

DRAFT City of Bexley Memorial Tree Policy

The City of Bexley offers residents and community members limited opportunities to honor an individual through the living tribute of a tree donation. A tree donation contributes to the city's natural beauty and sustainability through tree donations. Tree donations can be made in memory of loved ones, to honor individuals, or as a lasting legacy to the community. Trees planted through this program contribute to the city's green spaces, with donations supporting both street trees and park trees.

1. Donation Tiers and Recognition

- **\$500+ Donation:** This level funds the planting of a new tree in a designated area of Bexley, either in a park or along the city streets. Recognition will be provided via an online map.
- **\$1,000+ Donation:** This level funds the planting of a new tree along with a recognition plaque. Trees with plaques will be located within Bexley parks, ensuring visibility and accessibility for public enjoyment.
- **\$5,000+ Donation:** This level funds a series of tree plantings, consistent with the City's naming rights policy (minimum project investment of 50%). Recognition is provided via a project-specific recognition plaque designed to be contextually appropriate to the project.

Donations will be deposited within the Bexley Community Foundation's *Bexley Beautification Fund* in order to fund future projects.

2. Plaque Design Guidelines (Trees in Parks)

Language Options:

In Memory of

In Honor of

In Gratitude to

Design Standard:

Ground mounted sign, placed in mulch bed around tree

Sand-blasted stone - or - brass plaque on stone (Hallie is researching options and we will finalize)

Longevity of Plaque?

Guaranteed for how long?

3. Tree Selection and Placement

To streamline the tree planting process and ensure ecological compatibility, donors will not select specific tree types or exact planting locations. Instead, the city arborist will select tree species and locations based on City of Bexley codes and policies.

The City Arborist will provide an annual list of tree species planned for planting. This list will include both park and street trees, allowing the city to incorporate donor-funded trees into broader planting initiatives.

Donors may request recognition at a pre-existing tree that is not otherwise a memorial tree, subject to the discretion of the City of Bexley Forestry and/or Parks Department.

4. Tree Planting Schedule

Donations for tree plantings will be accepted throughout the year, with planting occurring each Fall, aligning with optimal planting conditions for young trees. Donors will be notified of their tree's planting in the Fall season.

5. Maintenance and Warranty

The City of Bexley and the Bexley Community Foundation will not be responsible for trees that do not survive past any contracted warranty period. Each tree will receive initial care, as per the city's standard maintenance practices. In the event of the failure of a memorial tree, donors may request re-attribution to an existing or planned tree.

6. Acknowledgment and Communication

Donors will receive a letter of acknowledgment, and those donating at the \$1,000 or higher level will be notified of plaque installation following the tree planting. The city may consider periodic updates on the health and status of donated trees, resources permitting.

7. Administration

The City of Bexley shall maintain a list of upcoming tree planting projects, and communicate them upon request to the Bexley Community Foundation.

The administration of donations, and the ordering of plaques, shall be overseen by the Bexley Community Foundation.

The installation of plaques shall be overseen by the City of Bexley Forestry Department.

8. Approval

This policy shall go into effect upon the date of approval by the Mayor and the Executive Director of the Bexley Community Foundation.

Approved:

Mayor Ben Kessler

Date

Executive Director Hallie Raskin

Date