

Amanda Schomaker  
Madison County Transit  
(618) 797-4600

## MCT LAUNCHES COMMEMORATIVE TREE & BENCH PROGRAM

*A Unique Opportunity to Honor an Individual, Organization, or Business  
while Enhancing the Scenic MCT Trails.*

**GRANITE CITY, IL., March 4, 2021...** As temperatures climb and attention turns to walking, bicycling, and other outdoor activities, Madison County Transit (MCT) is pleased to announce the launch of the MCT Trails Commemorative Tree & Bench Program. The new program provides a way for residents and trail users to purchase a tree or bench to be placed along the MCT Trails to honor a loved one, or recognize an organization, civic group, or business. MCT owns and maintains more than 135 miles of scenic bikeways in Madison County, Illinois, known as the MCT Trails. Interested parties can complete an order form at <http://www.mcttrails.org/TreeAndBenchForm.pdf> and make a monetary contribution for the purchase and installation of a tree or bench along with an inscribed plaque to be placed along the MCT Trail of their choosing. Proceeds which exceed the cost of the tree or bench purchase and installation will fund trail enhancing projects, such as wayfinding, beautification, trail maintenance, etc.

**Commemorative Trees: (\$500):** Each tree purchase includes a 6 to 8 foot tree selected from a list of the following species: Maple, Redbud, Bald Cypress, Cherry, Ginkgo, or Blue Spruce, as well as a plaque inscribed with the donors requested message.

**Commemorative Benches: (\$5,000):** The black, powder-coated and vandal-resistant benches will be placed on a concrete pad and will include tamper proof hardware and a plaque inscribed with the donor's requested message.

"For years we've heard from trail users who want to make a contribution to the MCT Trails while commemorating a loved one or an organization," said MCT Managing Director SJ Morrison. "This program allows residents to become more engaged with the MCT Trails, while providing funds for trail amenities such as benches and trees, which have also been requested."

Order forms for the MCT Trails Commemorative Tree & Bench program are available online at <http://www.mcttrails.org/TreeAndBenchForm.pdf>. Forms can be filled out online or printed and submitted via e-mail to: [dcobb@mct.org](mailto:dcobb@mct.org) or mailed to: Madison County Transit, Attn: Tree & Bench Program, One Transit Way, P.O. Box 7500, Granite City, IL 62040-7500. For more information about the Tree & Bench Program, please contact David Cobb at (618) 797-4600 x 2116 or via e-mail at [dcobb@mct.org](mailto:dcobb@mct.org).

*Madison County Transit (MCT) provides multi-modal transportation services for Madison County, Illinois. MCT operates a fixed-route bus service, connecting to MetroLink; express weekday commuter service directly to and from downtown St. Louis; and seasonal express service the Muni. For elderly and disabled residents who are unable to use the fixed-route buses, MCT provides complementary door to door service. MCT is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of more than 137 miles of bikeways that comprise the MCT Trails system, as well as overseeing RideFinders, the St. Louis region's FREE carpooling and vanpooling program.*

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