

6. CONSISTENCY WITH CITY MASTER PLANS

The proposed project has been designed to be consistent with the Evergreen Cemetery Master Plan developed in 1994. The Master Plan identified that the Cemetery serves a dual purpose as a place for burial and as a space for low-impact recreational activities. The proposed Cemetery Expansion has been designed to provide additional space for internment, while also maintaining the recreational nature of the area. The Plan also notes the importance of design review in the implementation of development at the Evergreen Cemetery. The City and Woodard & Curran have held multiple design development meetings with project stakeholders to ensure that an appropriate design has been proposed. The Master Plan also notes the importance of administration, management, and maintenance at the Cemetery, and Cemetery and Public Services Staff have been fully engaged to ensure that the proposed expansion will provide a functional burial space that can be maintained using existing resources.

It is noted, that while this project is developing the burial area with landscaping, a columbarium, and a new grave space layout, the project does not specify individual plot treatments. The grave space layout has been designed to provide flexibility in creating family burial plots, a feature identified by the Master Plan, and seen prominently in the historic areas of the Cemetery. The actual use of the spaces for family burial plots will depend on the current market for burial options. The addition of a columbarium provides a new option that was not previously available at the Cemetery.

The Master Plan identified the proposed project site as the largest undeveloped area of the Cemetery with potential for burial space expansion, but also noted that the land immediately adjacent to Stevens Avenue should be reserved to create a stronger visual presence of the Cemetery. The Plan's Vegetation Recommendations and Guidelines for Landscape Character specifically identify the need for screening along property boundaries, including the Stevens Avenue edge. The Master Plan also recommends a stronger definition of the Cemetery's main entrance located at Stevens Avenue. A landscaping buffer, including evergreens and flowering fruit trees will serve to screen Stevens Avenue, while bolstering the entrance and the presence of the Cemetery.

The Master Plan also specifically notes the need to increase the quantity and diversity of tree species at the Cemetery, using deciduous shade, flowering, and evergreen trees. The proposed trees shown on the landscaping plan have been reviewed with the Cemetery staff, and with the City's Arborist, and have been found to be appropriate for the site.

The Master Plan identifies the importance of essential design elements and special relationships throughout the Cemetery, through the use of historically responsive design. The Plan specifically notes the use of focal areas, like circles within the Cemetery layout. Cemetery staff has noted that circles provide challenges to maintenance, grave space layout, and traffic. The existing circle driveway within the Phase 1 area will be modified to allow for improved traffic circulation. The grave layout in this area has also been updated, and the space in the middle of the circle will be utilized for the construction of a columbarium plaza and walls. This columbarium will become a focal point of this portion of the Cemetery, and in addition to three curved granite walls, the layout will incorporate landscaping elements that follow the Master Plan's guidance. In addition to flowering trees, the center space will be planted with flowering groundcover. The Master Plan notes the importance of special plantings at focal areas, and specifically notes that the presence of flowers, particularly in beds in circles, should be reestablished in the Cemetery.

The proposed expansion will address other specific concerns raised in the Master Plan.

- Dispersed parking throughout the Cemetery will be maintained.
- Visitor vehicular circulation will be limited to paved roads. Existing narrow gravel pathways that are intended primarily for maintenance vehicles and walking are often used by visitors in

vehicles. A majority of these gravel paths within the Phase 1 area will be revegetated, helping to prevent undesired vehicle traffic.

- Drainage will be managed through the stormwater system installed as part of Phase 1, and with underdrains installed as part of this project.
- Elderly and handicapped accessibility has been considered through the design of the columbarium. A universally accessible pathway will lead up to the columbarium walls. In addition, sidewalk improvements on Stevens Avenue include the construction of new handicap accessible ramps in areas where no ramps or non ADA-compliant ramps currently exist.