



City of Belton Legacy Program



Adopted by City Council on 8/27/2013

About the Program

The mission of the Belton Legacy Program is to provide the citizens of Belton with an opportunity to honor or memorialize an individual or group through the beautification of the City's park system.

History

The Belton Area of Chamber of Commerce initiated the development of the Legacy Program in response to several requests from residents who wanted to participate in a tree or bench dedication program similar to the ones in larger cities such as Austin or San Antonio. The Chamber left the task of developing the program to the Leadership Belton Program Class of 1999. The members of the original development team were:

**Sharon Adair
Mark Collier**

**Amanda McPherson
Greg Pope**

Jerry Samu

Work on the project was completed in two separate phases. Adopted by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce in 1999, Phase 1 provided for the annual planting of a native tree in one of the City's parks in honor of the recipients of the two Chamber recognitions, Beltonian and Citizen of the Year. Phase 2 is the Belton Legacy Program. The Belton Legacy Program's original goal was to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Belton to participate in the beautification of our parks through the purchase of a tree, bench or piece of park equipment in honor of, or in the memory of, someone.

The City Council of Belton approved the Belton Legacy Program and accepted administrative and maintenance responsibilities on November 13, 2003. The first customer of the program was former City of Belton Mayor Bill Homes, whose Bur Oak tree was planted in Chisholm Trail Park on Wednesday, January 28, 2004.

Tree Dedication & Planting Information

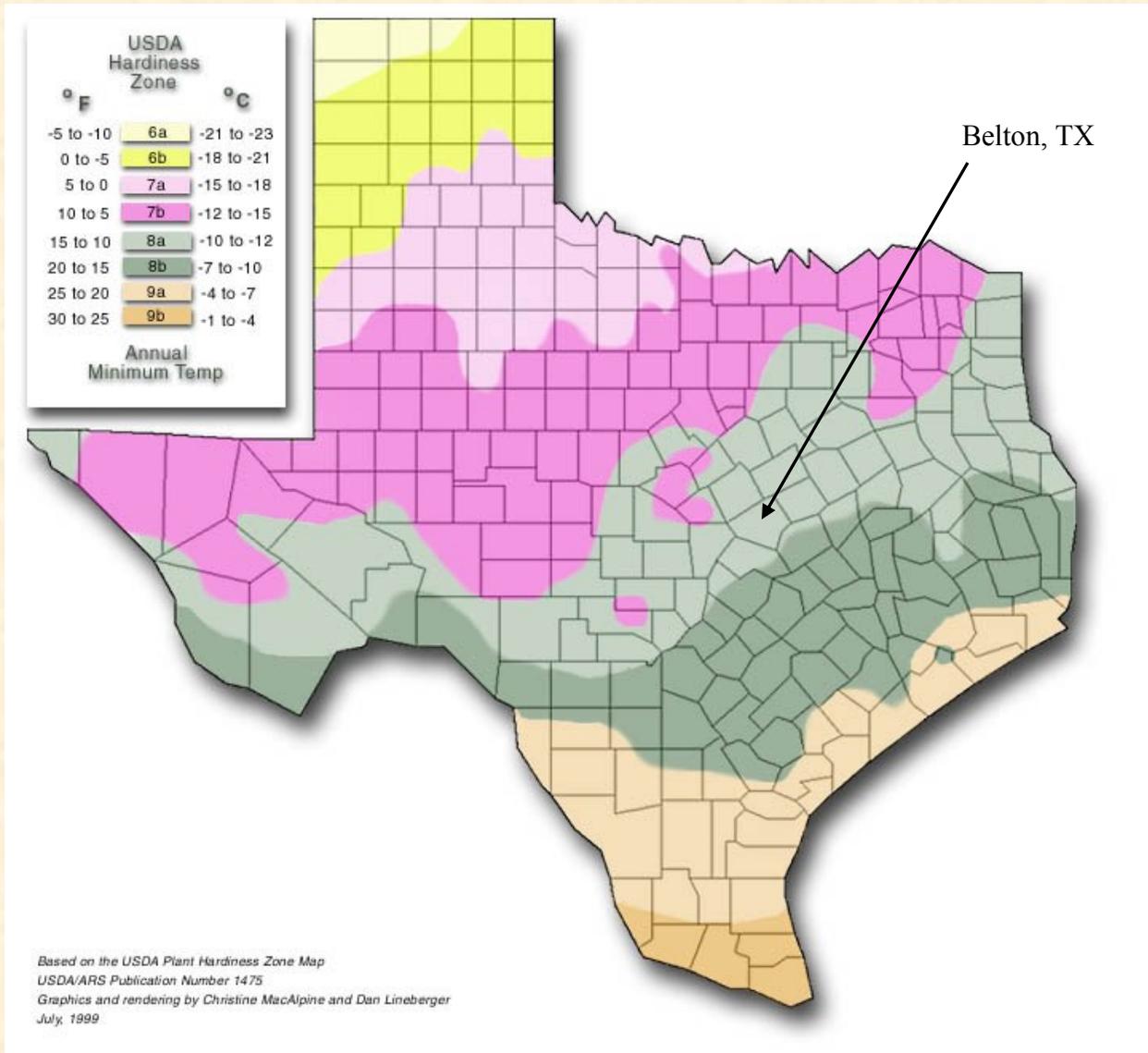
Program participants may choose from several different trees, benches, etc.. Each of the trees species has been researched to ensure that it is compatible with area growth and weather conditions, to increase the tree's chance of survival after planting. The trees can range in size but are generally purchased in 15 to 50 gallon buckets, with consideration given to larger sizes. A customized dedication marker may accompany the gift, but will incur an additional cost.

The City Parks and Recreation Department will help individuals select an appropriate species and location for their tree. After the program participant makes a selection, the City will acquire, plant, provide dedication ceremony materials (if desired), and maintain and replace the tree, if necessary, for a period of two (2) years after the tree has been planted. Replacement of program trees will be done as discretionary funding allows. If the tree becomes damaged, diseased, or needs to be replaced for any other reason after the two (2) year period, the City will make a good-faith effort to reach the contact person specified on the application with options and instructions on how to replace the tree at donor's expense.

Each participant will receive a certificate of planting signed by the Mayor and City Manager and a location map for the tree.

USDA Hardiness Zones

USDA cold hardiness zones for Texas, and the average minimum low temperatures expected for those zones, are shown below. Note that proximity to buildings, bodies of water, and other plant-related factors may be mitigating factors in determining whether a plant survives at a given temperature.



The USDA Hardiness Zone map information is used to determine the information on the following pages listing the native trees available as a part of the Belton Legacy program. For more information, refer to the following website from Texas A&M System AgriLIFE Extension at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.

Program Item Selections

Trees, benches and other items that are available through the Belton Legacy Program are listed on the next several pages. Take time to review all of the available options. Please understand this is not an exhaustive list and the program is flexible. If you wish to discuss an original idea or a unique way to contribute to our parks system or other facilities, please contact our helpful staff.

Monetary contributions are always welcome and appreciated. All gifts are tax deductible and may be allocated for a specific improvement project or given to the parks system as a whole. If making a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the City of Belton, P.O. Box 120, Belton, Texas 76513.



Trees

Additional trees will be considered for the Legacy Program, upon request.

Texas Red Oak

Texas Red Oak is a medium to small tree with spreading branches, sometimes (rarely) growing over 75 feet, but usually 30 to 50 feet. It is found on alkaline limestone and neutral to slightly acid gravels and sands of north central and central Texas west to the Pecos River. Along the White Rock Escarpment through Dallas to San Antonio there are hybrids of Texas Red Oak and Shumard Red Oak, *Q. Shumardii*; the pure Texas Red Oaks exist to the west. Texas Red Oak is smaller, more often multi-trunked, and more drought tolerant than Shumard Red Oak. The foliage turns bright shades of vivid red and orange in autumn. The bark is dark gray to black with plate like scales, although sometimes it is light gray and smooth.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: reddish-brown, catkins 1 to 3 1/2 in. long

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: acorns, reddish-brown

Height: to 75 ft.

Width: to 60 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: high

Soil Requirements: alkaline
adaptable



Live Oak

Escarpment Live Oak can be thought of as a smaller version of Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*). It grows on well-drained soils from alkaline to slightly acid, although it is rare in the heavy clay of the true Blackland Prairies. It is thicket-forming, spreading from root sprouts to form "motes." Escarpment Live Oak is more drought- and cold-tolerant than Coastal Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*), and can grow in more alkaline soil. In large portions of Central Texas, the live oak populations are hybrids between *Q. fusiformis* and *Q. virginiana*. Both species are susceptible to the oak wilt fungus.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: green catkins

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: elongated acorn

Height: 20 to 50 ft.

Width: 25 to 40 ft.

Plant Character: evergreen, semi-evergreen

Heat Tolerance: very high

Soil Requirements: adaptable



Bur Oak

Bur Oak is a majestic tree of the tall grass prairie that once covered central North America. It grows best in deep limestone soils of riverbanks and valleys but it will adapt to many different environments. It has a long taproot, which makes it drought-tolerant but also hard to transplant. It is fast growing, long-lived and casts deep shade. Bur oak is noted for its very large leaves and acorns: the leaves are from one-half to one foot long, and acorns can be as large as 2 inches long and wide, enclosed in a cup with fringe on the edge.

Plant Habit or Use: large tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: catkins 4 to 6 in. long

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: large acorn to 2 in. around with fringed cup

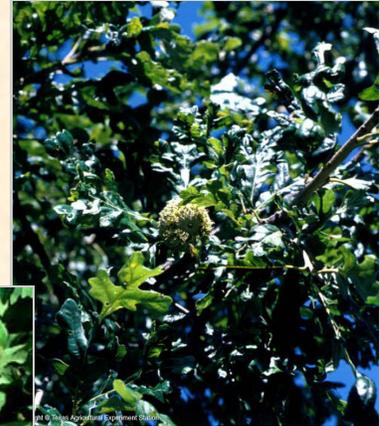
Height: 60 to 70 ft.

Width: 60 to 70 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high, high

Soil Requirements: adaptable



Cedar Elm

Cedar Elm is the most widespread native elm in Texas. It grows in all areas of the eastern half of Texas except the extreme southeastern part. It is a tough, adaptable shade tree with excellent drought tolerance and beautiful golden yellow fall color. Its leaves are small and rough, and glossy green in the spring. Cedar Elm can withstand heavy, poorly drained clay soils and soils that are moderately compacted. It is the only native Texas elm that flowers and sets seed in the fall. Although it is susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease, it appears to be less of a problem with it than it is with American Elm, *U. Americana*, or Winged Elm, *U. alata*.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree, large tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: red-brown to red-green

Blooming Period: summer, fall

Fruit Characteristics: winged samara in autumn

Height: to 90 ft.

Width: to 80 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high, high

Soil Requirements: alkaline
adaptable



Chinkapin Oak

Chinkapin Oak is an attractive medium to large shade tree suitable for use in much of Texas. Its distinctive saw-tooth leaves, which resemble those of the chinquapin tree found in the eastern U.S., are a rich green, turning yellow to bronze in fall. It grows in the wild on well-drained bottomland soils and limestone hills near water, but it is adaptable to a range of soils and exposures. Seldom troubled by diseases or pests, it is moderate to fast-growing and develops an open rounded crown as it ages.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree, large tree
Exposure: sun
Flower Color: green, males in catkins 3-4 in. long
Blooming Period: spring
Fruit Characteristics: acorn, dark brown
Height: 50 to 90 ft.
Width: 20 to 40 ft.
Plant Character: deciduous
Heat Tolerance: very high
Soil Requirements: alkaline adaptable



Bald Cypress

Bald cypress is a deciduous conifer of ancient origin that is widely planted in Texas as a shade tree. Its layered branches with needle-like leaflets that turn from dark green to bronze or rich pumpkin brown in autumn give it an feathery, fine-textured appearance. Bald cypress is native to swamps and rivers in east and central Texas. It can tolerate standing water or rather dry sites once established, but does best in wetter areas and in acid to neutral soils since it can become chlorotic in high pH soils. The famous "knees" are woody conical growths from the roots that are produced in wet areas or near water features; their exact function is not known. The fluted trunk flares at the base and becomes highly buttressed in old age. Bald cypress is extremely long-lived and its wood is very durable and valuable timber. It is often listed as slow growing, but is actually a rapid grower if fertility is good and water is available.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree, large tree
Exposure: sun
Flower Color: brownish
Blooming Period: spring
Fruit Characteristics: wrinkled, rounded cones
Height: 50 to 70 ft., can be 100 ft.
Width: 20 to 30 ft.
Plant Character: deciduous
Heat Tolerance: very high
Soil Requirements: acid, neutral



Pecan

Pecans are large deciduous shade trees tolerant of conditions in all of Texas. They are healthiest in rich deep bottomland soils, but will adapt to lesser sites. Supplemental water is needed in the Trans-Pecos area. They are the fastest-growing of all the hickories, but like the others of the genus they are difficult to transplant because of their large taproot. While the foliage is fairly fine textured, the tree drops fruit (source of edible pecans), twigs, leaves, and sometimes branches, making it a less than perfect landscape plant. Pecan is the state tree of Texas.

Plant Habit or Use: large tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: green, females inconspicuous, males in catkins.

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: edible nut enclosed in a thick leathery four-valve husk.

Height: to 90 ft.

Width: to 75 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high

Soil Requirements: acid, neutral



Mexican Plum

Mexican plum is a beautiful single-trunked, spring-flowering small tree with bark that eventually gets dark and striated, peeling off in patches. It grows in full sun or as an understory tree in the eastern half of the state, usually in deep rich soils of river bottoms, open woods, fencerows and well-drained prairies. Early in the spring it is covered with clouds of white fragrant flowers that are up to an inch wide. The dark red or purple fruit ripens late in the fall. Because it does not sucker from the base and is relatively drought tolerant, its root stock is widely used for grafting. It grows singly and does not form thickets as many of our other native plums do.

Plant Habit or Use: small tree, medium tree

Exposure: sun, partial sun

Flower Color: white

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: round purplish drupes (plums)

Height: to 25 ft.

Width: to 25 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: medium

Soil Requirements: adaptable



Texas Ash

Texas ash is a smaller, more drought tolerant relative of White Ash, *F. Americana*. It grows on limestone bluffs from Dallas in north central Texas west and south through central Texas. Its water requirements are low, although it can tolerate moderate amounts of moisture as long as it has good drainage. Its leaves turn glowing red, gold, orange and purple colors in the fall. It is distinguished from white ash by its leaflets, which are more rounded, and by having 5 to 7 leaflets instead of the 7 to 9 leaflets of white ash.

Plant Habit or Use: medium tree

Exposure: sun, partial sun

Flower Color: green or purple

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: small woody winged samara in 6" to 8" long panicles

Height: to 50 ft.

Width: to 40 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high, high

Soil Requirements: adaptable



Texas Redbud

Texas redbud grows on thin, calcareous well-drained soils west of eastern redbud's native habitat. It is smaller and more drought tolerant than its eastern relative, with thick, leathery, much smaller leaves that have wavy margins. The waxy upper surface of the leaves helps retard transpiration. It is most commonly multi-trunked.

Plant Habit or Use: small tree

Exposure: sun, partial sun

Flower Color: pink to magenta

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: small flattened pod and seeds

Height: 15 to 20 ft.

Width: 15 to 20 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high

Soil Requirements: adaptable



Mexican Buckeye

Mexican buckeye occurs mostly west of the Brazos River on the well drained limestone soils on stream banks of damp canyons in South, Central and West Texas, each to Dallas County. Its pink flowers bloom simultaneously as it leafs out with light bronze colored leaflets which turn pale green during the growing season. Its fall color is bright golden yellow. In its spring flowering aspect it is thought to resemble eastern redbuds. This plant may be used as a large, coarse multi-trunk shrub or trained into a small tree. As it is a tall spreading plant it makes an attractive tall background shrub or deciduous screen, but because of its spreading nature it is not well suited near a street.

Plant Habit or Use: large shrub, small tree, medium tree

Exposure: sun, partial sun

Flower Color: pink

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: 3-celled, 3-valved capsule with up to 3 shiny round black seeds

Height: 15 to 30 feet

Width: 8 to 12 feet

Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: high

Soil Requirements: neutral, alkaline



Texas Mountain Laurel

Texas mountain laurel grows in limestone soils in Central and Southwest Texas and to 5000 feet in the Chisos and Davis Mountains. This slow growing evergreen may be grown as a medium to large shrub or trained to a single or multi-trunk tree. The pinnate leaves with their lustrous, leathery upper surface provide year long beauty, enhanced in mid-spring, by the densely-flowered racemes of lavender or violet pea flowers having the scent of grape Kool Aid. Both seeds and glowers are quite poisonous and contain narcotic properties. Good drainage is a must, as is frequent monitoring for "the worm", the Genista moth larvae which can decimate the foliage in a few days, and is its primary pest.

Plant Habit or Use: large shrub, small tree, medium tree

Exposure: sun, partial sun

Flower Color: purple, lavender, violet, rarely white

Blooming Period: spring

Fruit Characteristics: bean pod

Height: 15 to 35 ft.

Width: 10 ft.

Plant Character: evergreen

Heat Tolerance: high

Soil Requirements: neutral, alkaline



Park Benches

The dedication of a park bench is an excellent way to pay tribute to a special person while significantly enhancing the usefulness and attractiveness of the City's parks system. Each bench will serve as a lasting and highly valued contribution that will be appreciated by residents and visitors as they search for the perfect place to sit, relax, and enjoy Belton's quality of life.

The Belton Legacy Program provides for contributions of a new/replacement park bench at one of the City's parks. The donation covers the cost of the base material, the bench, the five (5) year maintenance and replacement agreement. A marker may be included at an additional cost, subject to approval.

There are currently four (4) park bench styles offered through the Belton Legacy Program. In general, styles and materials for the benches are limited to maintain consistency throughout the parks; however, other styles would be considered upon request.



Stone Benches



Elegant Metal Park Bench



Powder Coated Steel Bench



Geometric Tree Bench

Other Items

The Belton Legacy Program offers several items other than trees and benches for donors to select with some applicable restrictions. Ask about pricing and group or combination projects.

Pavilions with Picnic Units

Pavilions with picnic units are extremely useful and prominent contributions. Your gift will provide a pleasant place for park goers to rest or have a bite to eat. Please ask for more details on the parks needing picnic units. Adding a barbecue pit to the location is an additional enhancement to consider.



Pocket Parks

Designing a pocket park is the most unique way of honoring or memorializing someone or some group. Depending on the location, a pocket park can incorporate nearly any type of park amenity from benches, flower gardens, water fountains, shrubs, picnic tables, etc.

These larger open spaces take a bit more planning but offer a beautiful addition to a park. You will find several pocket parks adjacent to the Nolan Creek Hike and Bike Trail; however, they are not limited to that location. The City has many trail locations that would benefit from a serene rest area.



Playground Equipment

Playground equipment is always a crucial need in the City's parks system. Gifts may be directed to the park or playground-area of choice, some restrictions apply. The equipment selected must be approved and installed by the City.



Belton Legacy Program Application Form

Name of Donor or Representative: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email _____

Item(s) for Donation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Texas Red Oak <input type="checkbox"/> Live Oak <input type="checkbox"/> Bur Oak <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Elm <input type="checkbox"/> Chinkapin Oak	<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Cypress <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican Plum <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Redbud	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Elegant Metal Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Geometric Tree Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Powder Coated Steel Bench	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavilion w/Picnic unit <input type="checkbox"/> Playground equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Park <input type="checkbox"/> Other project <input type="checkbox"/> Monetary contribution
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Location for desired item: _____

Would you like to add a dedication marker to your order? Yes No

If yes, please include desired wording below. Price will vary depending on final approval.

Item #:	Description:	<u>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</u>		Price:	Item Total:
		Number:			
_____	_____	_____	X	_____	= _____
_____	_____	_____	X	_____	= _____
_____	_____	_____	X	_____	= _____
Method of Payment:		Cash	Check		

Belton Legacy Program Maintenance & Replacement Agreement

Once you have reviewed the following information, please sign and date using the spaces provided. Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the terms and conditions of the Belton Legacy Program's Maintenance and Replacement Agreement.

- Once application has been made, the City of Belton will conduct an approval process of item(s) and suggested placement.
- Once payment has been received, the City of Belton will purchase the item(s) and assume responsibility for installing and maintaining them at the chosen site.
- Trees, benches and other items will be installed during suitable weather conditions and when City personnel are available. Trees will only be planted during the planting season from March through October of each year.
- The City will maintain or replace all trees, benches, pursuant to the schedule provided in the Legacy Program.
- The City is not responsible for the repair or replacement of dedication markers for any reason, including, but not limited to weatherization, vandalism, or theft.
- Each gift will be maintained in the original location, or in an area near the original location. Donors will be contacted in rare cases when an item needs to be relocated. If the person specified on the Application Form does not wish to pay for the relocation expenses after the expired maintenance period, then the gift will be at the sole discretion of the City of Belton.

It should be understood that donations to the Belton Legacy Program for items in no way constitutes ownership of the item, the land upon which it is situated, or the surrounding lands. Nor does it permit an exclusive right of use of property. Furthermore, the City retains the right to use lands adjacent to the donated item as it deems appropriate, or to relocate the item if redevelopment of the area warrants this action.

Applicant's Signature

Date

If you are interested in donating to assume naming rights of a facility, please contact our office to begin a conversation regarding your proposed request. **If you are interested in making a donation to the Belton Legacy Program, or would like further information please refer to the frequently asked questions or contact:**



City of Belton
Parks and Recreation Department
401 N. Alexander Street, Belton, TX 76513
Office: 254-933-5861
Fax: 254-933-2469
parksandrec@beltontexas.gov
www.beltontexas.gov



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment rec'd, date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Materials delivered/picked up
<input type="checkbox"/> Order sent to vendor	<input type="checkbox"/> Awaiting installation
<input type="checkbox"/> Site and plaque proof given to donor	<input type="checkbox"/> Date installed:
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor approved site/plaque	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement/Maintenance Agreement expires: _____

Belton Legacy Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I participate in this program?

A gift to the Belton Legacy Program is a special and lasting remembrance of a loved one, special occasion, or personal accomplishment. Each donation provides a sense of belonging in the community, while improving the quality of life in Belton.

Does the City profit from this program?

The City does not profit monetarily from the program. The price of each item includes the actual cost of the item plus any associated material costs and installation fees. The City will assemble, install, and assume maintenance responsibilities for the item.

Is there an optional ceremony for the dedication of the item?

Yes. There can be a dedication ceremony conducted upon your request. This is part of the discussion process in planning. The City would rely on your knowledge of the individual, family, or organization being honored, as to whether a dedication ceremony is appropriate.

Do I own or can I restrict access to my donation?

A donation to the program does not convey ownership of the item itself, the land upon which the item(s) is situated, or the surrounding lands. Each gift will be placed in a public area, and a donor may not restrict use or access at any time. All gifts made possible through the Belton Legacy Program are given with the understanding that the donations will be installed and maintained in their original location, or in an area near the original location if relocation is warranted, for the period of time specified in the program.

When are trees planted?

Trees are typically planted during the planting season from March through October.

Can I pick any tree or bench?

Unfortunately, some trees don't do well in Texas weather and some bench material would not stand-up in a park environment. The program offers many trees to make your selection from that are indigenous and suitable to local climate, giving them the best chance for survival. However, others would be considered upon request. Additionally, the selections will need to be compatible with existing development in the chosen area of placement. The same can be said of an alternative bench choice.

What if my donation needs to be relocated?

In rare cases where a gift needs to be relocated, the City of Belton will make a good-faith effort to contact the person listed on the application form to explain their options. Pursuant to the maintenance and replacement terms, the City will pay for relocation expenses. Afterwards, the applicant may choose either to pay for the relocation or leave the decision at the discretion of the City of Belton.

Do I receive a certificate of donation or map showing the location of my gift?

Yes. The purchaser receives a certificate signed by the Mayor and the City Manager and a map detailing the location of their gift.

Didn't find the answer to your question here?

Be sure to view the City's website at www.beltontexas.gov. The program is under the Parks and Recreation Department page. If questions remain, be sure to contact:

City of Belton
Parks and Recreation Department
401 N. Alexander Street, Belton, TX 76513
Office: 254-933-5861
Fax: 254-933-2469
parksandrec@beltontexas.gov
www.beltontexas.gov

BELTON LEGACY PROGRAM



This certifies that an Oak Tree will be placed in the
Smitha Pocket Park at
Harris Community Park
Belton, Texas
to honor the memory of:

Mrs. Barbara Smitha

A gracious donation by: Diane and Gene Ring

City Manager Sam A. Listi

Date

Mayor Jim Covington

Date

