



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

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# **Feasibility Report**

**For:**

**Columbarium at Itasca Calvary Cemetery**

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**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Columbarium's have become a popular request at many cemeteries and churches due to the ever-increasing number of cremations. The Itasca Calvary Cemetery has not provided this service in the past and there are many options and variations that can be installed.

Two Minnesota based companies design, construct and install columbarium's and have been reviewed for viability. Based on the information provided, it is recommended to purchase and install the 84-niche rectangular unit from Eickhof in Crookston, MN. The cost breakdown between the various units is shown below.

	Eickhof		Cold Spring	
<b>Niches</b>	64	84	32	60
<b># Urn Spaces</b>	128	168	72	120
<b>Shape</b>	Octagon	Rectangular	Rectangular	Octagon
<b>Cost</b>	\$ 68,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000
<b>Foundation</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Crane</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Site Costs</b>	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$ 89,000	\$ 72,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000
<b>Cost per space</b>	\$ 695	\$ 429	\$ 833	\$ 583
<b>Cost per niche</b>	\$ 1,719	\$ 1,119	\$ 2,188	\$ 1,333

This project is feasible. It will provide a needed service at the cemetery and will be financially sustainable.

Regards,



Matt Wegwerth, PE  
Public Works Director / City Engineer

cc: Tom Pagel, City Administrator  
Laura Pfeifer, Interim Finance Director

## PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Cremation rates are on the rise and now outpace traditional burial. Even as more people choose cremation, inurnment options remain limited, often leaving family and friends without a permanent memorial to pay their respects.

One option for creating a permanent memorial is the installation of a columbarium. The word “columbarium” comes from the Latin word “columbary”, which is a structure for the nesting of doves; the dove being the symbol of spirit and peace. The related word, columbarium, refers to an above-ground burial vault for the containment of urns holding cremated remains. These are typically made of granite and can come in various shapes and sizes. Below are two examples:



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes the installation of a columbarium and necessary sidewalk at the Itasca Calvary Cemetery. Two designs are the most common, and they include a rectangle shape with niches on both sides or an octagon design with niches all the way around. Each of these provide both single units and double units.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed site is located southwest of the existing Chapel building. This area is currently an open space with a scattered few larger trees. Location maps are shown below:







## PROJECT COST AND PRICING STRUCTURE

Two Minnesota companies design, construct and install columbaria. Eickhof is in Crookston, MN and Cold Spring Granite is in Cold Spring, MN. Below are cost estimates for several sizes and styles.

	Eickhof		Cold Spring	
<b>Niches</b>	64	84	32	60
<b># Urn Spaces</b>	128	168	72	120
<b>Shape</b>	Octagon	Rectangular	Rectangular	Octagon
<b>Cost</b>	\$ 68,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000
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Pricing structures can vary and depend on number, type and style of units. Below are two examples.

<b>Cold Spring</b>		<b>Eickhof</b>	
Proposed Pricing Structure - 60 Niche Octagon		Proposed Pricing Structure - 84 Niche Rectangular	
		Price per Niche	
Upper Tier	\$ 2,600	Upper Tier 12x12	\$ 2,400
Middle Tier	\$ 2,200	Upper Tier 8x8	\$ 1,200
Lower Tier	\$ 1,600	Lower Tier 12x12	\$ 2,000
		Lower Tier 8x8	\$ 1,000

For reference, a typical burial, including a monument can range from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

**PROJECT FINANCING**

The project will be funded by an internal loan from the City to the Cemetery. Revenues generated by the sale of the niches will repay the loan.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The project is tentatively scheduled to advance as follows:

Council Worksession	January 27, 2025
Council Consider Ordering Columbarium	February 10, 2025
Site Grading and Sit Preparation	Summer 2025
Columbarium Installation	Summer/Fall 2025
Final Site Work	Fall 2025
Columbarium Complete	Late Fall 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended to move forward with the Eickhof 84-niche rectangular unit. This is the most cost-effective unit that provides the necessary service to the community.



APPENDIX A -Eickhof 84-Niche Rectangular Unit

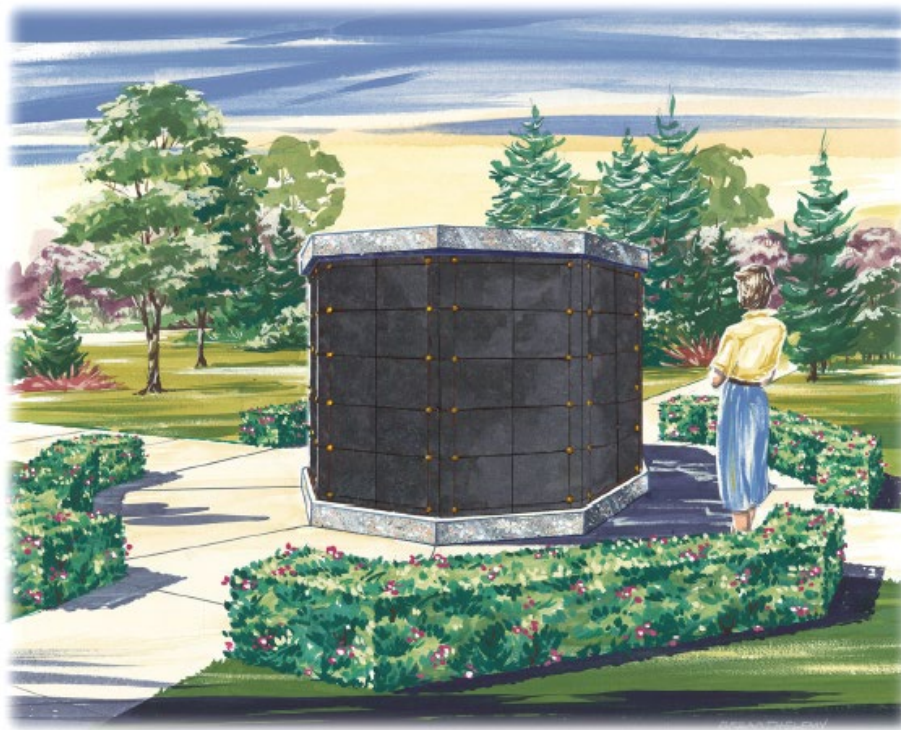


**Two-Sided Rectangular Wall**  
**168 Total Inurnment Spaces**  
**84 Companion Niches**

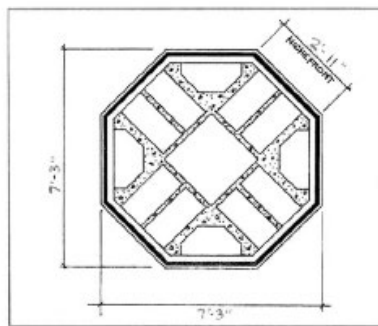
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**48 - 12" x 12" Companion Niches**  
**36 - 8" x 8" Companion Niches**

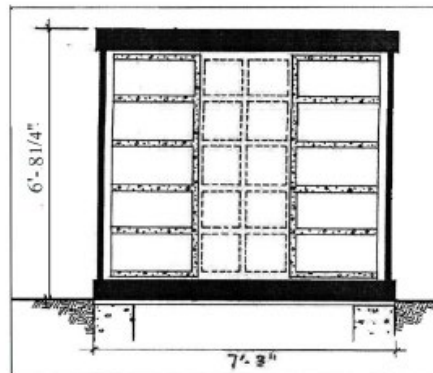
APPENDIX B – Cold Spring 60-Niche Octagon



**5-HIGH OCTAGON PRE-ASSEMBLED COLUMBARIUM**  
 FIVE (5) NICHES HIGH WITH FORTY (40) DOUBLE DEPTH SPACES &  
 TWENTY (20) COMPANION SIDE-BY-SIDE SPACES



PLAN



CROSS SECTION

**GRANIT-BRONZ Mausoleum Division**

**GRANIT-BRONZ**

**Dwg5252-R98 Scale**

**1-800-328-5040**

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