



Honoring Trees: A Susie Forest Patch

Susie Stephens was a Girl Scout, bicyclist, environmentalist, activist, world traveler, and well-known bicycle and pedestrian safety advocate whose life was sadly cut short when she was struck by a bus at a crosswalk in 2002.

Since then, her mother, Nancy MacKerrow, has been honoring Susie's legacy through the creation of The Susie Forest, which is responsible for the planting of hundreds of trees in Spokane and across the globe. The "Susie Forest" patch represents this incredible movement.

It started out small- just three trees planted in 2003. Since then the Susie Forest has grown to over 300 trees planted around the world! There are trees planted in Washington D.C., and as far away as New Zealand and Iran. Plant your own Susie Tree today!

Learn more about Susie's story [here](#).



The Susie Forest was started for three reasons:

1. To honor Susie by planting trees for her.
2. To honor Susie by helping others plant meaningful trees.
3. To honor Susie by continuing her activism.



A Susie Forest Patch Program



Steps to earn the Susie Forest patch:

1. Plant a tree *or* honor an existing tree.
2. Tell Susie's story *or* a story of a special person in your community who you wish to dedicate a tree to.
3. Celebrate the tree by hanging biodegradable tags with stories about the tree's legacy *or* painting rocks with well wishes and placing them around the tree.
4. Become a part of the Susie Forest by filling out this [form](#) with your tree honoring story.
5. Get your very own Susie Forest patch!

Purchase your Susie Forest patch by visiting one of our retail stores or shop online at shopgsewni.com

Don't forget to [register your tree](#) in the GSUSA Tree Tracker!

Visit the Susie Stephens Trail!

The City of Spokane Parks & Recreation is building a new .7-mile trail between the Finch Arboretum and the Fish Lake Trail. The trail will span from Woodland Center in Finch Arboretum to the intersection of 13th Ave. and Lindeke St., where it will connect with the Fish Lake Trail.

Phase I opened in 2023 and includes an 8' wide path along the street tree exhibit on W. Woodland Blvd., between D. St. and W. Trinity Place.

Susie's mother, Nancy MacKerrow, donated \$100,000 towards construction, and those funds were matched by City of Spokane Parks & Recreation to complete this portion of the trail. Timing for future phases of the trail will be shared as they are known.

[Watch this video](#) to learn more!

