

PROP K - THE SUNLIGHT ORDINANCE

GUIDANCE FROM 1989 FOR FOLLOWING PARKS:

BACKGROUND

Prop K was passed by the citizens of San Francisco on the June 1984 Ballot in response to a growing concern about shadow impacts of buildings on the city’s open spaces. The ordinance included all properties under the jurisdiction of or designated for acquisition by the Recreation and Park Commission.

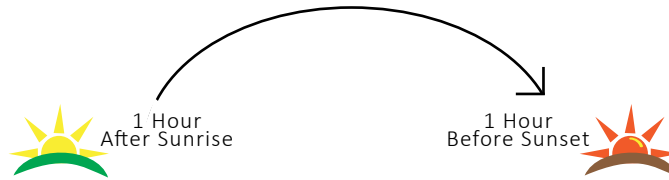
Section 295 of the city planning code requires the planning commission, prior to the issuance of a permit for a project that exceeds 40 feet in height, to make a finding that any shadow on property under the jurisdiction of Recreation and Park department cast by the project is insignificant.

Planning Code Section 295:

“The City Planning Commission shall conduct a hearing and shall disapprove the issuance of any building permit governed by the provisions of this Section if it finds that the proposed project will have any adverse impact on the use of the property under the jurisdiction of, or designated for acquisition by, the Recreation and Park Commission **because of the shading or shadowing that it will cause, unless it is determined that the impact would be insignificant.** The City Planning Commission shall not make the determination required by the provisions of this Subsection until the general manager of the Recreation and Park Department in consultation with the Recreation and Park Commission has had an opportunity to review and comment to the City Planning Commission upon the proposed project.”

PROP K HOURS

Shadow Analyses are based on a June 21st to December 21st solar year to provide a sample of representative sun angles throughout the solar year.



DEFINING QUANTITATIVE TERMS

SQUARE-FOOT-HOURS

Square-foot-hours are defined as “the unit of measure in analysis of shadows. A square-foot-hour of sunshine means that a square foot of space in a park is in sunshine for one hour. The total square-foot-hours of a park are determined by multiplying the size of the park in square feet by 3,721 which is the total number of hours year round between one hours after sunrise and one hour before sunset.”

ABSOLUTE CUMULATIVE LIMIT (ACL)

Absolute Cumulative Limit is defined as “the additional square-foot-hours expressed as a percentage of the total square-foot-hours for each park over a period of one year.”

QUANTITATIVE CRITERIA



	CURRENT ANNUAL SHADING PERCENTAGE	1989 GUIDANCE
PARKS <2 ACRES	≤20%	NO STANDARD
	>20%	+0.0%
PARKS >2 ACRES	≤20%	+1.0%
	20-40%	+0.1%
	>40%	NO STANDARD

SMALL PARKS <2 ACRES

ACL: 0%

Boeddeker Park

Gene Friend Rec Center
(formerly South of Market Park)

Huntington Park

Maritime Plaza

Portsmouth Square

St. Mary’s Square

Sue Bierman Park
(formerly Embarcadero Plaza I North)

Willie Woo Woo Wong PG
(formerly Chinese Playground)

LARGER PARKS >2 ACRES SHADOWED 20-40%

ACL: +0.1%

Justin Herman Plaza
(formerly Embarcadero Plaza II South)

Union Square

ACL: 0%

Joe Dimaggio Playground
(formerly North Beach PG)

Washington Square

LARGER PARKS >2 ACRES SHADOWED <20%

ACL: +1.0%

Civic Center Plaza

Individual project shadows within the ACL should be allocated according to the qualitative criteria for each park. See backside for qualitative criteria →

QUALITATIVE CRITERIA GUIDANCE FROM 1989 MEMO

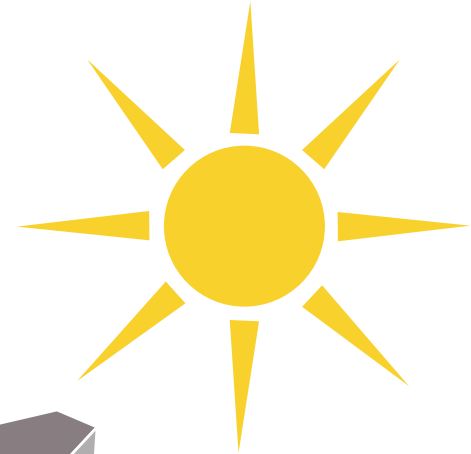
ROLE OF THE REC & PARK COMMISSION:

Provide guidance to the Planning Commission on shadow impacts to parks under Rec and Park jurisdiction using the qualitative and quantitative guidance.

VALUE OF THE SUNLIGHT

TIME OF DAY
Existing shadow conditions and location of park within park compared to conditions of proposed project

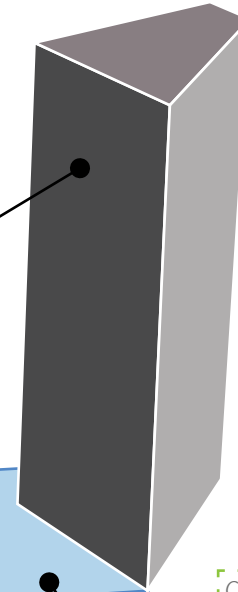
TIME OF YEAR
Identify time of year for new shadow



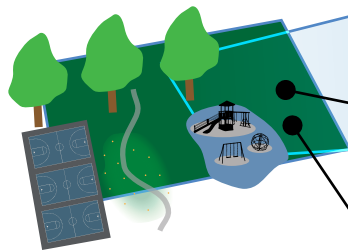
BUILDING CHARACTERISTICS

PUBLIC GOOD SERVED BY SHADOW CASTER

Buildings in the public interest in terms of a needed use or building design and urban form may be allocated a larger portion of the ACL than other buildings.



SHADOW CHARACTERISTICS



SIZE OF SHADOW
Small shadows will generally be preferred to large shadows.

Farther shadows move faster.

LOCATION OF SHADOW
Efforts should be made to avoid shadows in areas of the park where existing or future use of the park is intense and where a new shadow could have detrimental effects on park vegetation.

DURATION OF SHADOW
Shadows lasting a short period of time will be preferred to shadows which last a long time.

Closer shadows move slower.

