

Historic Cemetery Grant Program



Photos, top to Bottom: Historic Cemeteries in King, Lewis, Walla Walla, and Kittitas Counties

Background

In 2016, the Washington State Legislature passed House Bill 2637, creating the state historic cemetery preservation capital grant program. Acknowledging the important role historic cemeteries hold in understanding our past and honoring our forebears, the program is intended to benefit the public by preserving outstanding examples of the state's heritage, enabling historic cemeteries to continue to serve their communities, and honoring the military veterans buried within them. A cemetery must be over 50 years old to apply and funding criteria includes relative historic significance, relative percentage of military burials, project's impact on future maintenance and operation costs, accessibility to the public and the extent to which the project leverages community and volunteer support.

Benefits

Washington has more than 1,700 known cemeteries across the state, many of which are eligible to apply for funding through the historic cemetery grant program. The grant program works to assist stewards at the local level to proactively preserve historic cemeteries and raise awareness about the role they play in local and state history. The program is run through the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Accomplishments

With \$500,000 allocated from the 2017-19 capital budget, the program has achieved the following:

- 47 grant applications were received requesting nearly \$1.64M in grant funds – requests were more than triple the amount of funding available.
- 22 grant awards have been made to historic cemeteries statewide, with 42% of funds going to 10 eastern WA counties and 58% of funds going to 12 counties in western WA.
- The program does not require a local match. Nonetheless, grant funds worked to leverage nearly \$400K in additional project expenses, leading to an estimated return approaching \$1 at the local level for every \$1 in state grant funds.
- Work focuses on preservation and restoration of key cemetery features, interpretive elements providing historical information, and protection and security for the overall grounds.

Contact

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2019-2021 Biennium

The Governor's proposed Capital Budget includes \$515,000 in funding to continue the Historic Cemetery Grant program in the 2019-21 biennium. The Washington Trust strongly supports this proposal.



Left:
Whelan Cemetery
Whitman County, Est'd 1888

Right:
Fred Horn Monument
Civil War Soldier
Ridgefield Cemetery
Clark County



Summary of Historic Cemetery Grants awarded to date:

CEMETERY	CITY	COUNTY	Grant Awarded
Ridgefield Cemetery	Ridgefield	Clark	\$29,000.00
Newland Cemetery	Dayton	Columbia	\$6,160.00
Valley View Cemetery	East Wenatchee	Douglas	\$15,956.00
Republic Cemetery	Republic	Ferry	\$13,161.16
Sunset Memorial Park	Hoquiam	Grays Harbor	\$35,000.00
Camano Lutheran Cemetery	Camano Island	Island County	\$32,035.80
Hills of Eternity	Seattle	King	\$30,000.00
Pioneer Cemetery	Auburn	King	\$36,351.00
Buena Vista Cemetery	Port Gamble	Kitsap	\$28,318.89
IOOF Brick Road Memorial Park	Ellensburg	Kittitas	\$30,000.00
Roslyn Cemeteries	Roslyn	Kittitas	\$42,300.00
Washington Lawn Cemetery	Centralia	Lewis	\$27,237.46
Twin Firs	Belfair	Mason	\$2,720.00
Sumner Cemetery	Sumner	Pierce	\$18,000.00
Bay View Cemetery	Mount Vernon	Skagit	\$16,141.55
Freeborn Lutheran Cemetery	Stanwood	Snohomish	\$9,491.70
Zion Lutheran Cemetery	Silvana	Snohomish	\$1,347.95
Medical Lake Cemetery	Spokane	Spokane	\$27,874.81
Mountain View Cemetery	Walla Walla	Walla Walla	\$25,000.00
St. Rose Cemetery	Walla Walla	Walla Walla	\$3,000.00
Thornton Cemetery	Thornton	Whitman	\$23,250.16
Whelan Cemetery	Pullman	Whitman	\$2,500.00