

ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE

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CLASS OF 2014 INITIATES MEMORIAL GARDEN AT ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADRIAN – A new memorial garden/walking path is taking shape at the west end of Adrian High School along McKenzie Street, this project was jump started with a donation from the Class of 2014 and built by volunteers.

The garden was built to provide a location for quiet study and reflection while at the same time honoring current Maples and memorializing those departed. In addition to this, the garden provides a location to commemorate past gifts of nature to the district. The district will replace trees that were taken out during various construction projects and provide a dedicated location for new trees.

Underwood Nursery has worked collaboratively with Adrian Schools on this project, and donated the red maple at the center of the circle and provided an additional 20 trees on consignment. The centerpiece red maple is a marquis tree that could grow up to 90 feet tall, and is considered a pioneer which means that it is one of the first to take an area over and it will provide an understory area for trees to grow below it. Norway spruces were chosen for their quick growth and shade as well as their ability to absorb the sound of vehicular traffic and block the wind. Green mountain sugar maples will highlight the earth tones of the school with its bright orange fall foliage and the concrete benches will provide resting areas that will last for years.

Norway Spruce trees are available to purchase and dedicate at a cost of \$250, Maples at \$500 and concrete benches at \$800. A three-line dedication on a perpetual plaque that will be located in the inner circle of the garden is available at \$200. This will go to the garden maintenance fund. To make a purchase contact the district at 264-6622

or check out the Adrian Schools Educational Foundation on-line at www.adriansef.com under the donations tab.

The class of 1960 purchased the first tree in honor of their deceased class members. Trees representing departed members of the classes of 1990 and 1995 will be planted as will a tree representing the Class of 1965. In addition to this, a historical concrete drinking fountain will also be placed in the garden – this non-functional fixture resided at the old high school on Frank Street and was displaced when that building was razed in 1959. The fountain was a gift of the class of 1919.

The memorial garden was built with volunteer labor, monetary donations in the amount of \$4,366 and in-kind labor from area contractors. The class of 2014, current students, teachers and parents played an integral role in digging through the clay for the sidewalks. Jay Roback, George McMillan, Scott Sellers, Connor Tokarz and Kevin Van Ert facilitated with the layout, installation of concrete forms and the pouring and finishing of the concrete walks. Funding has come from the Class of 2014, the AHS Alumni Association, Lewin Memorial, John & Mary Roberts, Monroe Plumbing, Prairie Elementary, Alexander Elementary, 5-6 Middle School, 7-8 Middle School and Race Street Maintenance.