

Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant 2026 Information

OREGON COMMISSION ON HISTORIC CEMETERIES, OREGON HERITAGE

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department values and serves everyone and is committed to providing safe and equitable access to state parks and agency programs. The department will not tolerate racism, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation in any form.

The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries is pleased to announce the new round of Historic Cemeteries Grants. The purpose of the Historic Cemeteries Grants is to provide financial assistance in the following general categories: protection and security, restoration and preservation, education and training, research and interpretation. Eligible projects may include, but aren't limited to: security fencing or lighting, skilled monument repair or training, conservation of historic elements such as fencing, curbs, markers, etc., documentation and mapping, signage, landscape restoration, planning and interpretation. The funds allocated by the State through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will be available to support the preservation of listed historic cemeteries throughout Oregon.

Grants must be submitted through the [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grants Online](#) system.

Grant Timeline:

- Deadline: April 9, 2026 (11:59 pm)
- Notification: End of May, 2026
- Project Start: July 1, 2026 with agreements fully executed and workplan approved.
- Project Completion and Reporting Deadline: April 30, 2027

Financial Information:

AWARD AMOUNT:

Generally, awards are \$1000-\$8000. The Oregon Heritage Commission attempts to fully fund grant requests. The funding is by reimbursement for work completed.

MATCH:

A dollar match for funds requested is not required, though we encourage you to seek local funding and donations in addition to your grant request. Local support allows the program to assist more cemeteries, shows community value for the project, and makes the application more competitive.

- Match can be in the form of cash, in-kind donations and volunteer time.
- Rates for volunteer services may not exceed Oregon minimum wage, except in those instances in which the volunteer is using their professional skills for the grant assisted work. Documentation of their rate is required.



- Indirect costs (general operations costs associated with the grant funded project) or grant administration costs (staff time managing grant reporting and reimbursement) can be applied to the grant for funding or match, only one can be used in the same grant. Both indirect costs and grant administrations costs are limited to 6% of the award amount.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Bids and estimates strengthen the grant request when applicable. If awarded the grant requires at least three estimates for work over \$25,000.

GRANT REPORTING AND PAYMENT:

Awarded projects will be the subject of binding agreements between the State and the grantee. Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursable basis. Details of payment arrangements and grant reporting are included in the grant guidelines.

Eligibility, Standards, Criteria, and Priorities:

ELIGIBILITY:

- CEMETERIES: Any cemetery or burial site which contains at least one burial of a person who died before the date that is 75 years before the current date.
- APPLICANTS: Individual citizens, organizations, schools, governments, and nonprofits may apply.
- PROJECTS: Projects that will begin and end during the grant cycle qualify. Grant cycle extensions are extremely rare.

PRESERVATION STANDARDS:

The application must convey that any reparation will be completed using appropriate preservation practices. Please specify how the work will be completed and/or include references for past work completed using appropriate methods. The National Park Service, the Association for Gravestone Studies, the National Preservation Institute and the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries all offer information on preservation practices in historic cemeteries.

CRITERIA:

- The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed project.
- The effectiveness of the proposed project to address the historic aspects and long-term preservation of the cemetery.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Projects with a well-prioritized, clearly explained work plan with an appropriate level of detail and realistic cost estimates are more competitive.
- Project readiness, including matching dollar share in-hand, are stronger.
- Projects that are part of a long-range plan are more competitive.
- Projects that document, preserve, or interpret the history of voices previously marginalized or excluded are a priority. For example, this may include ethnicities, races, genders, classes, etc. or themes like labor, immigration, etc.
- Geographic diversity.



- Projects on publicly accessible cemeteries are not prioritized over cemeteries that are accessible by appointment only. The purpose of the program is the preservation of historic cemeteries.

ASSISTANCE:

For grant questions, translation assistance, and OPRD: Grants Online support, contact: Kuri Gill,
kuri.gill@opr.d.oregon.gov, 503-986-0685.

