



Preservation Foundation
of the Lake County Forest Preserves

COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS

April 2021

Thank you for your interest in the Lake County Forest Preserves Commemorative Gifts program. The Forest Preserves mean so much to so many. If you would like to honor someone special, remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone, consider making a commemorative gift to the Forest Preserves through the Preservation Foundation.

Your tax-deductible gift will leave a lasting legacy. All commemorative gifts directly support the Habitat Restoration Endowment, which provides a permanent source of funding to care for the beautiful restored forest preserves that mean so much to Lake County.

The Forest Preserves has a goal of reaching \$20 million in the endowment by 2025. Gifts at every level are meaningful and help us toward this ambitious goal.

We offer opportunities at multiple gift levels, as well as the option to make a pledge of support payable over multiple years.

Rebekah Snyder
Executive Director

ADOPT-AN-ACRE/ADOPT-A-TRAIL

\$250

Is there an acre of a forest preserve or a stretch of trail that is especially meaningful to you? With our Adopt-An-Acre/Adopt-A-Trail program, you can virtually dedicate your acre of preserve or trail segment in perpetuity.

Once you've chosen your special location, we'll provide you with exact coordinates. Upload a picture to our interactive map, and share with friends and loved ones. Know that, though the public will continue to enjoy that acre of preserve or stretch of trail, this small piece of the Forest Preserves is yours forever.



Currently, there are 27,224 acres available in the Forest Preserves that can be dedicated and 73 miles of trail!

To dedicate your acre(s) or segment(s) of trail, please contact Gina Wedekind at gwedekind@LCFPD.org or 847-968-3447.

BENCHES



TRAILSIDE

\$3,500

Choose an existing trailside bench from our [interactive map](#). New bench boards may be installed, depending upon the condition of the bench. Your permanent dedication will be recognized with a personalized 4.5" by 1.5" plaque.



INDEPENDENCE GROVE MILLENNIA PLAZA

\$10,000

Choose from one of our existing plaza benches from our [interactive map](#). When you permanently dedicate a Millennium Plaza Bench, it will be entirely replaced, and a 4.5" by 1.5" plaque with your personalized inscription will be installed.

FREQUENT QUESTIONS

What type of wood is used on my trailside bench?

Benches are either a redwood or Douglas fir. Staining and maintenance is not necessary, thanks to the natural oils in the wood. Over time, weathering of bench boards and plaques is expected.

Are there any restrictions on what I write on my bench plaque?

The Preservation Foundation will arrange for the fabrication and installation of the plaque, with mutually agreed upon language. Plaque text may not include symbols or pictures. Donors will be required to give approval of a plaque proof before fabrication.

How long does it take to rebuild my bench?

In this period of uncertainty, please expect long timelines for bench board replacement and design, fabrication, and shipping of your plaque. Please estimate six to eight months for project completion.

Do I need to make my payment in full?

No. Bench dedication gifts can be pledged over a period of up to three years.

Please note there are limited benches available at Independence Grove and Ryerson Woods.



PLANT 1,000 OAKS

\$1,000

Oaks are a keystone species in Lake County. More than 5,500 plant, animal, and insect species depend upon oaks for survival. Help us plant 1,000 oaks by 2025.

The oaks we plant in Lake County today will live to be perhaps 200 or 300 years old. When you give to the Plant 1,000 Oaks Campaign, you give a gift to your children's grandchildren. You make Lake County better, not just for the next generation, but for two, three, four generations yet to come.

We will recognize your leadership gift with a permanent virtual dedication of either an existing oak tree in a preserve that is meaningful to you or of a new oak planted in a high-priority restoration area.

Recognition Option 1:

An oak will be planted in fall at one of the Forest Preserves highest priority planting locations. These locations change annually and are determined by our restoration goals and needs.

Recognition Option 2:

Are you in love with a particular location or with a beautiful view in your favorite Forest Preserves? You can dedicate an existing oak tree in your favorite preserve.

When you choose this recognition option, we will also plant a new oak tree at one of our priority restoration locations.

To dedicate a new oak tree in a high priority restoration area or to inquire about dedicating an existing oak, contact Katherine O'Rourke at korourke@LCFPD.org or 847-968-3438.

*Please carefully read the
Plant 1,000 Oaks Campaign FAQ.*

PLANT 1,000 OAKS CAMPAIGN FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Is my dedication permanent?

Your virtual dedication lasts for the life of the tree. If your tree dies, we will work with you to transfer your dedication to another tree.

I have seen dedicated trees with inscribed plaques in the Forest Preserves. Why are you no longer offering this option?

Over time, we found that ground-level inscribed plaques presented ongoing challenges due to damage from mowers, trimming, and general landscape maintenance.

Replacing damaged plaques is costly and staff intensive. While we will honor dedicated trees through the previous program, we ended the plaque installation option so that we can focus on caring for our trees, which are so important to the health of the Forest Preserves, rather than maintaining plaques.

I think something is wrong with my tree.

If you think your tree's health is declining, you can contact Katherine O'Rourke at korourke@LCFPD.org, and we will work with you to identify another tree that is meaningful to you.

My tree died. Why haven't you removed it?

Standing and downed dead trees play an important role in the ecosystem. They provide a home for insects and wildlife, aid in plant regeneration, decrease erosion, provide carbon storage, and help with drainage and soil moisture. We only remove dead trees for safety reasons. If your tree dies, we will work with you to identify another tree that is meaningful to you.

Do I need to water or fertilize my tree?

Forest Preserve staff are dedicated to caring for all of our trees. You do not need to water or fertilize your tree.

New tree plantings will be managed more closely than older trees. Maintenance for new plantings includes watering and caging to protect against deer browse. Older trees, once established, will need very little maintenance once they are thriving.

Whether your tree is new or long-standing, if its condition declines, we will work with you to identify another tree that is meaningful to you.

I chose to dedicate a new tree. When will you plant it?

New trees are planted in fall, when conditions are appropriate. Exact planting timelines can vary and are dependent on weather. When your tree is planted, you will receive its specific GPS coordinates.

Do you plant all year?

*No. Gifts must be received by **August 1** to meet the fall planting timeline. Gifts received after this date will be planted the following fall.*

LEGACY GIFTS

We have a variety of commemorative gift opportunities for those who are able to make a leadership gift to support the Habitat Restoration Endowment. Commemorative gifts at this level can be pledged over a period of up to five years and receive permanent, personalized on-site recognition.

As we grow our endowment, we will celebrate gifts at the \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels with personalized plaques installed in a permanent honor wall, situated in the heart of Independence Grove – our most visited Forest Preserve. Details to come.

Or you can receive permanent recognition in the Forest Preserve location most meaningful to you. A particular stretch of trail. A specific view with a 300-year-old oak towering in the distance. A specific bridge or boardwalk, tucked away in your favorite preserve. We have a limited number of opportunities to install a permanent, free-standing, personalized donor plaque for gifts at the \$25,000 level and above. Details to come.

Recognition plaques will be installed in mutually agreed upon locations. Certain locations are associated with minimum gift amounts. Contact Sarah Klein at sklein@LCFPD.org or 847-968-3448 for more information.

GENERAL COMMEMORATIVE GIFT QUESTIONS

Can I host a celebration at my tree, bench, or along my adopted acre or segment of trail?

*Absolutely! Many families choose to host some sort of celebration of their dedication. For groups of 25 or more, the Forest Preserves requires an **open area picnic permit**. To inquire about purchasing an open area picnic permit, call our General Offices at 847-367-6640. When hosting a gathering, please be aware of other users along the trail or in the preserve.*

Can I write/engrave or decorate my plaque?

Please refrain from writing on or decorating your dedicated item, as our staff will view this as graffiti and remove it. If you'd like to leave a memento at the site, please consider the environment and use only natural materials. Please do not add anything permanent or that would be an obstacle to maintenance of the site, as those items will be removed.

Can I be on site when you plant or install my gift?

With 31,000 acres at 64 sites, we have a lot of land to manage. Our trees and plaques are installed as staff time permits, and we are unable to coordinate a visit during installation. In addition, safety concerns prevent hosting donors and guests during installations.

Trees are planted when weather conditions allow but typically in fall. Bench board replacements are completed as staff time allows. We will inform you as soon as your project is completed.

STAFF CONTACTS

ADOPT-AN-ACRE/ADOPT-A-TRAIL

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BENCHES

PLANT 1,000 OAKS CAMPAIGN

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LEGACY GIFTS

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