

Information Item

Date: October 12, 2021

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager
William L. Royston, Recreation Director

Subject:
WePlay Memorial Program

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Recreation and Parks established the Memorial Program in 1998 to provide city residents a way to honor a valued person by purchasing a tree or bench placed in a park. The trees add to the beauty of the parks while the benches provide a nice place to sit and enjoy the scenery.

Memory trees provide shade, erosion control, and ornamental vegetation to parks in addition to paying tribute to an important person in someone's life. Citizens are able to pick a tree from a predetermined list that will either be planted in the fall or spring in a location best determined by the department. Memory trees are often found along trails, greenways, parks and recreation facilities. The trees are identified with a weatherproof tag to provide the honoree's name and common tree name. There is a one-year warranty on trees planted within a year.

Memory benches allow a nice place to sit and rest in the parks. Wood slatted benches are installed within three (3) months of the request (weather permitting). A weatherproof tag is attached to the top slat with the honoree's name and inscription engraved on it. The department determines the best suitable location in parks for installation.

The Memorial Program added over 4,000 trees and 1,200 benches to the landscape of parks throughout the years. Citizens appreciate contributing to parks with honoring a loved one in a special place.