

## Treemembrance Programme

### Birmingham's approach to requests for memorial/commemorative trees

The purpose of the Treemembrance Commemorative Tree Programme is twofold: to encourage the retention of large mature trees by adoption, and to further add new trees to Birmingham's Urban Forest. In so doing this would also give the sponsor the opportunity to commemorate an event or person.

This guidance is to provide information on the planting of commemorative trees as memorials and celebrations in and around the various Parks managed by the City Council or partner organisations of the Birmingham TreePeople (BTP)

#### BACKGROUND

People often wish to plant trees as memorials or to commemorate major life events, such as:

- Weddings
- Engagements
- Holidays
- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Anniversaries
- New Child-Baptisms
- Memorials
- Special Events
- Parents
- Friends
- Outstanding Accomplishments





There are many places where commemorative trees are welcome. Opportunities exist where tree planting is part of a landscape programme in parks and gardens or in the establishment of avenues, hedgerows, and new woods. For a variety of reasons, it may be less easy to accommodate tree planting in existing woods or other mature landscapes.

## **OUR POSITION**

The BTP will respond positively to requests for commemorative tree planting in most cases on behalf of the City Council. Planting sites for individual trees will be offered only when there is a very high probability that the planted tree will remain undisturbed to maturity, but this cannot be guaranteed. Management for conservation of the surrounding landscape or its biodiversity will take priority over the protection of an individual tree and any tree planting must be in-keeping with any management plans for the site both now and in the future.

## **WHEN WE TAKE ACTION**

The following conditions will apply.

- Wherever possible the wishes of the sponsor will be considered but, in every case, the final location, species, tree size and the type of protection will be determined by BTP, in conjunction with the Council or the appropriate landowner.
- In order to be satisfied about the quality of the trees and the way they are planted, the BTP and the Council's staff will normally provide, plant and maintain the trees.
- Sometimes it will be possible for a sponsor to plant the tree(s) with assistance and guidance from BTP and often a dedication ceremony can be catered for, but the timing of such events is entirely the decision of the BTP.



- Any young commemorative tree which fails in the first four years after the initial planting date, for horticultural reasons, will be replaced at the BTP's expense.
- Charges for commemorative tree planting will reflect all direct costs and include a provision for the continuing management of the tree.
- Any dedication can be recorded on the BTP's website, and by a label on the tree. The design of all commemorative ware must be in accordance with the management policy for the chosen site.
- We do not consider the installation of any plaques, as these are generally contrary to the management of public sites outside of designated bereavement areas.
- The dedication of a memorial tree or trees will not give the sponsor a right to determine or influence the future management in any way, but accepting responsibility for the care of memorial trees imposes an obligation upon the BTP and the Council to ensure proper maintenance for many years. New staff must be aware of these trees and ensure that they always receive special care.

**In Woodlands:** woodlands are generally not the most appropriate places for commemorative trees. Individual trees can easily get lost in woods and copses, their growth may be suppressed, or they may need to be removed at an early stage to favour other trees. Natural regeneration rather than planting may often be the best way to sustain woodlands. Ideally, therefore, trees as memorials will usually be planted in parks, open spaces, fields or hedgerows, not in woods.

**Planting New Woods:** it is now rare for the Council to establish new woods but where this is planned there may be a suitable opportunity for a commemorative donation or a supervised public tree planting activity.

There is, in principle, no reason why the New Wood should not be named by the sponsor, but all decisions affecting the design and future management of the wood will remain solely the responsibility of the BTP or the Council.



## COMMEMORATIVE TAGS

A metal tree tag noting "In Memory of..." or "In Commemoration of..." and listing the tree genus and species, along with an identification number, will be attached to the tree for educational and inventory purposes.

A recognition page will be created on the BTP website listing the trees that have been donated; sponsors will have the chance to provide a photograph and text for inclusion on the "where are our trees" page on the BTP website.

## HOW WE MANAGE THE FUNDS

The funds received in the Commemorative Treemembrance Programme are used to purchase trees to serve as a living reminder of the special people or occasions in our lives and more importantly, to maintain the trees, both new and existing.

Sponsors may choose from two options:

### **Adopt a Tree**

This option is the most readily available and the preferred form for commemorations.

To "adopt" an existing tree and have a tag attached to the tree, the sponsor must request a list of available trees, which includes the level of donation necessary for each tree. The more historic, regal, significant and long-lived the tree, the higher the level of donation required.

Since the cost of maintaining a tree in good health throughout the life of the tree is largely dependent on the longevity of the species and its predisposition to limb damage and disease, the donation level is highly variable.



Sponsor tags will remain on the tree until the tree dies, or is removed because it has become a hazard, or in accordance with any new designations for the area. In some cases, this could be as little as 5 to 10 years and in others (e.g. a long-lived Oak) it could be over 200 years. If a tree is removed for construction purposes (e.g. new building additions, relocation of sewer lines, etc) the sponsor will be informed and the care can be transferred to a comparable tree, providing one exists, in agreement with the sponsor.

The tag, rather than reading "This tree was planted in memory of John Smith" will read something like, "The care of this tree is being provided by Mrs. Jane Smith in memory of her husband, John Smith."

### **Commemorative Tree Option**

If a sponsor chooses to have a new tree planted, rather than adopting an existing tree, a **formal request** must be made to the BTP, who will inform the potential sponsor whether or not there is a memorial tree space available in the preferred location, and whether the Council has the intent to add a tree to the landscape that could be designated as a memorial tree within the desired time frame.

The BTP will choose the type of tree and the location of the planting site since these two decisions must be made with any management plans in mind. However, if multiple trees are available, the sponsor can choose from the list provided by the BTP.

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

As stated above, the adopt a tree option will depend on the tree chosen for the commemoration, but as a guideline adopting a large mature long lived specimen (eg Oak) in a highly trafficked area would cost around £2000, but to adopt a smaller shorter lived tree (eg Mountain Ash) would be in the region of £300, which is the minimum cost for any commemoration.



The cost for any new commemorative trees will be £750<sup>1</sup>, which would include the purchase of the tree, it's planting and aftercare and any associated ceremony at the time of planting, and the replacement tree if it fails in the first four years (see above). The costs of any plaques or tags are not included.

## **WHEN CAN THE TREE BE PLANTED?**

Planting of any commemorative tree will normally take place in the next available planting season, which is usually November to January of each year. Any trees planted outside of this time frame will incur a higher charge and will not be replaced should they fail in the first four years.

## **WHAT SPECIES CAN BE PLANTED?**

A list of trees recommended for planting is contained as an appendix to this document or can be found as a download here: [Recommended tree species.](#)

Special Request for other types of species will be considered, however the BTP has the final approval.

Every effort will be made to place the tree in the park of your choice. However, if conditions warrant the BTP or the Council reserves the right to place the tree in the park best suited for the tree.

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<sup>1</sup> Priced currently 2023.



# Treemembrance

## Application Form

“Perhaps nature is our best assurance of immortality.” -Eleanor Roosevelt-

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### Contact Information:

Name of Sponsor:

Address:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

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## Plaque and Sponsorship Options:

Sponsorship Options:

- Adopt an existing tree, location and price to be agreed with the BTP prior to submitting this form.
  - Plant a new Tree, £750, please see below for species choice.
  - Tag on Tree, additional £50
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## Location and Tree:

Preferred Park/Open Space: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Location within park/open space: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tree Requested: (Select top three choices from appendix)

- First choice:  Second choice:  Third choice:

Not sure? Then please indicated in the boxes below and we'll do the rest:

- Deciduous Tree  Evergreen Tree
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## Dedication of Notification Details





The following information will appear on your tree-tag and the website. Please print legibly. Please do not exceed more than 8 words each for the "Person or Event" and the "From" line

In Honour Of    or     In Memory Of    or     In Celebration of

Person or Event: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify below where you want the certificate and location map mailed. The address you list below is where this information will be mailed to after the tree is planted.

Tick Here If Same As Sponsor Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Finally:**

Please send the completed Request Form to the email below and an invoice for appropriate amount will be sent to you at the email address you listed above:

**Treemembrance Programme Co-ordinator, c/o [info@birminghamtreepeople.org.uk](mailto:info@birminghamtreepeople.org.uk)**

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## Appendix A: Tree Species Selection

The following list of trees can be selected from for planting. With regard to any other location in the City boundary, the species choice will be at the discretion of the BTP, but it is anticipated that it will only be in the most extreme circumstances that a sponsor will be declined his or her first choice tree.

### Tree List

#### Conifers

##### *Cephalotaxacea - Cowtail Pine Family*

Cephalotaxus fortunei	Chinese Cowtail Pine
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##### *Cupressaceae - Cypress Family*

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis	Nootka Cypress
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'	Sawara Cypress
Juniperus chinensis	Chinese Juniper
Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar

##### *Ginkgoaceae - Ginkgo Family*

Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree
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##### *Pinaceae - Pine Family*

Abies grandis	Grand Fir
Abies procera	Noble Fir
Cedrus atlantica	Atlas Cedar
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar
Cedrus libani	Cedar of Lebanon
Larix X eurolepis	Hybrid Larch
Picea abies	Norway Spruce
Picea omorika	Serbian Spruce
Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce
Pinus contorta var latifolia	Lodgepole Pine
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern Hemlock



Tsuga heterophylla

Western Hemlock

~~Rhus verniciflua~~ ————— Varnish Tree

***Taxaceae - Yew Family***

Taxus baccata  
 Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'  
 Torreya californica  
 Cryptomeria japonica  
 Metasequoia glyptostroboides  
 Sequoia sempervirens  
 Sequoiadendron giganteum  
 Taxodium distichum

Yew  
 Irish Yew  
 Californian Nutmeg  
 Japanese Red Cedar  
 Dawn Redwood  
 Coast Redwood  
 Giant Sequoia  
 Swamp Cypress

***Aquifoliaceae - Holly Family***

Ilex aquifolium Holly  
 Ilex aquifolium 'Aurea marginata' Holly  
 Ilex aquifolium 'Ferox argentata' Variegated Hedgehog Holly  
 Ilex X altaclarensis Highclere Holly

***Araliaceae***

Aralia elata Japanese Angelica Tree

***Betulaceae - Birch Family***

Alnus cordata Italian Alder  
 Alnus glutinosa Common Alder  
 Alnus incana Grey Alder  
 Betula jacquemontii Jacquemont's Birch  
 Betula pendula Silver Birch  
 Betula pubescens Downy Birch

**Broadleaved Trees**

***Sapindaceae - Maple Family***

Acer hersii	Hers's Maple
Acer japonicum	Downy Japanese Maple
Acer negundo	Ash-leaved Maple
Acer palmatum	Smooth Japanese Maple
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'	Norway Maple
Acer rufinerve	Grey-budded Snake-
bark Maple	

***Bignoniaceae - Bignonia Family***

Catalpa bignonioides Indian Bean Tree  
 Catalpa X erubescens Hybrid Catalpa

***Anacardiaceae - Cashew Family***

***Caprifoliaceae***

Sambucus nigra Elder



***Carpinaceae - Hornbeam Family***

Carpinus betula Hornbeam  
 Carpinus betula 'Fastigiata' Hornbeam

***Celastraceae***

Euonymus latifolius Large-leaved Spindle

***Cercidiphyllaceae - Katsura Family***

Cercidiphyllum japonicum Katsura Tree

***Cornaceae - Dogwood Family***

Cornus mas Cornellian Cherry

***Corylaceae - Hazel Family***

Corylus avellana Hazel

***Ericaceae - Heather Family***

Enkianthus campanulatus  
 Gaultheria shallon  
 Pieris formosa  
 Pieris japonica

***Eucommiaceae - Gutta-percha Family***

Eucommia ulmoides Gutta-percha Tree  
 Gymnocladus dioicus Kentucky Coffee Tree

***Fabaceae - Pea Family***

Robinia pseudoacacia False Acacia

Sophora japonica

Pagoda Tree

***Fagaceae - Beech Family***

Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Fagus sylvatica 'Heterophylla'	Fern-leaved Beech
Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'	Copper Beech
Nothofagus obliqua	Roble Beech
Nothofagus procera	Rauli
Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak
Quercus robur	Pedunculate or English
Oak	
Quercus rubra	Red Oak
Quercus X hispanica	Lucombe Oak
Quercus X rosaceae	Pedunculate X Sessile
Oak	

***Hamamelidaceae - Witch-hazel Family***

Hamamelis mollis	Witch-hazel
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum
Parrotiopsis jaquemontiana	Parrotiopsis

***Hippocastanaceae - Horse-chestnut Family***

Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut
Aesculus X carnea	Red Horse Chestnut



***Juglandaceae - Walnut Family***

Pterocarya fraxinifolia                      Caucasian Wingnut

***Magnoliaceae - Magnolia Family***

Liriodendron tulipifera                      Tulip-tree  
Magnolia grandiflora                      Southern Magnolia

***Moraceae - Mulberry Family***

Morus alba                                      White Mulberry  
Morus nigra                                      Black Mulberry

***Nyssaceae - Tupelo Family***

Davidia involucrata                      Handkerchief Tree

***Oleaceae - Olive Family***

Fraxinus americana                      White Ash  
Fraxinus angustifolia                      Narrow-leaved Ash  
Fraxinus excelsior                      Common Ash  
Fraxinus latifolia                      Oregon Ash  
Fraxinus manchurica                      Manchurian Ash  
Fraxinus ornus                              Manna Ash  
Fraxinus oxycarpa                      Caucasian Ash  
Fraxinus pennsylvanica                      Red Ash  
Fraxinus sogdiana

***Platanaceae - Plane Family***

Platanus X acerifolia                      London Plane

***Rosaceae - Rose Family***

Amelanchier laevis  
Cotoneaster frigidus

Crataegus monogyna  
Crataegus oxyacantha

Crataegus X lavallei  
Malus sp  
Prunus sp  
Sorbus aucuparia  
Sorbus aria  
Sorbus cashmiriana  
Sorbus intermedia  
Sorbus torminalis  
Sorbus X thuringiaca

***Salicaceae - Willow Family***

Populus alba 'Pyramidalis'                      White Poplar  
Populus X canescens                      Grey Poplar  
Populus X euramericana                      Hybrid Black Poplar  
Populus tremula                      Aspen  
Salix alba                                      White Willow  
Salix alba 'Argentea'                      Silver Willow  
Salix caprea                                      Goat Willow  
Salix cinerea                                      Grey Willow  
Salix fragilis                                      Crack Willow

***Sapindaceae - Soapberry Family***

Koelreuteria paniculata                      Pride of India

Snowy Mespil  
Himalayan Tree-  
cotoneaster  
Hawthorn  
Midland Hawthorn  
'Paul's Scarlet'  
Hybrid Cockspur Thorn  
Apple sp.  
Cherry sp.  
Rowan  
Whitebeam  
Kashmir Rowan  
Swedish Whitebeam  
Wild Service Tree  
Bastard Service Tree



***Simaroubaceae - Quassia Family***

Ailanthus altissima                      Tree of Heaven

***Staphyleaceae***

Staphyllea pinnata                      Bladder Nut

***Styracaceae - Storax Family***

Halesia carolina                      Snowdrop Tree

Styrax japonica                      Snowbell

***Theaceae - Tea Family***

Stuartia pseudocamellia                      Deciduous Camellia

***Tiliaceae - Lime Family***

Tilia cordata                      Small-leaved Lime

Tilia euchlora                      Caucasian Lime

Tilia platyphyllos                      Large-leaved Lime

Tilia tomentosa                      Silver Lime

Tilia X vulgaris                      Common Lime

***Ulmaceae - Elm Family***

Ulmus glabra                      Wych Elm