

New owners making Greenbush Cemetery safer to visit

By Holly Campbell

- Updated: Friday, August 2, 2013, 12:07 PM EDT
- Published: Thursday, August 1, 2013, 11:49 PM EDT

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - Restoring a number of headstones is on the to-do list at Greenbush Cemetery.

"They can fall over. These here are not stabilized," Fairfield Township trustee Julie Roush said about the headstones. "We need a lot of work on that yet."

In May, the cemetery was overgrown and unkempt due to a lack of funds. It's since been handed over to Fairfield Township. Roush said the grass is mowed once a week and now the number one priority is to make it a safer place to visit.

"Twenty-three trees are dead. They need to be taken down and it's quite expensive and we're trying to find a company that's willing to do that," Roush said.

The old roadways inside the gates also need to be repaired.

In the future, Roush said she hopes the cemetery will be a place for people to enjoy. She said different organizations have expressed interest in using the cemetery as a learning tool for students.

"We want to turn this area into a park-like cemetery so people can come through and relax and stroll through the park. We want it for the city to use and enjoy," the trustee said.

Roush said restoring the cemetery that's the final resting place for many of Lafayette's founders and more than 400 veterans comes at a price.

"The next couple of years we'll be able to maintain mowing. We will not be able to cover expenses that are beyond that. We will have to find other ways of funding for a lot of the projects that need to be done out here. We'll have to find funding," Roush said about the future of Greenbush Cemetery.

Roush said it's a lot of working caring for a cemetery but a rewarding experience.

If you'd like to help volunteer or have questions about visiting the cemetery you can contact Fairfield Township at (765) 742-7476.