

Program #10031 - Lone Fir Cemetery
FY 2026 Proposed

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Sara Ryan
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: New Request, One-Time-Only Request

Program Description

More than 2,800 Chinese and Chinese American people were buried in Lone Fir Cemetery between the 1860s and the 1920s, the majority of them in Block 14. While many were exhumed and returned to China in accordance with their cultural practices, some of their bodies remain in the cemetery in unmarked graves. In the 1950s, Block 14 was paved over to build an office space for Multnomah County. That building has been torn down and the land has been reincorporated into the cemetery. Currently, the space that once held the Chinese section of the cemetery is a bare field.

Portland's Chinese American community has been deeply involved in the effort to acknowledge the history of this space and repair the harm at this site for two decades. Members of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and the local neighborhood association came forward to challenge Multnomah County's proposed sale of the Morrison Building and site to a developer in 2005 based on their knowledge that the site had been used as the primary burial ground for the Chinese community in the late 19th and early 20th century. Their efforts successfully halted the sale and resulted in the transfer of the property to Metro, who had assumed ownership and care of the historic cemeteries.

Metro is now in the process of developing a memorial that honors the unrecognized stories of the people who were buried at the site. The memorial is being shaped by input from the community and funded through the voter-approved 2019 parks and nature bond.

After project planning and design initiated in 2022, the community has been deeply involved throughout the process. Metro has led culturally specific focus groups, general public workshops and in-person events related to the on-going development of the project regularly for the past three years. Community helped to shape the initial conceptual design approaches and the preferred design refinements throughout the course of the project. Through these engagements, community requested that Multnomah County become involved in the effort to build the project and to issue an apology.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Payments made as scheduled	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Output	Update provided on progress toward memorial goals	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

Performance Measures Descriptions

Making payments on time ensures access to funds when needed. 1=yes; 2=no

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$1,000,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: