

APPROVED
OCT 21 2021
BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-176

DATE: October 21, 2021

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DEVONSHIRE-ARLETA PARK - DONATION FROM THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF TWELVE (12) 24-INCH BOX MATURE TREES AND A TWO (2) YEAR FOREST MAINTENANCE PLAN; 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 AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15304(b) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

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



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Devonshire-Arleta Park (Park), consisting of the installation of twelve (12) 24-inch box, mature trees which include six (6) Tipu trees and six (6) Oak trees, and a two-year forest maintenance plan (Project), under the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest initiative, as a donation to the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), through LAPF, as further described in this Report;
2. Authorize RAP's Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch (PMC), upon the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners' (Board) approval of the Project, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to the Park for the installation and maintenance of the Project improvements;
3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), 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;
4. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California

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Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 4(3) [New tree planting, or landscaping] of City CEQA Guidelines and 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

LAPF established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks. The Board has previously approved several similar Park Forest projects initiated by the LAPF at other RAP parks throughout the City. 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 is tailored to the needs and conditions of the park in which they are planted. The specific 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 Devonshire-Arleta Park (Park) at no cost to RAP. The proposed Project is a donation of park-forest improvements which includes the planting of twelve (12) 24-inch box mature trees, consisting of six (6) Tipu trees and six (6) Oak trees in the grassy area illustrated by the aerial Site Map attached to this Report (Attachment 1). The tree planting is scheduled to occur on or around October 30, 2021, which has been pre-approved by RAP's Forestry Division. In addition to the tree installation, the funding provided by LAPF will also fund a two-year maintenance plan implemented by the LAPF through its licensed landscape contractor, which will include monthly, as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding and 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 Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). LAPF will select, purchase and install the trees described above, through direct contracts with its vendors and contractors (collectively "Contractors"), at no cost to RAP. LAPF coordinated the tree selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with PMC staff and the Forestry Division. LAPF will have the lead in implementing the Project through said Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two years.

TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) 24"-box mature trees, consisting of six (6) Tipu trees and six (6) Oak trees will be

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installed under 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 Devonshire-Arleta Park's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

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

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Park Forest Site Map

Los Angeles Park Forest Project Site Map
Devonshire Arleta Park

