

APPROVED

MAY 06 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-073

DATE: May 06, 2021

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MAR VISTA RECREATION CENTER – DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX TREES AND A TWO-YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR A LOS ANGELES PARK FOREST TO BE PLANTED IN SPRING 2021; 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, AND LANDSCAPING] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15304(b) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ * M. Rudnick MR
H. Fujita _____ C. Santo Domingo _____
J. Kim _____ N. Williams _____

M. Stuee
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Mar Vista Recreation Center consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees and a two-year forest maintenance plan for a Los Angeles Park Forest as further described in this Report, 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 RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval and acceptance of the Project, 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 proposed Project improvements;
3. Accept the proposed 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 LAPF, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval of the completed improvements by PMC staff;
4. Determine that the proposed Project 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, and landscaping] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19,

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Section 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

5. 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; and,
6. Authorize RAP Staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Being a long-standing supporter of Los Angeles City Parks, the Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of private donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks, which then act as micro forests. These site-specific projects align with the goals of the City's 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 effects, and supporting groundwater recharge. The size of each forest and associated elements are tailored to the needs and conditions of the particular park in which they are planted, as well as the species and size of the trees which have been vetted by, and coordinated with, RAP's Planning Division and Forestry Division.

The Windward School (Donor) made a previous Park Forest project donation of tree improvements at Mar Vista Recreation Center, located at 11430 Woodbine St, Los Angeles, CA, 90066, which the Board approved on September 17, 2020 (Report No. 20-178). The proposed Park Forest project discussed in this Report is a second Park Forest project at Mar Vista Recreation Center to be funded by the Donor for the benefit of the park and surrounding community. The proposed improvements include twelve (12) 24-inch box trees to be planted in Spring 2021 at a location within the Park approved by RAP Forestry and Planning Staff. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided by the Donor to the LAPF will also fund the maintenance plan to be implemented over a two-year term through a contract between the LAPF and Brightview Landscaping Services, a RAP approved, licensed landscape company.

Mar Vista has suffered a loss of trees due to a variety of causes including wind damage, disease and beetle infestation. To help combat such loss, a wide variety of trees will be planted throughout the Park, but focused primarily along the perimeter of the Park. RAP's arborist from the Forestry Division has selected the following types of trees for this Project: Torrey Pines, Pink Trumpet trees, Marina Strawberry trees, Coast Live Oaks, Shumard Oaks, and Red Oaks. Such species of trees have been selected as suitable replacements to mitigate the loss of trees at Mar Vista. In addition to tree installation, the funding provided by LAPF will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by LAPF through its licensed landscape contractor, which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding, pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss.

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The trees will be planted in various locations as set forth in Attachment 1 to this Report. The exact locations will be identified on the day of installation:

- Five (5) trees along the east wall of the park, extending from the intersection of Butler and Woodbine toward Sawtelle;
- Three (3) trees along the tennis court fence to replace the Ficus that recently died;
- Two (2) trees on either side of the fence portal near the all-purpose-field on the National Blvd. side;
- One (1) tree at the confluence of the walking paths near the recreation center to replace a tree recently lost;
- One (1) tree for the north side of the soccer field along Woodbine Avenue.

The value of the donation, including the trees and maintenance service under the two-year maintenance plan is approximately Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000). LAPF has used a portion of the donation to select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with certain vendors to create a park forest at Mar Vista Recreation Center at no cost to the City. As referenced above, LAPF coordinated the tree selection and planting location(s) with Forestry staff, 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 its contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two years.

LAPF, PMC, Brightview, and vendors worked together to develop the project's scope of work, which has been approved by PMC staff. LAPF will provide all fiscal and project management services for the Project, entering into contracts with its contractors to install, and maintain the trees for the two-year period.

TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) 24-inch box trees will be installed as part of the scope of the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of new gardening, tree planting, and landscaping in an existing public facility. As such, RAP staff recommends that the Board determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3), of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

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 LAPF's forest maintenance plan. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Mar Vista

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Recreation Center's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, and Raymond Chang, Management Analyst, Partnership Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest Location

Mar Vista Recreation Center

Locations where the trees will be planted at the park are shown by the five red colored areas below.

