

CHAPTER II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW and EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Poulsbo Cemetery was established by the Poulsbo municipal government in 1911 when purchased by Mayor Peter Iverson acting for the Town of Poulsbo. First interments took place in 1912. In keeping with customary cemetery practice at that time, the expectation then was that families would purchase blocks of plots and maintain the graves of family members. Individual plots were also sold.

It has been the policy of the City to provide affordable grave sites. Currently individual sites may be purchased for \$400, and cremains plots for \$200. Unlike many other cemeteries, there is no perpetual care fund to cover the cost of cemetery operations, maintenance, or improvements. At the present time there is no sprinkler irrigation at the Cemetery, though water spigots are available for use by deed holders and visitors. The City empties trash cans on a weekly basis and conducts seasonal mowing.

At the Poulsbo Municipal Cemetery there are a total of nearly 3000 grave sites in addition to more than 500 cremains plots. As of June 2018 approximately 700 people are interred there. Over the years there have been several efforts by the City Council, Mayor, and City Staff to improve the Cemetery's appearance and functions.

A concerted effort has been made in the past two years to support a new vision for the Cemetery. The following steps have been taken:

- * A new entrance arch has been erected.
- * Memorial benches have been installed. Proceeds from the sale of these benches are being placed in the City's Cemetery Reserve Fund.
- * A covered structure is being erected for burial services, memorial services, and other events appropriate to the stated vision for the Cemetery. Construction of this structure is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2018.
- * Markers and flag holders have been installed at the grave sites of each veteran interred at the Cemetery.
- * The visitor parking area has been resurfaced and expanded. Patching of all internal streets at the Cemetery should be completed during the summer of 2018.
- * Landscaping has been installed along the northern edge of the parking lot.
- * Concrete enclosures have been erected as staging areas for storage/movement of dirt and vegetation trimmings.
- * Trash receptacles have been placed by the memorial benches.
- * Water lines have been extended with spigots available by each memorial bench for visitors' use.
- * The first (annual) Cleanup Day was held. This volunteer activity is intended to continue on the first Saturday of May each year.
- * A website has been created by Friends of Poulsbo Cemetery to provide information and publicize activities associated with the Cemetery.
- * Research is planned to update contact information regarding deed holders and their descendants.
- * Eight discussion papers were prepared with corresponding review/comment at a series of public meetings; requests for comments and suggestions placed in monthly cemetery memos and availability on the Friends Poulsbo Cemetery website. These materials and input provided the basis for drafting this Master Plan. Further information about this public process is contained in Appendix E.