

## Talking Trees: Tribute Tree Program

The holiday shopping season is here, and the City of Wisconsin Dells, through its Tree Board, is now offering a special gift. Through the Wisconsin Dells Tribute Tree program, you can give a lasting gift in the form of a living, growing tree –a legacy for future generations. In addition to beautifying the city, your donated trees generate oxygen, clean pollutants from the air, dissipate and clean storm water, reduce energy costs, stabilize the soil, add real estate value, provide habitat for birds, and reduce stress. Money raised from this program will be used to plant and maintain additional trees in the city.

Tribute Trees are available for \$300. Trees ordered before February 1, 2011 will be planted in the coming spring. Donors are encouraged to choose a location where trees are needed on Vine Street, River Road, and Bowman Road, but other locations within the city limits will be allowed. Working with the Tree Board, the donor will select a tree from the preferred list which will suit the location and promote a diverse selection of trees in the city. The 2-inch diameter tree will be planted in the spring by the WDHS Future Farmers of America and is guaranteed for one year. The Tree Board will work with the landowner nearest the tree to assure proper watering and maintenance.

A plate naming the donor and/or recipient will be added to a Tribute Tree Donor Board which will hang in the rotunda of the Kilbourn Public Library and Community Center. In addition a certificate signed by the Mayor will be provided to the donor or recipient. For an additional cost, a 4x6 metal plate will be put in the mulch ring next to the tree, identifying the tree species and information specified by the donor. The Donor Board has been created and donated by Bill Pettit, fashioned from a white pine which was planted by the Aldo Leopold family on their land in “Sand County” and harvested by the Leopold Foundation.

To pay tribute to a loved one, to commemorate a special occasion, or to give a gift to a friend or loved one and to the residents who will enjoy the benefits of your donated tree, make plans to purchase a tribute tree. Applications are available at Wisconsin Dells City Hall, Kilbourn Public Library, and Dutch Mill Office at 726 Vine Street. They are also available online at [www.citywd.govoffice2.com](http://www.citywd.govoffice2.com). For questions, call Chris Swart at 254-6160.