

1350 Baldwin Avenue
Post Office Box 685
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435



Phone: 850-892-8500
Fax: 850-892-8506
TDD: 850-892-8504

**CEMETERY BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 15, 2025
5:00 PM**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Updated Cemetery 5-Year Plan**
- 4. Ratify allowing the Gardner Family to do 4 Cremations per Burial Lot**
- 5. Public Comments**
- 6. Board Member Comments**
- 7. Adjournment**

Florida Statute 286.0105. Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal. Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of the meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The requirements of this section do not apply to the notice provided in s. 200.065(3). In accordance with Section 286.26, F.S., persons with disabilities please contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@defuniaksprings.net or 850-892-8500 ext. 1103 for assistance.

Magnolia Cemetery 5-Year Development Plan

The City of DeFuniak Springs' Magnolia Cemetery is a cherished historic resting place for veterans, civic leaders, and residents who helped shape the community. With its historic grave markers and mature trees, it stands as a living testament to the city's rich heritage and commitment to preservation. This 5-Year Cemetery Development Plan aims to honor that legacy by enhancing accessibility, preserving historical significance, and fostering an engaging, respectful experience for all visitors.

By implementing this phased approach, the City of DeFuniak Springs will ensure that Magnolia Cemetery remains a dignified space of remembrance and a treasured historical landmark for generations to come.

FY 2026: Foundation and Initial Enhancements

In the first year, efforts will focus on preserving historical integrity while enhancing visitor amenities:

- **Formal Parks Designation:** City Council will formalize Magnolia Cemetery as a vital green and historic space.
- **National Registry Application:** The City will begin the process to list the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Division of Historical Resources Grant:** The City will apply for a \$50,000 matching grant (April 1–June 3, 2026) to fund interpretive panels and protective, chained-off sections.
- **Grant Implementation:** Interpretive panels and protective, chained-off areas will be installed to safeguard significant sections and highlight the cemetery's history.
- **Road Improvements:** North and South Roads will be **rehabbed** to improve navigation and accessibility.
- **Hydrology Study:** A study of **all roads** will address drainage and road conditions.
- **Directional Signage:** New signage will guide visitors throughout the cemetery.

FY 2027: Infrastructure and Preservation

Year 2 will focus on infrastructure upgrades and preservation efforts:

- **Coping Planning:** Quotes will be obtained to ensure coping installations align with the cemetery's historic aesthetic.
 - **Road Enhancements:** Work on North and South Roads will continue.
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FY 2028: Infrastructure Expansion, ADA Compliance, and Visitor Engagement

Year 3 will focus on completing critical infrastructure improvements, enhancing accessibility, and engaging visitors:

- **Coping Installation:** Work will begin to define and protect cemetery boundaries.
 - **Road Paving Completion:** Final paving of North and South Roads will be completed, enhancing both functionality and aesthetics.
 - **ADA Restrooms & Accessibility Improvements:** Installation of an ADA-compliant restroom, a concrete ramp, and additional ADA improvements to existing facilities.
 - **Building Renovations:** Structural and aesthetic renovations to existing buildings to improve visitor amenities.
 - **Historic Walking Trail:** Development of an educational walking trail will showcase the cemetery's rich history.
 - **Interactive QR Code:** A QR code panel will be installed at the entrance, offering an interactive historical journey.
 - **Guest Brochures:** Informational brochures will be created to enhance the visitor experience.
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FY 2029: Final Road Paving and New Features

The fourth year will prioritize infrastructure expansion and final roadwork:

- **Coping Installation:** Completion of remaining coping for a uniform boundary.
 - **Columbarium Phase 1:** Construction will begin on the columbarium, offering a respectful resting place for cremated remains.
 - **Road Pavement Completion:** Final paving of remaining roads to ensure long-term durability and accessibility.
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FY 2030: Final Improvements

The final year will complete all remaining projects and ensure the plan's cohesive vision:

- **Final Coping Installation:** Full coping installation will provide a polished and unified boundary.
 - **Columbarium Phase 2:** Expansion of the columbarium will meet long-term burial needs for the community.
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Preserving Heritage for Future Generations

The Magnolia Cemetery 5-Year Development Plan reflects the City of DeFuniak Springs' dedication to preserving its historical legacy while enhancing accessibility, beauty, and educational opportunities. With new interpretive panels, walking trails, and modern facilities, Magnolia Cemetery will continue to honor those who shaped the community and serve as a meaningful space for visitors to reflect and connect with the past.

By balancing historical preservation with thoughtful improvements, this plan ensures Magnolia Cemetery remains a celebrated landmark for generations to come.