

Commemorative Tree Program

Forestry Services

Our Program

The Commemorative Tree Program was established in the City of Ottawa in 1989. Through this program, the City will assist families or groups who wish to have a tree planted in a City park in remembrance or commemoration of the loss of an individual.

The Process

The first step is for the family/group to decide on an appropriate park in which to plant the tree. If you are not familiar with the City's parks and greenspaces, Forestry Services staff will assist you with the selection. Once an appropriate park has been determined, the coordinator of the program will meet at the chosen site with representatives of the family/group to choose a location and discuss the preferred species of tree.

The species is chosen according to preference, site conditions, and availability. The Forestry Services Program Coordinator will discuss with you the most appropriate species for the site you have selected.

The cost of a Commemorative Tree is \$400.00. This includes the purchase and planting of a 50mm caliper tree, as well as the maintenance for a 3 year establishment period. It also covers

the cost associated with preparing the tree, if desired, for the family or group to conduct a short ceremony at the time the tree is planted.

The tree planting will be incorporated into the next available planting window (spring or fall). Depending on the location selected, the City will obtain utility clearances to ensure that electrical, cable, gas, or other utilities are not damaged during planting. Should such a conflict occur, the final location of the tree may be adjusted slightly. After the tree is planted, the City will assume responsibility and ownership of the tree.

Plaques

Please consult the Forestry Services Program Coordinator should you wish to install a plaque to commemorate the planting. The preferred type is a 10cm thick flat black polished granite marker with an etched inscription. The plaque should be installed flush with the ground to reduce vandalism and allow access for maintenance equipment. Granite plaques may be purchased from a number of monument manufacturers in the Ottawa area. Once the plaque has been purchased by the family/group, City staff will install the marker at no additional charge.

The City of Ottawa is not responsible for the maintenance or replacement of commemorative plaques. Please be aware that it is prohibited, under the Provincial Cemeteries Act, to scatter ashes outside of a registered cemetery.

We hope that this answers any questions you may have about the City of Ottawa's Commemorative Tree Program. Should you require additional information or would like to arrange a meeting at a park to determine a location for your Commemorative Tree, please contact:

City of Ottawa
24-Hour Call Centre at 580-2400
e-mail to: forestry@ottawa.ca

