

Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) Perimeter Plans

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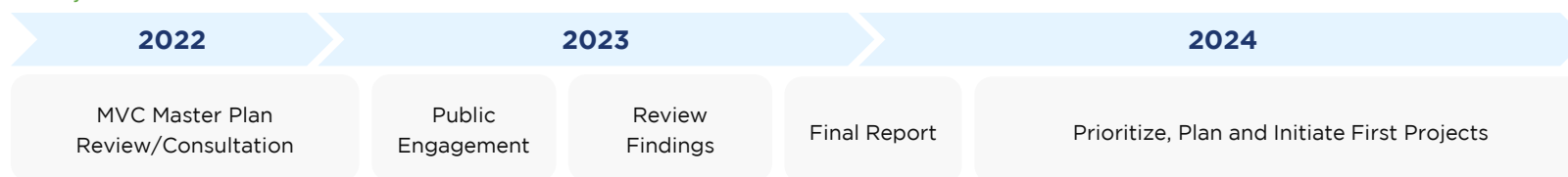
About the MVC Perimeter Plans

Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) is developing a plan for changes and improvements to its entrances, hedges and fences over the next several years. The objective of this initiative is to preserve the culture of Vancouver's only cemetery while considering the relationship with the surrounding community. The changes to the entrances, hedges, and fences will be designed to allow public access, while protecting the existing graves.

Map of project area



Project timeline



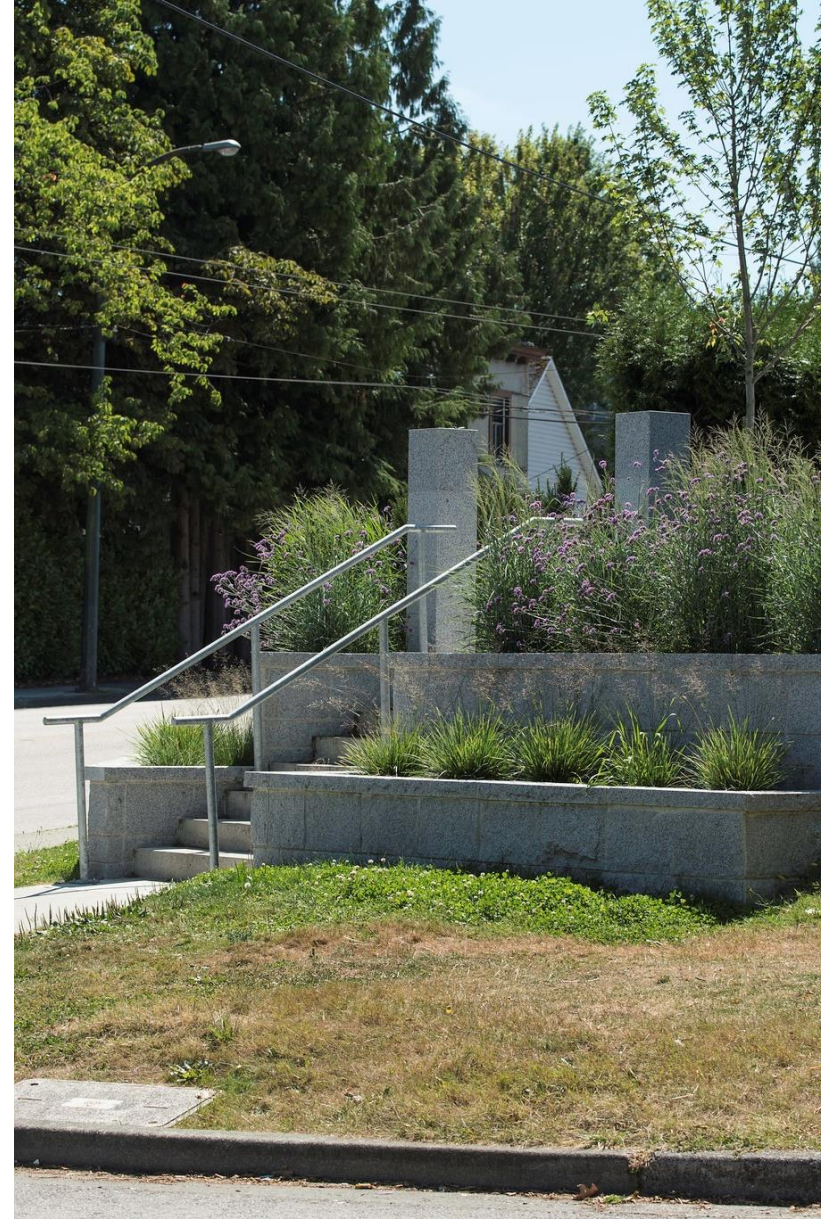
About MVC Perimeter Plans engagement

Between February 22 and March 17, 2023 the City of Vancouver engaged neighbours of Mountain View Cemetery and visitors on:

- Proposed changes to hedges, fences and the cemetery perimeter
- Proposed changes to cemetery pedestrian and vehicle entrances

Outreach:

- We used a variety of methods including postcards delivered to 500+ neighbouring residences, onsite signage and social media notifications on the City of Vancouver and MVC Facebook pages.

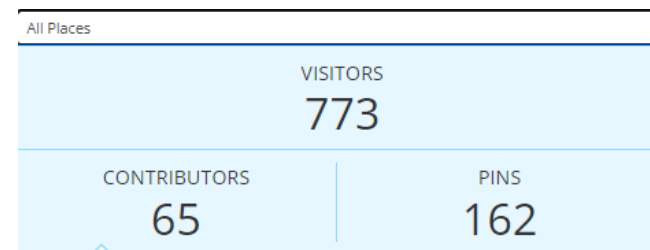
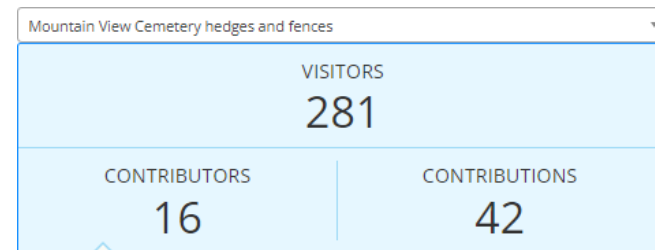
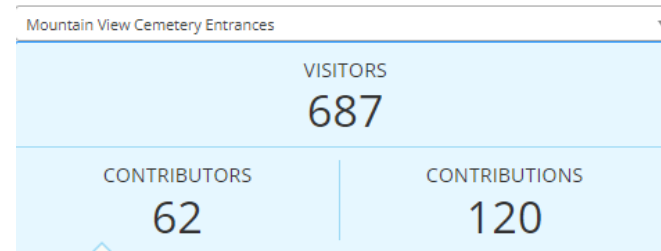


How we engaged

During the engagement period, we reached people through a variety of methods:

- Surveys (376 responses)
- Interactive maps:
 - MVC entrances map (62 contributors)
 - MVC hedges and fences map (16 contributors)
 - 65 different contributors, placing 162 pins
- Links to related documents
 - Prince Edward at 32nd (116 downloads)
 - Perimeter Condition and Plans (81 downloads)
 - 2000 MVC Master Plan (68 downloads)

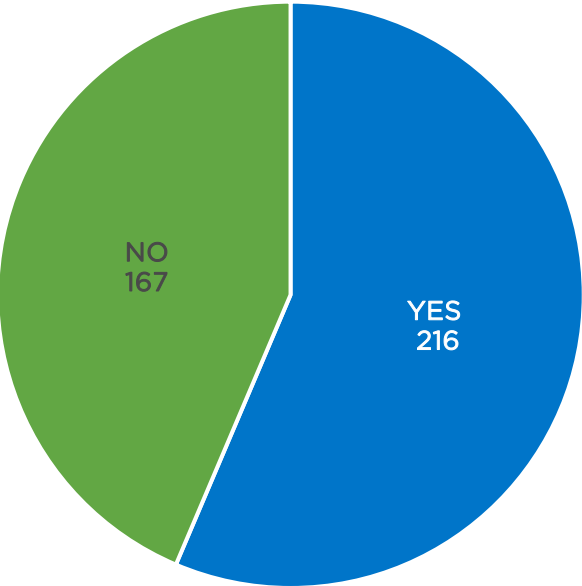
All project content was made available on [Shape Your City](#) (2,496 visits).



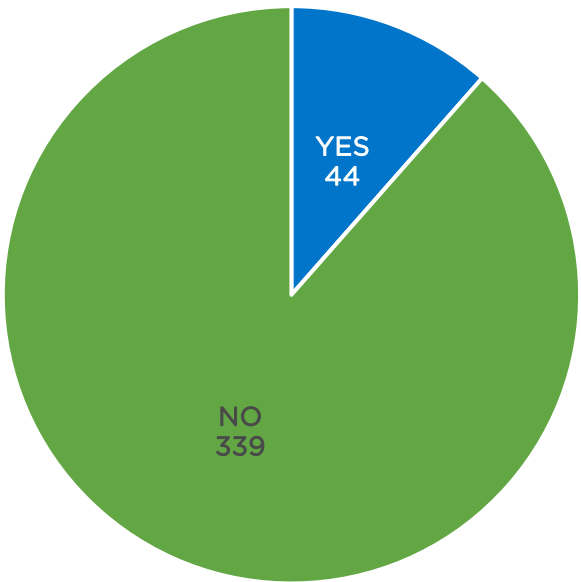
Who participated

Relationship to MVC

I have a friend/relative in MVC



I own space in MVC

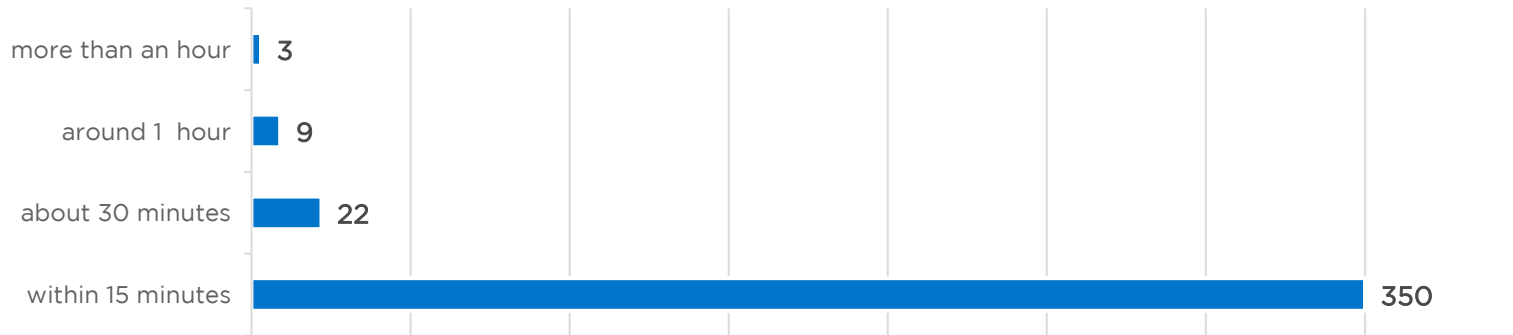


Since reopening to the sale of space in December 2008 the cemetery has sold more than 6,894 interment sites to more than 2,332 client families and completed more than 6,820 new interments. The survey notification primarily targeted immediately adjacent residents with hand-delivered post cards. No direct measures were employed to reach other grave owners and other stakeholders.

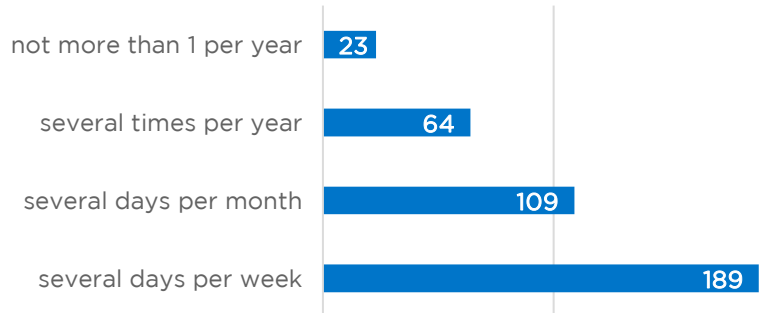
Who participated

Proximity and Frequency of Visits

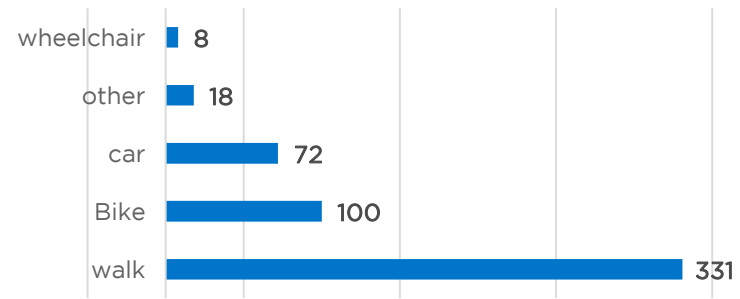
How close to MVC do you live?



How often do you visit?

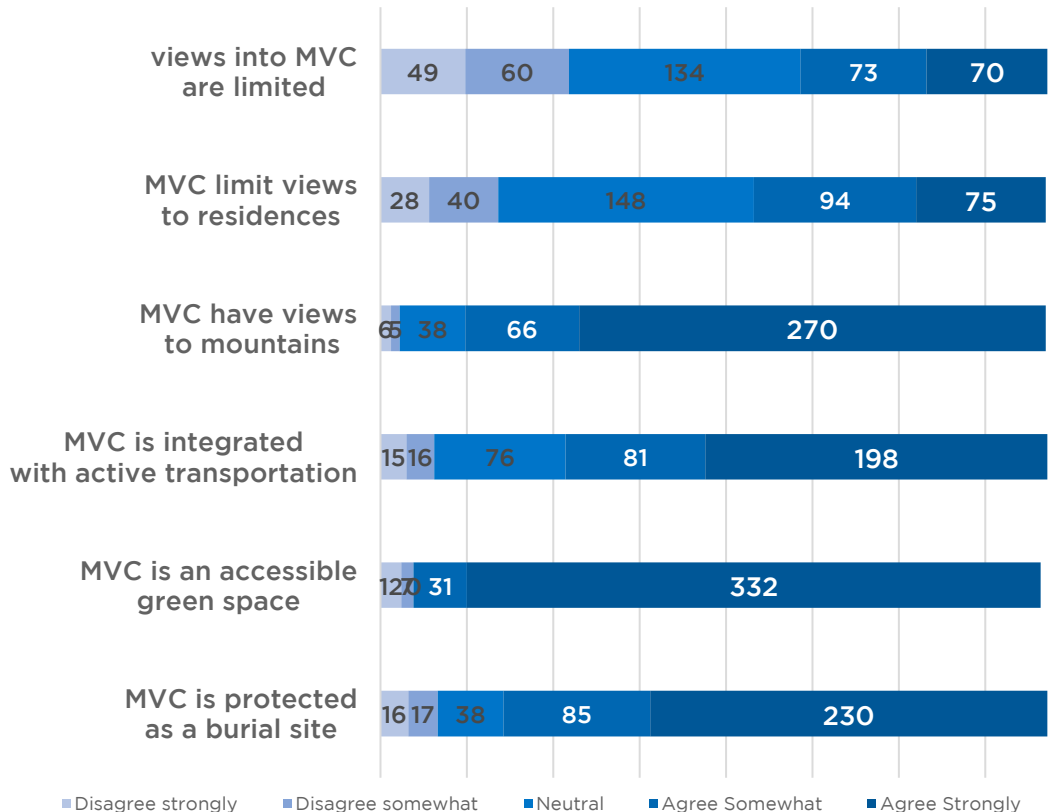


How do you travel to MVC



What we heard

It is important to me that...



Summary

37% agree views into the cemetery should be limited, 28% disagree

44% agree views to residences should be limited, 18% disagree

87% agree MVC should have views to the mountains

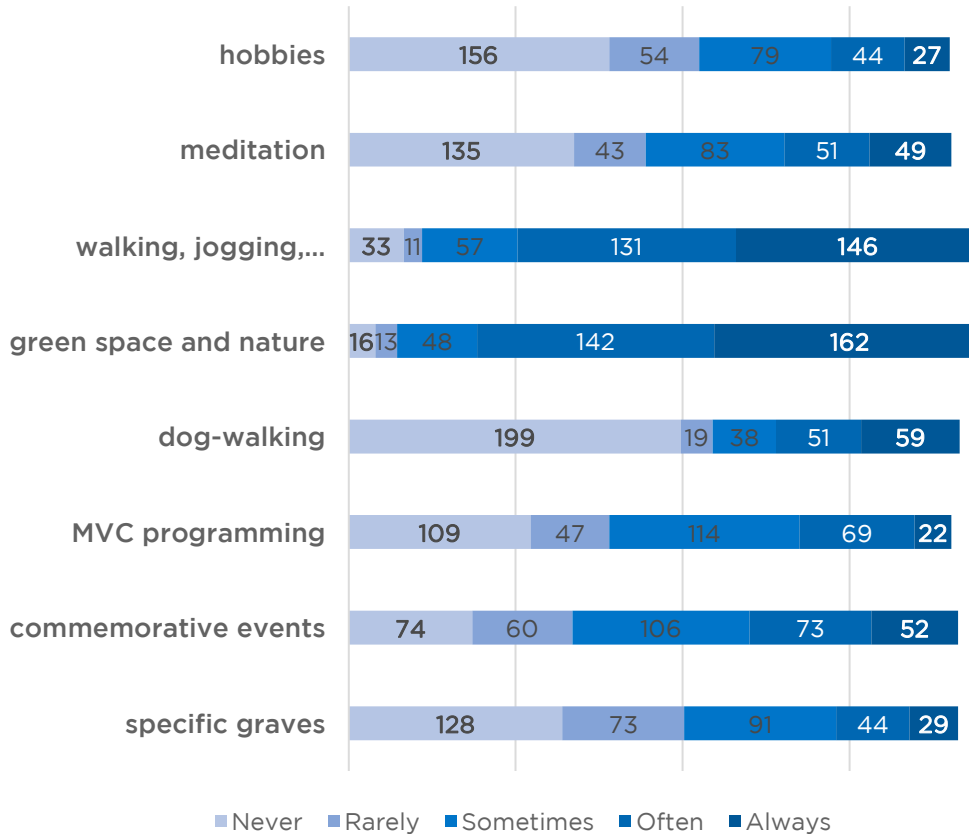
72% agree MVC should be integrated with active transportation

95% agree MVC is an important accessible green space

82% agree it is important that MVC be protected as a burial site

What we heard

I visit MVC for...

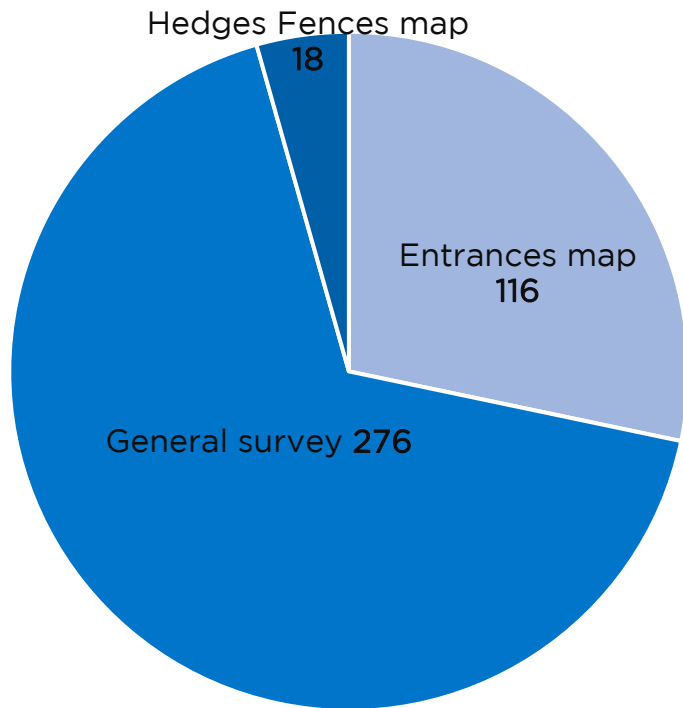


NEVER/ RARELY		OFTEN/ ALWAYS
58%	Hobbies	20%
49%	Meditation	28%
12%	Walking, Jogging...	73%
8%	Nature/Green Space	80%
60%	Dog Walking	30%
43%	All Souls & Programming	25%
37%	Commemorative Events	34%
55%	Specific Graves	20%

What we heard

Comments

Source of the comment



Comments referencing...	# of responses
...more entries	98
...Prince Edward St. entrance	87
...perimeter	72
...public/green space	65
...safety	41
...other concerns	41
...respect	30
...accessibility	23
...dogs	22
...trees	20
...support for work so far	15
...notification/communication	11
...matters for other City departments	11
...waste of space	10
...bad management	9
...tax payer rights	7
...filming	4

What we heard

...about the Prince Edward Street entrance

Please keep the MVC access at 32nd street and Prince Edward open. This is our usual entrance. It is important that we enter from a quiet road

I strongly disagree with the closure of the west entrance on Prince Edward. There should be more entrances not fewer...

want war memorial graves protected and no entrance restrictions

The entrance on Prince Edward helps facilitate getting into the cemetery. I'd still use the cemetery the same amount regardless, I'd just have to walk farther to get into the cemetery.

While I understand the need to protect graves, moving the entrance to a more remote area would make safety and access worse for people. The Prince Edward entrance needs to be kept.

Having a Prince Edward St. entrance here is very important to utility of the cemetery as green space.



The Prince Edward Street Entrance at the Horne2 Field of Honour is highly valued by many respondents. Recent work on other entrances has highlighted a focus on accessibility. The width of this Prince Edward entrance (1200mm) is not able to meet the requirements in the 2021 Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility assessment (1500mm min. – 1800 mm). Further consideration and a direction from Senior staff and City Council will inform the future of this access point.

What we heard

...about the perimeter

Do not put up the new fence. Blocking people's backyard from getting sunlight affects people's ability to grow food and to have sun in their backyard.

would be nice to see some greenery along the new metal fencing

I also appreciate the idea of creating open sightlines into and out of MVC on all of the quieter residential side streets. Using wrought-iron and picket fencing will beautify both the street-scape and MVC.

I agreed with the chainlink fence changing to a picket fence but I don't agree to put tall columned trees. Sun blocking trees deter melting snow and summertime sun blocking trees don't enable to us to plant sun loving flowers to our side. So no tall trees!!

Having this opened up with picket fencing either side... allows for safer visibility in and out of the cemetery for visitors and neighbours alike.

I don't think super high/dense hedges are nice. They create an unwelcoming ambiance and shrink the space experientially. Smaller, non-continuous ones would be better, especially if made of native plants.



The general plan for the perimeter was well received and will be primarily implemented as proposed. Edges along neighbouring side or backyards will prioritize blocking internal views from the cemetery. Shading concerns from trees will be a secondary concern.

What we heard

...about the cemetery as public green space

I very much appreciate the efforts to maintain MVC as a green space that respects the cemetery. Access points as they currently exist are perfect.

I use MVC regularly as a walking route between Fraser and Main Street. There needs to be consideration for pedestrian flow across and through the cemetery, otherwise this will be done unofficially causing more harm to graves.

In my experience there has always been some level of "tension" among the various ways in which MVC is used by the public. I believe that the primary focus should be on respectful use of MVC as a place of remembrance by the living. The key is respectful use of the space...

As a taxpayer, I support the care and maintenance of the Mountain View site. I believe neighbourhood access should be preserved and enhanced for respectful interaction with the neighbourhood. This does not include off-leash dogs, sports and other inappropriate activities.

The cemetery is the largest green space in the neighbourhood. People should be welcomed there.

Why do you think people create informal entrances? This will continue to be a problem if you don't provide reasonable access to all sides of the cemetery.

All entrances should be accessible for all (wheelchairs, etc.).

While the cemetery's primary purpose is a burial ground, it is so much more than that to the residents of Vancouver...



The cemetery is used as a green space by many. Since reopening in 2008 the cemetery continues to become more active in its core activity as a sacred place for interment & commemoration. Maintaining this balance will be ongoing.

What we heard

...about dogs

...there has been an increase of dog walkers not respecting the sacred nature of the cemetery

When did MVC become a dog park? I can't believe that when I come to visit the graves of both my parents' and brother's...

...ensure that the cemetery is a respected space for gravesites, without dogs running free all over them

...it is a very popular place for locals to walk their dogs (which I do on a daily basis)

Please consider having an off-leash linear dog park here. Outside the fence.

...it is a very popular place for locals to walk their dogs (which I do on a daily basis)



We have heard from many who feel strongly about dogs in the Cemetery and understand concerns from many different viewpoints. At this time, the cemetery will continue to allow dogs and ask Animal Services to maintain/enforce leash and clean-up requirements for dog owners.



Next steps

How will public engagement be used?

- The input from the public engagement will be used by the consultant team and cemetery staff to review and update the draft Perimeter Plan
- Decisions related to all entrances will be reviewed and approved by senior department staff
- The final Perimeter Plan will be published on the Shape Your City project page by March 2024
- The Perimeter Plan will be used to guide future perimeter projects at the cemetery

What happens next?

- The first project to be completed will be the west edge of the Horne Field of Honour – Prince Edward Street between 31st and 33rd Avenues.
- Remaining projects will be prioritized and a funding plan developed to initiate work over the next several years.
- The scope, scale and timing will be dependent on funding, operational considerations and timing of other related work within and around the cemetery.