



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 23, 2008
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Beautiful Projects Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a staff report regarding the projects and programs that receive support from Santa Barbara Beautiful.

DISCUSSION:

Formed in 1965, Santa Barbara Beautiful has a long history of providing support for the City's forestry programs. Since 1977 Santa Barbara Beautiful has planted over 10,000 street trees within the City of Santa Barbara through private donations, which greatly contributes to the City's ongoing designation as a Tree City USA. Moreover, Santa Barbara Beautiful sponsors commemorative trees, Arbor Day, and hosts an annual awards competition and ceremony, among other activities.

Each year Santa Barbara Beautiful provides funding for the purchase of new street trees and contributes \$10,000 to the Forestry Program for the care of young trees. In addition, Santa Barbara Beautiful awards funds for one-time projects that can include creek restoration, park landscape rehabilitation, street tree care, and urban forest management, among others. The Parks and Recreation Department is a frequent beneficiary of these funds. These funds generally cover the cost to purchase plants and trees. The Department provides matching support for staff time, and depending on the project, other costs such as project design, permitting, construction and community outreach. In recent years, a number of projects have been completed, including the neighborhood creek stewardship project on Sycamore Creek and youth apprentice restoration of Old Mission Creek. The purpose of this staff report is to provide the Commission with an update on FY 2007-2008 projects and programs that receive support from Santa Barbara Beautiful.

1. San Roque Creek Stewardship at Stevens Park

The purpose of the San Roque Creek Stewardship Project at Stevens Park is to build stewardship through community restoration, to demonstrate appropriate native and riparian planting and landscapes, and to educate residents about the water quality benefits of using native plants in backyards and gardens. The first phase of the project was completed in fall

2006. Over a period of four months, 75 volunteers, including students, planted more than 300 native plants. The second phase of the project was completed in fall 2007 with the planting of an additional 313 native plants and installation of plant name signs. Most of the plants were installed during a community planting day on October 6, 2007. Interpretive signs are under development and will be complete in spring 2008.

Total Budget: \$30,000

Santa Barbara Beautiful Award: \$10,000

City Creeks Division/Measure B: \$20,000

2. Plaza Vera Cruz Improvements

The purpose of the project is to enhance Plaza Vera Cruz with new landscaping, new lighting, improvements to the alley way and ADA access to the playground. Santa Barbara Beautiful funds will be used for plants, plant installation, and the boulder/plaque with historical information and recognition of the donation. The project design is complete and the project is going out to bid for construction in late January. It is anticipated that the project will be complete in June 2008.

Total Budget: \$487,000

Santa Barbara Beautiful Award: \$16,000

City Redevelopment Agency: \$471,000

3. State Street Deep Watering

Completed in 2007, the purpose of this project was to conduct a one-time fertilization and a one time deep watering of State Street trees between Gutierrez and Victoria Streets.

Santa Barbara Beautiful Award: \$3,900

4. Garden Street Median Landscape

The purpose of this project is to install new landscaping in the Garden Street median at Cabrillo Boulevard. It is anticipated that the new landscaping, which will include succulents, will be installed in February 2008.

Santa Barbara Beautiful Award: \$2,000

5. Urban Forest Management Plan

The purpose of this project is to develop an urban forest management plan for the City of Santa Barbara. Work on the plan began a number of years ago. In addition to providing

information on City tree ordinances, tree planting locations, and designated tree species, the plan will establish immediate and long range goals for the protection and enhancement of the City's urban forest. The plan will also be posted on the City's website and will be accessible to the public in a variety of formats. The Department recently began an update of its tree inventory which will be complete in early 2008. The inventory will provide the baseline information for the development of the urban forest management plan. With the upcoming completion of the inventory, it is anticipated that work on the plan will begin in early 2008.

Total Budget: \$98,000

Santa Barbara Beautiful Award \$6,000

City of Santa Barbara: \$12,000 to date on the development of the plan. The cost of the tree inventory is \$80,000.

6. Annual Funding for Urban Forestry Program

Annual funding in the amount of \$10,000 supports the hourly staff member on the Forestry crew and is focused on street tree planting and young tree care.

7. Young Tree Care

In early 2008 Santa Barbara Beautiful funded former City Arborist, Dan Condon, to provide the Forestry Program with assistance in the care of young trees. In addition to some volunteer contributions, Mr. Condon will work as an independent consultant for Santa Barbara Beautiful. Mr. Condon will work with Forestry staff one to two days a week over a two-month period to provide small tree training, pruning, staking and tying, and tree well weeding. This assistance is equivalent to 96-120 work hours.

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director