

# Memorial wanted away from view of the campus

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## JEFFERSON COUNTY –

If the permanent memorial for Columbine High School shooting victims is placed in Clement Park, it won't be on Rebel Hill or within view of the school campus. Students and faculty members say they don't want a memorial in plain sight everyday. "They don't need a constant physical reminder slapping them in the face," said Rick Sheehan, county commissioner. Sheehan, a member of the Columbine High School Memorial Committee, said students and faculty members voiced their concerns about the possibility of the memorial being too close to the school at a committee meeting earlier this week.

The head of the committee, Foothills Park and Recreation District Director Bob Eastman, briefed county commissioners Wednesday on the group's progress. So far, 128 artists have submitted designs, Eastman said. The committee's final report on the memorial, which will not be done before the start of the school year, will serve only as a recommendation.

The commissioners will have final say on the memorial if it's placed on county land. The most likely spots in Clement Park will be in the northeast or southwest corner of the park, officials said. The northeast corner, near West Bowles Avenue and Pierce Street, is where the public began its makeshift memorial of flowers, cards, candles, teddy bears and other items.

The southwest corner of the park would be a more secluded area nestling up to Johnson Lake.

"It's more of a peaceful setting," said Ralph Schell, open space director and committee member.

Committee members also have heard from people who want to change the name of Clement Park, but County Commissioner Pat Holloway said that won't happen. The park is named after former commissioner Robert Clement, who spearheaded a battle to keep the area within Jefferson County after Denver tried to annex it.