committee (OSEC) as an advisory body to recommend policies and programs related to preservation of open space, resource conservation, and sustainability. The Committee has worked on a wide array of ecological issues generally following an annual work plan. Below is a summary of the work the Committee has undertaken during calendar year 2017.

Lipman Middle School Science Fair Award

Committee member Vladimirova judged the annual science fair projects of the Lipman Middle School students and gave OSEC's 'Being Green Award' to approximately 25 students for using eco-conscious materials in their projects, such as projects focused on biodegradable laundry detergent and dissolving packing peanuts.

OSEC library shelf

The OSEC library shelf, developed by the OSEC Education and Outreach subcommittee of Ebel, Fieldman, and Vladimirova, was continued this year. Committee members Ebel and Ankenbruck regularly refresh the bookshelf and work with library staff on the display.

Climate Action Plan

The OSEC Climate Action Plan subcommittee, Fieldman and Ebel, worked with staff on a monthly basis to continue implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan.

- A. Toolkit. The subcommittee developed a Home Energy Toolkit based on a Santa Clara County model, for residents to use to measure and improve water and energy inefficiencies within their homes. Subsequently, San Mateo County's Office of Sustainability launched a county-wide Home Energy Toolkit, now available at the Brisbane Public Library for check out. In conjunction with the new county program, coupons were published in the November Star for discounts on energy and water savings items at Brisbane Hardware.
- B. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Guide - The subcommittee worked on implementation of the guide, specifically the purchase of such items as office supplies and cleaning products and the reduction of solid waste in city facilities.
- C. Staff Training - Subcommittee and staff worked on staff training for City employees. The training will cover the importance of making behavioral changes in the workplace to slow the impacts of consumption on the environment.
- D. BESO - The subcommittee has been working with staff to explore implementing a Building Energy Saving Ordinance. They have been researching other agencies' ordinances and developing an ordinance framework.

Earth Day Banners

The committee brought awareness to Earth Day by collaborating with staff to design banners for Visitacion Avenue. The committee chose four banners, similarly styled, to broaden the sustainability message. Using the money granted from City Council for this project, the City purchased and displayed the 32 banners for all of April in celebration of Earth Day and Month.

Habitat Restoration Days

- A. Monarch Drive. On April 22nd, the annual Earth Day Habitat Restoration Day was held. Forty volunteers removed broom and fennel between Monarch Dr. and Mission Blue Dr. Recology sponsored the event including the purchase of t-shirts for volunteers, and the Recreation Department staffed the event. San Bruno Mountain Watch provided tools, gloves, a history of the habitat value of the area, and local knowledge.
- B. Costaños Canyon. On June 24th, volunteers worked to remove ivy from lower Costaños Canyon. The event was also organized by the Recreation Department and supported by Recology and San Bruno Mountain Watch.
- C. Lagoon Cleanup. The committee supported the volunteer event along the lagoon shoreline on September 16th, which coincided with Coastal Cleanup Day.
- D. Firth Canyon. The committee suggested a planting day for Firth Canyon later this winter, as rain will be crucial in allowing the chosen Mission Blue Nursery native plants to establish. The event will complement the removal of invasive species earlier in the year.

Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day was held on May 11th; over 1,100 commuters rode past and stopped at Brisbane's two fueling stations. OSEC member Ebel volunteered at the fueling stations.

Policy recommendation letters

- A. Dakota Access Pipeline. The committee expressed their discontent with Wells Fargo's involvement in funding the Dakota Access Pipeline by writing a letter to City Council detailing the situation. City Council passed a resolution supporting the condemnation of Wells Fargo's involvement.
- B. Tree Canopy Ordinance. After the recent removal of a number of large canopy trees within the city, the committee expressed their concern in a letter to City Council encouraging them to review the current tree ordinance. The letter included insights and ideas to provide a renewed focus on the benefits that these large upper story shade trees provide during heat waves.

Vegetation Management Plan for city-owned property in the Brisbane Acres

Staff from Shelterbelt Builders presented their annual report to the OSEC members at the October 25th, 2017 meeting. They noted that the annual vegetation management work has resulted in relatively healthy habitats in the acres. In addition to removing invasive plants in the city-owned Brisbane Acres over the summer of 2017, they also worked to retreated and removed resprouts of the recently removed Eucalyptus trees above Paul Ave.

Day in the Park

OSEC manned an educational booth at the 31st Annual Day in the Park festival on October 7th. The designated subcommittee of Ankenbruck and Hayuk invited Brisbane-based electric bicycle manufacturer Monday Motorbikes to join them at the booth this year. In addition to the regular

pamphlets and information on offer, Monday Motorbikes supplied two electric bikes for demo rides.

Firth Canyon Restoration

Invasive plants such as English ivy were removed from Firth Canyon by Shelterbelt Builders in May of 2017. Jute netting was also installed on slopes to prevent erosion. Remaining funds will be utilized to replant the area with native plants.

Sandbag Return program - OSEC requested a sandbag return program at the end of the rainy season to reduce the trash and stormwater pollution resulting from sandbags breaking down in place. Staff instituted a sand bag take-back period, during which citizens could bring used sandbags back to City Hall for the Public Works Department to reuse or dispose of properly. The program was successful and will be implemented in future years.

Festival Tree

The Festival Tree subcommittee, consisting of Abney and Ankenbruck, reviewed potential replacement tree species and locations in the Community Park. The subcommittee supported a recommendation by staff to work with a local arborist to trim the existing Festival Tree over the summer to improve its appearance and promote the overall health of the tree.

The following projects performed by staff in 2017 were reported to OSEC and received their full support for their consideration and mitigation of environmental impacts.

- A. Street Sign Replacement – Recycling or reuse occurred for the over 100 street signs that were replaced due to age and not meeting retroreflectivity standards.
- B. Crocker Trail Grant. The City received an \$885,000 grant to install stabilized decomposed granite, which is suitable for pedestrians, bicycles, and wheelchairs, along the length of Crocker Park Trail.
- C. Cold-in-Place Recycling. The City used a 'Cold-in-Place' Recycling method on the Bayshore Boulevard pavement rehabilitation project that took place in May of 2017. The process removes and reuses the existing asphalt surface, eliminating emissions created by the hauling off old and delivery of new asphalt in traditional rehabilitation projects.
- D. Recycling Bins. Staff utilized grant money to purchase two sets of compost/recycling bins for use at Mission Blue Community Center at OSEC's request.
- E. Dishwasher. The City installed a dishwasher in the City Hall employee kitchen to be used with dishware and flatware, in place of the disposable products that had formerly been in use. A dishwasher use program was implemented among staff.
- F. Eco-Mat. The City installed the water saving Eco-Mat subsurface irrigation system for the drought tolerant plantings and bioswale which replaced turf at City Hall.
- G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Map. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Route Map was completed and is now available at City Hall and the library. The map was a product of the recent Bike/Ped Master Plan.