

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 20-2024**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117 OF THE
CODE OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, “PARKS” TO
ADD SECTION 117-9 “MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM”**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack believes it would be a benefit for the City and its residents to establish a program where citizens can donate a tree to the City in memory of loved ones; and

WHEREAS, adding additional trees in the City’s public spaces is not just a fitting tribute to the honoree, but will enhance the quality of life of all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack believes it is appropriate to set forth rules and regulations governing such donations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, as follows:

Section 1:

Chapter 117 of Code of the City of Hackensack, “Parks” is amended to add a new Section 117-9 to read as follows:

Chapter 117 Parks

§ 117-9 Memorial Tree Program

The City of Hackensack shall permit memorials to remember individuals and families through a tree/memorial plaque dedication program. Memorial trees/plaques shall be placed according to the following regulations.

A. Application; fee

1. Applications shall be obtained from, and after completion, returned to the Department of Public Works. Applications for specific locations shall be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee for a tree and plaque dedication shall be \$450.
2. Upon receipt of application and correct fee, the Department of Public Works shall coordinate preparation and installation of each tree/plaque, and keep a record of the location of each tree/plaque and date of installation.

B. Tree and Plaque Standards

1. Trees/plaques shall be of a size, species, style, and material solely determined by the City of Hackensack.

2. Plaques will be limited to the inclusion of the name of the party for whom the memorial is dedicated (“In Memory of...”) which shall not exceed more than 20 total characters. The City retains the exclusive right to reject memorial dedications for any reason including but not limited to those which include defamatory, racist, obscene, or such other verbiage which is offensive to the general public.

C. Maintenance

1. The City of Hackensack shall not be responsible for the replacement of trees/plaques that have been damaged or destroyed for any reason including but not limited to vandalism or natural occurrences such as fire or hurricane. Applicants shall be responsible for replacement of damaged or destroyed trees/plaques at their own expense.
2. Nothing herein shall be constructed to grant any applicant the right to access, decorate, plant, disturb, or otherwise interfere with the property that the memorial tree/plaque is located other than as may be allowed by the City.

D. Location

The Department of Public Works in conjunction with the Hackensack Shade Tree Commission will identify suitable planting locations for memorial trees/plaques in each of city parks. The city reserves the unrestricted right to place the memorial tree/plaque at such other location it deems appropriate. Notice will be provided to the applicant of the final placement of the memorial tree/plaque.

Section 2:

Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only however, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same being conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 3:

Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remain in effect; it being the legislative intent this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 4:

Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the City of Hackensack as though codified and fully set forth therein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The City Clerk and the City Attorney are authorized

and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the City of Hackensack in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

Section 5:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage, adoption, and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Introduced: May 21, 2024
Adopted: June 11, 2024

ATTEST:

CITY OF HACKENSACK

By: _____
Deborah Karlsson, City Clerk

By: _____
John P. Labrosse Jr., Mayor