

Veterans Memorial Park

Quality of Life

Dept. & Contact: **Human Services/ Veteran Services — David Donohew, Veterans Services Officer,**
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Area: **County-Wide** Location: **CONCEPTUAL IDEA could be G. C. Herring Park- 3406 Indiana Road, Rotonda West**

Need:

The County is divided along three geographical locations, Punta Gorda, Englewood, and Port Charlotte. Currently there is no dedicated park for veterans from all three areas to meet, hold ceremonies (Veterans Day, 4th of July, etc.) A dedicated memorial park will unite the 25,181 veterans of Charlotte County and bring great pride to veterans of all areas. With the possibility of the City of Punta Gorda receiving a replica of the Vietnam wall, there is a need to serve ALL era veterans with a memorial park. The G.C. Herring Park, near both the Rotonda American Legion and Rotonda VFW, could be an ideal location for veterans events and provides perpetual use.

Purpose:

To plan, build, and equip a park to honor Charlotte County and visiting military veterans of all eras. This includes any period of service in the Armed Forces in which the individual is currently serving or has been honorably separated from active or inactive service, beginning with the American Revolution. We want to promote patriotism and to provide recognition to veterans of all U.S. military forces, past, present, and future. One in every seven Charlotte County residents is a veteran.

Objectives:

Our main priority is to provide the Veterans of Charlotte County an appropriate memorial. We want to have a prestigious place to assemble for Memorial and Veterans Day programs, as well as a quiet place for individuals and families to remember loved ones.

A place devoted to ALL who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of the freedoms of this great country.

A place that, through the honorable display of authentic artifacts, will serve as a podium from which the appreciation for ALL those who have served this great country will be spoken.

PROJECT COST PRIOR FUNDING:	NONE
PROJECT COST PRIOR FROM SALES TAX:	NONE
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$692,692
PROJECT COST REQUIRED NEW SALES TAX:	\$692,692
ANNUAL OPERATING COST:	\$25,011

Will the project impact public health and safety?

No.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs?

No.

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

There will be increased operation and maintenance costs to the Parks and Recreation division.

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

No.

Project to be funded by the 1% Local Option Sales Tax Extension if passed by the voters of Charlotte County

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2008 sales tax extension?

No.

Is this a joint project with another entity?

This park will be made possible with assistance from the Community Services Department.

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Veterans, families, and school-aged children will benefit from the Veterans Memorial Park. Charlotte County's elderly veteran population will especially appreciate the central location and serenity of the park.

Is the project included Master Plan and/or Comprehensive Plan?

No.

Will the project impact environmental quality of the County?

No.

Percentage of population served

It is the intent that all residents of Charlotte County will be able to enjoy the Veterans Memorial Park.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Veterans and their families will greatly benefit from having a dedicated Veterans Memorial Park to attend ceremonies, take part in dedications, or just reflect on their service.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

No.

Veterans Memorial Park - Proposed Features

Amphitheater with overhang for shade
(150-200 ppl)



Small veterans reflection chapel (12-16 ppl)



2 Gazebos facing each other on opposite sides
of Park



Veterans Memorial Park - Proposed Features

Memorial/educational plaque for each American Conflict (13)



Install 12 Benches throughout the Park

