



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember Pam Foley

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 27, 2021

Approved:

Date: 5/27/2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Replenish our Urban Forest

Amount of City Funding Required: \$ 20,000

This change is:

X One-time _____ Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable):

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The proposal includes the funding and administration of a financial rebate for San José residents who have purchased a tree and planted on their property. Additionally, we would look to provide educational material on the benefits of trees and proper planting information.

San José’s community forest is a vital component of the City’s assets and infrastructure. A community forest provides many environmental services to the City, which are correlated with mental and physical health, and economic benefits. In addition to the environmental services, trees provide mental and emotional health benefits. (Berman et al. 2012). Simply being able to see trees, parks, and gardens while in a city has been scientifically linked to reduced mental and physical stress, better student performance in school, and better attention to tasks while at work. Additionally, tree-lined streets are more walkable, contribute to more active and healthy lifestyles, and can reduce both the number of traffic accidents and severity of injury for car and pedestrian or cyclist crashes. In addition, well-managed vegetation in neighborhoods may reduce both personal and property crime (San José CFMP).

Our goal is to be able to provide a financial incentive to purchase a tree to assist with replenishing our urban forest, with benefits listed above for current and future generations.

The Citywide Urban Forest Replenishment Program would utilize and partner with the San José Parks Foundation to provide a funding mechanism for the rebate program.

Funding Source

- Essential Services Reserve: \$20,000
- Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact: San José Parks Foundation

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Replenish San José's Urban Forest

Department or Organization: San José Parks Foundation

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