

City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Memorial Policy Updated September 2020

Purpose

Thanks to our generous community, the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department receives numerous inquiries for memorials on OSMP lands. This policy provides coordinated and consistent guidance for memorial locations, duration, and type on OSMP lands.

Memorials and Sitting Stones

OSMP's mission is to preserve and protect the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder while fostering appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations. As such, management of OSMP lands is not focused on the opportunity to memorialize an individual. Nevertheless, requests are made to the department and the department currently works to provide some predetermined memorial locations when they meet broader established department goals such as providing resting places near trailheads and along wider trails. Locations are predetermined due to the intensive staff time required to review cultural resources, ecological habitat, and visitor experience, as well as time required for city, county and federal permitting. Additionally, predetermining locations across a broader area helps make sure benches and other memorials are strategically dispersed across the system in locations that serve the department's mission, goals and greater community, while taking into account limited staff resources to maintain the memorials. To help in finding an available location, the department has offered a map showing all available locations.

Applications for memorials at predetermined locations on OSMP land will be reviewed on an individual basis and may be approved by the department based on current and expected capacity to build and maintain the request; location; design; materials; construction and placement; as well as any plaque language. The department reserves the right to refuse a memorial for any reason. Memorials will be required to meet existing departmental objectives and must be placed in approved locations that are suitable for management of the surrounding area. Department objectives, properties, and visitor infrastructure limit the overall quantity of memorials appropriate for the system. When capacity is met individuals may still request to join the wait list but will only be offered an opportunity as current memorials expire, or additional locations become available through property acquisition and new visitor infrastructure on existing properties. Suggestions may be considered when that area of the system is under review which can take three or more years if the area was recently analyzed. If suggested locations meet greater department goals and there is desired department capacity for additional infrastructure in the area, the location may be provided as memorial location, starting with those first on the waitlist.

Memorials applications will be reviewed in the order in which requests are received by OSMP. Potential memorials will be added to the waiting list when a completed application is received. Incomplete applications will not be added to the waitlist.

Effective October 2017, OSMP recommends the installation of sitting stones over traditional memorial benches. Department staff will continue to work with community members who inquired about benches prior to October 2017 to best meet the intent of their donation. Sitting stones are more sustainable as they require less maintenance than traditional benches, last longer and better meet OSMP management goals of natural-appearing structures. Contributions for sitting stones are \$3,000 and based on the

donor providing their own plaque. Memorial plaque inscription language must be approved by the department prior to their creation.

Memorials on sitting stones and benches are provided for a 10-years duration and may be offered the opportunity to renew for an additional 10 years. Renewals are not guaranteed, and availability is based on the length of the current waitlist and the current inventory of available locations. Individuals may not be offered the option to renew their location to allow those on the waitlist an opportunity to have a memorial. At the end of a 10 year memorial period, the sponsor will be contacted for either the option to renew for another 10 years at the current contribution rate at that time, or the sponsor will be given the opportunity to retrieve the memorial plaque from the department if the option to renew is not available. Sponsors will be contacted via every form contact information provided in their application and given 30 days to respond, after which point, they may lose their location or place on the waitlist if they are unable to be reached.