

Wildwood Cemetery News

Dear Members of the Wildwood Community,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the beauty of the spring. Here at Wildwood wildflowers are beginning to carpet the grounds and birdsong fills the air. With the warmer weather, work on the new Maintenance Center is resuming. We hope to have the building up and functional before the end of summer. Be on the lookout for a special announcement about a ribbon cutting event at that time. And thank you again for your generosity during our capital building campaign!

I have other wonderful news to share with you. Trustee Jim Conlon and his wife Carol have graciously offered to underwrite the design and planting of a memorial garden. It will be located in the area where we have been holding our annual meetings since the pandemic started for the area, just east of the new maintenance building. This garden, which will be planted with native trees and perennials, will offer a beautiful, peaceful space for contemplation and also for gatherings. We will share more about the garden plans at the annual meeting in May. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Nordstrom, President of the Board of Trustees

Spring 2022 General Manager's Report

Cemetery Strong Street Signs are Installed

What a difference signage makes for visitors and potential lot owners. When people call for directions I no longer have to describe everything around our entrances. Our signs are beautiful and visible from both directions. Come and admire them on your way in and out. Next we are planning to put in signs at our trail entrances. Many people do not realize they are on cemetery land when they are walking through along the western road or through our woods in the undeveloped eastern section.

Maintenance Center

Thanks to Silas Ball (Grounds Superintendent), John Kuhn, Barry Roberts and your generous donations the new three bay Maintenance Center is rising. As of this publication, the roof trusses have been delivered, more excavation will be happening at the end of the week and a retaining wall will be installed. As with all construction projects, there are a lot of factors in play and a lot of jobs to be scheduled.



Front Entrance Work Continues

This summer Silas and Paul will complete work on the front entrance drainage, parking and road surface work. We are hoping to receive grant funding to rebuild our fieldstone wall as well as create a pollinator garden in the section behind the wall.

Customer Service

Last year was incredibly busy. We had a record number of sales. This was probably due to Covid restrictions, but I also think more people are aware of the benefits of pre-planning. Making decisions about burial preferences and lot purchases ahead of time helps family and friends navigate the emotional process of planning after their loved one passes.

Database

With the help of Becky Nordstrom, we uploaded the final few decades of burial records in the digital archive. Becky and I are now in the process of recording the wording on all of the monuments on the grounds. To compliment that work, I am reviewing every lot and making sure that our digital map symbols correspond with every burial and monument. All of this work will help future management of the cemetery as well as providing accurate information for families and researchers.

Landscaping

As Becky mentioned in her President's greeting, plans for the Memorial Garden are being finalized. Donors, Jim and Carol Conlon, worked with the landscaping consultants Stephen Jackson and Candace Currie from Garden GIS over the course of the past year to determine what kind of features to include. This year you will see the hardscaping put in place—the path, the beds, and the stone wall. In spring of 2023 the plants will be put in place. The Memorial Garden will connect our Columbarium with our Scattering Garden and will provide a place of respite for people, a healthy habitat for the animals and insects, as well as an area where families can hold memorial services and the cemetery can host programming. We are grateful for the Conlon's generosity.

The Wildwood Cemetery Library

Don't forget you can donate books, all genres and styles welcome, written by your loved ones and friends who are buried at Wildwood. Visitors and lot owners are intrigued by our growing collection. The bookshelf is symbolic of the talented people we honor here in the cemetery. If you would like to donate a book in honor of someone please contact the cemetery office.

Please Spread the Word

Wildwood Cemetery relies on our lot owners to spread the word about our beautiful grounds, and the attentive services we provide. As you know, our cemetery is an important part of the Town of Amherst and beyond. Donations from friends, family and people who enjoy coming to walk and bird, help to keep up with the rising costs providing burials and preserving our beautiful land and office.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Fricke, General Manager

