

APPROVED

DEC 15 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-313

DATE December 15, 2022

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH PARK – DONATION FROM THE LOS ANGELES PARKS FOUNDATION CONSISTING OF THE INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS NATIVE PLANT SHRUBS AND FOUR (4) 24-INCH BOX 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 1(8) [MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING, NATIVE GROWTH, WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS; AND BRUSH CLEARANCE FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND FIRE PROTECTION] AND CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, OR LANDSCAPING, BUT NOT INCLUDING TREE REMOVAL EXCEPT DEAD, DAMAGED OR DISEASED TREES OR LIMBS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(h) AND 15304(b) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

B. Aguirre M. Rudnick ME
H. Fujita C. Santo Domingo
B. Jackson N. Williams

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved Withdrawn

If Approved: Board President [Signature] Board Secretary [Signature]

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Griffith Park (Park), consisting of the installation of various native plant shrubs and four (4) 24-inch box trees, and a two-year forest maintenance plan (Project), under the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest initiative, provided by LAPF to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) through private donations received from various community members, 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 proposed Project improvements over a two-year term within the area of the Park as described herein and

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 22-313

identified on Attachment 1 of this Report;

3. Accept the proposed Project improvements valued up to approximately Ninety-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars (\$96,782.00), as a donation to RAP from various community members through the 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. Determine that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(8) [Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, water supply reservoirs; and brush clearance for weed abatement and fire protection] and Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, or landscaping, but not including tree removal except dead, damaged or diseased trees or limbs] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines.
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 the NOE; and
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

LAPF has established a Park Forest Initiative that involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of plants and new trees within existing parks that act as micro-forests. The Board has previously approved multiple 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 are 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, Maintenance & Construction Branch and Forestry Division.

Through private funding received by the LAPF from various community members (179 Donors) in the amount of approximately Ninety-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars (\$96,782.00), the LAPF has offered to fund the improvements described herein at no cost to RAP, to be planted within a 2,000 square foot portion of Griffith Park, near the North Trail, Hogback Trail, and Dante's Peak area, as shown on the site maps included with this Report as Attachment 1. The proposed Project consists of the installation of various native plant shrubs and four (4) Coast Live Oak trees. This habitat restoration installation has been designed by a landscape architect and approved by RAP and will be installed by a RAP approved private vendor selected by the LAPF. A design plan is included in Attachment 1, with the red

BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 22-313

rectangles representing where the Coast Live Oak trees are proposed to be planted. Some of the benefits associated with the habitat restoration include, but are not limited to, surface temperature reduction, carbon sequestration, air and noise pollution mitigation, and wildlife support.

LAPF coordinated the species selection, planting location(s), and all other necessary approvals with Planning, Maintenance & Construction staff, Griffith Park staff, and the RAP Forestry Division. LAPF will be responsible for implementing the Project through its RAP-approved Contractor(s), including the maintenance of the planted trees and native plant shrubs for two (2) years. Installation of the habitat restoration is scheduled to occur in the month of December 2022, in coordination with RAP's Forestry Division. The two-year maintenance plan will include weekly deep watering and weed and pest abatement, until the trees and the understory shrubs and plants are established.

TREES AND SHADE

Four (4) 24-inch box Coast Live Oak trees will be installed under the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of maintenance of existing landscaping and planting of new trees.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved December 1, 2022, this area resides in a liquefaction and in a landslide zone. The construction of this Project will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction or increase the risk of landslides.

This site is not within a coastal or methane zone, so there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of December 1, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. The proposed Project is located within Griffith Park, a City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument (HCM#942), however, the planting of new trees is not going to affect the historic nature of the site.

Based in this information, 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 1(8) and Class 4(3) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections

BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 22-313

15301(h) and 15304(b) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the Project 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 community members. The first two years of tree maintenance will be performed by a private vendor through the forest maintenance plan implemented by LAPF. Beyond that, future maintenance of the improvements will be addressed through the Park's existing maintenance budget and the annual budget process.

This report was prepared by Priya Macwan, Management Assistant, Sustainability and Partnership Sections, and Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnership Section.

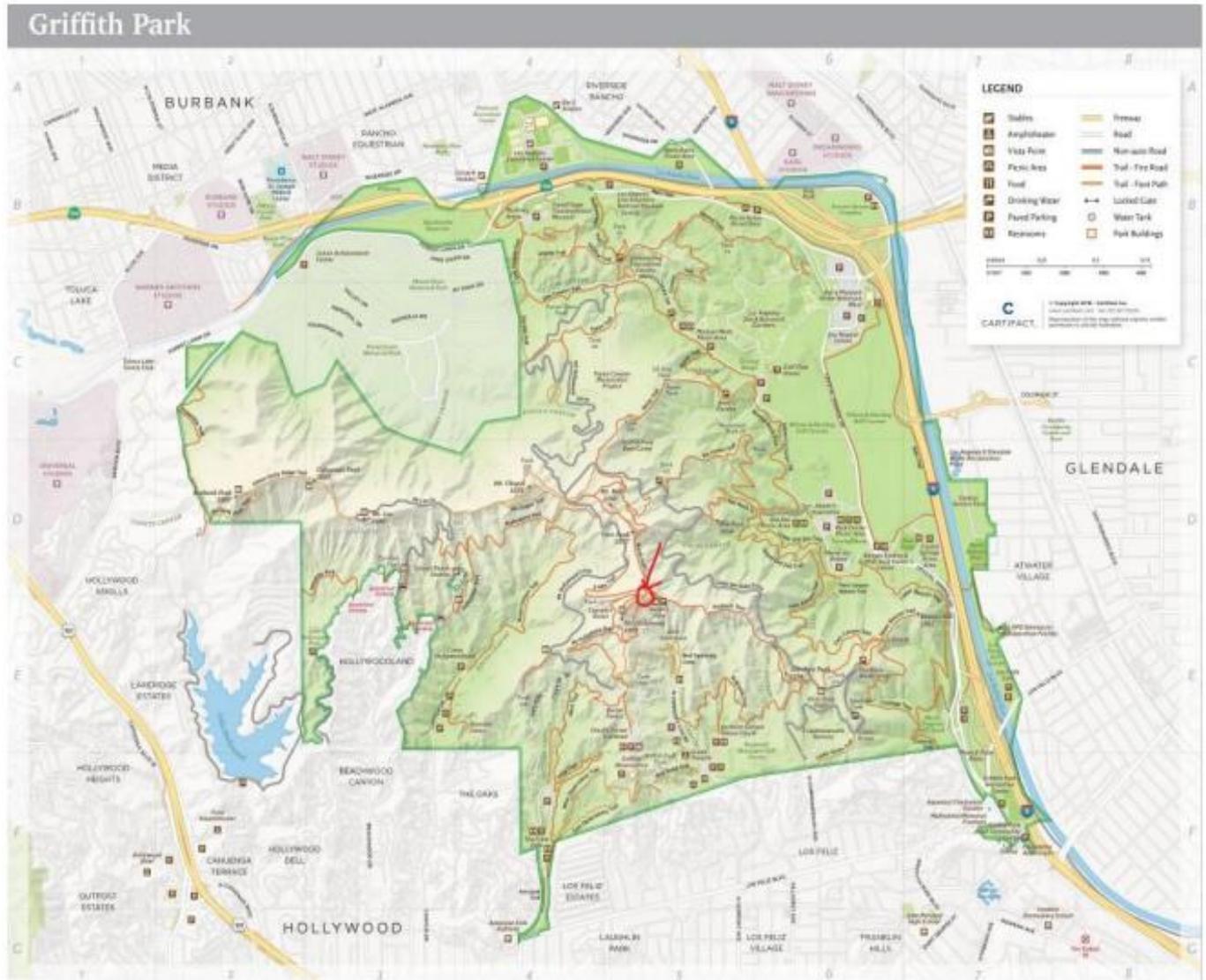
LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Habitat Restoration Site Maps and Design Plan

Griffith Park North Trail and Hogback Trail
4730 Crystal Springs Drive

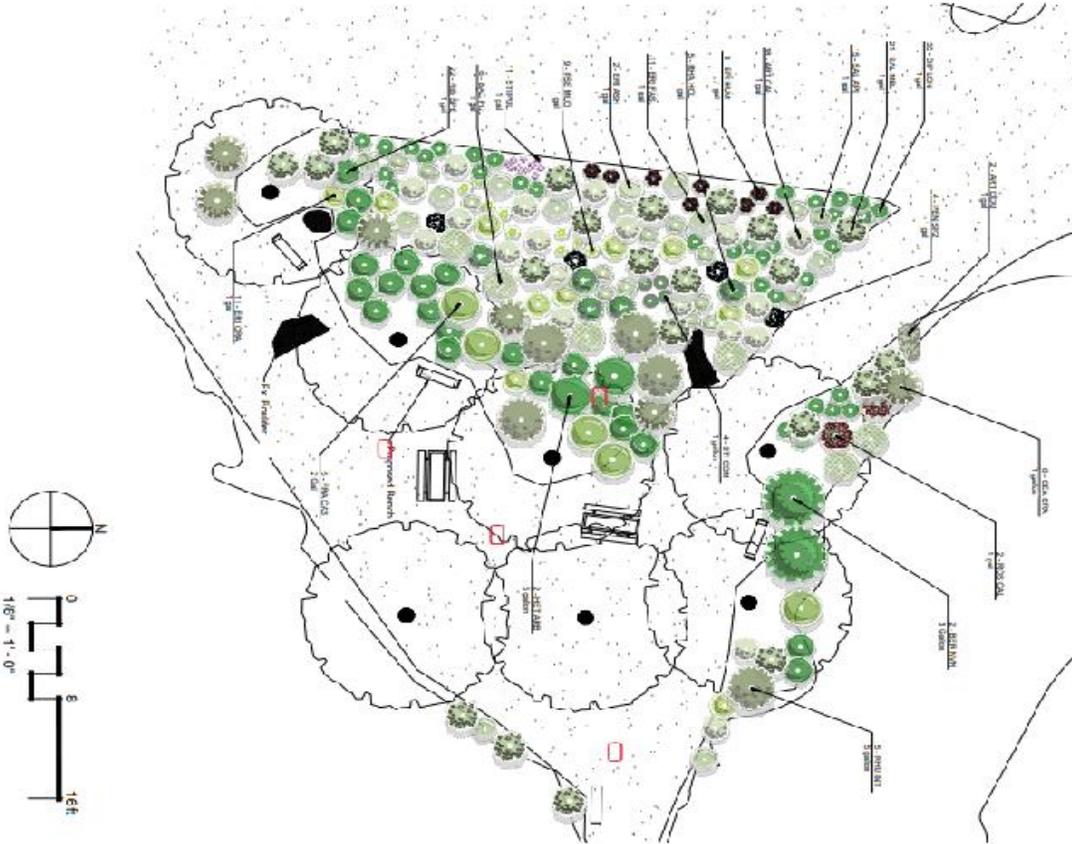
Habitat Restoration and Park Forest Site Maps

Native plant shrubs and Coast Live Oak trees are proposed to be planted in the areas identified by the red circle and rectangles on each map.



Griffith Park North Trail and Hogback Trail
4730 Crystal Springs Drive

Habitat Restoration and Park Forest Site Maps



PLANT SCHEDULE FOR PLANTING AREA

SYMBOL	ABBR.	SCIENTIFIC NAME	LOCAL	WATER USE	QTY
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	13
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	2
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	4
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	3 GALLON	LOW	2
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GALLON	LOW	8
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	8
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	11
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	2
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	11
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	2 GAL	LOW	5
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	5 GALLON	LOW	2
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	4
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	0
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	3
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	2 GALLON	LOW	2
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	22
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	9
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	15
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	21
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GALLON	LOW	4
	ARTOCL	ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA (GREY SAGE)	1 GAL	LOW	11



Site Location Map