

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AMES MUNICIPAL CEMETERY MASTER PLAN**

**BACKGROUND:**

Past and current Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for the Cemetery included adding another Columbarium (\$60,000) in FY 2016/17, a Scatter Garden (\$25,000) in FY 2018/19, and a Funeral Pavilion (\$75,000) in FY 2022/23. Parks and Recreation staff felt it was prudent to develop a Master Plan for a section of the Cemetery, as shown in Attachment A.

Currently, one columbarium stands by itself. This columbarium is not accessible according to ADA standards and all but four of the forty-eight niches are occupied. Staff discussed moving it to a new location that would complement an additional columbarium and would meet ADA standards. Staff contracted with Snyder and Associates, Inc., Ankeny, Iowa, to develop a plan which includes the Columbarium and the Pavilion. Plans for the Scatter Garden are being developed separately as it will be located in a different section of the cemetery.

**During Council CIP presentations in January 2019, staff mentioned the development of a Master Plan for this area, and the Council expressed interest in reviewing the plan prior to moving forward with any projects. Attachment B is the plan that has been developed which includes utilizing the greenspace adjacent the Cemetery office for the Columbarium and the Pavilion.**

**In working with Snyder and Associates, Inc., staff communicated the importance of preserving as much greenspace as possible, incorporating monuments/markers that are currently in the greenspace, making the area ADA accessible, ensuring space for future Columbarium expansion, and ensuring the area would continue to be a focal point for Memorial Day activities. The project will be completed in three phases as described in the Master Plan.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the attached Ames Municipal Cemetery Master Plan for the section identified in Attachment B.
2. Direct staff to modify the Master Plan and return a revised version to the Council for approval at a later date.
3. Direct staff to not proceed with the Master Plan.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The attached Master Plan provides staff direction regarding how to proceed with the improvements to the Cemetery. The plan meets the goals set by staff by incorporating the monuments/markers that are currently in the space, meets ADA standards, preserves as much greenspace as possible, ensures room for columbarium expansion, and allows Memorial Day activities to continue to be a focal point of the Cemetery.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.



Attachment A - Ames Municipal Cemetery  
301 E. 9th St.



1 inch = 333 feet  
Date: 6/6/2019

