



# Be a partner of the project

## Revitalization of Masaryk's Forest



### About the project:

Masaryk's forest, which is located in the Valley of Jezreel in Northern Israel, was founded in 1930 based on collections organized by the Czechoslovak Board of KKL-JNF. The funds raised were then used to purchase the land, where 13,000 forest seedlings were planted. The forest was dedicated to the Czechoslovak President T.G. Masaryk on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The festivities were attended not only by the Czechoslovak Consul, but also by leading personalities of British Mandate Palestine then. After almost ninety years, the forest requires total revitalization, re-plantation of seedling, as well as removal of undesired seeding. We would also like to create a dignified place to remind the public of our first president's relationship to the country. However, the area should not be purpose-less, on the contrary, it should serve the needs of the inhabitants of the surrounding settlements providing them a place to rest and relax, as well as become a tourist highlight of the area.

### Become partners of the project...

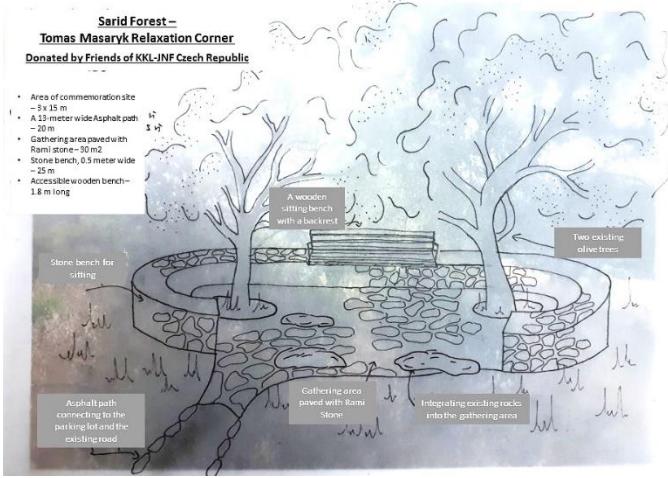
- To create a print of the Czech Republic in the northern region of Israel
- To create a memorial place in the entrance area of Masaryk's Forest
- This is an opportunity to present yourself and help good things.

### Who do we do this for?

- Inhabitants of the region.
- Hikers and bikers.
- Tours from the Czech Republic, allowing them to plant their symbolic tree here.
- For the reputation of the Czech Republic.

## Details:

In the first stage, the project will involve clearing the area, repairing the roads and creating an entrance memorial area lined with natural stone, building access roads, parking lot, disabled access and a resting place. Information system will be installed, including a reminder of the history of the Masaryk's Forest and guidance signs. At this point any plaques or stones with donors identification will be placed.



## Reminder:

Masaryk's Forest is nowadays a living gift to the president, T.G.Masaryk, as a symbolic acknowledgment of his merits in the fight against anti-Semitism.

In honor of Tomas Garrique Masaryk (1850-1937) the first Czechoslovak president and as a gift to his 80th birthday, the citizens of Czechoslovakia (not only the Jews) planted one of the first forests ever named after a statesman. The forest of olive trees and cypresses was planted near the kibbutz Sarid (founded by the emigrants from Czechoslovakia and Eastern Europe). The ceremony took place in April 1930 with the participation of the Czechoslovak head consul and a representative of Yishuv (representative of the Jewish population at the British administration), Mr. Menachem Usikhin (1863-1941) who also chaired KKL-JNF at the time. T. Masaryk believed in freedom and the right to self-determination and shared the visions of the Zionist movement and KKL-JNF. He confirmed his position many times during his visits to the British Mandate Palestine.

## Location:

The Masaryk Forest is connected to the larger Balfour Forest on the southern slopes of the Nazareth Hills near the kibbutz Sarid, north of the village of Genigar.

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