

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1341



Introduced by HON. MARK O. GO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution mandates the State to conserve, develop, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. It 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.

The Burnham Park is one of the most famous parks situated in the very heart of the City of Baguio. Amidst the city's many twisting roads and rolling hills, Burnham Park is distinct for its geometrically and symmetrically designed stretch of levelled ground. Named after city-planner and American architect Daniel Burnham who designed it in 1904, Burnham Park has served many generations of families, both residents and tourists.

After several design improvements made over the years, the park is now composed of the following cluster areas: The Ibaloi Heritage Garden, a man-made lake, the children's playground, the Rose Garden, the Igorot Garden, the Orchidarium, Sunshine Park, the Pine Trees of the World Park, and various picnic spots such as Picnic Grove, the Melvin Jones Grandstand where various events are held, the Athletic Bowl where many athletes train and compete, and historical symbols such as the Japanese Peace Tower.

For over a century now, Burnham Park has become a part in the progress and prosperity of Baguio City. Indeed, Burnham Park deserves to be recognized as a cultural heritage park.

In realizing our common vision to strengthen our foundation, we need to preserve our rich cultural heritage for our next generations. Having said this, it is hoped that this measure will merit approval in declaring Burnham as National Heritage Park.

In view thereof, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARK O. GO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,