

# Report to Council



**Date:** February 9, 2026  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery Bylaw Update  
**Department:** Infrastructure Operations

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Infrastructure Operations, dated February 9, 2026, with respect to an update to Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery Bylaw No. 11664;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12856, being the Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery bylaw, be forwarded for reading consideration;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12857, being Amendment No. 9 to Parks and Public Spaces Bylaw No. 10680, be forwarded for reading consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT Bylaw No. 12858, being Amendment No. 41 to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475, be forwarded for reading consideration.

## **Purpose:**

To rescind the current Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery Bylaw No. 11664, and to adopt the proposed Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery Bylaw No. 12856 to approve bylaw amendments that align with current laws, increase clarity, and update cemetery fees.

## **Background:**

Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery (KMPC) has a long history of facilitating cultural practices and legal requirements of death care for Kelowna residents. The cemetery is valued for tranquil opportunities to celebrate loved ones as well as providing opportunities for passive leisure. The current Cemetery Bylaw No. 11664 requires updates to Schedule A: Fees and Charges as fees are defined until the year 2026. Staff are reviewing all regulations within the Bylaw for compliance with City standards, Council policy, and Provincial acts that regulate cemetery operations in BC. The bylaw review identified updates that align with current laws as well as provide clarity and consistency of cemetery operations.

**Discussion:**

During a recent amendment to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 10475, a simple adjustment to reflect correct section numbers was overlooked. This adjustment is being captured through this amendment. Changes are not proposed to the overall operation of Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery. There are four categories of updates to the proposed Cemetery Bylaw.

**Implement bylaw best practices:**

The bylaw review removed information that is obsolete, unnecessary, ineffective, or contrary to other policies, bylaws and legislation.

**Enhanced definitions:**

Contrary and outdated terms have been corrected.

**Update Format of Schedule A: Fees and Charges:**

KMPC operates as a self-funded service within the City of Kelowna; taxation is not used for Cemetery operations. A self-funded municipal cemetery is unique as most local governments subsidize cemetery operations with taxation. Schedule A: Fees and Charges is proposed with updated formatting. The fee model for KMPC is proposed to remain at 5.0% annual increase. Cemetery operations have proven this increase aligns with actual operational expense increases while maintaining competitive fees.

The proposed annual increase aligns with Fees and Charges Policy No. 395, for full cost recovery and is supported by the Finance Department. Other departments within the City following Policy 395 also calculated a similar annual increase. Review of the Cemetery fees with this policy identified certain fees will not increase annually, other fees are proposed at a reduced amount. The Park Memorial Amenity Program fee is proposed to increase to realize the full cost to provide this program for residents.

**Include new regulation/product:**

One new product proposed within the Cemetery is a cremation plot with the allowance for an upright monument (headstone). Currently in KMPC an in-ground cremation plot only allows for a flat/flush with grade monument. Sustainable land use is a driving factor behind operations and regulations. The proposed regulation will not allow cremation interment in a vacant casket plot. "6.10.2 For Right of Interment Permit of a casket plot issued after March 1, 2026, the first interment must be a casket. Cremated remains must not be interred in a vacant casket plot." Requiring a casket plot be used for casket interments is common among municipal, private, and religious operated cemeteries throughout North America.

**Conclusion:**

The proposed Cemetery Bylaw for consideration ensures that the bylaw document for Kelowna Memorial Park Cemetery aligns with current legislation and City standards for bylaw documents.

**Internal Circulation:**

Infrastructure  
Office of the City Clerk  
Finance

**Considerations applicable to this report:****Legal/Statutory Authority:**

Cremation, Interment, Funeral Service Act, SBC 2004  
Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act, SBC 2004  
Community Charter, SBC 2003

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

Proposed Bylaw No. 12856 adheres to Council Policy 395.  
No changes are proposed to the existing financial model of the Cemetery or Cemetery Funds.

**Existing Policy:**

Council Policy 395 Fees and Charges.

**Submitted by:** T Hillis, Cemetery Manager

**Reviewed by:** B Stewart, Parks Services Manager

**Approved for inclusion:** M. Logan, GM, Infrastructure

**Attachments:**

Attachment I: Comparable Cemetery Fees and Charges