



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: January 16, 2020

From: Adrienne Etherton, Sustainability Management Analyst

Subject: OSEC 2019 Report of Accomplishments

Community Goal/Result

Ecological Sustainability - Brisbane will be a leader in setting policies and practicing service delivery innovations that promote ecological sustainability

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 took place in 2019.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Attachments

- 1. 2019 Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

Adrienne Etherton, Sustainability Mgmt Analyst

Karen Kinser, Deputy Director of Public Works

Randy Breault, Director of Public Works

Clay Holstine, City Manager

2019 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 2019.



Platinum Beacon Award – The Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative honored the City of Brisbane with a Platinum-level Beacon Spotlight Award for achieving a 20-percent reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions, a Platinum-level Beacon Spotlight Award for achieving a 21-percent energy savings in agency facilities, and a Platinum-level full Beacon Award.

Climate Action Plan – The Climate Action Plan subcommittee worked with staff on a regular basis to continue implementing the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- A. **Building Efficiency Program** – With support from a \$200,000 Climate Protection Grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and consultants from The Energy Coalition, we adopted an ordinance to reduce emissions in existing commercial and for-rent multi-family buildings over 10,000 square feet through annual energy and water benchmarking and periodic auditing, retro-commissioning and/or retrofits. (More info: brisbaneca.org/building-efficiency-program)
- B. **Reach Codes** – The subcommittee and staff supported the development of local building codes for the three-year cycle beginning January 1, 2020 that go beyond the state requirements and lower the emissions impacts from new buildings.
- C. **Sustainable Purchasing** – Sustainable Purchasing language and a Sustainable Purchasing Guide appendix were incorporated into the city’s updated Procurement Policy adopted by the City Council in March 2019.
- D. **Staff Training & Green Team** – The CAP subcommittee and staff prepared a training for all City employees, held in June and July, on the importance of making changes in the workplace to meet CAP goals. Suggestions for improvements to city operations generated momentum to launch a city staff “Green Team” in September.
- E. **Streetlights** – Staff and the subcommittee researched LED replacements for decorative streetlights in the Ridge and tested various options. The lamps will be replaced as existing lamps burn out.



Electric Vehicle Charging Station – Usage of the DC Fast Charger in the Brisbane Village Shopping Center continued strong despite significant station downtime when the station was replaced (at no cost to the city) as part of a recall. In 2019, the station dispensed over 31,000 kWh, bringing the total since installation to nearly 84,000 kWh or an estimated 35,200 kg GHG emissions avoided.

Policy Recommendations

- A. Public Works and Planning staff worked with a subcommittee of two planning commissioners and one OSEC member to revise the Tree Ordinance regarding trees on private property, which the City Council passed in early October.
- B. In January, we submitted an application to Senator Jerry Hill’s “Oughta Be a Law” contest advocating for a state ban on the sale and import of invasive plants.
- C. Staff and OSEC tracked and supported County efforts to develop a Disposable Foodware Ordinance which will be brought forth in early 2020. Sustainability Intern Tessa Grezdo and fellow staff visited local food businesses to get their input.

Adopt-a-Spot Trash Pickup Stations – OSEC conceived of and staff implemented an Adopt-a-Spot Station program, pairing trash bins, bag dispensers and signage to encourage everyone to play a role in preventing or cleaning up litter. Five stations were installed: San Bruno Ave at the lower BES field, lower Bicentennial Walkway, the ad hoc skate park, South Hill near Sheng Kee, and Costaños Canyon.



Sign Board Replacement – A subcommittee of OSEC and Park and Recreation Commissioners recommended replacing signboards with eInk displays to eliminate the current costly and wasteful system.

Transportation Survey – OSEC and staff collaborated with the Complete Streets Safety Committee to develop, administer and report on a survey of local residents, workers and students regarding transportation modes, attitudes and desires.

Festival Tree Replacement – A subcommittee worked with staff and Park and Recreation Commissioners to recommend a 20’ tall sequoiadendron giganteum be planted in the Community Park near the five-point intersection.



280 South Hill Funds – OSEC and the Park and Recreation Commission recommended funds be used for the development of the Crocker Park Trail Master Plan and reviewed the draft RFP for consulting services.

Day in the Park – OSEC staffed an educational booth at the 33rd Annual Day in the Park festival on October 5 featuring a solar display, handouts and an art activity.

Habitat Restoration Days

- A. San Bruno Mountain Watch February Planting – OSEC and Public Works and Recreation Department staff supported and promoted a planting day hosted by San Bruno Mountain Watch on February 9th in Owl Canyon.
- B. Monarch Drive – On April 27, the annual Earth Day Habitat Restoration Day had approximately 30 volunteers to remove broom and fennel near Monarch Dr. and Mission Blue Dr. Recology and South San Francisco Scavenger sponsored the event, providing t-shirts and gardening gloves for volunteers. Public Works and Recreation Department planned and staffed the event. San Bruno Mountain Watch provided tools, additional gloves, a history of the habitat value of the area, and local knowledge.
- C. Trinity Road – On June 29, about 20 volunteers worked to remove invasives from San Bruno Mountain. The event was co-organized by Public Works and the Recreation Department and supported by Recology, SSF Scavenger and San Bruno Mountain Watch.
- D. Coastal Cleanup Day – OSEC supported the event along Harney Way near the bay shoreline on September 21. A couple dozen volunteers cleared roughly 10 cubic yards of trash. In addition to Public Works and Recreation staff organizers, and sponsors Recology and SSF Scavenger, the Lions Club provided lunch.
- E. December Planting Day – The city sponsored a planting day on San Bruno Mountain on December 14, partnering with San Bruno Mountain Watch and series sponsors SSF Scavenger and Recology. Nearly 40 volunteers planted 250 native plants from the Mission Blue Nursery and pulled invasive plants.



Vegetation Management Plan for city-owned property in the Brisbane Acres – On Point Land Management continued vegetation management work in the Acres.



Weed Management Area – Sage and Salmon participate in the San Mateo County Weed Management Area (WMA). In May, Brisbane hosted the group's annual Picnic in the Weeds event, including a presentation by Sage on the city's efforts to preserve and restore habitat, a hike on San Bruno Mountain and picnic lunch at Mission Blue Nursery.

Priority Conservation Area Grant – Staff submitted an application for a PCA Grant from the Association of Bay Area Governments based on input from a subcommittee of OSEC members, staff, and San Bruno Mountain Watch. Unfortunately, the application for clearing sediment and enhancing wetland habitat along the Crocker Trail was unsuccessful.

Education and Outreach

- A. Library Display Update – The Education & Outreach subcommittee and staff, particularly summer intern Grezdo, overhauled the OSEC display at the Brisbane Library.
- B. Sustainability and OSEC Webpages Update – Another summer project for Grezdo and the subcommittee was an update to the City’s sustainability and OSEC webpages.
- C. Earth Day Banners – The City displayed 32 Earth Day banners created in 2017 along Visitacion Avenue in April in celebration of Earth Day and Month.
- D. Lipman Science Fair Judging – In early February, Rogers reviewed science fair projects and presented three awards to students with environmental projects.



Staff Projects

The following projects performed by staff in 2019 were reported to OSEC and received their full support for their consideration and mitigation of environmental impacts.

- A. E-waste Collection – On June 8, the city hosted an e-waste collection event organized by the County Office of Sustainability. Approximately 9,400 lbs of electronics were collected, with 44% diverted for reuse.
- B. Compost Giveaway – Staff worked with South San Francisco Scavenger to continue the annual spring compost giveaway at no cost to residents or the city. The supply was placed by the Community Garden beginning May 3 and was quickly depleted.
- C. Sandbag Return Program – Staff continued the annual sandbag return program at the end of the rainy season to reduce the trash and stormwater pollution resulting from sandbags breaking down in place.
- D. BAWSCA Landscape Education Classes – Staff worked with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to offer two free landscape education courses: Native and Drought Tolerant Landscape Design on March 27, and Harvesting Rainwater and Building a Raingarden on October 23.
- E. City Hall Lighting Retrofit – In January, virtually all lighting in City Hall was converted to LED. The project was coordinated by San Mateo County Energy Watch and paid for through PG&E On-Bill Financing.
- F. CPD (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) – Staff submitted city emissions and climate actions to CDP, a global carbon reporting organization, over the summer.

