

97. 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.

(ID# 24-5396) Resolution No. BOS-2024-47

RESOLUTION NO. BOS-2024-47

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
ACCEPTING AND RECOGNIZING A DONATION OF TREES  
FROM GOOGLE LLC FOR USE IN COUNTY PARKS**

**WHEREAS**, Google LLC ("Google") has offered to donate to the County of Santa Clara ("County"), for use in County parks, five hundred eighty (580) native trees grown at a property in Santa Clara County owned by Google;

**WHEREAS**, the County's Department of Parks and Recreation ("Department") desires to receive the donation of 580 trees selected by Department and plant them in various County-owned public parks for public enjoyment and to advance the Department's grass turf reduction goals;

**WHEREAS**, the value of the 580 trees to be donated is estimated to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000);

**WHEREAS**, County Ordinance Code section A2-17 requires that any gifts valued at ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more be formally accepted and approved by the County Board of Supervisors as trustee for the County before being received by any County department;

**WHEREAS**, County Board of Supervisors Policy Manual section 7.15.1(B) requires that any donations to 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;

**WHEREAS**, County desires to approve and accept the donation of trees from Google and recognize the donation with a thank you letter;

**WHEREAS**, Google has represented that it is not aware of any laws or regulations that would prevent or prohibit Google's donation of trees to County;

**WHEREAS**, County understands that Google may be a vendor and/or lobbyist employer and that Google employees may be registered lobbyists, and Google's donation of trees to County will not prevent Google or its affiliates from supplying products or services to County, nor will it influence County's actions or prevent County from taking any actions within its authority with respect to Google, including exercising County's regulatory authority;

**WHEREAS**, Google's donation of trees is not a gift to any specific individual, but rather a gift to County for the benefit of County parks and the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, consistent with County Ordinance Code section A2-17, Google's donation to County is not a gift in exchange for the performance of a specific act within the County's authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, accepts, approves, and recognizes Google's donation of five hundred eighty trees to be used for public parks purposes in County-owned public parks consistent with Department policies and applicable laws.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on APR 16 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: ARENAS, CHAVEZ, ELLENBERG  
LEE, SIMITIAN

NOES: NONE


ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE


  
SUSAN ELLENBERG, President  
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST:

  
CURTIS BOONE  
Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

  
ELIZABETH VIßERS  
Deputy County Counsel

County of Santa Clara  
Parks and Recreation Department



24-5396

**DATE:** April 16, 2024

**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.

Adopted: 04/16/2024

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





MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
SYLVIA ARENAS  
CINDY CHAVEZ  
OTTO LEE  
SUSAN ELLENBERG  
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING  
70 WEST HEDDING STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95110 / (408) 299-5001  
FAX LINE (408) 938-4525  
INTERNET ADDRESS: [HTTP://WWW.SCCGOV.ORG](http://www.sccgov.org)

April 23, 2024

Google LLC  
c/o: Lisa Herrera  
2477 Malaga Drive  
San Jose, CA 95125-5835

Dear Lisa,

On April 16, 2024 (Item No. 97), the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to accept your generous donation of 580 native trees.

The donation made by Google LLC will be used for turf reduction efforts at several County parks, in support of the departments vision to reduce reliance on traditional grass turf, promoting water conservation. The donation will also provide opportunities for community engagements, volunteer opportunities as well as having a positive impact on the community by providing enhance park spaces for enjoyment and recreation.

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Departments and the County as a whole, the Board of Supervisors expresses its sincere appreciation for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Susan Ellenberg, President  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara