

Document prepared by:

Cst. Justin Casavant #2380

On behalf of the:

Winnipeg Police Canine Memorial

HISTORY:

The Winnipeg Police Service K9 Unit was established in May of 1971. Since its inception the Unit has been represented by over 62 canines that have worked alongside their handlers and most importantly kept our front-line officers safe.

The passing of these devoted working dogs has a significant affect not only their handlers but the citizens of Winnipeg as well. The Winnipeg Police Canine Memorial Fund was established to one day erect a proper monument and columbarium.

Current practice upon the passing of our Police Service Dogs is to have the service animal cremated and the cinerary urns are returned to their respective handlers. Throughout the unit's history the public has demonstrated a huge support for these service animals and we receive countless phone calls and correspondence upon losing one of our partners.

The memorial site would be home to a life size bronze sculpture of a Police Service Dog standing guard in front of 4 phone booth columbarium's containing the cinerary urns of our past canine partners.

Most importantly the Canine Memorial Garden will allow public access to the citizens of Winnipeg who wish to show respect to our beloved four-legged partners.

Concept Rendering:



MEMORIAL SITE:

The Winnipeg Police Service officially opened the doors to its new K-9 Facility on June 21st, 2013. The state of the art 4,500 square foot, high-security kennel is located at 77 Durand Road, adjacent to the East District Police Station. In addition to 11 air-conditioned indoor kennels and attached dog runs, the building features a large community classroom and common area for public demonstrations and office space for the officers in the unit. The new facility also features a whelping kennel and indoor puppy run as part of the Winnipeg Police Service's nationally recognized in-house breeding program -- one of the only programs of its kind in Canada, which began in 1999. The Winnipeg Police Service K-9 Unit employs 12 teams -- 12 uniform officers and 23 canines - offering 24-hour coverage, seven days a week to protect the safety of citizens in Winnipeg. With narcotic detector dogs, explosive detector dogs, tactical support dogs and several dogs cross-trained in multiple disciplines, each K-9 team is extensively trained for a particular objective prior to deployment.

The location of the Kennels presents as an excellent site to erect the memorial for the following reasons:

Community engagement:

The Winnipeg Police Service K9 unit regularly plays host to outside agencies and community groups such as:

- Schools
- Volunteers
- Community BBQ's



Security:

As a result of being located directly adjacent to the East District Station and Canine Unit Kennel the memorial site would have 24 hours police presence and deter any potential vandalism or theft.

Longevity:

With the recent construction of both the East District Station and Kennel facilities the site will remain utilized by the Winnipeg Police Service for the long term.

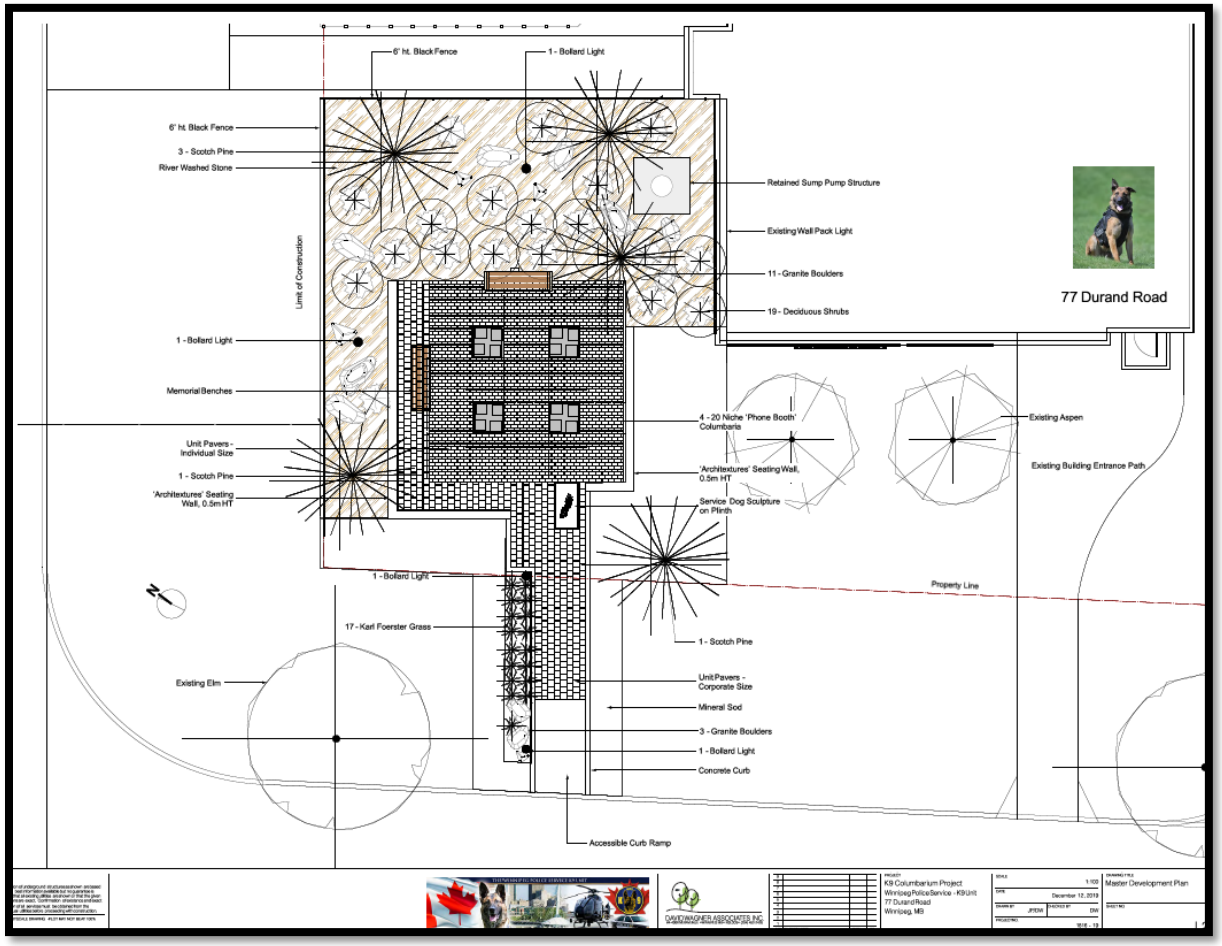
Public Access:

As the proposed location for the actual memorial is outside the gated portions of the secured facilities it would allow ease of access and viewing to the general public.

SCOPE OF WORK

The location of the memorial is currently a vacant green space directly adjacent to the Canine Unit Kennel at 77 Durand Rd.

The project would include landscaping with the planting of several trees, shrubs and boulders. Construction at the site would consist of erecting a total of 4 phone booth columbariums, architectural walls, 2 benches, memory stone paver sidewalk and a Bronze Statue of a Police Service Dog.



APPROXIMATE COST

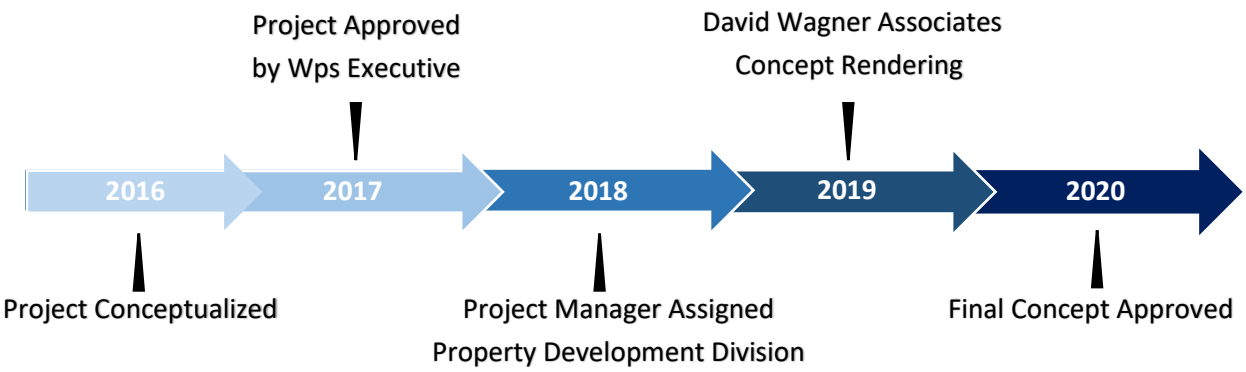
Based on the class 5 cost estimate, the project budget is $300,000 inclusive of the $50,000 allocated to the Bronze statue of a Belgian Malinois.

LAND DEDICATION RESERVE FUND REQUESTED AMOUNT

We are requesting a total of **$5,000** dollars from each city councilor in order to assist in the development and construction of the Canine Memorial Garden.

The remaining funds for the memorial will be generated by way of a memory stone fundraising drive that kicked off on January 13th, 2021.

PROJECT SCHEDULE



ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION

Construction on the project is anticipated to start in the Summer of 2021 and unveiled upon completion in the fall of 2021.

CITY OF WINNIPEG STAFF INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT TO DATE

Mr. Lou Chubenko – Project Officer 2, Planning, Property and Development Department

Mr. Abdul Aziz – Manager of Services Division, Winnipeg Police Service

Inspector Brian Miln – Division 50 Inspector

Staff Sgt. Rodney Hutter – Division 50 Staff Sergeant

Sgt. Shawn Lowry – K9 Unit Sergeant

Cst. Justin Casavant – Memorial Project Coordinator

Cst. David Weisz – Fundraising Coordinator

ARCHITECT INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT TO DATE

David Wagner – David Wagner Associates Inc.

CONCLUSION

Upon completion of this project we hope that the Winnipeg Police Canine Memorial will be part of the proud history of the Winnipeg Police Service and the City of Winnipeg. The memorial garden will be an improvement to the area by adding a public access space that will consist of trees, shrubs and benches.

The Winnipeg Police Canine Memorial has been funded to date by the sales of Canine Unit Calendars along with the generous donations of the citizens of Winnipeg. To date the Winnipeg Police Canine Memorial Fund has raised just over $60,000 to date.

We continue to raise funds for the memorial and believe that with the participation of the city councilors and utilization of the Land Dedication Reserve Fund that we could complete the project without any cost to the Winnipeg Police Services budget. The remainder of the funds for this project will be raised by a Memory Stone fundraising drive. Members of the public will be welcomed to purchase personalized memory stones that will pave the pathway leading to the memorial.

With the combined efforts of canine handlers past, present and future we truly believe that this memorial will take shape and one day be the home and final resting place to our beloved canines.

On behalf of the entire Canine Unit, I would like to thank you for taking the time to review this report.

Cst. Justin Casavant #2380