

NB 7. REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO FUND EXPANDING THE NORTH BEACH TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 78TH, 79TH, AND 80TH STREETS OR OTHER POTENTIAL LOCATIONS.

Applicable Area:

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: March 26, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO FUND EXPANDING THE NORTH BEACH TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 78TH, 79TH, AND 80TH STREETS OR OTHER POTENTIAL LOCATIONS.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) review and discuss the options presented. The Administration prefers option two; since this provides better likelihood of longer-term tree survivability and is in line with the City's policies for public and private development to plant trees with adequate soil volume.

The Administration also recommends the Committee consider the broader infrastructure plans and critical needs in North Beach, noting the Request for Qualifications for the North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project was issued in September 2024. North Shore D is a significant infrastructure project that will include increasing the tree canopy and associated underground infrastructure for tree survivability within its boundaries. It will require major funding resources and be a priority from the staffing capacity perspective. The construction will have some disruption for the community at large and additional projects would need to be carefully coordinated.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the March 20, 2024, Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the "PSNQLC" or "Committee") meeting, the Administration presented an update on the tree planting pilot program in North Beach. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Public Works and Environment and Sustainability Departments collaborate on presenting a cost estimate to expand tree planting in North Beach through the use of contractors in areas currently without tree canopy. It was recommended that the update should incorporate visual aids and explore potential collaborations in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The item is sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

At the June 5, 2024, meeting, the Committee provided a favorable recommendation to fund expanding the North Beach tree planting pilot to additional parking spaces located at 78th, 79th, and 80th streets or other potential locations and requested that the item be referred to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee for a discussion on funding.

At the July 24, 2024, City Commission meeting, item C4 D (Attachment A) was referred to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) to discuss funding for the expansion of the North Beach Tree Planting Pilot Program.

At the November 8, 2024, Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the December 20, 2024, Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the January 24, 2024, Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

At the February 21, 2024, Finance and Economic Resilience Committee (FERC) meeting, the item was not heard.

## **ANALYSIS**

The North Beach tree-planting pilot project was initiated by the item sponsor Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez and was approved by the Mayor and City Commission. The pilot is located on the northern side of 78 Street, between Byron and Carlyle Avenues. The pilot project included creating triangular tree pits with minimal soil volume due to space within existing angled parking. This pilot was a new way to introduce much-needed shade without losing parking spaces and maintaining required sidewalk access. Six (6) Satin Leaf trees were planted in the triangular areas. The work was led and completed internally by the Public Works Department in coordination with the Environment and Sustainability Department.

Many lessons were learned that will be valuable for future projects. The following learnings are noted: there were some delays making sure that American Disabilities Action (ADA) space requirements were met for the sidewalk, local residents remain committed to keeping parking spaces, and old underground infrastructure may cause space and repair delays. Ultimately, adding additional greenspace and canopy introduces a broader vision that may include a careful redesign of streets such as reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space.

As noted during the March 2024 Committee meeting, City staff does not have the capacity to expand this pilot and perform this volume of work in-house, which includes: 1) identifying the locations of existing underground infrastructure components; 2) demolition and excavation of pavement and limerock debris to create the tree pits; 3) forming and pouring of D-curb borders around the perimeter of tree pits to prevent planting soil and mulch from washing away and to serve as a wheel-stop to ensure that parking cars don't make contact with the trees; 4) re-striping of the parking spots; 5) supplying and installing the trees; and 5) daily tree watering to establishment. These trees may not thrive over time given the restricted planting space, but can offer some vegetative relief in an otherwise very hot area of the city and maintain the existing streetscape and parking spots.

Following direction from the Committee, additional locations were identified to expand the pilot to create triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. An estimate of \$179,200 was provided at Committee to fund forty (40) locations. Note that this estimate does not include a standard warranty for one-year tree survivability given the restricted planting space.

Following a discussion with the item Sponsor Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez, two options are now being put forth for consideration by the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee:

(1) The initial proposal to fund 40 tree pits with the original design of the North Beach Tree Pilot Program on 78th Street understanding these trees are not likely to mature given the constrained growing space for roots with an estimated cost of \$179,200; or

(2) a transformative installation of 40 tree pits with underground infrastructure to include suspended pavements to allow for the trees to reach a more full canopy potential and not be limited by space. The latter recommendation would cost approximately \$25,000 per tree, inclusive of suspended pavements, for a total cost of \$1,000,000. The trees would be installed in the same locations analyzed for the original tree pit design expansion

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

\$179,200 for option 1 or \$1,000,000 for option 2 based on Committee direction. The actual trees planted as a result of this project could be funded by the G.O. Bond program, however the capital project(s) associated with the construction will require a different funding source.

**Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?**  
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**CONCLUSION**

Given the scarcity of plantable public space in North Beach, the Administration is pleased to provide an option for tree pits as a short-term vegetative relief for the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee's discussion and consideration, as well as a more transformative option of providing underground infrastructure to allow the trees to grow to maturity at the Sponsor's request. If the Committee provides a favorable recommendation, the feasibility study item can be provided to the full City Commission for review, approval, and prioritization during the FY 2026 budget process.

**Applicable Area**

North Beach

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

Yes

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

Yes

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

**Department**

Environment and Sustainability

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

**Condensed Title**

Fund Expanding NB Tree Planting Pilot Program. (Rosen Gonzalez) EN



C4 D REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO FUND EXPANDING THE NORTH BEACH TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 78TH, 79TH, AND 80TH STREETS OR OTHER POTENTIAL LOCATIONS.

Applicable Area:



**COMMISSION MEMORANDUM**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| TO:    | Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  |
| FROM:  | Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager   |
| DATE:  | July 24, 2024   |
| TITLE: | REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO FUND EXPANDING THE NORTH BEACH TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM TO ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 78TH, 79TH, AND 80TH STREETS OR OTHER POTENTIAL LOCATIONS. |

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission refer this item to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the March 20, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the “PSNQLC” or “Committee”) meeting, the Administration presented an update on the tree planting pilot program in North Beach. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Public Works and Environment and Sustainability Departments collaborate on presenting a cost estimate to expand tree planting in North Beach through the use of contractors in areas currently without tree canopy. It was recommended that the update should incorporate visual aids and explore potential collaborations in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The item is sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

At the June 5, 2024 meeting, the Committee provided a favorable recommendation to fund expanding the North Beach tree planting pilot to additional parking spaces located at 78th, 79th, and 80th streets or other potential locations and requested that the item be referred to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee for a discussion on funding.

**ANALYSIS**

The North Beach tree-planting pilot project was approved by the Mayor and City Commission and is located on the northern side of 78 Street, between Byron and Carlyle Avenues. The pilot project included creating triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. This pilot was a new way to introduce much-needed shade without losing parking spaces and maintaining required sidewalk access. Six (6) Satin Leaf trees were planted in the triangular areas. The work was led and completed internally by the Public Works Department in coordination with the Environment and Sustainability Department.

Many lessons were learned that will be valuable for future projects. The following learnings are noted: there were some delays making sure that American Disabilities Action (ADA) space requirements were met for the sidewalk, local residents remain committed to keeping parking spaces, and old underground infrastructure may cause space and repair delays. Ultimately, adding additional greenspace and canopy introduces a broader vision that may include a careful redesign of streets such as reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space.

As noted during the March 2024 Committee meeting, City staff does not have the capacity to perform this volume of work in-house, which includes: 1) identifying the locations of existing underground infrastructure components; 2) demolition and excavation of pavement and limerock debris to create the tree pits; 3) forming and pouring of D-curb borders around the perimeter of tree pits to prevent planting soil and mulch from washing away and to serve as a wheel-stop to ensure that parking cars don't make contact with the trees; 4) re-striping of the parking spots; 5) supplying and installing the trees; and 5) daily tree watering to establishment. These trees may not thrive over time given the restricted planting space, but can offer some vegetative relief in an otherwise very hot area of the city and maintain the existing streetscape and parking spots.

Following direction from the Committee additional locations were identified to create triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. An estimate of \$179,200 was provided at Committee to fund forty (40) locations. Note that the estimate does not have a warranty given the restricted planting space.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

\$179,200

### **Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?** (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on . See BIE at:  
<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **CONCLUSION**

Given the scarcity of plantable public property in North Beach, the Administration is pleased to provide this option for short-term vegetative relief for the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee's discussion and consideration.

### **Applicable Area**

North Beach

### **Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

Yes

### **Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

No

### **Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

### **Department**

Environment and Sustainability

### **Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: June 5, 2024

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION/UPDATE REGARDING THE TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM IN NORTH BEACH.**

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### HISTORY:

At the March 20, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the "PSNQLC" or "Committee") meeting, the Administration presented an update on the tree planting pilot program in North Beach. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Public Works and Environment and Sustainability Departments collaborate on presenting a cost estimate to expand tree planting in North Beach through the use of contractors in areas currently without tree canopy. It was recommended that the update should incorporate visual aids and explore potential collaborations in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPP). The item is sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

### ANALYSIS

Tree canopy provides countless benefits that promote environmental health and stormwater management, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces. Lack of shade contributes to the urban heat island effect, which can greatly increase ambient temperatures, especially at night. The 2023 summer alone set many record-high temperatures and extreme heat warnings, and this is expected again in 2024. Unfortunately, certain areas of the City have low tree canopy coverage due to former planning and development approaches that include narrow or non-existent greenspaces in rights-of-way available for planting. Innovation is needed to introduce trees and their benefits to these more established areas of Miami Beach.

The North Beach tree-planting pilot project was approved by the Mayor and City Commission and is located on the northern side of 78 Street, between Byron and Carlyle Avenues. The pilot project included creating triangular tree pits within existing angled parking. This pilot was a new way to introduce much-needed shade without losing parking spaces and maintaining required sidewalk access. Six (6) Satin Leaf trees were planted in the triangular areas. The work was led and completed internally by the Public Works Department in coordination with the Environment and Sustainability Department.

Many lessons were learned that will be valuable for future projects. The following learnings are noted: there were some delays making sure that American Disabilities Action (ADA) space requirements were met for the sidewalk, local residents remain committed to keeping parking spaces, and old underground infrastructure may cause space and repair delays. Ultimately, adding additional greenspace and canopy introduces a broader vision that may include a careful redesign of streets such as reducing lane widths, one-way conversions, or exchanging parking spots for plantable space.

### **Identifying Additional Pilot Areas**

The Administration was tasked with exploring expanding the pilot program and identifying additional locations to plant trees. Due to the dense and impermeable nature of the areas, additional tree pits could be created in the unused triangular space formed when an angled parking spot meets the curb. A scope of work with design specifications has been created, and a request for quotes has been issued in order to determine a cost of construction with a contractor.

As noted during the March 2024 Committee meeting, City staff does not have the capacity to perform this volume of work in-house, which includes: 1) identifying the locations of existing underground infrastructure components; 2) demolition and excavation of pavement and limestone debris to create the tree pits; 3) forming and pouring of D-curb borders around the perimeter of tree pits to prevent planting soil and mulch from washing away and to serve as a wheel-stop to ensure that parking cars don't make contact with the trees; 4) re-striping of the parking spots; 5) supplying and installing the trees; and 5) daily tree watering to establishment. These trees may not thrive over time given the restricted planting space, but can offer some vegetative relief in an otherwise very hot area of the city and maintain the existing streetscape and parking spots.

### **Planting Details**

Additional locations for tree planting within angled parking spaces include the north side of 78<sup>th</sup> Street, south side of 79<sup>th</sup> Street, and north side of 80<sup>th</sup> Street for a total of 40 individual planters to allow for the installation of canopy trees. The angled parking spaces in North Beach were evaluated between 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and 80<sup>th</sup> Street and they do not have a constant parking aisle length; the initial pilot project site had some of the longest aisle lengths at 21' and all others are generally equal or much shorter.

The original prototype tree pits (13' x 9.5' x 9.5') were created for soil volume and rooting space to accommodate a medium sized tree. Small trees impede vehicle clearance requirements and create no sidewalk shade while large trees could not survive under the limited soil volume and may end up impacting critical infrastructure in the search for water. Measurements of 45-degree parking spaces between 73<sup>rd</sup> Street and 80<sup>th</sup> Street found that only three (3) additional sections were consistent with the original tree pit prototype design and minimum Code aisle length:

- 79th Street between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue
- 79th Street between Byron Avenue and Abbott Avenue
- 79th Street between Abbott Avenue and Harding Avenue

Three additional blocks with the original prototype design is not sufficient to meet the North Beach Tree Planting Project goals. Therefore, the original prototype planter was minimized to a shorter length. The suggestion is a 13' x 8' x 8' planter area which meets the bare minimum planting space for both soil volume and rooting space and maintaining compliance with minimum Code aisle length.

The modified suggested planter size accommodates the following five (5) additional sections, in addition to the three (3) areas complying with the original pilot planter size:

- 78th Street between Dickens Avenue and Carlyle Avenue
- 78th Street between Byron Avenue and Abbott Avenue
- 79th Street between Dickens Avenue and Carlyle Avenue
- 79th Street between Harding Avenue and Collins Avenue
- 80th Street between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue

All other sections cannot accommodate a bare minimum planting area and comply with Code parking aisle length minimum standards. Total street and sidewalk recalibration and construction is required to add trees to all other North Beach sites.

#### **Public Private Partnerships**

To increase the tree canopy, planting on private property is essential since 75% of the land on Miami Beach is privately owned. The overall goal to increase the tree canopy from 17% to 22% was adopted by the City Commission through the Urban Forestry Master Plan (the UFMP) in 2020. To engage the community, the Neighborhood Affairs Division can help to reach out to property owners to advise of the coming pilot projects, and also encourage private property owners to plant trees on private property. A tree palette specific to Miami Beach will be provided, and the Environment and Sustainability Department can host a free tree giveaway for the North Beach community using existing funding.

#### **Illustrations**

Additionally, the Committee requested illustrations for expanding the tree canopy through the pilot project. The map locations of the additional pilots, photos of the existing pilot, and graphics from the Urban Forestry Master Plan are included in Attachment A and offer descriptive visuals for expanding tree canopy in dense urban areas. They depict the necessary soil volume and dimensions needed for planting street trees considering parking and ADA access, also advise on how to plant trees in a way they are preserved during Neighborhood Improvement Projects that include new utilities and street elevation.

#### **Fiscal Impact Statement**

An estimated cost to expand the North Beach tree planting pilot program will be provided at Committee as the initial procurement did not result in any bids.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The Administration is pleased to provide the research, procurement, and estimate to inform the discussion regarding implementation and funding for expanding the tree planting pilot. If the discussion item is approved, the item can be forwarded to the full City Commission for consideration with a potential referral to the Finance and Economic Resilience Committee.

#### **Applicable Area**

North Beach

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes



**Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?**

No

#### **Strategic Connection**

Neighborhoods - Enhance the beautification, physical appearance and cleanliness of neighborhoods.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

| Description  | Type  |
|--|-------|
|  <a href="#">Attachment A Tree Planting Pilot North Beach Program Map and Illustrations</a> | Other |
|  <a href="#">C4 H Ref PSNQLC Update on Tree Planting Pilot in NoBe</a>                      | Memo  |

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez  
DATE: July 26, 2023

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY  
OF LIFE COMMITTEE - DISCUSS/UPDATE ON TREE PLANTING PILOT  
PROGRAM IN NORTH BEACH.

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

In November 2022, I met with Resiliency and Public Works in North Beach regarding planting trees on one block where there are no trees in North Beach. The logic behind this was to challenge our city officials to find innovative ways to create tree canopy in areas where there are none.

It is very easy to plant trees in swales and parks where CMB already has trees, but the \$3M in GO bond funding for trees was for planting trees in areas that **have no shade**, and in my opinion, the money spent to date, has been a waste, because we have created no new canopy areas, just planted trees in areas that already have trees.

I was promised that by April 2023, the block of trees would be ready. We are now in mid-June and we await the results of our pilot program. I would like a public update on what they have found regarding tree-plantings on concrete street, and lessons learned as we move forward.

### **SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

N/A

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A

### **Applicable Area**

North Beach

**Is this a "Residents Right  
to Know" item, pursuant to  
City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes

**Does this item utilize G.O.  
Bond Funds?**

No

### **Strategic Connection**



Neighborhoods - Enhance the beautification, physical appearance and cleanliness of neighborhoods.

**Legislative Tracking**

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

## Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations



Figure 1. Additional planting pits could be located on 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Streets, between Byron Avenue and Harding Avenue.



Figure 2. Additional planting pits could be located on 80<sup>th</sup> Street, between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue.



## Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations



Figure 3. Additional planting pits could be located on 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Streets, between Dickens Avenue and Byron Avenue.

**Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations**



Figure 4. Representative tree from initial NoBe pilot on 78<sup>th</sup> Street between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue.



**Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations**



Figure 5. View facing northwest of initial NoBe pilot on 78<sup>th</sup> Street between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue.



Figure 6. View facing southeast of initial NoBe pilot on 78<sup>th</sup> Street between Carlyle Avenue and Byron Avenue.



## Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations

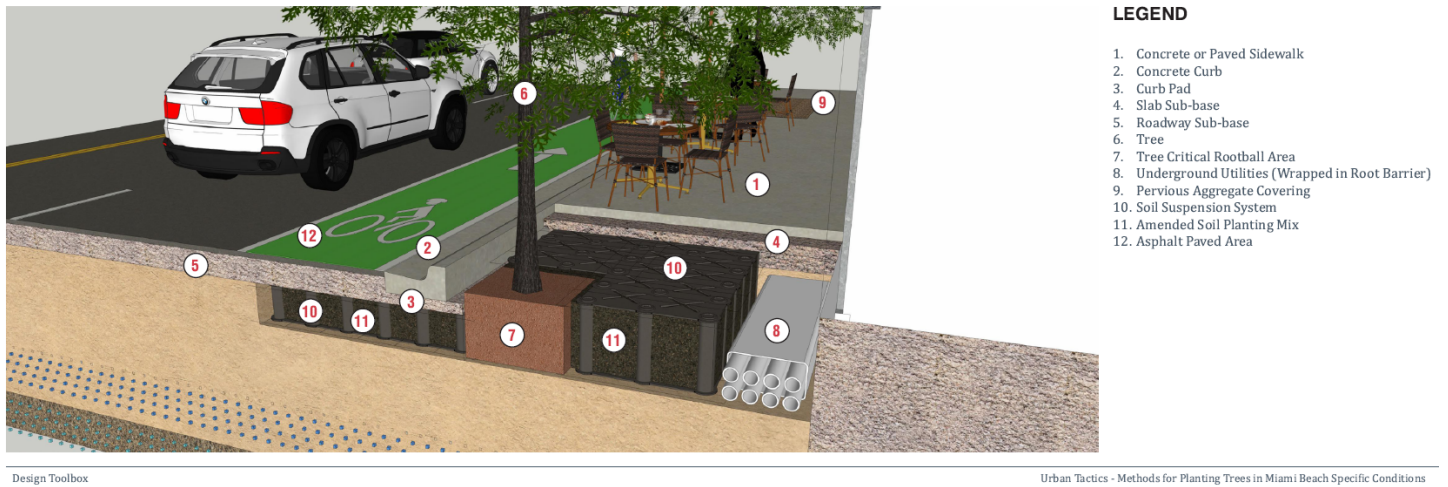
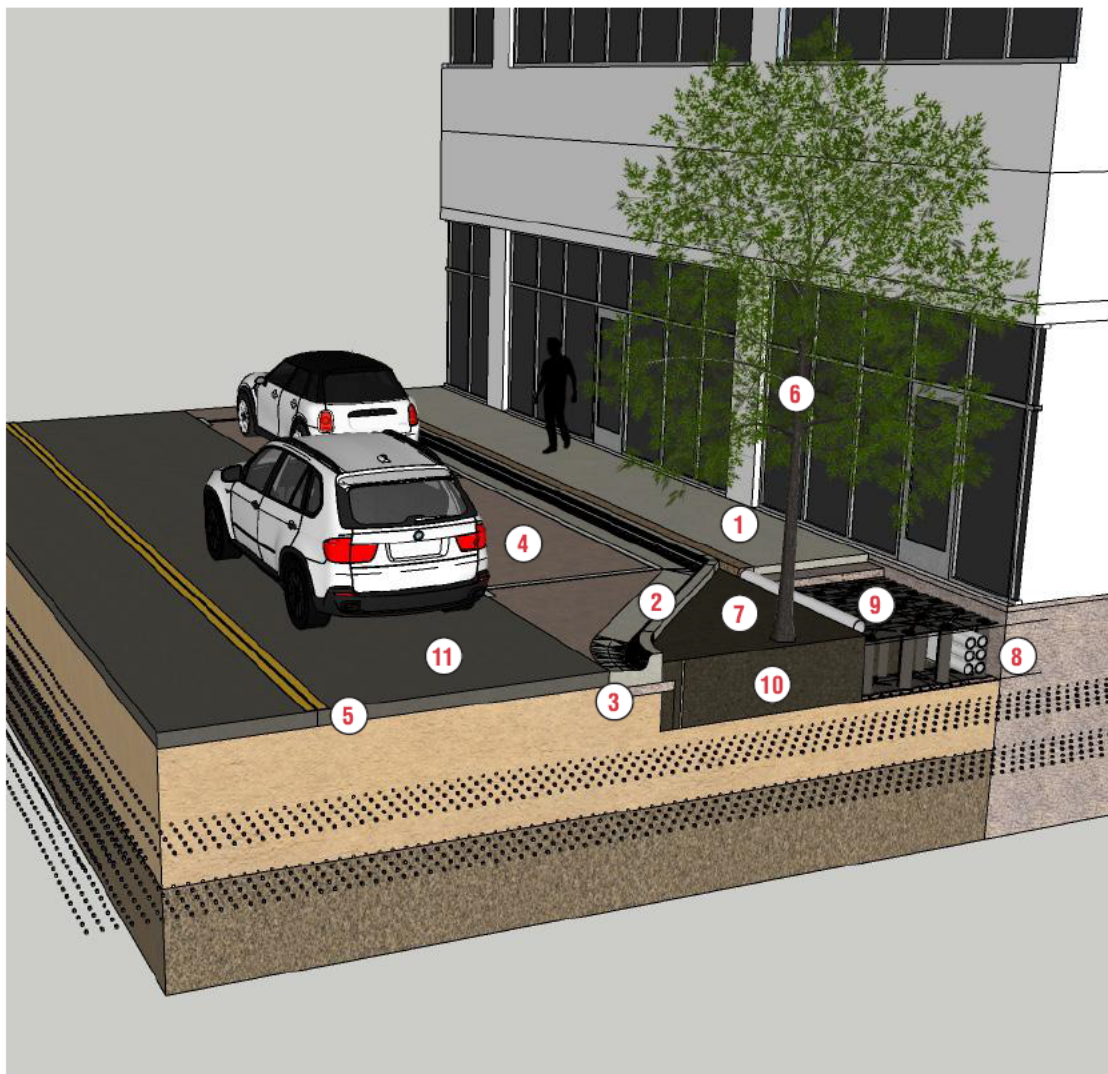


Figure 7. Methods for planting in commercial street frontage of 6-10 feet widths without curb-side parking, as per the Urban Forestry Master Plan adopted in 2020.



## Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations

Figure 8. Methods for planting on all street frontages as per the Urban Forestry Master Plan adopted in 2020.

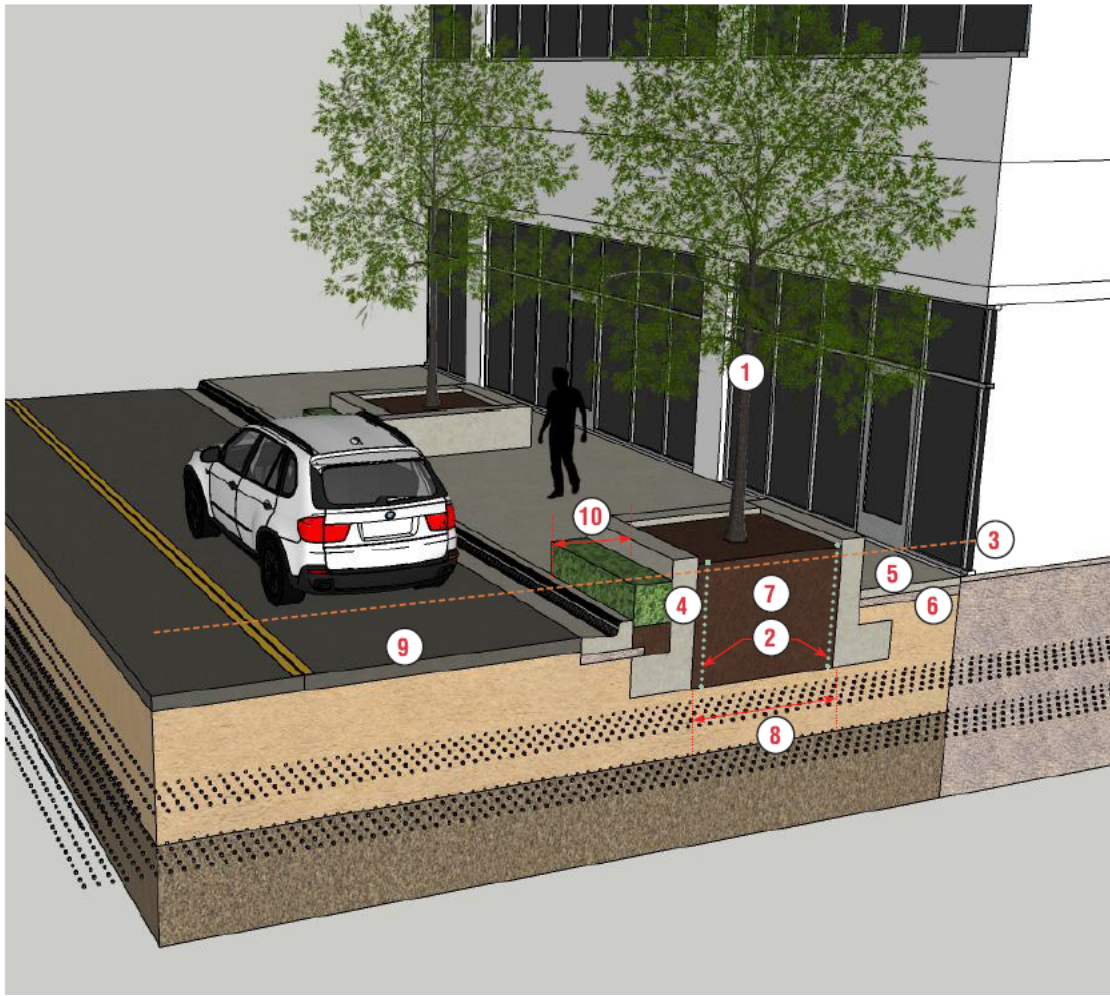


Figure 9. Methods for planting on all street frontages where remaining walkable area meets the minimum required A.D.A. clearance requirements, as per the Urban Forestry Master Plan adopted in 2020.



## Attachment A: North Beach Pilot Program Expansion Map and Illustrations

### North Shore D Neighborhood Improvement Project Limits

