

Wildwood Cemetery News

Dear Members of the Wildwood Cemetery Community,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the spring blossoms, warmer weather, and longer days. As you will see in Rebecca Fricke's report below, progress on the Maintenance Center is back on track after some unexpected delays. We look forward to showing it to you at the annual meeting on May 24th.

Work on the new memorial garden, just to the east of the Maintenance Center, is due to begin very soon. We hope you will come by to see it taking shape. Many thanks for your generous donations that not only keep Wildwood running, but also help support important and welcome improvements to our historic and scenic grounds.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nordstrom, President of the Board of Trustees

Spring 2023

The new Maintenance Center is rising slowly and surely. This summer the inside will be finished and we are hoping we are next in line for an electrical transformer so we can have power in the building by fall.



Looking for ways to honor your friends and loved ones? Your annual donations are an important part of helping Wildwood Cemetery operate. Now there are multiple additional ways you can give back to Wildwood Cemetery in honor or memory of loved ones. Please go to <https://www.wildwood-cemetery.com/> to see the different ways you can donate. We also continue to accept books, music and artwork for our Memorial Library.

General Manager's Report

There is always a lot of work happening inside and outside at Wildwood Cemetery.

Inside—General Manager, Rebecca Fricke, has finished uploading all of the records she has in the fireproof cabinets. This summer she will start inventorying every monument on the grounds. The online database allows Rebecca to go on vacation and still be available to help with sales and funeral planning which is essential with such a small staff. Sales continue to be strong and part of Rebecca's role is to map new lots. The General Manager's job is to simultaneously protect the past and plan for future expansion and care.

Outside— Grounds Superintendent, Silas Ball continues to tackle the deferred maintenance. Besides the normal mowing, leaf raking and burial duties, Silas and his assistant Paul have been working on taking out the invasive species such as bittersweet and Tree of Heaven from the section edges. This opens up room for more planting opportunities as well as new burial grounds. This Spring Silas worked to identify the dead and dying trees dangerous to both visitors and monuments and then supervised the cutting. This will be an ongoing process and at the same time he is hoping to complete the drainage and parking lot work at the front entrance. Silas and Paul have also been instrumental in helping with the Maintenance Center site work.

A Big thank you to Wanczyk Evergreen Nurseries! Wanczyk has donated a long list of native trees and shrubs to go into one of the newly cleared sections. Please support their business and let them know how much you appreciate their support. This project is one of few new pollinator habitats we are hoping to install in the next few years.

Wildwood Memorial Garden—Good things take time to grow. This May the seating wall will be built and in May the plants and trees will be put in. The Memorial Garden will connect our Columbarium with our Boulder Garden and 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 Jim and Carol Conlon's generosity.

The Dickinson Farmhouse roofing project is one step away from being funded by CPA money The roof renovation project has been recommended by the Town Community Preservation Committee and we are just waiting for Town Council to approve the funding.

Grant Work Continues With New Designation The Wildwood Executive Board is pleased to announce the **Friends of Wildwood Cemetery Inc. is now a 501c3.** In March the Friends submitted over thirty letters of interest to granting agencies and we look forward to some positive responses.

