
News Release

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Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Awarded State Grant; Fence Rehabilitation to Start Spring 2010

Landmark Being Saved - Construction Jobs Created - Fundraiser Continues

November 18, 2009 (Minneapolis) —The City of Minneapolis was awarded a grant of \$35,500 from the [Minnesota Historical Society](#) to assist with the restoration of the decorative steel fence that serves as the border of [Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery](#) (located at Lake Street and Cedar Avenue South). The fence was constructed in 1928 to pay tribute to Minnesota pioneers and soldiers buried at the cemetery.

Phase I of the restoration project is fully funded and will begin Spring 2010. To date, the fence restoration project has raised \$400,000 through state grant funds, City of Minneapolis Capital Long Range Improvement Committee money, and the [Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser](#). In addition to helping restore the important historic feature, the fence restoration project will create the need for skilled construction jobs.

Adopt-a-Picket Fundraiser Continues: In August 2009, [Friends of the Cemetery](#), a nonprofit and all-volunteer organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery announced the kickoff of the *Adopt-A-Picket* fundraiser. In three months, Friends of the Cemetery has raised over \$9,000 for the fence restoration project. The goal of the fundraiser is to raise \$100,000 to match local, state, and federal funds. The steel fence is 1,953 linear feet and contains 3,510 pickets. To date, 300 pickets have been adopted. Individual, organization, and foundation donations are still needed to help fully fund Phase II and complete the entire restoration. Individuals are able to adopt a picket for \$30 (entire sections can also be adopted). To track progress of the fundraiser and to learn more about the *Adopt-a-Picket* program please visit the Friends of the Cemetery website: <http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org/>.

Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, established in 1853, is the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis. It is also the only cemetery in Minnesota listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2008, to raise awareness of the challenges of maintaining this landmark, the [Preservation Alliance of Minnesota](#) placed the cemetery on its "[Ten Most Endangered Historic Places List](#)." The commencement of the fence restoration project in 2010 will be a major step towards removing the cemetery from the most endangered historic places list.