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City of Racine Modernizes Cemetery Records with New Interactive Map

RACINE, WI —The City of Racine has launched a new interactive cemetery map, providing residents and visitors with a modern, user-friendly way to locate gravesites and access burial information at Graceland Cemetery and Mound Cemetery.

The new public viewer allows users to search for loved ones by name or gravesite ID and view burial details, including gravesite location, burial date, age, and date of death. The tool is accessible on both desktop and mobile devices through the City's Cemetery webpage and GIS Hub.

The project began as an effort to replace an outdated cemetery records system that lacked reliable mapping capabilities and created ongoing challenges for staff.

"Our goal was to build a system that was more accurate, more reliable, and easier for both staff and residents to use," said Chief Information Officer Adele Edwards. "The interactive map allows visitors to search records and navigate the cemeteries directly from their phone, which is a major improvement over the previous process."

In late 2024, the City's MIS Department implemented ESRI's Cemetery Management Solution, which includes both internal cemetery management software and a public-facing viewer application. Using the platform also allowed the City to integrate digital mapping into cemetery records, some of which date back to the 1800s.

Before launching the system, the City's GIS team spent more than a year creating over 77,000 gravesites in GIS using cemetery CAD drawings and GIS tools while transferring burial and ownership records from the previous system. Throughout the process, the GIS team worked closely with cemetery staff, referencing historical paper records and hand-drawn maps to help verify and improve data accuracy.

The new platform significantly improves access for residents and visitors navigating the large and uniquely designed cemeteries. Visitors can use their phone to navigate directly to gravesites while on-site, reducing confusion and making visits easier.

For staff, the updated system improves efficiency, enhances record accuracy, and supports faster customer service while helping ensure cemetery records are properly maintained for future generations.

The cemetery viewer is available at: <https://cityofracinewi.gov/parksrec/cemetery/>

Gravesite locations are approximate and may not reflect exact burial positions.

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