

Why Plant a Memorial Tree in a Cemetery?

Considered sacred in many spiritual traditions, trees symbolize growth, longevity, and connection. The roots descend deep into the earth, the branches reach toward the heavens. Cemeteries are powerful places to consider the sacredness of the rhythms of life. Trees in cemeteries provide immediate benefits of beauty and shade, as well as a connection to the greater mystery of life.

How Do Memorial Trees Help the Environment?

- Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air.
- Trees cool the city by up to 10°F by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban “heat islands” and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.
- Trees reduce runoff by breaking up rainfall and act like a sponge that filters rainfall naturally and recharges groundwater supplies.
- Trees provide vital wildlife habitat. Many different types of birds and small mammals depend on trees for food, water, shelter, or places to raise their young.
- Trees are the only type of infrastructure that gains in value over time.



www.rereetecumseh.org

Re-Tree Tecumseh's mission is to establish and fund an ongoing tree-planting program on public property in the City of Tecumseh, Michigan, and to protect and preserve the existing urban tree canopy through care and education.

It is a 501(c)(3) organization under the umbrella of the Lenawee Community Foundation, funded entirely by grants and donations.

A Unique Tribute

If you're looking for a unique tribute that honors a loved one's life while also making a positive difference in the world, then a memorial tree may be right for you!

Each memorial will consist of a young tree, planted on Brookside Cemetery grounds, along with a commemorative marker.

Trees will be installed by volunteers and cared for by our professional landscaping team.

How It Works

- Pick up an application at the Brookside Cemetery office or online at www.rereetecumseh.org/application.
- On the application, choose your desired wording for the commemorative marker.
- Markers will consist of a 6" x 12" black granite slab with custom engraving, mounted on concrete at the base of the tree.
- Choose your desired tree species from the list on the application.
- Trees will be approximately six to seven feet tall at planting, with a trunk diameter of 1.5" to 2."
- Trees can be purchased at any time; however, planting will only take place in the spring or fall.
- See application form for complete details and pricing.

Brookside Cemetery
Tracey Roberts, Cemetery Superintendent
517-423-3632
501 N. Union St.
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286

City of Tecumseh's Brookside Cemetery Memorial & Commemorative Tree Program

**in partnership with
Re-Tree Tecumseh**

*Pay tribute to someone you love,
commemorate a special event, or
celebrate a friend or family member
through the gift of a tree in their honor.*



The Brookside Cemetery Memorial and Commemorative Tree Program is a meaningful and distinctive way to pay tribute to a deceased loved one, to honor someone you love or respect, to say thanks to a person or group, or to commemorate life events. A tree is a living, lasting gift that will grow in size and beauty each year.

Each memorial will consist of a young tree, planted on Brookside Cemetery grounds, with a custom commemorative marker.

This program is offered in partnership with Re-Tree Tecumseh, a non-profit grassroots organization whose mission is to plant trees on public property in the city.

Applications for the Memorial Tree Program will be accepted year-round; however, due to seasonal weather limitations, trees will be planted twice a year, in spring and fall, by Re-Tree Tecumseh volunteers.

Donors may request a specific location for their tree but if that spot is not possible, the cemetery superintendent will make every effort to find a suitable location nearby.

Once planted, a picture of the tree along with a map of its location will be mailed or emailed to the donor or a person of their choosing.

See application form for complete details and pricing.



Trees will be approximately six to seven feet tall at planting, with a trunk diameter of 1.5" to 2." They will be chosen based on availability, suitability for the planting site, and species diversity.



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Brookside Cemetery was established in 1853 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is not only the resting place for thousands of citizens, but also functions as a highly trafficked walking park.

Brookside was well planned and beautifully landscaped and maintained over the years, and has seen multiple additions and expansions over its 170-year history. However, age and weather have taken a toll on Brookside's trees, the oldest of which were present when the cemetery was established. Many of these have had to be removed over the past several years; additionally, eight new sections, added in 2019, lack trees altogether.

The program will allow memorial trees to be planted and marked with dedication plaques to honor family, friends, and even pets. These trees will live for decades to come, providing shade and environmental benefits, revitalizing the landscape, and preserving the look and feel of historic Brookside Cemetery.



This magnificent white oak overlooks the new, treeless sections of the cemetery. Native oaks can live 500 to 600 years.