

# Future Needs Survey

---

## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

17 November 2021 - 08 May 2023

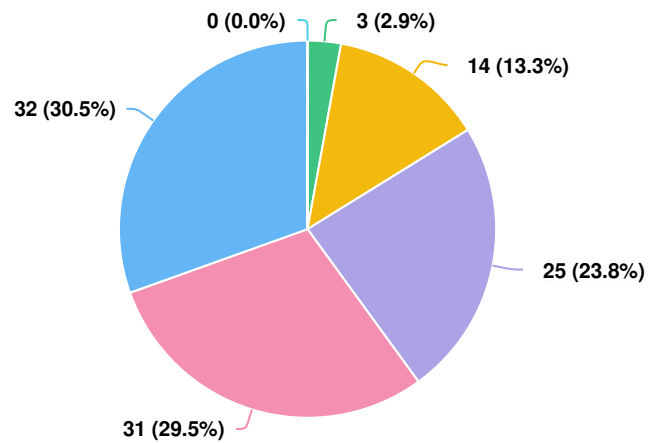
### PROJECT NAME:

Whistler Cemetery Master Plan



# SURVEY QUESTIONS

## Q1 What is your age?



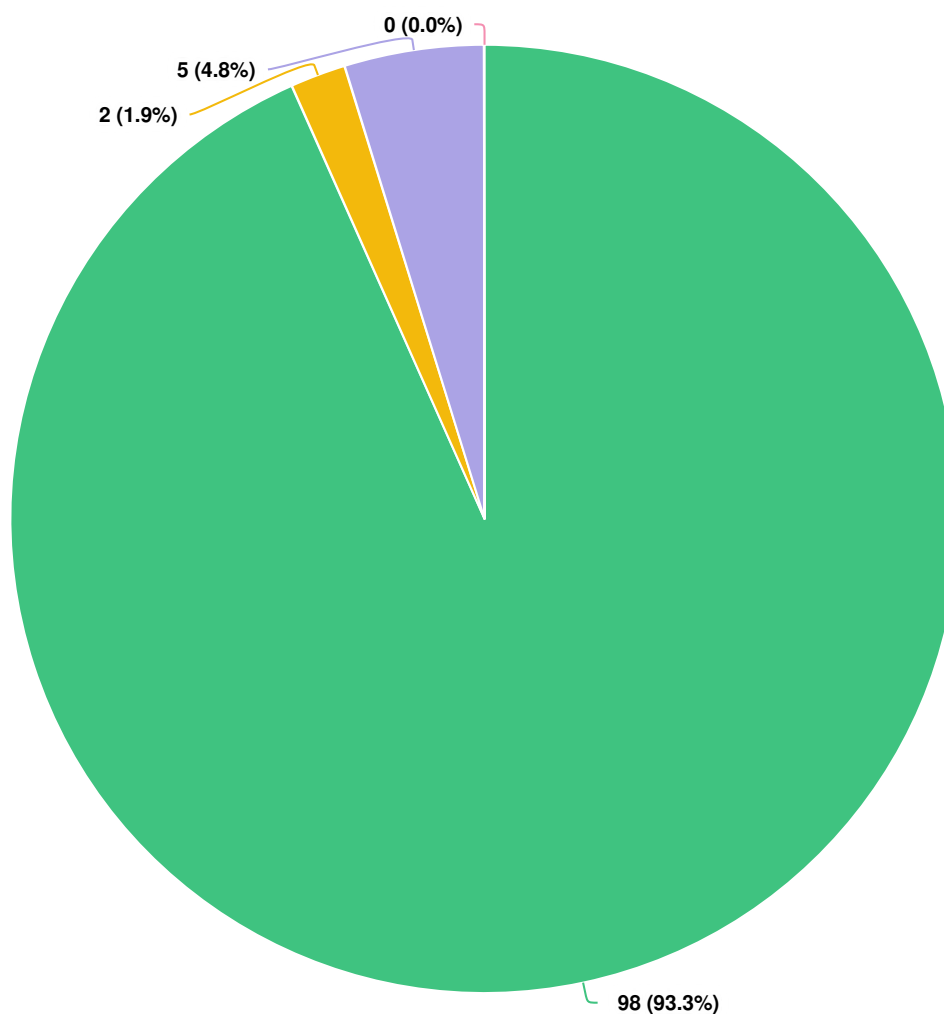
### Question options

25-34 35-44 45-55 55-64 65 + 18-24

Optional question (105 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q2** Are you a:

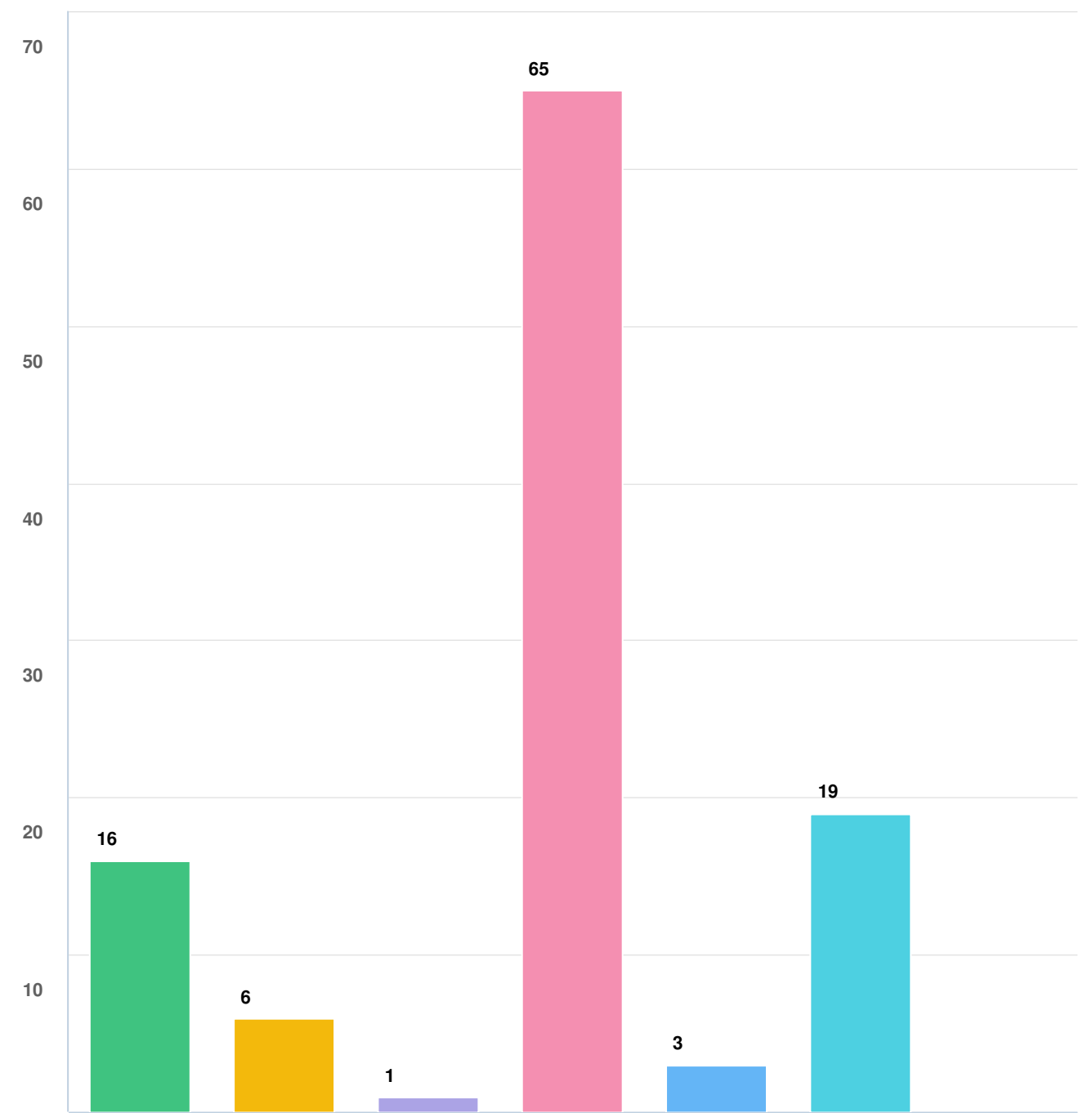


**Question options**

- Permanent resident of Whistler
- Second homeowner in Whistler
- Other (please specify)
- Temporary/seasonal resident in Whistler

Optional question (105 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

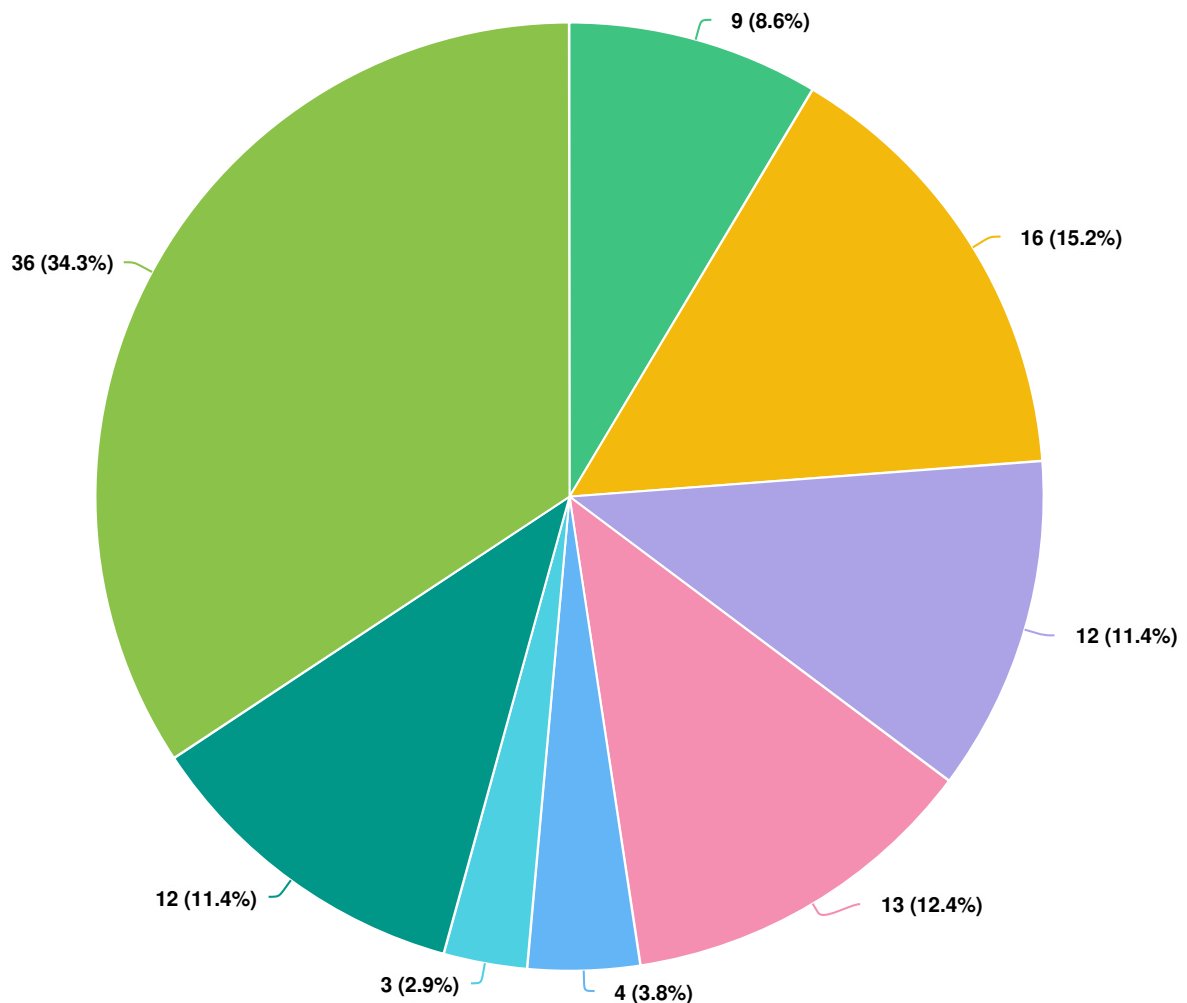
Q3 What is your connection with the Whistler Cemetery? Choose all that apply.



- Question options**
- I have loved one(s) buried there
  - I have pre-purchased an interment at the cemetery
  - I am a funeral director work in the end-of-life industry
  - I have no connection to the Whistler Cemetery
  - I was not aware that there was a municipal cemetery
  - Other (please specify)
  - I am a researcher (historic, genealogical, other interest)

Optional question (105 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q4** Whistler Cemetery currently has four options for interment: traditional in-ground burial lots, cremation burial lots, columbaria niches and a scattering garden. Do your end-of-life plans include the Whistler Cemetery?



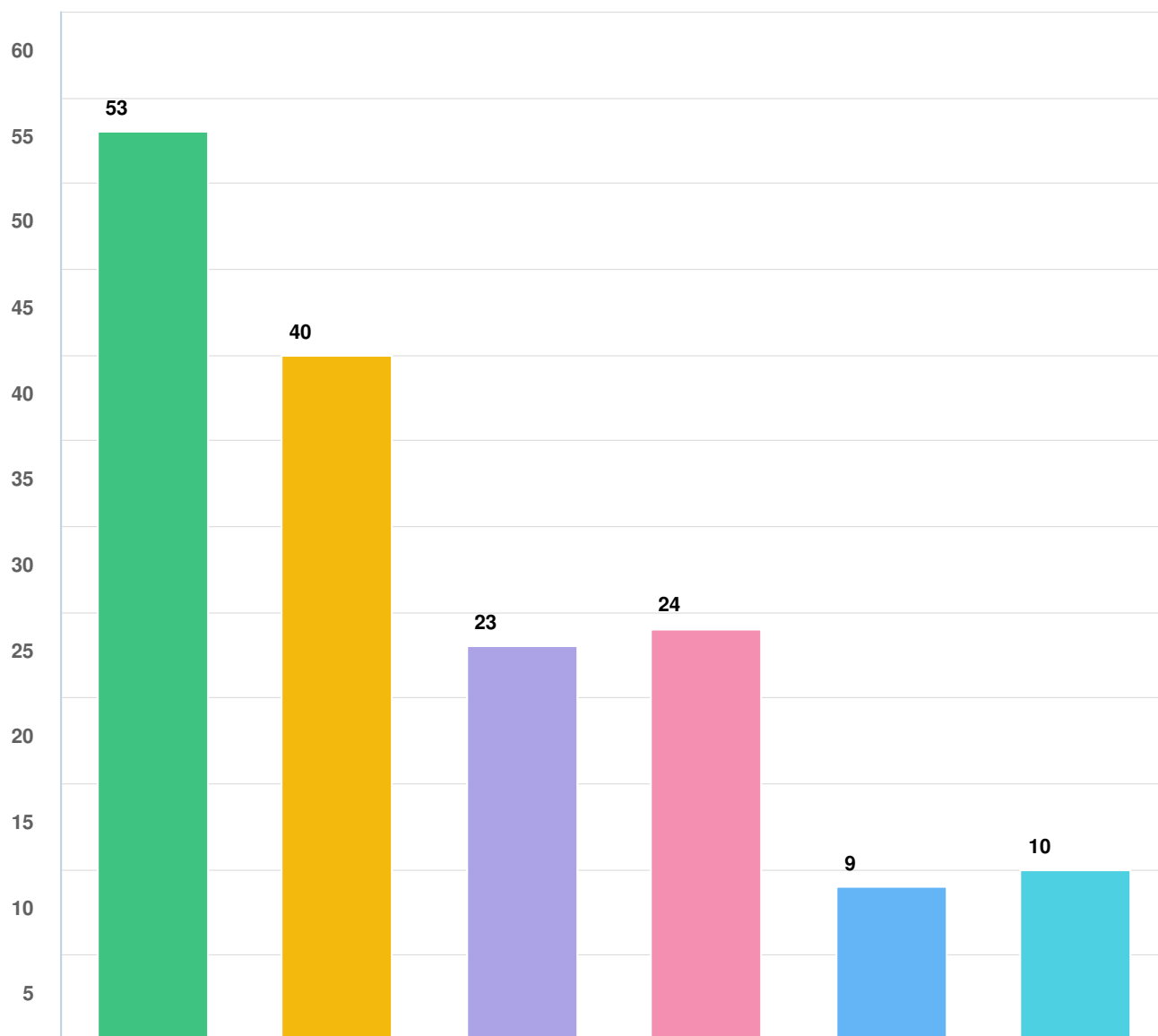
#### Question options

- Yes, I plan to purchase a traditional in-ground burial lot
- Yes, I plan to purchase a in-ground cremation burial lot
- Yes, I plan to purchase a columbarium niche
- Yes, I plan to purchase the rights to scatter in the scattering garden
- I have reserved a lot/niche/scattering rights
- No, I have a lot/niche/scattering rights reserved elsewhere, or plan to purchase a lot/niche/scattering rights elsewhere.
- No, I will not be utilizing a lot/niche/scattering rights in my end-of-life arrangements
- I have not thought about this yet.

Optional question (105 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q5** The following interment and memorialization options are not currently offered at the Whistler Cemetery. Please identify any that you would consider as part of your end-of-life plans. Select all that apply.



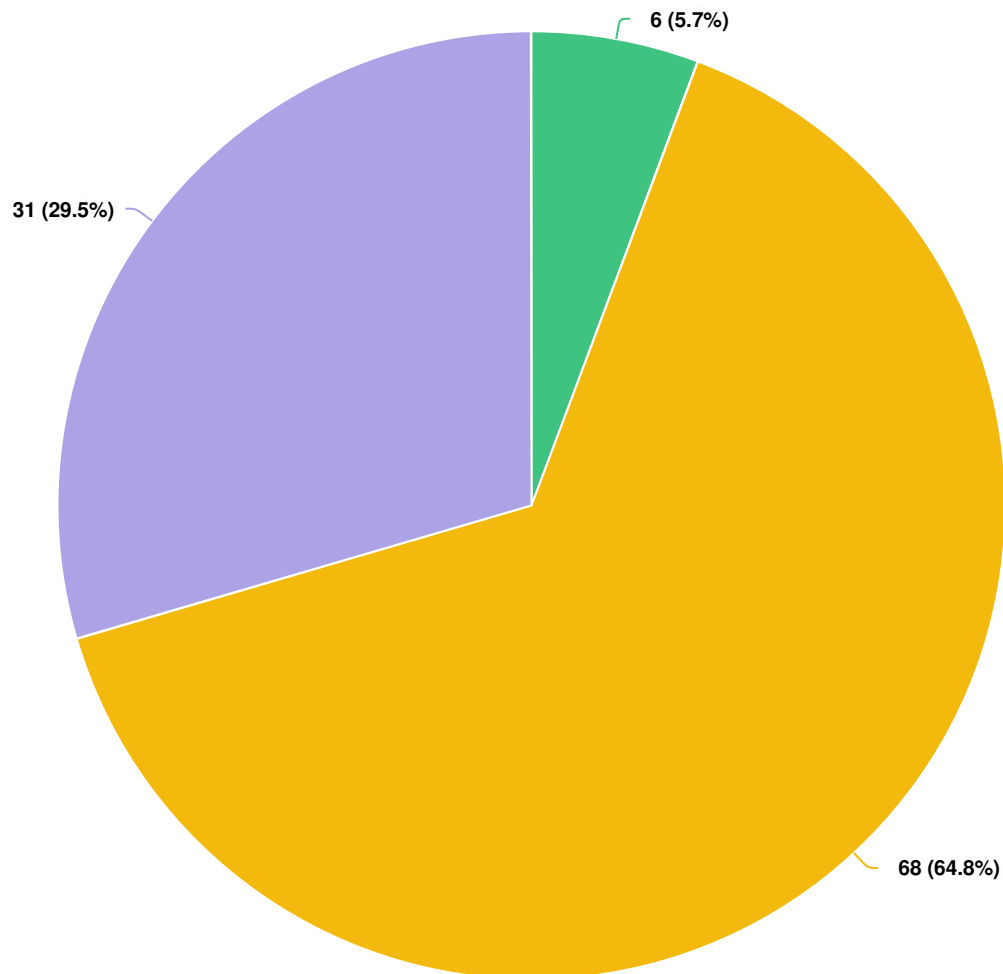
#### Question options

- Green Burial / Natural Burial: Interment in a biodegradable casket without embalming, grave liners, or vaults. It involves minimal grave marking/memorialization and involves habitat restoration on the burial lands.
- Memorial Walls: An inscription on a memorial wall to commemorate a loved one, possibly even memorializing those buried elsewhere.
- Family Columbaria: A smaller version of the communal columbarium. Interment rights to the entire columbarium are purchased by one family.
- Allowing multiple interments in one lot: Currently only one casket or one cremation interment is allowed in one lot. Multiple interments would include 1 casket and 2 cremated remains in a casket lot.
- Infant/Child area: A section of the cemetery that is strictly for infant, child or stillborn burial. This area would offer a special landscape character and would include a memorial wall and in-ground interment options.
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (93 response(s), 13 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q6** Do you plan to incorporate any faith-based, cultural, or secular practices into your end-of-life interment arrangements that the cemetery currently does not accommodate?



**Question options**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

*Optional question (105 response(s), 1 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*



**Q7** | If yes, please indicate which faith-based, cultural, or secular practices you will include into your end-of-life interment arrangements.

I'm Jewish but I think a green burial would accommodate my beliefs best. I have no need to be in a separate section. A person being available to give some of the basic prayers would be wonderful - definitely don't want a Christian service.

As of now, I plan to have my ashes scattered elsewhere during a Christmas celebration of life event.

None

christian celebration of life

Jewish

Burial service at the gravesite

Jewish

Christian

**Optional question** (8 response(s), 98 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q8 Rank the potential updates/features in order of importance for future cemetery improvements. 1 being most important, 5 being least important.**

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Expand the range of interment options at the cemetery.	1.54
Include additional seating and rest areas	2.33
Develop additional walking paths.	2.46
Develop a new ceremonial/gathering space.	2.47
No future improvements needed	2.92

*Optional question (94 response(s), 12 skipped)*

*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q9 Are there any future cemetery improvements that you think should be included that are not listed above? If so, please list them here.**

I think the cemetery is in the wrong place. It is dark and creepy, there is no sunlight, it is not well kept and it is used as a parking lot for both cars and machinery. My family has reserved 6 spots and we are awaiting some kind of improvement before we can place our deceased member of our family there. I am very glad you have asked for some public input.

Natural burial and if approved composting.

Make it as sustainable as possible.

Making sure there is enough room (land) for resident's burials for the future

Not sure of facilities but I would have thought that the planning for Whistler and with bed caps etc had a reasonable control of population

and thus cemetery needs. This topic is another clue to me that Whistler does not have a plan for managing growth.

Very interested in green burial options

Tours to learn about notable past Whistlerites at rest in the cemetery

Sorry, I have not spent enough time there to comment. But I was very pleased with the area that we were able to spread a friend's ashes.

I realize that this survey is being done to assess (or perhaps justify) need but is this really necessary at this time? The municipality needs to freeze spending much as most local residents and businesses have had to.

Tree trimming

Acknowledging the First Nations would be important.

It should all be green/ natural burial

See below. And above. Definitely more options. We have looked into cremation spots for more than one but not possible. That seems a waste of space. Take a look at the Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria where there are natural areas where you can bury remains. It is nice and I think would be appealing to Whistler residents. But it is bright and peaceful , in the woods amongst the deciduous trees, so bright in winter. This place is just so dark and gloomy.

once/year celebration of lives lost (as Day of the Dead in Mexico)

Legacy forest, bio urn other green funeral options

Parking to accommodate a crowd.

I will drop by for a look and advise

As above, the ability to have a separate area for those religions that require it in their tradition.

Places for 2 caskets to be together.

Expansion

So perennial shrubbery that can delineate the rows a little more.  
Added privacy for people as other walk past.

Access to the scattering ashes plaques in the winter - don't need to plow the whole trail....just keep a path open to the plaques. and keep plaques cleared in winter somewhat. I know this may not be always possible - but right now it is really tricky to get in to that area for most of winter and the plaques are buried. Meaning we can't visit our loved ones plaque for 5 months of the year.

**Optional question** (22 response(s), 84 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q10 | Do you have any other comments or suggestions that should be considered for Whistler Cemetery mastering planning?**

I find the cemetery a sad and neglected location for Whistler's former citizens. Looking forward to the improvements.

Encouraged that the town of Whistler is considering expanding and improving options.

May I suggest that cremations for our cemetery be done without the use of fossil energy. Cremating a single corpse typically takes up to three hours of burning and releases almost 600 pounds of carbon

dioxide — the equivalent of a 500-mile car journey — into the atmosphere.

I feel torn about the issue for myself personally. You have 2 people, with no family here and ties to 2 different places elsewhere. At the very least, I think Memorial markers for a couple may be ideal but we may want cremation and burial here and markers elsewhere.

Premium cost to non residents

It should remain as natural as possible to reflect Whistler's beautiful surroundings. The trend is away from graves and grave maintenance and rather remember the loved one(s) with commemorative plaque placed on a chosen tree.

The cemetery is a lovely space and it fits into the landscape beautifully. I'm against the municipality spending anymore than absolutely necessary there. It's not a park so do we really need walking trails through it. I visit there and have never seen anyone there so can't see why additional seating is needed.

I'm pleased to see you are considering green burials.

It's important to keep it a peaceful place within the trees. I don't think much is needed but the current paths should be maintained and additional benches that are safe and clean. Perhaps there could be a volunteer program for weekly maintenance?

I find it a gloomy place, dark, dingy. Spooky even. I'd like some minor landscaping, maybe even a few trees down to get more light in there.

It's lovely and secluded --keep it simple

This should be done using an endowment or fees - not tax money.

Seats with name of dressed should be longer than 10 years

I appreciate the prompt to think more about mine and my families plans. I have noticed more in the media recently about less invasive/land consuming burial options. Plus some of the other options you are considering adding to the Whistler Cemetery. Thanks for the opportunity to add my voice.

I love the Whistler Cemetery, especially the scattering garden, where my wife's ashes were spread. The path is a beautiful peaceful place for reflection. The small memorial plaques on the rocks are well placed and beautiful. I love the idea of green burials (less polluting than traditional burials or cremation), and suggest a transitional bylaw away from any solid caskets, embalming or large permanent grave memorials. Suggest prevention of plastic memorial tributes, etc. which end up being distracting. I support keeping the area as natural as possible with minimal obvious human interventions - while allowing the public to visit the site knowing that remains are integrating with the Whistler environment there.

What is done with folks who pass in the winter months as they can't be buried there and the plaques can't be put up either?

**Optional question** (16 response(s), 90 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question