



Cemetery Expansion Challenges and Updates

City Council Meeting
August 7, 2023

Staff Presenter: Jen Basham, Parks and Recreation

Overview

- ① Background
- ② Irrigation Challenges and Solutions
- ③ Landscape Challenges and Solutions
- ④ Ornamental Fountain Challenges and Solutions
- ⑤ Timeline

Background

- Cemetery expansion opened May 23, 2023
- Irrigation system and fountain are fed by ground well pump that feeds into irrigation pond southeast of the cemetery
 - Over last few weeks, irrigation system has failed multiple times due to siltation from pond being pulled from pump causing pump to clog and trip.
 - Failure of irrigation system due to pump tripping including exceedingly high temperatures has led to newly planted landscaping dying
 - Recent concerns have been raised by staff and patrons over the odor and murkiness of water in the ornamental fountain due water being supplied by well

Cemetery Irrigation Challenges

- System was not completing irrigation cycles and was shutting down due to pump clogging with silt and fill sensor issues
- As rainfall decreased and temperatures began to sustain highs in the triple digits, it became apparent which irrigation zones were being missed due to system tripping during run cycles
- In late-July, staff adjusted irrigation to run during daytime hours to monitor for shut-downs and increase irrigation run times to keep plants alive



Cemetery Irrigation Solutions

- To address pump clogging issues, staff ordered a pond liner using project contingency funds on 7/20/2023
- Liner installation will prevent issues of clogging and installation is projected to be completed by mid-August 2023
- Liner should provide consistency in run times to meet landscape needs
- Staff is also exploring the use of a ground reservoir tank to serve as additional filtration for pond



Cemetery Landscape Challenges

- Since irrigation system runs during evening hours, staff became aware of issues by seeing plants suffering heat stress
- Staff began to add supplemental water but the small root zones of some new plants reached permanent wilting points
- Staff recommends some plants will need to be replaced during fall planting window and others removed due to maintenance concerns
 - Staff recommends replacing dead plants in plaza area near committal shelter and along fence line during as soon as possible
 - Most plants lost were in the field grave areas. These plants would likely suffer damages during future interments and through damages from landscape equipment so staff recommends not to replace
 - Surviving plants in field areas can be transplanted to plaza area of cemetery to save on replacement costs



Cemetery Ornamental Fountain Updates

- Fountain is also supplied by well water and pumped from pond
- Clogging has also caused issues in fountain and well water tends to be murky and have odor
- The fountain will be disconnected from well water supply and connected to potable water line to prevent issues from occurring
- Water connection is being installed by Public Works beginning week of 7/31/23
- A double-check installed for backflow prevention
- Estimated completion mid-August 2023

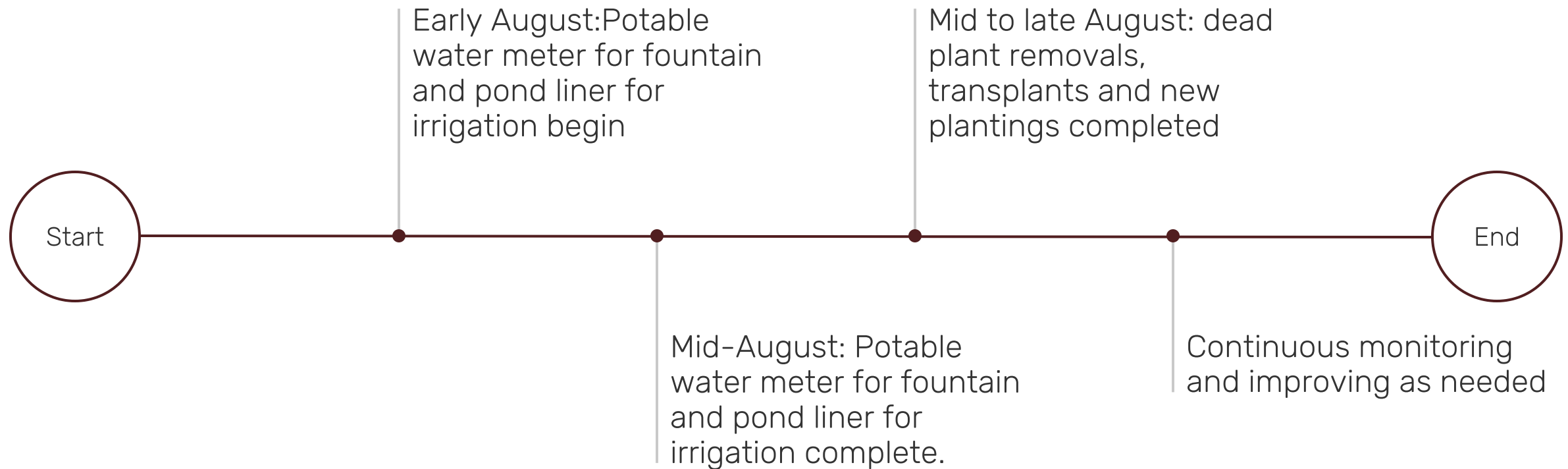


Cemetery Fountain Vault Updates

- Silt and dirt discovered at the bottom of fountain vault
- Caused by muddy filter in filtering out silt from pond and surrounding landscape bed dirt falling in
- Submersible pump and screen to be utilized to help prevent issue from reoccurring
- Tying fountain directly into clean, potable water will also help mitigate this



Estimated Timeline



Questions or feedback?