

Dakota County Veterans Memorial Greenway Interpretive Plan Overview



Developed in partnership with veteran advisors, this plan sets a framework for honoring the many veterans in Dakota County. Veteran stories will be collected and thoughtfully shared at ten memorials along a five-mile greenway in southern Egan and Inver Grove Heights to:

1. Honor the sacrifice made by veterans and provide a place for healing.
2. Share stories that inform and inspire visitors about who veterans are, their service experiences, life-changing events, and the county's military places.

The Ten Memorials

Memorial 1: Military Places-West



County historic military places, west:

- WWII ship works at Port Cargill on the Minnesota River
- Dodd Road constructed as a military road in the 1850s
- Gopher Ordnance Works, WWII gunpowder plant

Memorial 2: Gold Star Families



Honoring families that have lost a member in military service:

- Names of soldiers lost in service
- Gold Star sculpture, stars turning into birds in flight
- Labyrinth, battlefield cross, and memorial wall

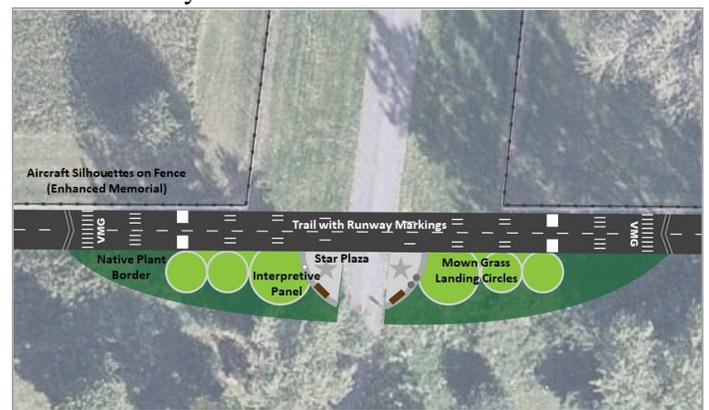
Memorial 3: Veterans Over Time



Minnesota military units with Dakota County residents:

- Minnesota First Volunteers at Gettysburg, Civil War
- 34th Infantry Red Bulls throughout history and today
- Soldier silhouettes on Hwy 3 pedestrian/bicyclist bridge

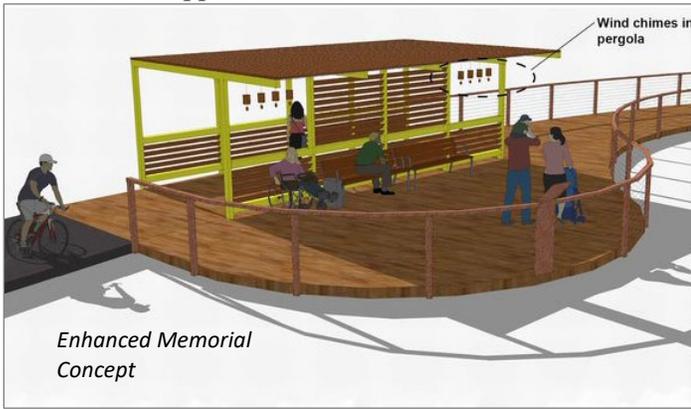
Memorial 4: Flyers



Honoring aviators from all service branches:

- Three air wings in Minnesota, Fleming Field Navy base
- Landing circles represent WWII Navy pilot training in county
- Minnesota-based aircraft silhouettes

Memorial 5: Support and Allies



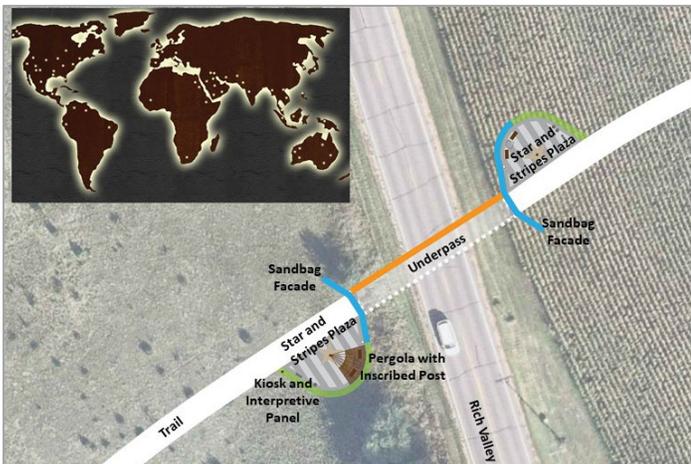
- Groups assisting veterans and their families, allied forces
- More than 40 groups assist veterans in Dakota County
 - Yellow ribbon theme, windchime pergola on lake overlook

Memorial 6: MIA Prairie



- Missing in Action prairie restoration, the path of service
- Names of County and Minnesota MIA and POW service members
 - Who veterans are, why they served, service experience, transition to civilian life, and service reflections

Memorial 7: Where We Served



- Service places around the world, in conflict and in peacetime
- Sandbag façade walls about a new underpass, etched with places, battles, disaster response, and humanitarian missions
 - Backlit world map shows places served

Memorial 8: In the Service - Main Memorial



- Main memorial
- Purple Heart Plaza and area for traveling memorials
 - Panels on county veterans, women in the military, oath of service, basic training, and service branches

Memorial 9: Native American Veterans



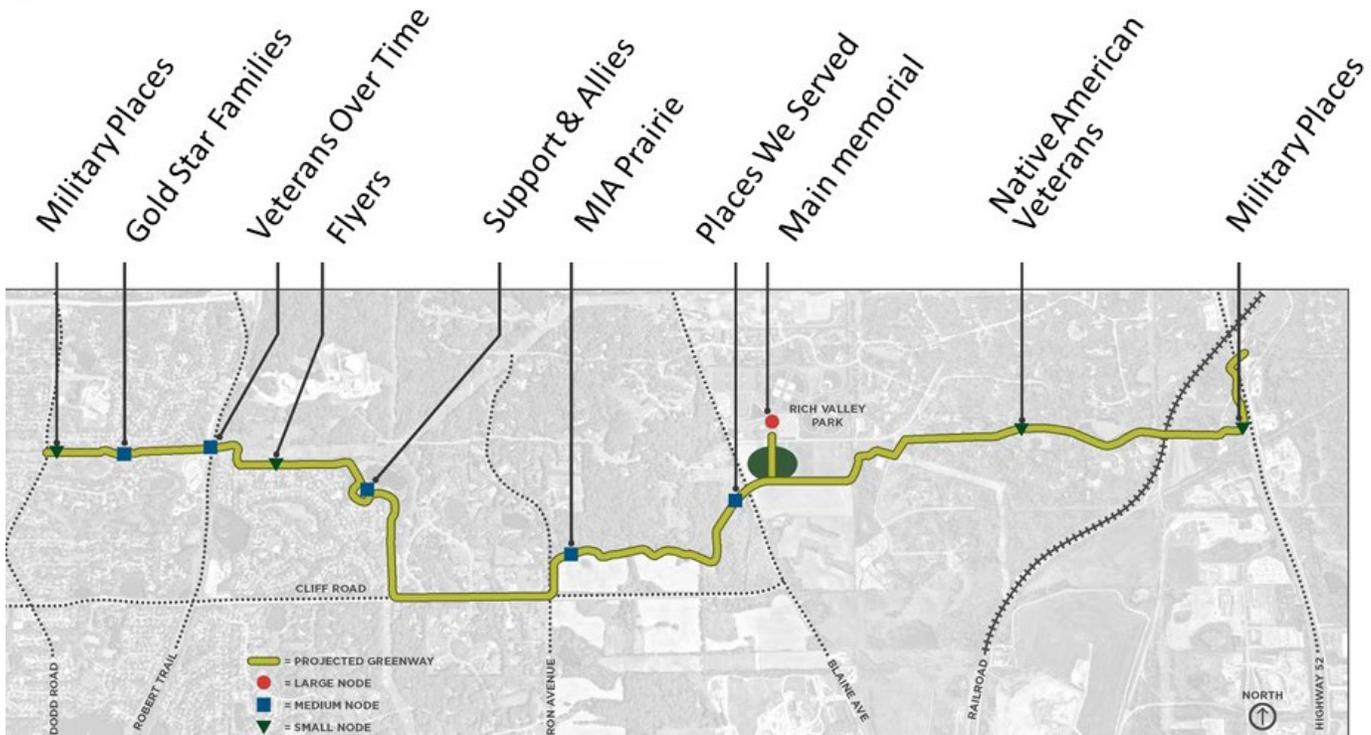
- Honoring Dakota Homeland and Native American military service
- Distinguished service since the Revolutionary War
 - Inscribed posts along boardwalk and pergola to be developed with tribal communities

Memorial 10: Military Places-East



- County historic military places, east:
- Cold War B-52 crash in Inver Grove Heights
 - Rich Valley Blvd origin as a military road in the 1850s
 - Hastings Veterans Home

Greenway Memorial Map



Memorial Stories and Features

| Name | Stories | Memorial Features |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Military Places-West | Military places and history (Western Dakota County) | Gateway star and stripes plaza |
| 2. Gold Star Families | Families who have lost a member in service | Labyrinth and star shelter |
| 3. Veterans Over Time | Units from Dakota County, diversity of the military | Minnesota military figures on new bridge |
| 4. Flyers | Aviators from all branches of service | Landing circles, runway, aircraft silhouettes |
| 5. Support & Allies | Organizations that help veterans heal | Boardwalk, windchime pergola, yellow ribbons |
| 6. MIA Prairie/Service Path | The Missing in Action/Prisoners of War, path of service | Restored prairie, walk following the path of service |
| 7. Places Served | Where veterans have served in war and in peacetime | Lit world map, inscribed sandbag walls |
| 8. In the Service/ Main Memorial | Service branches, entry into service, notable county Veterans, and women in the military | Purple Heart Plaza, traveling memorial displays |
| 9. Native American Veterans | Dakota Homeland and extraordinary service history | Lakeside boardwalk and pergola |
| 10. Military Places-East | Military places and history (eastern Dakota County) | Gateway star and stripes plaza |

Basic Memorials: are a starting point and repeating greenway element, funded by Dakota County along with overall greenway construction. Displays honor the service of veterans. Small plazas and seating areas have a patriotic star and stripes theme.

Enhanced Memorials: expand on Basic Memorials with sculptures, plazas, larger displays, interactive features, and personal memorials. These will require external resources from fund-raising, grants, and legislative requests led by veteran organizations.

Cost Estimates

| Memorial | Basic | Enhanced | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1: Connections West* | \$23,000 | \$53,000 | \$76,000 |
| 2: Gold Star* | \$27,000 | \$886,000 | \$913,000 |
| 3: Hwy 3* | \$12,000 | \$180,000 | \$192,000 |
| 4: Flyers | \$7,500 | \$24,000 | \$31,500 |
| 5: Support and Allies | \$9,000 | \$95,000 | \$104,000 |
| 6: MIA Prairie* | \$9,000 | \$155,000 | \$164,000 |
| 7: Places Served* | \$3,000 | \$118,000 | \$121,000 |
| 8: Rich Valley | \$25,000 | \$1,053,000 | \$1,077,000 |
| 9: Native American Veterans | \$3,000 | \$127,000 | \$130,000 |
| 10: Connections East* | \$16,000 | \$34,000 | \$50,000 |
| Totals | \$134,500 | \$2,725,000 | \$2,858,500 |

Plan Implementation

Dakota County will build the Basic Memorials as the greenway trail is built. The County will look to veteran organizations for enhanced memorial refinement, fundraising, and management over time. Dakota County will coordinate with veterans and city partners in realizing the Plan vision. Potential roles for veterans and the County are recommended in this table.

Potential Roles for Veterans and the County

| Potential Role | Basic Memorial | Enhanced Memorial |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Convener of Veterans (501c3, appointed committee, other?) | County | Veterans, with County assistance |
| Public fundraising | County | Veterans |
| Private fundraising | N/A | Veterans |
| Design/construction management | County | TBD |
| Fiscal agent | County | TBD |
| Volunteer coordination | County | Veterans and County |
| Events with cities and Veterans | County | Veterans and County |
| Memorial updates | County | Veterans |

Memorial 8: Purple Heart Plaza Concept for Enhanced Memorial



Share Your Thoughts

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners would like your thoughts on the draft Memorial Plan. Comments can be sent to Planning@co.dakota.mn.us before July 8, 2022. For more information, please visit www.dakotacounty.us, search “Veterans Memorial Greenway” or contact Planning@co.dakota.mn.us.

Open House: to review and comment on the memorial plan for The Veterans Memorial Greenway

Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Veterans Community Center, Community Room 1

8055 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077