

RESOLUTION NO. 70,301-N.S.

REQUIRING NATIVE & DROUGHT RESISTANT PLANTS IN ALL CITY  
LANDSCAPING

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley and the State of California are facing historic drought conditions that are projected to worsen over the course of the next half century or more, and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley must adapt its operations to future climate conditions characterized by excessive dryness, extreme weather, and declining populations of pollinators and other local wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the use of native plants in City landscaping offers an opportunity for less water-intensive landscaping throughout Berkeley, and

WHEREAS, native plants intake and filter toxic water runoff more easily than non-native landscaping, and

WHEREAS, native plants provide critical food and habitat for native animals and pollinators that are at risk under future climate conditions, and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly plants provide a natural boost to local biodiversity, and

WHEREAS, the costs of native plant landscaping may reduce overall landscaping costs due to a decreased need for pesticides and fertilizers, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 64,376-N.S. can be updated with biodiversity goals.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the guidelines for Native Species/Bay-Friendly Landscaping Policy For Enhanced Biodiversity on City Property described in Exhibit A are hereby be adopted, and Resolution No. 64,376-N.S. is rescinded.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on April 12, 2022 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Droste, Hahn, Harrison, Kesarwani, Robinson, Taplin, Wengraf, and Arreguin.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

  
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Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest:   
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Mark Numainville, City Clerk

## EXHIBIT A

### GUIDELINES FOR NATIVE SPECIES/BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING POLICY FOR ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY ON CITY PROPERTY

Policy Statement: To combat the critical loss of biodiversity in Berkeley and globally due to modern development and climate change, the City shall use the following guidelines for planning and implementing native plant and Bay-Friendly landscape maintenance and vegetation planting improvements on City property (City parks, open spaces, and Right-of-Way planting strips) in order to enhance biodiversity.

1. Use of native plant species that support bees and other lifeforms and are appropriate to our environment when possible; use a diversity of the flowering shrubs, perennials, herbs, grasses, and small trees that bloom successively to produce the leaves, pollens and nectars that attract bees, other pollinators, insects, birds, and leaf-chewing creatures with an emphasis on those that support local species and ecosystem; and to the greatest extent possible, use plants and trees that are low to moderate in their allergenic properties, low water use and drought-tolerant, and higher in insect and bird habitat potential. No species that are invasive in the Berkeley climate shall be used.
1. Control non-native plants and weeds that crowd out native plants that provide higher habitat value for biodiversity.
2. Strive to plant pollinator-friendly vegetation in areas of lower user density away from children's play area, restrooms, picnic tables, barbeques, refuse containers, and other park facilities where bee sting risk is greater due to normal visitor use patterns.
3. For street trees, the City seeks to plant Bay Area and California native tree species that support other life forms where available growing space and/or native conditions exist, including streets, open space, parks, and Right-of-Way planting areas. In both dense urban areas and park spaces with irrigated turf, where very little native soil and water conditions remain, a diverse range of appropriate tree species shall be used that meet the following requirements: that perform successfully in small planting sites with poor soils and above and below ground constraints; that attain appropriate sizes at maturity; that exhibit safe and manageable growth patterns; that enhance biodiversity; that are drought tolerant; that build climate resilience into the urban forest; and that contribute to the City's Climate Action Goals.