

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9268**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

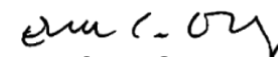
Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In the face of rapid urbanization, climate change, deforestation, and environmental degradation, there is a growing need to expand and preserve green spaces within local communities.

Trees and urban green spaces play a vital role in improving air quality, reducing heat, mitigating flooding, conserving biodiversity, and promoting the physical and mental well-being of the public. However, many municipalities across the country continue to experience limited access to sustainable and protected public green areas.

This bill seeks to establish at least one (1) Tree Park in every municipality in the Philippines to serve as a living repository of native flora, a center for environmental awareness and education, and a public space for recreation and ecological conservation. The proposed measure likewise aims to strengthen local climate resilience and support national reforestation and environmental sustainability efforts through active participation of local government units and communities.

By institutionalizing municipal tree parks nationwide, this measure promotes environmental stewardship, biodiversity protection, and sustainable local development for the benefit of present and future generations.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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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 2026*."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of
the State to promote ecological balance, environmental sustainability,
biodiversity conservation, and public health through the conservation,
protection, and propagation of trees and other forms of vegetation. Toward this
end, the State shall ensure that every municipality establishes, develops, and
maintains a designated tree park for the benefit of its constituents and future
generations.

SECTION 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, environmental protection, and ecological
education.
- (b) *Municipality* – refers to local government units classified as
municipalities under existing laws.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 5. *Purpose and Objectives.* - The Tree Park shall serve the following purposes:

- (a) To serve as a living repository of local and native flora;
- (b) To promote public awareness and appreciation of environmental conservation;
- (c) To provide a public green space for leisure, recreation, and outdoor activities;
- (d) To serve as a venue for research on arboriculture and urban forestry;
- (e) To contribute to the carbon sequestration and climate resilience efforts of local government units; and
- (f) To enhance the natural aesthetic and environmental value of the locality.

SECTION 6. *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, operation and maintenance of the Tree Park.

c) The DENR shall provide technical assistance on tree species selection, landscaping, biodiversity management, and sustainable park development.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the annual budgets of the concerned municipality and may be 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.

SECTION 7. *Incentives.* - Municipalities that successfully establish and maintain Tree Parks in accordance with standards to be prescribed by the DENR

shall be given priority in the grant of environmental assistance, greening programs, technical support, and related government projects.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.