



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 9k

MEETING DATE: June 15, 2026

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**Date: June 15, 2026**

**From: Margaret Glomstad, Parks and Recreation Director – (650) 558-7307  
Rich Holtz, Parks Superintendent/City Arborist – (650) 558-7333**

**Subject: Approval of the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tree Program**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tree Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its April 20, 2026, meeting, the City Council discussed opportunities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. Councilmember Stevenson volunteered to work with staff to develop a program that would both celebrate this historic milestone and support the continued enhancement of Burlingame's urban forest.

## **DISCUSSION**

For more than a century, Burlingame has taken pride in its urban forest and has held the official designation of Tree City, USA for the past 47 years. In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026, staff has developed the America's 250th Birthday Tree Program.

The program would encourage residents and businesses to plant 250 new trees on their own property throughout the community—one tree for each year of the nation's history. Participants would select from a list of City-approved tree species and purchase a tree through the City at a discounted rate.

The program's objectives are to:

- Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States.
- Expand and enhance the City's urban tree canopy while promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- Beautify residential and commercial neighborhoods, creating a lasting community legacy for future generations.

Program participants would be responsible for submitting an application, selecting an approved tree species, identifying a proposed planting location for City review and approval, planting the tree,

providing ongoing maintenance and care, and paying the applicable program fee. All trees must be planted within the Burlingame city limits.

The program would continue until the community has planted 250 trees. The specifics of the program can be found in the attached exhibit.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff anticipates costs associated with administering the program, including staff time for purchasing, inspecting, and delivering up to 250 trees. The estimated cost for staff time and program administration is approximately \$326 per tree. The cost of the tree will be paid by the participant.

Exhibit:

- Draft of the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tree Program