

Cemeteries

Total asset replacement value	\$17.6 million
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Current condition	FAIR
Projected condition in 25 years	VERY POOR
Annual funding needed	\$300,000
to meet target performance	
Annual average funding	\$0
Annual funding gap	\$300,000
Funding source	User fees
Data maturity level	Medium

Funding gap \$300,000

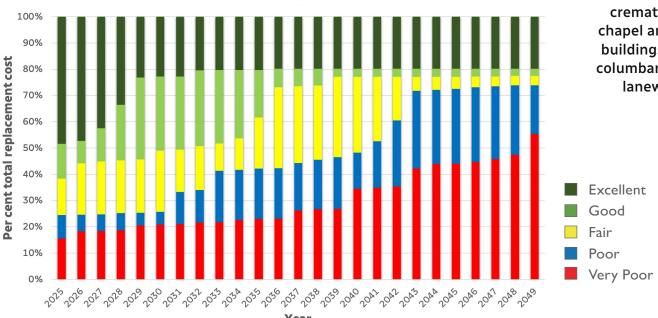
Average annual funding \$0

Annual funding needed: \$300,000



Two cemeteries including crematorium, chapel and other buildings, trees, columbarium and laneways.





A FEATURED STORY

Honouring Lives with Care and Choice

Our cemeteries continued to provide respectful, inclusive services that meet the diverse needs of our community. From traditional casket burials to cremations and environmentally conscious green burials, we offer meaningful options for all. Our Cemeteries staff commitment to maintaining serene, welcoming spaces ensures families can honour loved ones in a way that reflects their values. With compassion and care, we're supporting every life story—past, present, and future.

CURRENT STRATEGY

The city owns two cemeteries which includes assets such as trees, walking paths, an administrative building, a chapel and a crematorium. It is important to note that fleet and associated equipment (e.g. mini excavator, Gators, zero turn mowers etc.) is captured under the fleet asset class. The cemeteries are a user fee funded asset. The current funding model will experience significant funding challenges and a future detailed assessment of the sustainability of an enterprise model will need to be examined.

Cemetery assets are replaced when they fall below the target performance for the respective component. The buildings, which have the greatest impact on our cemetery service delivery, have higher performance standards than other parts, such as the trees or walking paths. The buildings are typically rehabilitated through the replacement or refurbishment of individual components or groups of components. Each component has an industry-accepted estimated service life that is combined with observations about the condition of each component during site investigations. The estimated service life for all our cemetery assets ranges between 5 and 200 years.



ASSET PERFORMANCE

Cemeteries asset performance is evaluated using historical knowledge, age, and observed conditions. The quality and availability of our asset data (data maturity) are continuously evolving. The current data maturity level for cemeteries assets is assessed to be medium. The city is continuously working to improve asset data quality.

Approximately 76% of our cemeteries assets are currently considered in fair or better performance. With the current level of funding, we anticipate the percentage of cemetery assets with fair or better profile to decrease from 76% to 26% by 2049.

Based on the best available cemetery asset data, deterioration rates and 2025-2033 capital funding, it is estimated that cemeteries assets have an annual infrastructure funding gap of \$300,000.

LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following tables show the levels of service established by the city for cemeteries assets. These metrics include the technical and community level of service required as part of the Ontario Regulation 588/17. Service metrics are reported for the prior year ending on December 31.



Per cent of cemeteries assets with a fair or better performance.



COMMUNITY LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following table outlines the qualitative descriptions that determine the community levels of service for cemeteries assets.

SERVICE	QUALITATIVE
ATTRIBUTE	DESCRIPTION
Scope	Waterloo cemeteries provide inclusive cremation or burial services within the city. The crematorium and cemeteries are also an integral part of the regional death care response for the tri-cities.

TECHNICAL LEVELS OF SERVICE

The following table outlines the quantitative metrics that determine the technical level of service for cemeteries assets.

SERVICE ATTRIBUTE	QUANTITATIVE METRICS	2023	2024
Reliability	Percent (%) of Cemeteries assets that are in fair or better condition	71%	76%
	For paved roads in the cemetery, the average pavement condition index value.	95	82*
Environmental Stewardship	Annual electricity consumption (kWh)	1,409	1,566**
	Annual natural gas consumption (cubic meters)	88,489	40,284**
	Annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tonnes CO2e)	204	77**

^{*}In 2024 the City improved the data quality. This resulted in an increase in the accuracy of the average pavement condition index.

The information presented here is based on the best available asset inventory and condition data as of March 2024, as well as funding details from the 2024-2026 approved capital budget and the 2027-2033 capital forecast.

The forecasting model allows staff to project the condition of City assets over a 25-year timeframe and therefore all funding is based on a 25-year average.



^{**}Due to the frequency of natural gas readings by the supplier, the annual usage includes an estimated component. As a result, usage may vary from year to year.