



Tribute and Memorial Bench Program

Natural Lands' bench program offers a unique opportunity to honor someone special, commemorate an occasion, or establish a memorial for a loved one at one of our nature preserves in eastern Pennsylvania or southern New Jersey.

Location

Natural Lands welcomes your contribution to any of our publicly accessible preserves that have a need for a bench. Below is a list of possible options or you can view a full list at www.natlands.org/preserves.

- Bear Creek Preserve**—Bear Creek, PA (Luzerne County)
- ChesLen Preserve**—Unionville, PA (Chester County)
- Crow's Nest Preserve**—Elverson, PA (Chester County)
- Glades Wildlife Refuge**—Newport, NJ (Cumberland County)
- Gwynedd Preserve**—Ambler, PA (Montgomery County)
- Hildacy Preserve**—Media, PA (Delaware County)
- Harold N. Peek Preserve**—Millville, NJ (Cumberland County)
- Stoneleigh: *a natural garden***—Villanova, PA (Montgomery County)

Our staff will work with you to confirm the best location using our preserve public use plans for guidance. These plans take into consideration public use, wildlife impacts, sustainability, and views. Please be aware that there are limits as to how many benches may be installed at each preserve.

Construction, Installation, and Maintenance

Natural Lands staff construct natural wood benches that reflect and retain the wild aesthetic of the preserve setting (in order to honor this tradition, we cannot accept the donation of a pre-made bench). Natural Lands will maintain the bench for its natural lifetime, on average about 10 years. The bench will be removed when it becomes unsafe or is vandalized in a manner that makes it visually unacceptable. Natural Lands does not guarantee against the effects of weather, vandalism, or theft. If the bench must be removed, Natural Lands will attempt to notify the donor prior to removal with the opportunity to replace the bench at the current year's cost.

Construction and installation of a bench may take up to 90 days after we receive a signed agreement and payment. Natural Lands will discuss a timeline for each donation as it relates to other preserve work, availability, and weather.

Natural Lands is not able to accommodate requests for special plantings associated with the bench unless they are compatible with a land management plan.

Inscription

Benches can be marked with a plaque 9” by 3” and affixed to the end of the bench. Messages must be no more than 4 lines and 80 characters, including spaces. Natural Lands does not allow religious messaging and reserves the right to reject language it deems inappropriate for the preserve setting.

Cost

Natural Lands will install a natural wood bench, including customized plaque, at the agreed upon location for a donation of \$2,500. Your donation covers the construction and installation, as well as the continued maintenance of the bench for its natural lifetime, on average 10 years. Checks may be payable to Natural Lands or a gift can be made via our website at natlands.org/support under the “donate now” section. In the “Comments” section please note that the gift is for a tribute or memorial bench.

**Communication and Recognition**

Natural Lands will communicate with the donor to confirm the proposed bench location, approve the plaque inscription, and discuss the timeline for construction. If the donor wishes, we are happy to reserve time for a small dedication ceremony at the preserve. Donors may be asked to compensate for any extra staff expenses associated with such a ceremony. The scope of the ceremony must be limited to activities regularly allowed on the preserve.

We will recognize the donors in our annual donor listing in Natural Lands’ donor recognition material.

Contact

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Natural Lands
Hildacy Preserve
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