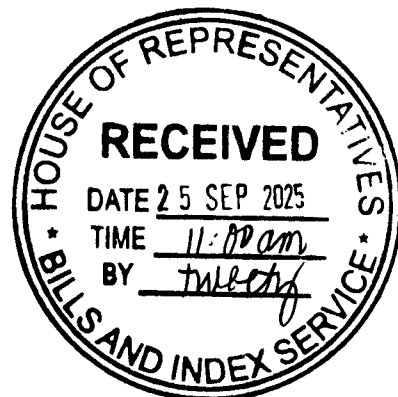


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4892



Introduced by Rep. Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, as an archipelagic country, is one of the most vulnerable nations in the world to the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters. Rapid urbanization, deforestation, and unsustainable land use have contributed to the worsening effects of flooding, air pollution, and loss of biodiversity.

Trees play a vital role in mitigating these problems. They absorb carbon dioxide, provide oxygen, prevent soil erosion, regulate temperature, and serve as natural barriers against floods and strong winds. In addition, tree-covered areas enhance public health, promote wellness, and provide recreational and educational spaces for communities.

Recognizing these benefits, the proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the establishment of a Tree Park in every municipality in the Philippines. The Tree Park will serve as a sanctuary of biodiversity, a source of environmental education, and a vital green space where communities can gather, exercise, and connect with nature.

This initiative is consistent with the State's constitutional mandate to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. It also aligns with the government's commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience.

The establishment of Tree Parks in every municipality will not only help address the ecological imbalance brought about by unchecked urbanization but will also promote civic responsibility, it is also essential for the health, well-being, and quality of life.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'V' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO

Republic of the Philippines
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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A TREE PARK IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Municipal Tree Park Act of 2025.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote ecological balance, environmental sustainability, and public health through the conservation and propagation of trees. To this end, the State shall ensure that every municipality shall establish, develop, and maintain a designated tree park for the benefit of its constituents and future generations.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.

For purposes of this Act:

a) **Tree Park.** - refers to an identified and designated public area planted with various

species of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation, serving as a green space for recreation, biodiversity preservation, and environmental protection.

b) **Municipality** - refers to local government units classified as municipalities under existing laws.

SEC. 4. Establishment of Tree Parks. - Every municipality in the Philippines shall establish and maintain at least one (1) Tree Park, with an area not less than one (1) hectare, which shall be located in a suitable public land owned, donated, or acquired by the municipality.

Sec. 5. Purpose and Objectives. – The Park shall serve as the following purposes;

- a) Serve as a living library of local and native flora;
- b) To promote public awareness and appreciation for environmental conservation;
- c) To provide a public green space for leisure and outdoor recreational activities;
- d) To serve as venue for research on arboriculture and urban forestry;
- e) To contribute to the carbon sequestration efforts of the local government; and
- f) To enhance the natural esthetic and environmental value of the region.

SEC. 5. Implementation -

- a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.
- b) The concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be primarily responsible for the establishment, development, and maintenance of the Tree Park.
- c) The DENR shall provide technical assistance in terms of tree species selection, landscaping, and biodiversity management.

SEC. 6. Funding. - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the annual budget of the concerned municipality, supplemented by funds from the DENR's reforestation and greening programs. LGUs are likewise encouraged to engage in partnerships with private organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civic groups to support the establishment and maintenance of Tree Parks.

SEC. 7. Incentives. - Municipalities that successfully establish and maintain tree parks shall be given priority in DENR grants, environmental projects, and related government assistance programs.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,