

County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department



24-5396

DATE: April 16, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Josie Ruddach, Financial and Administrative Services Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Donation of Native Trees from Google LLC

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendation relating to a donation of 580 native trees from Google LLC.

Possible action:

- a. Adopt Resolution accepting and recognizing a donation from Google LLC for use in County Parks.
- b. Authorize President of the Board of Supervisors to forward a letter of appreciation to Google LLC.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact to the County General Fund as a result of the recommended action.

The Parks and Recreation Department has adequate funding in its operational budget to address any minor expenses associated with the donation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

Section A2-17 of the County's Ordinance Code provides that any gifts exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in value must be formally accepted and approved by the Board of Supervisors before they may be received by the department. County Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 7.15.1(B) further requires that any donations to the Parks and Recreation Department that exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in value must be presented to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance and recognition by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

The Parks and Recreation Department ("Department") is requesting approval by the Board of Supervisors to accept a donation from Google of five-hundred eighty (580) native trees, valued by Google at approximately \$256,381, for turf reduction efforts at several County parks.

Google approached the Department in November 2023 with an offer to donate several hundred native trees to the Department. These trees had been grown locally at a property in the county for a project that will no longer be implemented. Google calculated the estimated total value of \$256,381 for the 580 trees based on their survey of market prices in the Bay Area for each size and species of tree included in the donation and accounting for a wholesale discount and inflation adjustment.

This generous donation aligns with the Department's ongoing efforts to implement Strategy 6.4 of its 2018 Strategic Plan, which states: *To enhance both customer service and experience, prioritize the improvement of existing park resources and features that are already well-loved and well-used as well as those that fill a need or gap.* The listed actions to implement this strategy include increased planting of site-appropriate species and reduction of grass turf in parks.

These native trees will not only beautify the parks, but also support the Department's vision for reduced reliance on traditional grass turf, promoting water conservation, biodiversity and climate goals. The Department has identified several parks, including Hellyer, Martial Cottle, and Vasona County Parks, that would benefit from this donation.

In addition to strategic alignment, the donation opens up possibilities for community engagement. The Department envisions leveraging this opportunity to organize tree-planting events where the public can actively participate in enhancing park spaces. Volunteering opportunities for tree-planting align with the Department's commitment to fostering a sense of community ownership and environmental stewardship. Land stewardship, specifically for tree care at Hellyer County Park, has proven to be successful with regular volunteers watering trees that reside outside of established irrigation systems.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children through the **Healthy Lifestyles** indicator by providing enhanced park spaces for their enjoyment and recreation; and through the **Youth Feel Valued by the Community** indicator by providing potential volunteer opportunities for tree-planting and tree care.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors by providing enhanced park spaces for their enjoyment and recreation and by providing potential volunteer opportunities for tree-planting and tree care.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action supports the Board of Supervisors' sustainability objective to foster a healthy environment and protect resources by promoting water conservation through the reduction of grass turf.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department would be unable to accept the donation from Google, foregoing the

opportunity to enhance park spaces through community engagement.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Send notification to Jeremy Corrales, Parks and Recreation Department, and forward letter of appreciation to:

Google
Attn: Lisa Herrera
2477 Malaga Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-5835

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Resolution – Google Donation