

TREE DONATION POLICY PROPOSAL 2025

BACKGROUND

The Parks Commission and parks advocacy groups like the Port Parks Alliance (PPA) are often approached by well-intentioned individuals who wish to plant trees in city parks. Trees offer myriad benefits to the community. Trees absorb air pollutants and release oxygen, cleaning and purifying the air. As they take in carbon dioxide they act as carbon sinks, playing a vital role in combating climate change. Tree roots absorb groundwater, helping to control flooding and filtering pollutants from runoff, reducing water pollution. Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent erosion. Shade provided by trees cools the air and counteracts the urban heat island effect. Trees offer shelter, food, and nesting sites for animals, providing vital habitat for wildlife. Trees also increase property values and can reduce home energy costs by shielding homes from the sun. Trees have even been proven to reduce stress and improve mental health.

The Parks Commission proposes the following Tree Donation Policy:

How Do I Give?

All tree donations are to be managed by the Port Parks Alliance (PPA) with tree donations acting as restricted funds used only for the planting of trees within city parks. The Parks Commission's webpage has a Tree Donation link that brings donors to the PPA's Tree Donation webpage, which includes the relevant details.

How Much Do I Give?

Each tree costs \$1000. This donation covers the cost of the tree itself, its planting, and its care for the first two years of its life. If a tree fails in the first two years, it will be replaced by the PPA.

How Many Trees Can I Give?

The Parks Commission will accept up to four tree donations per year and has the capacity to plant two trees in the spring and two in the fall.

What Kind of Tree Can I Give?

The type of tree you can donate is limited to species best suited to our city parks. The Parks Division has developed a planting plan for each park that details the types of trees available. These trees are not only beautiful but will also thrive in the park environment.

Can I Choose the Park for my Tree?

Unfortunately, not all parks require new trees. Trees are long-lived organisms, sometimes living for over 100 years. The planting plans created for each park account for both the park's ecological health and the park's aesthetics for the present and the future. Just as available tree species have been predetermined, so too have the trees' locations. Donors may choose from a predetermined list of trees found in the parks' planting plans.

Will I Be Recognized for my Donation?

Generous donors sometimes like to be recognized for their donation efforts with a small sign or plaque bearing their name, or, if a donation is made in the memory of a loved one, donors often wish to memorialize that loved one with a small plaque. While the Parks Commission understands and appreciates the value of donor recognition, we also feel the need to find a balance between a serene and welcoming green space and signage. Even small signs can be unsightly and detract from the parks experience. For this reason, tree donations will not be recognized with any signs or plaques at the site of the newly planted tree; however, if desired, tree donors can be recognized on the PPA website with listings by name of donor, park where the tree is located, and year of donation.

CONCLUSION

Hopefully, all questions regarding tree donations are answered above. As the policy is newly conceived, the Parks Commission reserves the right to modify the policy as needed through the normal public meeting process.

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