

APPROVED

MAY 06 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-074

DATE: May 06, 2021

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ROBERT L. BURNS PARK – DONATION AND INSTALLATION OF FOUR (4) 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 TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AS WELL AS TO 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Withdrawn _____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 Robert L. Burns Park consisting of the installation of four (4) 24-inch box coast live oak trees and a two-year forest maintenance plan for a Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted during spring of 2021 and as further described in this Report (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);
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 Robert Burns Park to construct, install, and maintain the Project improvements;
3. Accept the Project improvements valued up to approximately Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), as a donation to the City from LAPF, for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, subject to a post-installation inspection and approval by RAP's PMC staff of the completed Project improvements;

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4. Find 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 tree planting, or landscaping] of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE);
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 purpose of filing an NOE and;
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation (LAPF) 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 is 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.

LAPF has offered to fund the park forest Project improvements described herein at Robert L. Burns Park. The Project is a proposed donation of park forest improvements which includes the planting of four (4) 24-inch box coast live oak trees in a grassy area of the park pre-approved by RAP Forestry and a two-year "forest" maintenance plan for the Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted in spring of 2021. The trees will be planted on the east side of the park in the area set forth in Attachment 1 to this Report. In addition to the 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.

The value of the donation, including the trees and two-year maintenance service plan is approximately Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). LAPF will select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors") to design and create a park forest at Robert L. Burns Park at no cost to the City. 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 9 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.

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TREES AND SHADE

Four (4) 24"-box coast live oak trees will be installed as part of the scope of the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of planting of new trees. 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 Project park improvements will not have any fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund, as associated costs will be funded entirely by LAPF. The first two years of tree maintenance will be funded and performed through the forest maintenance plan implemented by LAPF. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through Robert L. Burns Park'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.

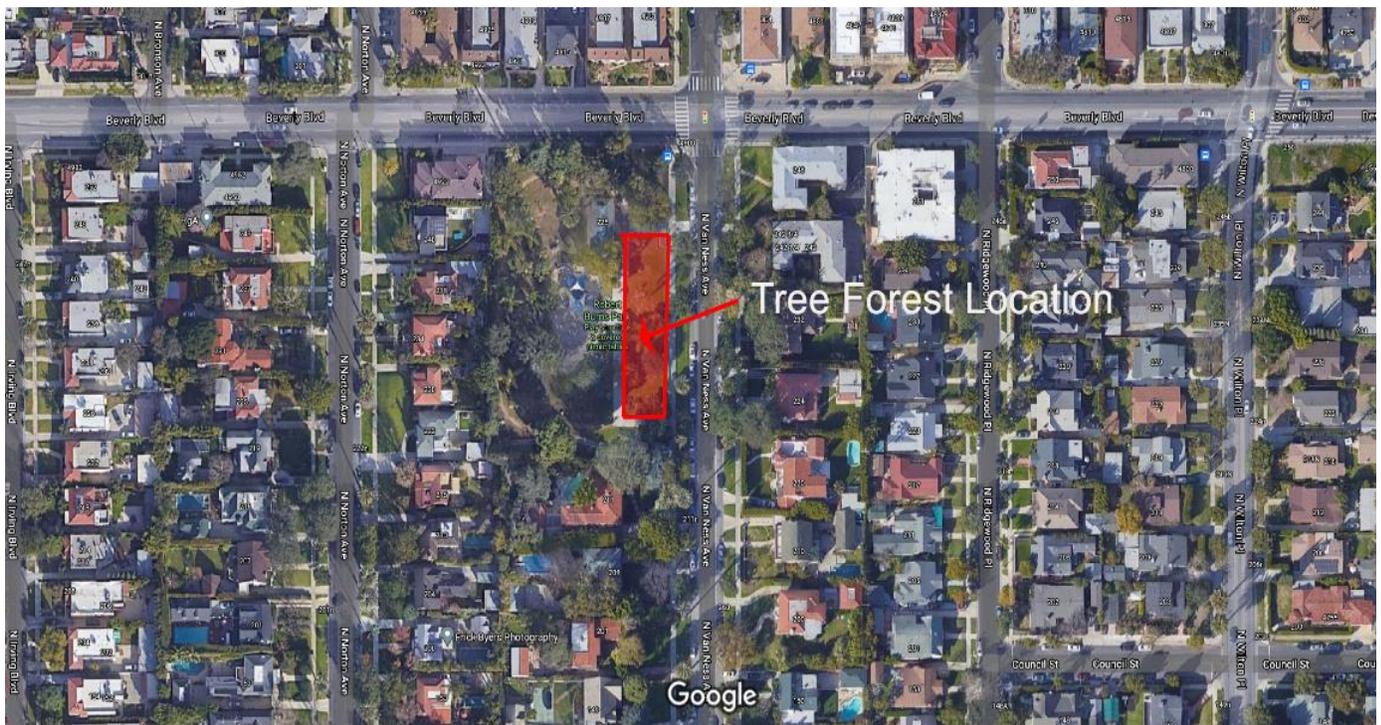
LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest location

Robert L. Burns Park

225 N Van Ness Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Location where the trees will be planted is indicated below:



Imagery ©2021 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, Map data ©2021 Google 50 ft

Robert Burns Park: Tree Forest