

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: Status Update on City Memorial Program

Requested & Presented by: Darcy Perkins, MSS

Meeting Date: Public Works Committee on 10-15-2026

Committee Review:

Background: The City previously suspended its Memorial Program to evaluate long-term maintenance obligations and establish a more manageable approach to memorial donations.

Staff have identified approximately 50 existing tree and bench memorials, with additional memorials potentially unaccounted for. While individual donations may require minimal upkeep, their cumulative impact places additional demands on already limited staffing and maintenance resources.

Although staff have explored standardizing memorial options and procedures, a sustainable program would require a comprehensive overhaul rather than minor revisions. Given current operational priorities, limited resources, and no immediate urgency to reinstate the program, staff does not recommend dedicating additional resources to its redevelopment at this time.

Staff believes memorial requests are more appropriately managed under the City's existing Donation Policy rather than through a separate program. This would allow requests to be evaluated individually based on operational priorities, available resources, and long-term maintenance impacts.

Department Recommendation: Staff recommends permanently discontinuing the City Memorial Program rather than revising and reopening it. Existing memorials already represent a substantial maintenance commitment, and accepting additional donations would further strain limited resources.

This recommendation is not a reflection of the value of memorial donations, but rather the City's responsibility to ensure existing memorials receive appropriate long-term care. Staff recommends prioritizing existing obligations over expanding the program.

Financial Impact: No immediate impact. Either option would help limit additional maintenance obligations.

Potential Motion:

PUBLIC WORKS: Motion to indefinitely extend the moratorium on the City Memorial Program, with existing memorials remaining subject to current City maintenance practices.

Attachment(s):

- Memorial Program Master Map
- Donation Policy - Adopted 02-06-2024