

# State Veterans Cemetery, Tri-Cities Update



**March 11, 2026**

WDVA is excited to announce the preferred site for the State Veterans Cemetery, Tri-Cities project.

This journey began in 2017 when a feasibility study identified the Tri-Cities region as one of significant need for a State Veterans Cemetery. Thanks to the support of the Veterans Community, our Governor, and Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials, we are moving forward with our commitment to ensuring Veterans and their families have access to their earned Veterans benefit of a dignified resting place where service and sacrifice are forever honored and remembered.

In early 2024, WDVA began identifying state- and privately-owned land suitable for a second state Veterans cemetery. That spring, we held a Community Town Hall sharing project information with interested community members. WDVA started a Pre-Design Study in November 2025 which included an evaluation of two potential sites. One of these properties is in the City of Richland and the other in Benton County, near West Richland. The evaluation included testing of soils, topography, archeological reviews, costs, accessibility, environmental assessments, and many other areas critical to ensuring a suitable location is chosen to honor the service and sacrifice of the area's military Veterans.

Today, we announce our preferred site is a parcel in the City of Richland, in the Horn Rapids area off State Route 240. This 140-acre parcel was reserved by the City in August 2025 for a no-cost public purpose transfer to WDVA to build a State Veterans Cemetery.

**Ultimately several factors led to the decision to move forward with the land offered by the City of Richland:**

## **Availability and Access to Water**

One of the most significant factors in this site selection was the existing irrigation water on the City of Richland property as well as ability to access city water.

## **Assurance of Latecomer Agreements to Offset Upfront Costs**

WDVA acknowledges there will be additional up-front costs to run water, electricity and data to the site, as well as road improvements. However, through the partnership with the City of Richland, WDVA will enter into latecomer agreements with the City to reimburse utility costs in the future and with both the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the City of Richland on latecomer agreements for road improvements on SR-240. In addition, WDVA will work closely with the City of Richland on federal and state funding requests to offset costs on SR-240 related to the development of a roundabout required by WSDOT for this project.

## **Ease of Access and Higher Visibility**

This parcel offers ease of access for families travelling to the region who are unfamiliar with the Tri-Cities area. The parcel is located directly off SR-240 and will be visible from the roadway as the site is developed over the years.

### **Serenity and Site Topography**

While the proximity to homeowners and future development on surrounding parcels is similar at both sites, the City of Richland parcel topography, including higher elevation relative to neighboring sites, provides a more secluded feel. Ultimately, we believe the site can be developed to give families and visitors a more intimate and secluded feeling.

We were extremely fortunate to have support from the area's Federal, State, and Local elected officials and community leaders, as well as cooperation from the City of West Richland, the City of Richland, and their partners throughout this process. We sincerely appreciate the generosity and willingness of the private landowner who worked with us for several months as we studied the viability of the Benton County site near West Richland.

As this project moves forward, WDVA will continue engaging with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to ensure needs of Native American Veterans and their families are considered and that federal, tribal, and state archeological processes are honored.

This was a difficult decision, and we are grateful for the community effort that went into our decision-making process. We will continue the dialogue with these parties moving forward as the project will benefit the entire Tri-Cities region.

### **Next steps: Follow Along on Our Future [Tri-Cities Cemetery](#) Webpage**

- March 25, 2026: [Community Invited to Tri-Cities Veterans Cemetery Project Town Hall](#)
- April 15, 2026, finalize review of predesign report.
- April 30, 2026, receive final predesign report.
- Work with City of Richland on land transfer process.
- Continue work with City of Richland on opportunities for federal funding and the latecomer agreement process.
- Work with the Governor's office and State Legislators on funding for land improvements
- Once land is owned by WDVA, funding is available for site improvements, and funding is available for the 10% construction match, WDVA will apply for the NCA State Veteran Cemetery Construction program grant which will fund 90% of the construction project.
- The federal grant application for the cemetery funding is due July 31, 2026.

Stay tuned as we continue the journey to bring a State Veterans Cemetery to the Tri-Cities region! This is a multi-year process, and we invite you to stay connected throughout.

**For more information or questions, please contact us at:**

- Email: [CemeteryTri-Cities@dva.wa.gov](mailto:CemeteryTri-Cities@dva.wa.gov),
- Sign up for e-newsletter [email updates](#)
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