

APPROVED

APR 01 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-056

DATE: April 01, 2021

C.D. 9

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ROSS SNYDER 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, OR LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 11(6) [PLACEMENT OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15304(b) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____

* M. Rudnick MR

H. Fujita _____

C. Santo Domingo _____

V. Israel _____

N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve a proposed park improvement project at Ross Snyder 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 to be planted during spring of 2021 (Project), including installation of a backless bench and ADA accessible new concrete slab adjacent to the walkway around the existing play area, 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 of the proposed improvements, to issue a Right of Entry Permit (ROE) to LAPF and their selected contractors and/or vendors, allowing access to Ross Snyder Recreation Center to construct, install, and maintain the Project improvements over a two-year term;
3. Accept the Project improvements valued up to approximately Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as a donation to the City and RAP from Mr. Thomas Safran (Donor) through 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 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 gardening, tree planting, or landscaping] and Class 11(6) [Placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and
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.

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.

Thomas Safran (Donor), through LAPF, has offered to fund the park forest improvements described herein at Ross Snyder Recreation Center, located at 1501 East 41st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90011, in the grassy area of the park, an aerial image of which is included herein as Attachment 1. Since the new trees are planted among existing trees, Attachment 1 displays the general location where the Park Forest will be located. The pool in the area is not being demolished for the Park Forest. The proposed donation of park forest improvements includes the planting of twelve (12) 24-inch box trees and a two-year "forest" maintenance plan for the Los Angeles Park Forest to be planted in spring of 2021. 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. BrightView will provide tree maintenance at the forest once each month, performing as-needed maintenance including deep water irrigation, weeding, pest abatement, and tree replacement in the event of any tree loss. Additionally, a park bench will be installed near the project area.

Six of the box trees are Afghan pine trees and six are Shumard oak trees. The value of the donation, including the trees, concrete slab and maintenance service under the two-year L.A. Park Forest maintenance plan is approximately Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00). 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 Ross Snyder Recreation Center, 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

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Project. LAPF will have the lead in implementing the Project through said Contractors, including the maintenance of the planted trees for two years.

The bench will be backless to allow users to view either the park forest or play area while seated. The concrete slab will be installed by JLandscape and Concrete, a RAP-approved licensed contractor.

TREES AND SHADE

Twelve (12) non-native 24"-box trees will be installed among existing trees as part of the scope of the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of planting of new trees and placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional facilities. 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(6) of City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, as well as to Article 19, Sections 15304(b) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP staff will file an NOE with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The installation of the park 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 Ross Snyder Recreation Center'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) Ross Snyder Recreation Center – area where trees will be planted

Ross Snyder Recreation Center
Park Forest Location

The Forest Location is depicted by the red line enclosure.

