



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 17, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: Henry Oyekanmi, Director, Finance Department
Subject: FY 2026 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance setting the FY 2026 tax rate for funding all improvements for the maintenance of parks, City trees, and landscaping in the City of Berkeley at \$0.2652 (26.52 cents) per square foot of improvements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The tax levy of the recommended \$0.2652 per square footage will result in estimated collections of \$22,467,865 for the Park Tax Fund. The increase in the tax rate of \$0.0442 per square foot will result in a \$83.98 annual increase for the citywide average 1,900 square foot home.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The FY 2025 tax of \$0.2210 is being adjusted by the November 5, 2024 voter-approved Measure Y which increased the rate to \$0.2652. In future years, this tax can be increased by the greater of the Personal Income Growth increase in California and Consumer Price Index in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area.

It is recommended that City Council authorize the levy of a special tax of \$0.2652 per square foot of all improvements in the City of Berkeley. The tax will result in a cost to taxpayers in the following average amounts during FY 2026, as compared with the amounts for FY 2025:

Square Feet	Annual Tax	
	FY 2026	FY 2025
1,200	318.24	\$265.20
1,500	397.80	331.50
1,900	503.88	419.90
3,000	795.60	663.00
3,900	1034.28	861.90
10,000	2652.00	2210.00

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 1997, the voters of the City of Berkeley approved a special tax solely to provide funding for the direct cost of acquisition and maintenance of improvements related to parks and landscaping in the City of Berkeley. As a result of the requirements of State Proposition 218, this special tax replaced the annual revenue previously generated by the Citywide Landscape Assessment District.

On November 5, 2024, over 75% of Berkeley voters approved Measure Y increase the rate of the City's special parcel tax for parks, trees, and landscaping maintenance.

The tax may be increased or decreased annually in May, according to the greater of the increase or decrease in the cost of living in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area or personal income growth in the state of California, as verified by official United States economic reports.

On November 5, 2024, over 88% of Berkeley voters approved Measure AA to re-authorize the City, for a period of four (4) years through FY 2028, to spend the Parks Maintenance tax as approved by the voters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

CONTACT PERSON

Henry Oyekanmi, Director, Finance Department, 981-7301

Attachments:

1: Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

SETTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 SPECIAL TAX RATE TO FUND MAINTENANCE
OF PARKS, CITY TREES AND LANDSCAPING IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. The FY 2026 Tax Rate for the maintenance of parks, City trees and landscaping is set at \$0.2652 per square foot of taxable improvements.

Section 2. The cost to the taxpayer during FY 2026 will be \$318.24 for a 1,200 square foot home and \$795.60 for a 3,000 square foot home.

Section 3. This Tax Rate will result in estimated total collections of \$22,467,865.

Section 4. The tax imposed by this ordinance does not apply to any property owner whose total personal income, from all sources for the previous calendar year, does not exceed that level which shall constitute a very low income, as established by resolution of City Council.

Section 5. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

