

WOODRIDGE PARK DISTRICT MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

The Woodridge Park District Memorial Tree Program offers residents the opportunity to commemorate a loved one or honor a special occasion. Planting a memorial tree provides a lasting tribute in addition to enhancing the beauty of the community's parks and trails. A customizable bronze plaque is available for purchase and may include the tree name, year of dedication, name(s) of the individual(s) being honored, and a short message, poem, or dedication. District Staff can assist with site selection, tree selection and plaque wording. Depending on the tree selected, the average cost for a Memorial Tree and Plaque ranges between $600 - $750. Full payment is required prior to ordering materials. Payments may be made at the District office by credit card or by check payable to the Woodridge Park District.

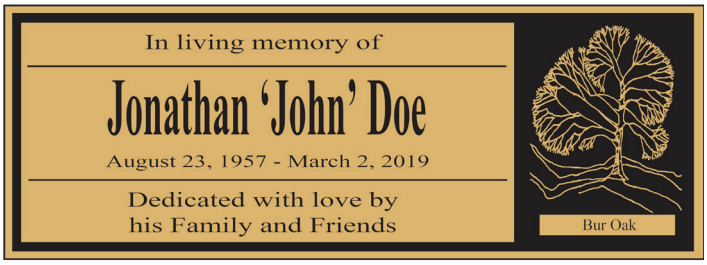
SELECTING A TREE & LOCATION

All trees and planting locations must be approved by the Woodridge Park District. Staff can recommend suitable locations and tree species or meet with you to help select a Memorial Tree location.

- The memorial site must be located on Woodridge Park District property. Staff will coordinate the purchase and installation of the tree and unique memorial plaque.
  - » As of spring 2026, Lake Harriet has reached planting capacity. At this time, new memorials will not be considered at Lake Harriet.
- All Memorial Trees must be purchased by the District and are 2" – 2-1/2" caliper trees that typically range from $220 to $350, depending upon the species and availability. If approved by Park District Staff, additional tree sizes may be considered to fit specific budgets or personal preference.
- Memorial trees are planted twice annually – spring and fall. The spring deadline is May 1st, with planting occurring May–June. The fall deadline is September 1st, with planting occurring September–October.
- Recommended trees include: Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Ohio Buckeye, Black Tupelo, Hybrid Elms, Horse Chestnut, Catalpa, Ginkgo, Kentucky Coffee and various Oak species.

CREATING & ORDERING PLAQUES

- The 4"x11" bronze plaques are 1/4" thick with etched graphics and text and are affixed to flagstone.
- When planning a memorial tree project, keep in mind that the plaque can take two to three months for delivery from the time of order.
- All text and graphics for the plaque must be approved by Park District staff prior to fabrication.
- In 2026, the cost of the plaque is $420; however, this amount may vary based on the market. An additional $25 fee will be applied to cover incidental installation expenses, including the stone and materials required to affix the plaque.



WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER PLANTING

- Park District Staff will establish, maintain, and guarantee the replacement of the tree in the event that it is no longer viable, at no additional cost.
- In the event of future park improvements, the District reserves the right to relocate or replace a Memorial Tree if its existing location conflicts with the planned changes. Relocation may occur within the same park, in a manner consistent with the overall park design, or at an alternate park site. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact the original requester in advance of any relocation or replacement.
- To help protect the health of the tree, additional plantings are not permitted at its base, as they may disturb or damage the root system.
- Decorations may be placed on a Memorial Tree up to three times per year, for a maximum of 14 calendar days per occurrence. All decorations must be removed at the end of the 14-day period. Decorations not removed within this timeframe may be considered abandoned and may be removed and disposed of by the District.
- The District is not responsible for the security, care, loss, or damage of decorative items. Displaying valuable or sentimental family heirlooms is discouraged.
- The District reserves the right to remove any decorations that are hazardous, offensive, or that interfere with the use and enjoyment of the park by others.
- Items removed by the District will be held at the District Office for up to 14 days. Unclaimed items will be considered abandoned and discarded.

If you have additional questions or would like to begin the process of tree selection, contact Suzy Ravasio, Administrative & Project Specialist, via email at sravasio@woodridgeparks.org or at (630) 353-3300.

WOODRIDGE PARK DISTRICT
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