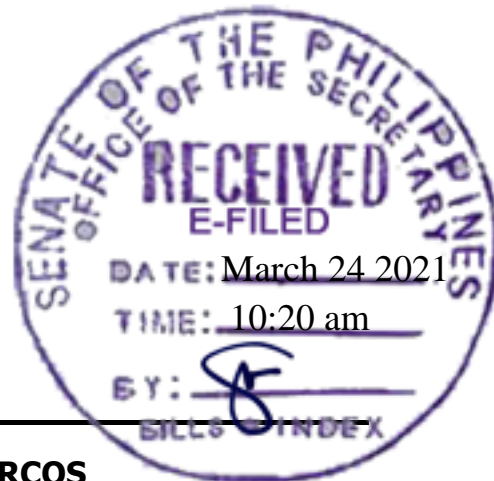


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 2114

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT DECLARING BURNHAM PARK LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO A NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15 of Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that *"Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations."*

Section 16 of the same article further provides *that "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition."*

The Burnham Park Reservation is located in downtown Baguio and was named after American architect Daniel Hudson Burnham who designed it in early 1900s. Spanning a total of 32.84 hectares, the park features a small pond or lagoon situated at the center of the green space and has regimented rows of grass and sidewalk. According to the Baguio Heritage Foundation in 2014, the open field often used for football and the Melvin Jones Grandstand remains to be conservative to the original design of the park.

According to an article by Primer Media, the most prominent feature of Burnham Park is the man-made lake called Burnham Lagoon, where colorful rowboats with various designs can be rented. Near the lake, another famous activity for families and children is biking where chopper bikes (two-seater) and go-karts can be rented. Other recreational areas at Burnham Park include a soccer field, a skating rink, a rose garden, an orchidarium, a children's playground, a picnic grove, and so much more.

In addition to the different parts of the park, the abundance of flowers and plants are also considered attractions to tourists. In 2009, the University of the Philippines Baguio published a journal which identified and recorded a total of 3,004 individual species of the park's flora. Moreover, according to the Baguio City Environment and

Parks Management Office's 2015 inventory, a total of 2,600 trees were found within the location of the park.

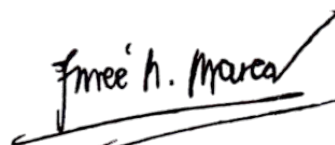
The location of Burnham Park in downtown Baguio also makes it tourist-friendly because of its accessibility to hotels, restaurants, museums, schools, banks, the city public market, and even Session Road. Transportation such as jeepneys and taxis are also available to and from the vicinity of the park. The cold weather also makes it easy for people to just walk around.

The foregoing are only few of the numerous reasons why the Department of Tourism (DOT) shifted its focus on major restoration of Baguio City in February 2020 after the rehabilitation of Boracay Island and Manila Bay. DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat announced the PhP 480 million budget for Burnham Park through its investment arm Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), as part of their agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Truly, the breathtaking beauty of the Burnham Park is not just a display of its architectural design and landscape but an evidence of the rich culture and heritage of Baguio City. It envisions the entwined legacy of the past and the promising future that lies in the park that must be protected and enriched not just to be savored by Filipinos but by the whole world.

This bill seeks to conserve and further develop the immeasurable value of such a national heritage for the benefit of the future generations by declaring Burnham Park in Baguio City a national heritage park.

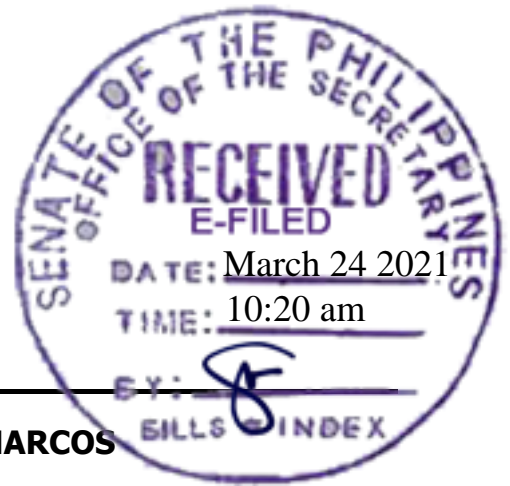
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
2 to protect, preserve, and conserve the nation’s cultural heritage, its properties and
3 history, and the ethnicities of local communities.

4 **SEC. 2. A National Heritage Park.** – The Burnham Park, located in the City of
5 Baguio, is hereby declared a national heritage park. As such, its development shall be
6 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Tourism Infrastructure and
7 Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), in coordination with the National Historical
8 Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the City Government of Baguio, and shall
9 be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of national heritage
10 parks.

11 **SEC. 3. Development Plan.** – Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act,
12 the DOT, TIEZA, NHCP and the City Government of Baguio shall prepare the
13 development plan involving the conservation and/or maintenance of the appropriate
14 facilities which shall enhance the identified areas: Provided, That said development
15 shall ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage and the historical significance of
16 the identified areas.

17 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOT, the Chairperson of NHCP,
18 and the Chief Operating Officer of the TIEZA shall include in their respective programs
19 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
20 General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

21 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days after the
22 effectivity of this Act, the DOT, TIEZA, NHCP and the City Government of Baguio shall
23 formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
24 Act.

1 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
2 implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision
3 of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

4 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,