

CEMETERY

BOND SUPPORT

The Community Councils of both Chugiak/Eagle River and Girdwood support a proposed \$11 million bond initiative that increases capacity of Anchorage's current and only public cemetery. Engaged stakeholders worked with the Heritage Land Bank to identify and plan for additional local cemeteries. Throughout the documented public process, community members supported the analysis, including land management and environmental considerations.

Moving forward with this combined and supported bond initiative, these communities request your support by approving a Spring 2023 Bond.



BOND INITIATIVE COST ESTIMATES

Anchorage Memorial Park's required renovations are estimated at \$3 million.

Girdwood's cemetery cost estimate is \$5 Million.

Chugiak/Eagle River's chosen cemetery site development is estimated at \$3 million.

PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE
INFORMATION
An abridged list



[Anchorage Memorial Park](#)



[Girdwood Cemetery Committee](#)



[Chugiak/Eagle River Cemetery Update](#)



[Cemetery Selection Presentation](#)

HISTORY 2015

68% of Girdwood's voters voted to tax themselves for the cost of establishing and maintaining a cemetery. Girdwood and the Heritage Land Bank identified a parcel to study.

ANALYSIS 2016-2019

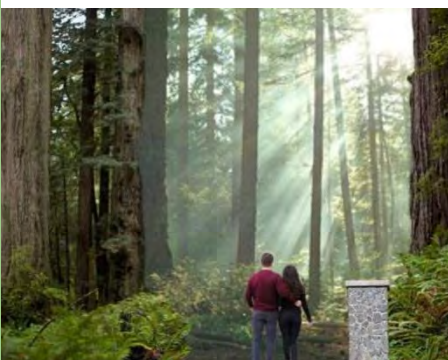
Girdwood Cemetery Committee presented to the public a Feasibility Study, a Master Plan Analysis Report, and a Schematic Report detailing the proposed cemetery's four phases.

FORECASTING 2020

Anchorage Daily News reported on June 22, 2020, that the Anchorage Memorial Park, established in 1915 and our only public cemetery, would run out of space for public burials by 2027.

SELECTION 2021

Combined community councils in both Eagle River/Chugiak and Birchwood selected a proposed cemetery site in Eagle River.



"People want to be buried at home. For many, Alaska is home. Prepare a space for yourself and loved ones by supporting this bond."

Tommy O'Malley
Girdwood Cemetery Committee Chair

Figure 10 – Girdwood Cemetery Phasing Plan

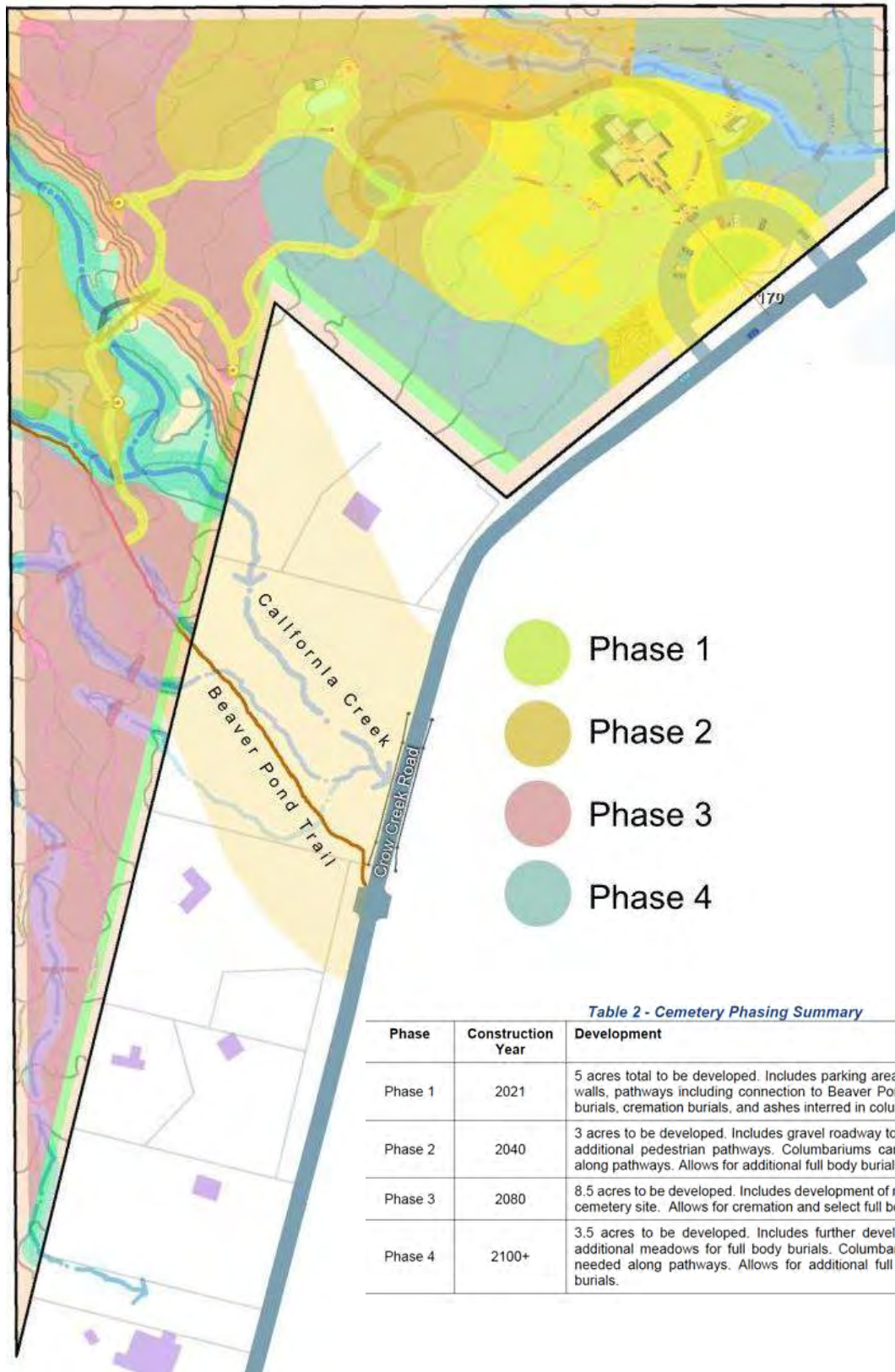


Table 2 - Cemetery Phasing Summary

| Phase | Construction Year | Development |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| Phase 1 | 2021 | 5 acres total to be developed. Includes parking areas, shelters with columbarium walls, pathways including connection to Beaver Pond Trail. Allows for full body burials, cremation burials, and ashes interred in columbarium |
| Phase 2 | 2040 | 3 acres to be developed. Includes gravel roadway to northwest portion of site and additional pedestrian pathways. Columbariums can be constructed as needed along pathways. Allows for additional full body burials and cremation burials. |
| Phase 3 | 2080 | 8.5 acres to be developed. Includes development of remote southern portion of the cemetery site. Allows for cremation and select full body burials |
| Phase 4 | 2100+ | 3.5 acres to be developed. Includes further development of the site including additional meadows for full body burials. Columbariums can be constructed as needed along pathways. Allows for additional full body burials and cremation burials. |

8. Cost Estimate

The following table summarizes project costs per phase. Detailed cost estimates are included in Appendix B.

Table 3 - Summary of Estimated Project Costs

| Description | Estimate |
|---|--------------------|
| Phase 1 | |
| Parking Area and Vehicle Access | \$500,000 |
| Central Activity Area | \$660,000 |
| Storage Yard | \$15,000 |
| Pedestrian Walkways and Fencing | \$405,000 |
| Meditation Areas | \$40,000 |
| California Creek Bridge | \$250,000 |
| Columbariums/Cenotaphs | \$500,000 |
| Subtotal: | \$2,370,000 |
| Construction Contingency (25%) | \$595,000 |
| Engineering and Construction Management (35%) | \$830,000 |
| Permitting | \$200,000 |
| Total for Phase 1 | \$3,995,000 |
| Phase 2 | |
| Gravel Roadway | \$50,000 |
| Pedestrian Walkways | \$115,000 |
| Subtotal: | \$165,000 |
| Construction Contingency (25%) | \$41,000 |
| Engineering and Construction Management (35%) | \$58,000 |
| Total for Phase 2 | \$264,000 |
| Phase 3 | |
| Pedestrian Walkways | \$355,000 |
| Subtotal: | \$355,000 |
| Construction Contingency (25%) | \$89,000 |
| Engineering and Construction Management (35%) | \$124,000 |
| Total for Phase 3 | \$568,000 |
| Phase 4 | |
| Pedestrian Walkways | \$200,000 |
| Subtotal: | \$200,000 |
| Construction Contingency (25%) | \$50,000 |
| Engineering and Construction Management (35%) | \$70,000 |
| Total for Phase 4 | \$320,000 |
| Grand Total: | \$5,147,000 |

Suggestions for the Q&A:

- **Doesn't Girdwood already have a cemetery?** Girdwood had a cemetery that was closed? disturbed? damaged? after/in the 1964 earthquake; burials were moved to the cemeteries in Hope and Sunrise. Girdwood doesn't currently have a cemetery.
- **Why does Girdwood need a cemetery?** Cemeteries provide a sense of history and permanence to the people who live here and for future generations of residents and visitors. Girdwood is a place that people think of as "home", is a place that many people who don't live here love, and is a place that people have expressed a desire to be buried or memorialized at. There is a great need for public cemeteries in the Municipality. It is estimated that the public portions of the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery will be full in less than 7 years.
- **Where will the cemetery be located?** The Municipality's Heritage Land Bank offered several pieces of land, and the Cemetery Committee selected the site at MP.5 on Crow Creek Road, opposite the school bus turnaround. The site is undeveloped, mostly forested land.
- **What type of cemetery will this be?** The Girdwood Cemetery Committee and our engineering firm are dedicated to retain as much of the wild character of the current setting as possible. Forested areas will remain, alder meadows will be replaced with grassy meadows. Looping trails and paths will weave between the various burial areas. The structures that are built will be consistent with our community's forested character and grounds-keeping will be minimal and low maintenance.

The cemetery will be a quiet place for reflection, grieving, celebration, and honoring of the deceased. The cemetery will be an inclusive public space available to all religious denominations and spiritual communities.

The Girdwood Cemetery will offer a variety of types of burial and disposition of human remains:

- green or natural burials: green or natural burials are full body interments into the ground in a manner that does not inhibit decomposition. They do not include a vault, use non-toxic body preparation methods, and use containers made of organic materials, including shrouds. Green or natural burials protect worker health, reduce carbon emissions, conserve natural resources, and preserve habitat.
- conventional burials: conventional burials may include the use of burial vaults, burial containers made of non-organic materials, and bodies prepared using embalming chemicals
- burial and placement of cremains: the cemetery will include locations for cremains (cremated remains) to be buried, a columbarium structure for the placement of urns with cremains, as well as an area for cremains to be spread. All of these options will include a plaque or other marker to commemorate those who are interred, placed or spread there.

Commented [A1]: Not sure what is most accurate here?

Commented [A2]: Will it necessarily be the same firm from now until construction begins? Can we just say the Committee and the Muni, or something?

Commented [A3]: Is 'replaced' the right word? Are we really going to cut them down and plant grass? Or will we just cut alders as needed, which will then grow back with grass?

Commented [A4]: This Q/A removed because Muni code currently prohibits animal burials in Muni cemeteries. Group determined that pet burials (full body/cremation) is a good idea for this cemetery, but that we will have to address it, and the code issue, at a later date.

- **How long will the cemetery last?** The cemetery will be able to accommodate burials for over 100 years. The site will be maintained and managed as a cemetery forever.
- **How much will it cost?** Our Schematic Design includes multiple phases for construction (. The cost of phase 1 is approximately 4 million dollars and includes the majority of the infrastructure needed to open and operate the cemetery. These funds will be secured through an area wide bond.
- **How do we pay for this?** Cemetery services are an Areawide function of the Municipality of Anchorage. To build a cemetery, we will request a bond to be approved by Areawide voters in 2022. Eagle River is also currently working on a similar cemetery project. The two cemetery projects may be bonded together.
- **Who will manage the cemetery?** Cemeteries are managed by the Municipality of Anchorage's Department of Health. Snowplowing will be handled by Girdwood Valley Service Area.
- **Where can I find more information?** You can find more information about the cemetery and the Cemetery Committee on the Girdwood Board of Supervisor's webpage: www.muni.org/gbos
- **How can I get involved?** If you are interested in learning more or participating in ongoing planning for this project, please

Commented [A5]: Attend a CC meeting? Write a letter of support for this project to your Assembly member? Etc?