

STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: March 31, 2026

DEPARTMENT: Leisure Services & Public Works

TITLE:

NEST Phase 3 tree planting (South Bryant Park Playground)

SUMMARY:

NEST received unanimous approval on February 12, 2026 from the Tree and Landscape Board for planting of 28 25-gallon green buttonwoods in and around the South Bryant Park Playground and Wellness Walk.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

The NEST Shade Tree Initiative in Bryant Park is the result of prior City Commission direction, established planning benchmarks, and demonstrated community support. On November 7, 2023, the City Commission unanimously approved the Tree & Landscape Board's recommendation to allocate \$25,000 from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund and to match those funds with an additional \$25,000, including ARPA funding, for the installation of native shade trees throughout Bryant Park .

Implementation of this directive has proceeded in phased stages consistent with the original NEST plan. Phase One (2024–2025) successfully delivered 27 trees along the Wellness Walk, directly addressing documented shade deficiencies in one of the park's most heavily used corridors. Phase Two (2025) added additional canopy coverage in the northeast portion of the park, including the Joyous Trees Circle, while adapting to operational constraints such as staffing limitations and revised planting standards.

Phase Three advances a priority location identified in the original plan: the South Bryant Park playground and surrounding activity areas. This location was explicitly identified as a high-need zone due to prolonged sun exposure, high user density, and limited existing canopy. The proposed installation of 28 native green buttonwood trees is consistent with prior approvals, current city planting standards, and site-specific environmental conditions.

The selection of green buttonwood trees is justified by their proven suitability for coastal environments, including tolerance to salt, wind, sandy soils, and full sun exposure, as well as their capacity to provide substantial canopy at maturity (30–45 feet in height). These characteristics ensure long-term viability, reduced maintenance risk, and meaningful shade generation in a challenging waterfront setting.

This phase also aligns with broader municipal objectives, including:

- Expansion of urban tree canopy and heat mitigation
- Improvement of park usability and public health outcomes
- Enhancement of ecological habitat for birds and pollinators
- Continued execution of a Commission-approved, resident-supported initiative

*As requested, pricing for 100-gallon green buttonwoods is included at ~ \$1,400 per tree and 25-gallon green buttonwoods are ~\$350 per tree.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove the 28 25-gallon green buttonwoods in accordance with the Phase 3 site plan.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis
Tree locations
Tree size

January NEST update
 NEST benchmarks
 November 7, 2023 commission minutes

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

| Fiscal Years | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Inflows/Revenues | | | | | |
| Appropriated (Budgeted) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Program Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| In Kind | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Outflows/Expenditures | | | | | |
| Appropriated (Budgeted) | \$3,807 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Operating | \$25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Capital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Fiscal Impact (If not budgeted) | \$25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. of Addn'l Full-Time Employee Positions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Contract Award - Existing Appropriation (Budgeted) | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Expenditure |
| Department | Public Services |
| Division | Grounds |
| GL Description | Operating Supplies / Landscaping |
| GL Account Number | 330-5040-572-5270 |
| Project Number | Formerly AP2414 |
| Requested Funds | \$3,807 |
| Remaining Balance | \$0 |
| Source of Revenue (i.e. Paygo. Current Revenue, Bond Money, Grants, etc.) | Previously allocated Fund Balance |

| New Appropriation (Not Budgeted) Fiscal Impact: | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | Revenue Source | Expenditure |
| Department | 190-0000-395-0000 | 190-5040-572-52-70 |
| Division | N/A | Public Services |
| GL Description | Other Sources / Use of Fund Balance | Operating Supplies / Landscaping |
| GL Account Number | 190-0000-395-0000 | 190-5040-572-52-70 |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| Project Number | N/A | N/A |
| Requested Funds | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Remaining Balance | N/A | \$48,683.78 |