

## Commemorative Benches at the Arboretum: FAQs



Following are answers to some frequent-asked-questions about the Foundation's commemorative bench program at Washington Park Arboretum.

### **How much does a bench cost?**

Dedicating a bench currently costs \$10,000.

### **What are payment methods?**

Payment may be made by credit card, cash, check, or stock transfer.

### **Do I own the bench?**

No, your "purchase" is actually a donation to the Arboretum.

### **Is this tax deductible?**

Yes, a donation is tax deductible to the extent of the law. Once payment is received, we will provide you with a tax acknowledgement for your records.

### **What is the term of a bench?**

The term of a commemorative bench lasts 10 years. After 10 years, you—or a designated contact that we have on file—will be contacted to discuss renewing or ending the term. If you would like the term of the bench to be 20 years or more, you are welcome to purchase more than one term up front. Example: \$20,000 for a bench for 20 years.

### **Will there be a plaque on the bench? If so, what can I put on it?**

Yes, we will have a plaque made and mounted on the bench for you. The leaded brass plaque measures 1-3/4 inches by 5 inches. We will provide specific guidelines as to the number of lines and the length of text available. Dates cannot be put on plaques. We are required by the Seattle Parks and Recreation to adhere to these guidelines—no exceptions can be made.

### **Who maintains the bench?**

Seattle Parks and Recreation is responsible for the care, repair, and maintenance of the park benches. Only if a bench is broken or deemed unsafe will it be replaced. Future development on Arboretum grounds may necessitate moving a bench. While every effort will be made to keep a bench in place, no guarantee can be made that it will not be moved.

### **How long does the process take?**

The bench and plaque will only be reserved once payment is received in full, and we have your finalized inscription for the plaque. You will be sent a proof of the plaque (from the engraver) and will need to approve before we place the order. Please allow four to six weeks for the plaque to be received and put in place. We will alert you as to when it is ready.

### **Is it possible to have a small ceremony when the bench is ready?**

Yes, you are welcome to gather by the bench during regular hours of operation, as long as the gathering is not disruptive to other visitors and does not involve chairs and/or tables. Please note that the Foundation is not able to provide any “event” support. Dogs are welcome, provided they are on a leash.

### **May I select where in the Arboretum my bench is placed?**

Seattle Parks and Recreation pre-approves locations for benches at the Arboretum. We will review these with you so that you may select a location.

### **Whom do I contact to discuss a bench?**

Contact our Development Department at 206-325-4510 or [info@arboretumfoundation.org](mailto:info@arboretumfoundation.org). You can also drop by the Graham Visitors Center and ask to speak to someone in Development.

