

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-488  
NOVEMBER 18, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
PROPERTY DONATION ADJACENT TO OAK GROVE CEMETERY	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	DON TRIPP PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has offered a quit claim deed to approximately 0.7 acres of land fronting the City-owned Oak Grove Cemetery at SW 31st Street and Watrous.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

None. The Park and Recreation Department has been performing turf maintenance on this property for many years. The property currently provides road access and parking to Oak Grove Cemetery, which sets back approximately 150 feet from SW 31st Street.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Accept the donation.

**BACKGROUND —**

The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church contacted the Park and Recreation Department several months ago to inquire if the City would be willing to accept the deed to the property on SW 31st Street fronting Oak Grove Cemetery. This land originally was the site of a Methodist church which was abandoned many years ago (c.1935). No structure or building foundation remains. Because the property provided the only access to the entrance gates of City-owned Oak Grove Cemetery, the Park and Recreation Department agreed to maintain the property in return for continued access and parking at the cemetery.

In a recent review of its property holdings, the Methodist Church of Iowa has decided that it no longer has any use for the property. Since no religious buildings or facilities are present at the site, it is currently assessed taxes (approximately \$500 annually). The Methodist Church would therefore like to formally deed the property to the City. Since the land is integral to the present entrance to Oak Grove Cemetery, it is in the best interest of the City to accept the property. On October 8, 1996, the Park and Recreation Board at its regular monthly meeting did recommend by Resolution #11772 to approve the donation.