

Park Donation and Memorial Policy – FAQ’S

Question: I would like a bench, tree, etc. at a specific park to honor my family member that frequented there often, what can I do?

Answer: Our new Park Donation and Memorial Policy has identified parks in our system and ‘element’ needs, i.e. trees, benches, tables, etc. Plaques on site or attached to elements are no longer allowed; we do have a “Growing Tree” that recognizes donors by engraving acknowledgements on the leaves or boulders. We can send you a photo of the 5’ x 5’ tree, and application and policy if you would like. The information is also located on the City’s website at rentonwa.gov/Living/Parks.

Question: Why are plaques either in ground or attached to the donated item no longer allowed in parks?

Answer: The City implemented a policy to establish guidelines and standards for purchases and maintenance of donated items. The City and community have an interest to ensure a good appearance and aesthetic quality of their facilities. We have received many comments that a few parks and trails have too many plaques and it looks like a memorial area rather than a park.

Question: What if a tree, bench, table, etc. is not available in the Park I choose?

Answer: You have a few options: 1) you can donate money, which will be held in a Parks fund, and elements are purchased as needed in Parks; 2) your contact information can be placed on a waiting list and we would call and give the opportunity to donate when your specific requested item is available; or 3) give you the option to donate to another park facility.

*If a special request is not listed in the ‘elements’ selection spreadsheet, the Parks Committee will need to review/evaluate whether it meets the needs and standards of the Park Facility.

Question: What happens if my donated item/element is damaged?

Answer: Per the policy – the City (Parks Division) will make every effort to maintain/repair the element through expected life cycle. If the element is not repairable, the City will contact the donor and give the option to replace the element at donor’s expense, or the City may remove the element; the City is not responsible for the cost to replace items.

Question: Who maintains the donated items?

Answer: The Parks Division installs, maintains and repairs the items.

Question: What does the donation amount cover?

Answer: If donated for purchase of an element – the full cost of the purchase and installation of the item. If monetary donation the dollars will be deposited into the Parks Donation Fund to be used for Parks and Trails. If the donation is \$250 or more, a leaf/boulder will be engraved with acknowledgement.

* Note: The Parks Division will be responsible for purchase of all park elements to be consistent with Park Plan; and will be responsible for engraving the leaf.

Question: What color leaf or boulder do I receive?

Answer: Donations, whether elements or money, have an associated value that identifies the color of the leaf, or a boulder. (Displayed on the “Donor Recognition and Information” page on the City’s website.)

Please contact Kelly Beymer, Parks and Golf Course Director, should you have additional questions. 425-430-6617 or kbeymer@rentonwa.gov

Park Donation and Memorial Policy, Donation Application and Frequently Asked Questions are located on the City of Renton website at rentonwa.gov/Living/Parks.