

APPROVED
SEP 17 2020

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 20-178

DATE: September 17, 2020

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MAR VISTA RECREATION CENTER – DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF TWENTY (20) 36-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO-YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR A LOS ANGELES PARK FOREST TO BE PLANTED IN FALL OF 2020; ; APPROVAL OF DONOR RECOGNITION SIGNAGE; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 11(1) [PLACING OF ON-PREMISE SIGNS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15304(b) AND 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ S. Piña-Cortez _____
H. Fujita _____ C. Santo Domingo _____
V. Israel _____ *N. Williams NDW

General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Mar Vista Recreation Center consisting of the installation of twenty (20) 36-inch trees and a two-year forest maintenance plan for a Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted during fall of 2020 (Project), as a donation to the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) (Project);
2. Authorize the RAP Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of the proposed improvements, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors allowing access to Mar Vista Recreation Center to construct, install, and maintain the Project improvements;
3. Accept the Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) as a gift to the City of Los Angeles from the Windward School through the LAPF, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval of the completed improvements by PMC staff;
4. Approve the installation of donor recognition signage in the form of a dedication plaque within Mar Vista Recreation Center at the location of the improvements, in appreciation of

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the Windward School's valued support of Mar Vista Recreation Center and the surrounding community, as described in the Summary of this Report and illustrated by the attached recognition signage rendering included with this Report as Attachment 1;

5. Find that the proposed Project, consisting of the park improvements and associated signage, is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping] and Class 11(1) [Placing of on-premise signs] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and,
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the NOE.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) recently established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks that act as micro forests. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal by providing multiple environmental benefits such as air quality improvements, increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat areas, increasing tree canopy coverage and shade, mitigating urban heat island effect, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements will be tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted and the species and size of the trees have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning Division and Forestry Division.

The Windward School (Donor), through the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF), has offered to fund the improvements described herein at Mar Vista Recreation Center, located at 11430 Woodbine Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. The proposed improvements include twenty (20) 36-inch box trees and a two-year "forest" maintenance plan for the Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted in fall of 2020. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided by the Donor to LAPF will also fund maintenance contract expenses to pay Brightview, a RAP approved, licensed landscape company, to implement the two-year maintenance plan. Mar Vista has suffered a loss of trees due to a variety of causes including wind damage, disease and beetle infestation. The Windward School (Donor) has provided the LAPF with funding to purchase and install a wide variety of trees that RAP's arborist has selected as suitable replacements to mitigate said loss of trees. Brightview will provide tree maintenance at the forest once each month, performing as-needed maintenance, including deep water irrigation, weeding, pet abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

The value of the donation, including the trees, plaque, and maintenance service under the two-year L.A. Park Forest maintenance plan is approximately Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000). LAPF used the donation to select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with vendors and contractors (collectively, "Contractors") to design and create a park forest at Mar Vista Recreation Center, at no cost to the City. LAPF coordinated with RAP to prepare a planting plan which has been approved by RAP's PMC Branch and which is

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included herein as Attachment 2. As referenced above, LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff. LAPF also conducted outreach to the Office of Council District 11 and obtained support for the proposed Project. LAPF will have the lead in implementing the Project through said Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two years.

LAPF, PMC, and the Contractors worked together to design and develop the project's scope of work, which has been approved by PMC staff. The LAPF will provide all fiscal and project management services for the Project, entering said direct contracts with the Contractors to install, and maintain the trees for a two-year period.

To thank and acknowledge Windward School for its generous contribution, and subject to the Board's approval, RAP will install a sponsor recognition sign (18" x 7.5"), as illustrated in the rendering included herein as Attachment 1, which reads as follows:

"WELCOME TO THE FOREST
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
ALONG WITH THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION
THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE WINDWARD SCHOOL
FOR PLANTING THIS FOREST FOR THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES
MARCH 16, 2020"

The LA Park Forest installation at Mar Vista Recreation Center was originally planned to be installed in March of 2020, however the project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated park use restrictions under the State and County health orders and the City's Safer at Home directive. With the recent lift of certain orders and mandates now allowing certain types of construction work, the LAPF and RAP are now proceeding with the project as previously planned with the LA Park Forest installation now scheduled for September 10th, 2020.

TREES AND SHADE

Twenty (20) 36-inch trees will be installed as part of the scope of the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of planting of new trees and of the placement of on-premise signs. Therefore, RAP staff recommends the Board determines that this Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) and Class 11(1) or City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, and Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

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FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF through funds provided by the Donor. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Mar Vista Recreation Center's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by John Busby, Senior Management Analyst I and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II of the Partnership Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Donor Recognition Signage
- 2) Mar Vista Tree Planting Plan

Mar Vista Recreation Center
4959 Mar Vista Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

L.A. Park Forest Recognition Signage



Dimensions: 18" x 7.5"

Mar Vista Recreation Center
11430 Woodbine Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066

L.A. Park Forest Site Plan

