



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 29, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront  
Subject: Council Referral and Contract: Green Pocket Forest for Miyawaki Forest Design and Installation

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to execute a contract with Green Pocket Forest for the design and installation of a Miyawaki forest in an amount not to exceed \$142,775.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

FY 2025 funding is available in the Parks Tax Fund (Fund 138). Funding will be recommended for appropriation in the first amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the General Fund (Fund 011). The General Fund portion is a carryover of project funds allocated by Council in FY 2024. No other funding is required, and no other projects will be delayed due to this expenditure.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street there is a fenced area adjacent to the BART tracks. This is BART property and there is a maintenance agreement with the City of Berkeley. Previously this was a city irrigated lawn with some coast redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) growing here. In 2015, California Executive Order B-29-15 was implemented, banning the watering of ornamental grass on public street medians and restricting watering of other non-essential grass. In 2016 irrigation at this location was stopped, resulting in a gradual decline of the grass and trees, and a deterioration of the existing soil structure. Installation of a Miyawaki forest will improve the soil structure in this area, including increased organic content and improved water retention, and an improved growing environment for the existing trees. The new plantings will be native plants that are expected to thrive without supplemental watering after the establishment period.

Contract: Green Pocket Forest, for the design and installation of a Miyawaki forest

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### BACKGROUND

The Miyawaki forest planting method mimics the way natural habitat would grow in an area if humans - and their transplanted invasive plants - disappeared. A diverse mixture of trees is planted closely together to maximize density and create balance. As closely planted saplings have to compete for light, they shoot upwards very quickly, creating rapid growth not experienced when trees are planted individually or in more widely spaced configurations. In addition to fostering extremely rapid growth, planting a wide variety of native trees and other plants closely together results in increased biodiversity, additional forage for pollinators and refuge for birds. The dense canopy cover shades weeds, creates a cool home for insects, and the increased leaf litter enhances soil fertility.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Section D.2 in chapter 3 of the City's Climate Action Plan seeks to promote tree planting, landscaping, and the creation of green and open space that is safe and attractive and that helps to restore natural processes with significant environmental benefits in the form of carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen production, as well as storm water retention and climate control. The installation of a Miyawaki forest will support the Climate Action Plan by increasing canopy cover and wildlife habitat in an area with low canopy cover.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City's Strategic Plan goal of being global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment throughout the City will be furthered by the installation of a Miyawaki forest.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

### CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, 981-6700

Attachment:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: GREEN POCKET FOREST FOR THE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF  
MIYAWAKI FOREST

WHEREAS, the installation of a Miyawaki forest will improve the soil structure at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 63rd Street, including increased organic content and improved water retention, and an improved growing environment for the existing trees, and

WHEREAS, an invitation for bids was duly advertised on July 16, 2024, bids were opened on September 3, 2024, and the City received two (2) bids; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the City determined that Green Pocket Forest received the best score as the most responsive and responsive bidder, and

WHEREAS, funding for this contract of \$142,775 is available in the FY 2025 Parks Tax Fund (Fund 138). Funding will be recommended for appropriation in the first amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the General Fund (Fund 011). The General Fund portion is a carryover of project funds allocated by Council in FY 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or their designee to execute a contract with Green Pocket Forest for the design and installation of a Miyawaki forest in an amount not to exceed \$142,775.

