

Memorial Trees at Fairview: Living Tributes

The Fairview Cemetery of Bethlehem PA welcomes the sponsoring of trees to provide living tributes to individuals or families interred at the cemetery or otherwise. Planting of trees by individuals or organizations is facilitated through the Memorial Tree Program administered by the cemetery non-profit organization. Individuals and groups may initiate the memorial tree process by calling or emailing your intentions and desires. Applicants may request specific locations and species. Spacing requirements, irrigation, future cemetery improvements and utilities may affect the final tree selection and location. The cemetery president reviews each request and communicates with the donor to ensure acceptable results. When finalizing a tree location, the cemetery practices due diligence in investigating future cemetery growth, planning and infrastructure maintenance. However, the cemetery reserves the right to remove or relocate trees in an unforeseen circumstance. If a tree cannot be relocated due to restrictions such as size, the tree will be removed and replaced with a new one.

A certificate suitable for framing can be sent to the sponsor or honoree. An online cemetery map and database are made available, noting the location, species, sponsor and honoree. Plaques or other displays are permitted, but a cemetery plaque commemorating each tree is planned for the future. The cost for each memorial tree includes procurement and installation of a 2" caliper (30 gallon) tree by the cemetery staff. A planting and dedication ceremony can be provided by request. The cemetery procures and plants trees in the appropriate season. During the establishment period (about three years) staff closely inspect, monitor and maintain the trees, replacing any that are damaged or dead. Over time trees are transitioned and attended to in accordance with current cemetery practices and standards.

A recognition web page will be created for each tree, and sponsors will have the chance to provide a photograph and text for inclusion on the recognition page. Sponsors will also be acknowledged through a web-based listing of trees sponsored as part of the program.