

# **BONNET SHORES LAND TRUST MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRAM**

**Effective Date: August 2025**

## **Introduction:**

Beginning in August of 2025, the Bonnet Shores Land Trust (BSLT), in conjunction with the Bonnet Shores Fire District (BSFD), will introduce a new protocol for Memorial Benches within our community. The program will be redefined and established as a permanent initiative to sustain and maintain the bench program. It offers existing donors the opportunity to repair benches in disrepair as well as allow new donors to adopt and donate new benches designed to align with the surrounding landscape.

## **Location(s):**

There are four designated locations: Little Beach, The Battery, Kelly Beach, and the Community Center. A total of 20 benches will be allowed among these locations. Benches offer community members the opportunity to honor others through a lasting tribute. Bench style will be chosen by the BSLT and BSFD based on location, history, and environmental consistency. Each bench will include a commemorative plaque of up to 4 lines, with approximately 46 characters per line, approved by the BSLT and BSFD.

## **Maintenance:**

Bench owners are responsible for maintenance. For added safety, security and convenience, a local carpenter will be contracted for repairs. All repair costs are at the owner's expense. Accurate donor records including: contact info, bench details, plaque text, photos, installation date, and vendor will be maintained by BSLT. These records are vital to ensuring long-term success of the program. \* Owners will not be allowed to repair theirs or any other benches.

## **Style of Bench and Cost:**

Each bench will be constructed to the specification of a local carpenter vetted by the BSLT and BSFD using durable materials. A local, landscape contractor, also vetted by us, will perform installations. Current budget: \$1,000-\$1,200 for construction, and \$500-\$650 for installation. \*This is for budgetary purposes only, and cost may vary with construction and supply costs.

## **Existing Benches:**

Benches installed before August 2025 will be grandfathered into the new program. However, each bench owner will be contacted by a BSLT or BSFD representative to approve and sign our updated Memorial Bench Consent Form. All existing benches will be evaluated for needed repairs, with costs to be covered by the current owner. If the owner declines repairs, the bench and location will be forfeited. Once forfeited, the donor waives any rights and may request placement on a future waiting list.

**Purchase and Installation Process:**

Available bench locations, once vacated or forfeited, may be reassigned. Donors will meet with a BSLT or BSFD representative(s) to review site and bench type. If approved, a signed agreement and plaque text will be confirmed, and the donor will coordinate directly with the bench supplier. Shipment will be directed to Bonnet Shores Community Center. Installation will be scheduled, and the donor will be contacted upon completion.

**Donations:**

A voluntary donation of \$500 is requested, payable to the BSLT. This supports emergency repairs and contributes to the ongoing success of the Memorial Bench program.

**Thank You**

**BSLT Trustees and BSFD Council**